

Human Overpopulation as the Threat to Security

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BSSb1194 Unintentional and Natural Threats to Security

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The Overpopulation

The Human Overpopulation

- a condition of being populated with excessively large numbers of people
- a situation which occurs when the number of human occupants of an area exceeds the ability of that area to provide for those occupants

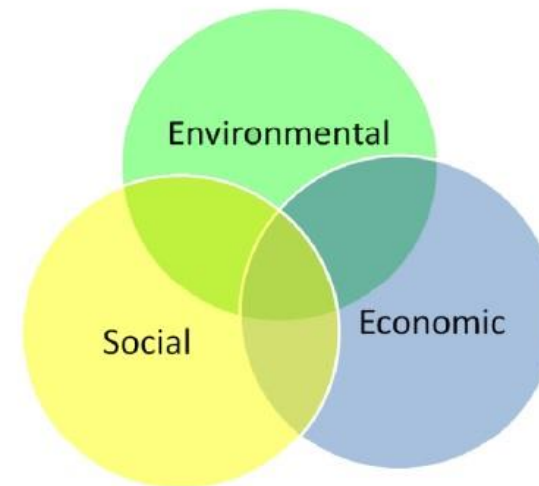
The Human Overpopulation

- *“When is an area overpopulated? When its population cannot be maintained without rapidly depleting non-renewable resources, and without degrading the capacity of the environment to support the population. In short, if the long-term carrying capacity of an area is clearly degraded by its current human occupants, that area is overpopulated.”* (Ehrlich 1990)
- environmentally defined

The Excursion to Sustainability

- **the goal of sustainability** = to *“create and maintain conditions, under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations.”* (NEPA 1969)

- a sustainable approach is based on **three pillars of sustainability**

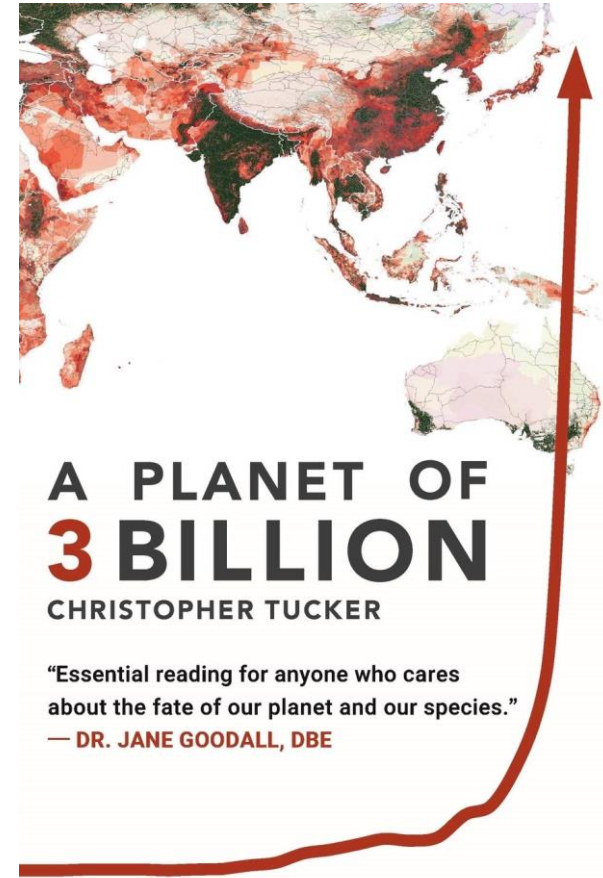


- it protects the environment, strengthens communities, and fosters prosperity

The Sustainable Population

Studies for a sustainable human population based on various criteria and assumptions:

- **1.5 – 2 billion** (Daily et al. 1994)
- **3 billion** (Pimental et al. 1994)
- **2 billion** (Daily et al. 2010)
- **3.1 billion** (Lianos and Pseiridis 2016)
- **3 billion** (Tucker 2019)
- **0.5 – 5 billion** (Dasgupta 2019)



But What Do We Have?

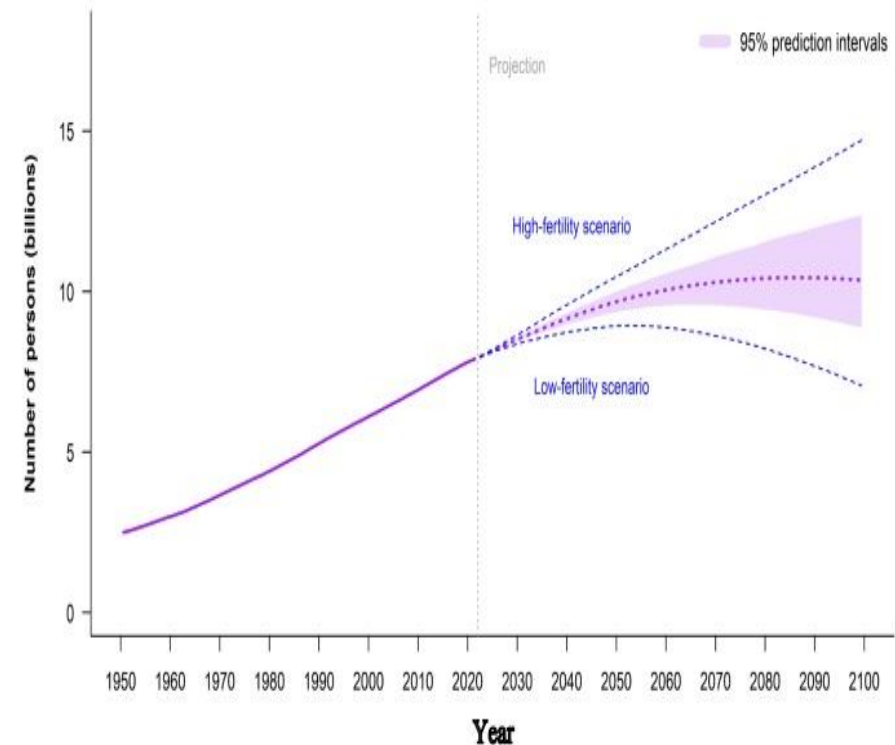
The Unsustainable Population

In 2022, humanity reached **8 billion** with growth over 80 million a year:

No sign of slowing down till 2100:

- 8.5 billion (2030)
- 9.7 billion (2050)
- 10.4 billion (2100)

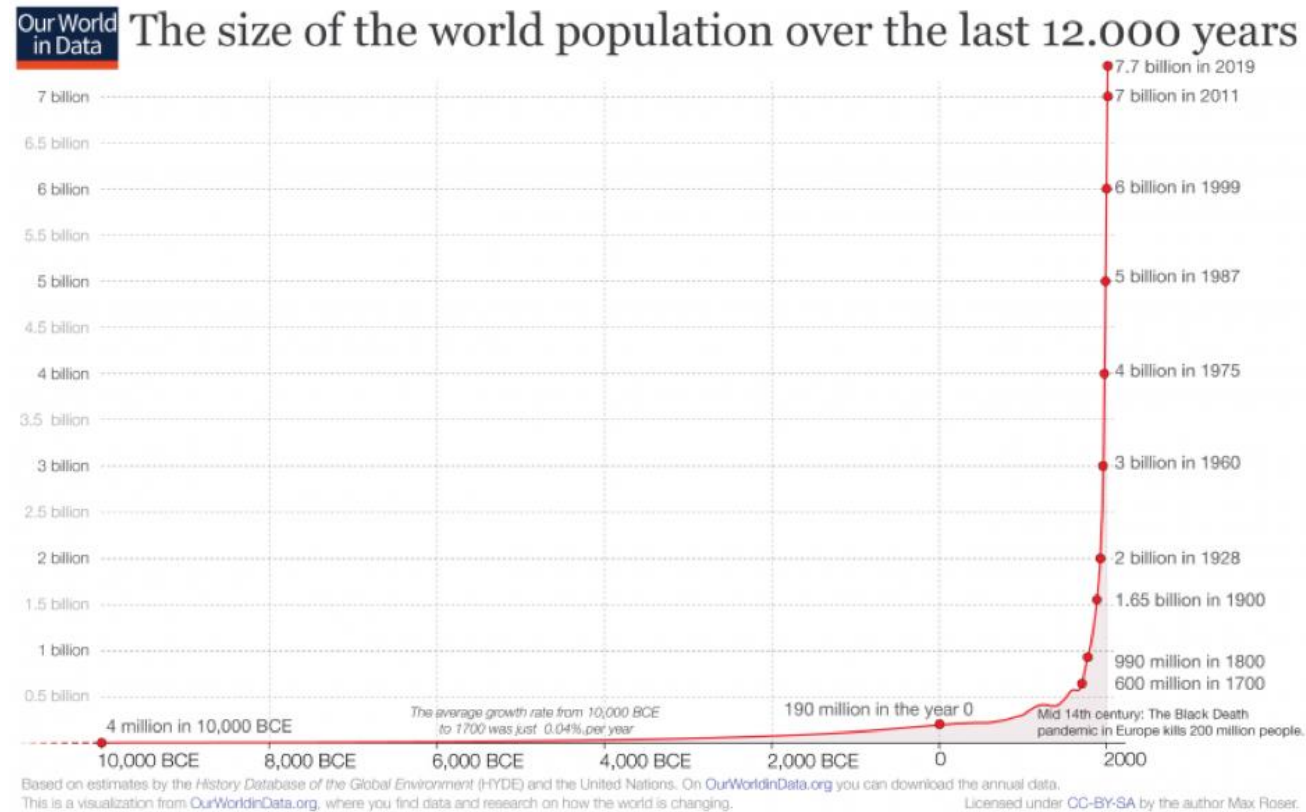
Global population size: estimates, 1950-2022, and medium scenario with 95 per cent prediction intervals and high- and low-fertility scenarios, 2022-2100



The Population Growth

Since 1950, humanity has witnessed a rapid population growth:

- 2.5 billion (1950)
- 5 billion (1987)
- 6 billion (1999)
- 7 billion (2011)

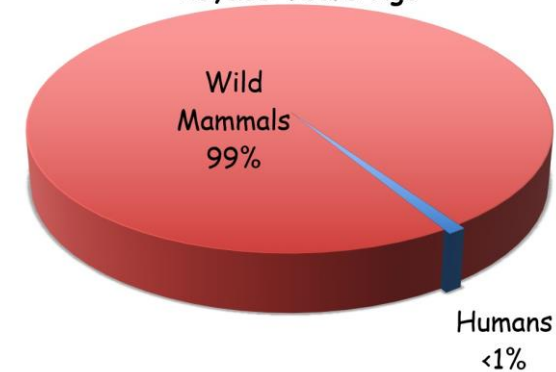


But Is that a Problem?

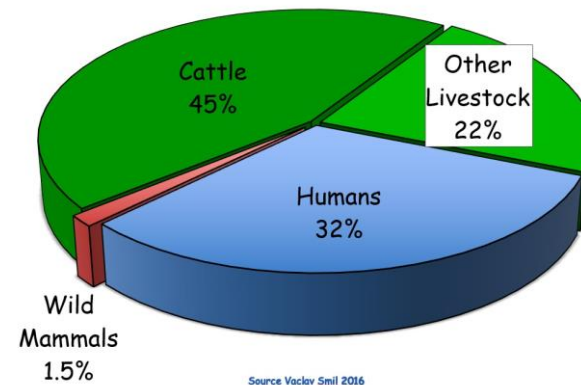
The Problems of Overpopulation

- climate change
- environmental degradation and pollution
- resource depletion
- increase in municipal waste
- biodiversity loss
- deforestation, desertification
- mass species extinction (**species genocide**)

Terrestrial Mammal Biomass
10,000 Years Ago



Terrestrial Mammal Biomass 2015



Source: Vaclav Smil 2016

The Problems of Overpopulation

- **water scarcity**
- food insecurity
- mass starvation, malnutrition

- **pandemic emergence**
- inadequate healthcare services

- increased poverty
- inadequate housing

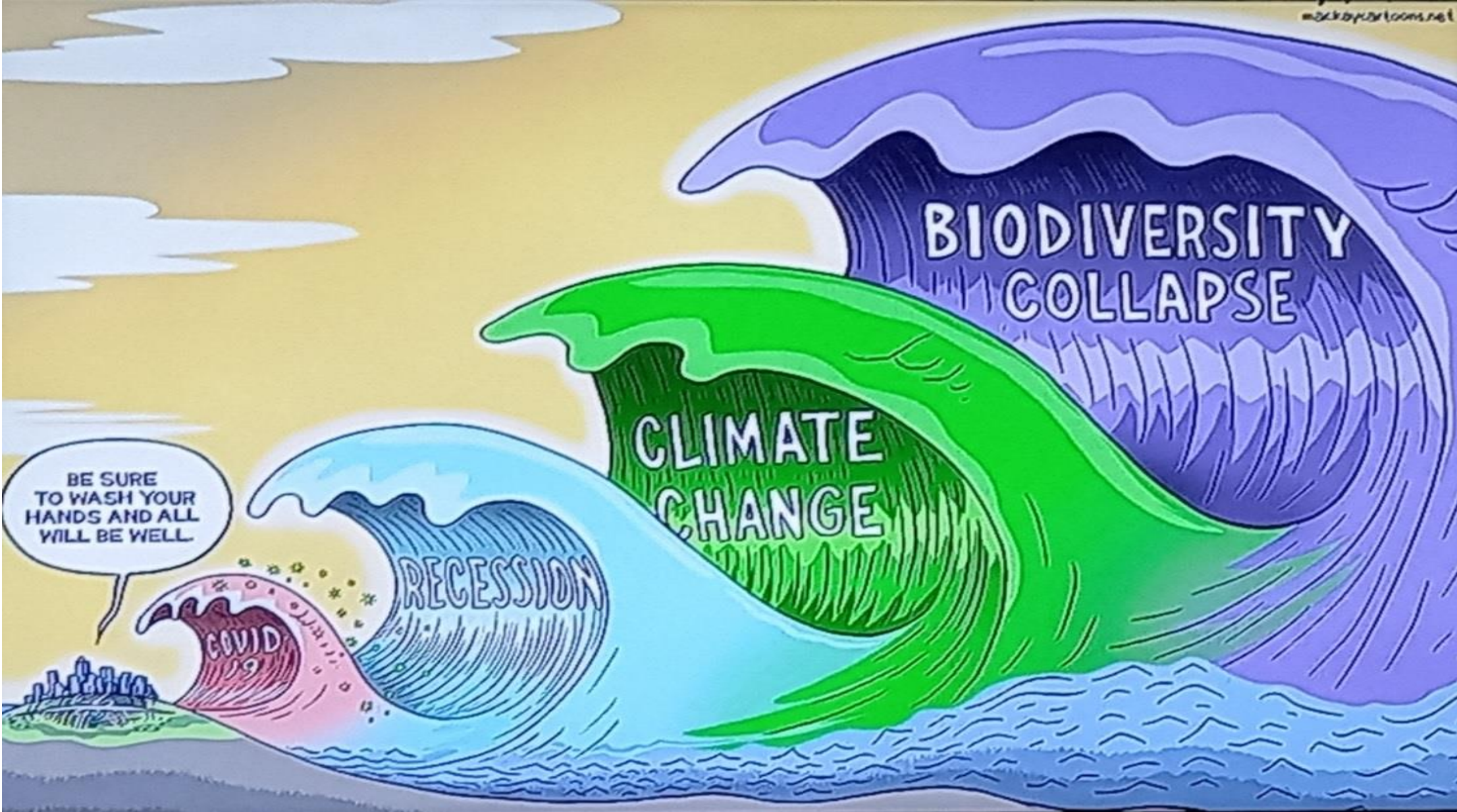


The Problems of Overpopulation

- major obstacle to achieving *Sustainable Development Goals*
(1) No poverty, (2) Zero hunger, (3) Good health and well-being



But that's not Our Problem



BE SURE
TO WASH YOUR
HANDS AND ALL
WILL BE WELL

COVID

RECESSION

CLIMATE
CHANGE

BIODIVERSITY
COLLAPSE

The Threat to Security

The Problems of Overpopulation

- forced migration
- climate refugees
- radicalization
- extremism
- widespread conflict
- resource-driven wars

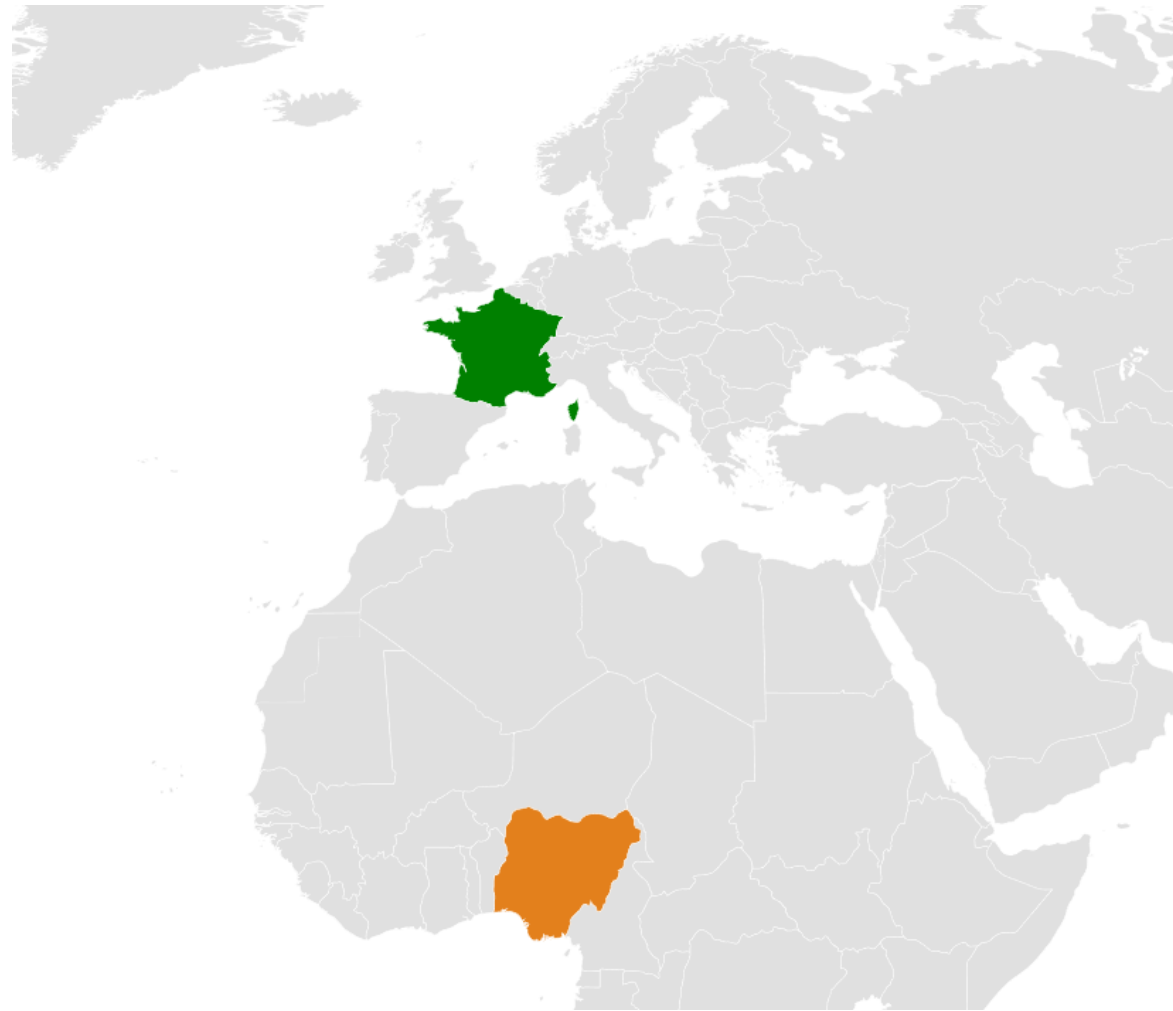


The Sub-Saharan Problem

- more than 50% of anticipated growth between 2023 and 2050 here
- after 2050 the only contributor to the world population growth
- out of 47 countries with high fertility rates, 32 countries are in SSA
- 18 countries will double their population, Niger will tripple

The Nigerian Time Bomb

- 37 million (1950)
- 201 million (2021)
- 401 million (2050)
- 733 million (2100)



The Migration Period



The Threat to our Security



The Need for an Ethical Solution

- not blaming victims (climate refugees, war refugees)
- targetting problems at their origins (focus on Africa)
- securing oneself, helping those in need (ethically)

Thank You for Your Attention



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