

The Suicide Kind

Bart Flos

THE SUICIDE KIND



**Why We Are All Doomed
(And You Too!)**



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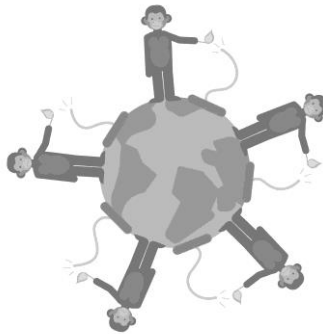
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Previously published by Bart Flos:

*Het anti-klaagboek – Het anti-sleurboek – Het perfecte project
De kenniskermis – Vooruitkijken voor gevorderden*

De mens als grens ('Our Inner Limits')

The Anti-Complain Book – The Perfect Project

De hoogvolwassen organisatie – De klimaatconfrontatie

De zelfmoordsoort – The Suicide Kind

As addenda to 'De mens als grens':

Addendum I – Het begin van het einde: onwetendheid

Addendum II – De frontale confrontatie: klimaatverandering

Addendum III – Het grote probleem: overconsumptie

Addendum IV – Het laatste taboe: ineenstorting

As addenda to 'Our Inner Limits':

Addendum V – The Beginning of The End: Ignorance

Addendum VI – De Frontal Confrontation: Climate Change

Addendum VII – The Big Problem: Overconsumption

Addendum VIII – The Final Taboo: Collapse

Addendum IX – The Next Step: Collapse Awareness

Addendum X – The Last Resort: Collapse Acceptance

Addendum XI – The Tough Choice: Collapse Resilience

Why We Are All Doomed (And You Too!)

Newspaper: A machine that cannot distinguish between a bicycle accident and the collapse of a civilization.

George Bernard Shaw

Animals suffer and their wails fill the air. Forests fall prey to destruction. Mountains are torn open for the metals that grow in their veins. And man praises and glorifies those who do the greatest harm to nature and to humanity.

Leonardo da Vinci

Humanity must rise above the Earth, up into the atmosphere, and beyond, for only then will we fully understand the world in which we live.

Socrates

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The Suicide Kind

Why We Are All Doomed (And You Too!)

Read this first

Just imagine: 99.99% of all species that have ever lived in Earth's 4.5 billion year history are extinct. An overwhelmingly complex, but endlessly patient process of evolution and natural selection has, over hundreds of millions of years, brought into being and then disappeared countless varieties of life forms, most without a trace.

But I actually don't want to tell you that at all. Because none of the flora and fauna that has now disappeared into oblivion has ever come up with the brilliant idea of accelerating its own demise. Like:

"Aha! We are able to escape Earth's gravity. That's unique! No one has ever done that before. Cool. Well, let's skip that, and instead consciously choose to render the only planet we have uninhabitable to the point of our own extinction. The sooner, the better."

Do you see? That is what I want to tell you!

For the past half-century, we, the human species in its entirety, have done our utmost to move towards the edge of the abyss, as a result of a process called overshoot or overconsumption, when a species exceeds the carrying capacity of its habitat. In the meantime, without realizing it, we have jumped over that edge. That's right, we are all falling down. Undeniable. Inevitable. Relentless. Only our own ignorance, short-sightedness, and stupidity keep us from realizing that it's not the fall that matters. We are all able to fall. Falling is easy.

Can we stop our descent? No. It is too late for that. We simply waited too long. Sure, we have plenty of ideas and solutions to mitigate our existential dilemma. More than enough. But we are too divided to reach explicit, collective agreement at a global level. When push comes to shove, every individual on this planet, everyone, including you, will take care of themselves first. When eight billion individuals, growing by eighty million a year, are programmed in that manner, we don't stand a chance. In that case, the only thing that will break our fall will be our collapse.

Yep, we're all doomed and so are you! Not today, though. And maybe not tomorrow. But it's not going to take thousands or hundreds of years either. Nor will our demise begin somewhere in the next century, or at the end of this century. Our collective collapse has long since begun. For more than half a century, we have been exceeding the carrying capacity of our living environment. Any species that does that will inevitably collapse. The ultimate consequence? Extinction.

This book is not about hope or about solutions. It does not contain tips and tricks for a sustainable, green and ecologically conscious lifestyle. If you want to spend your life like that, no one is going to stop you, but don't think it will make one bit of a difference. We have passed the tipping point; the 'elbow' of the exponential curve is already far behind us. Feel free to continue producing solar panels, wind turbines, batteries, heat pumps, electric vehicles, advising on sustainable business operations and reducing your personal footprint. If that makes you feel good, you should by all means continue with it. Just know that it will not change the disastrous path we have all embarked upon, despite all our good intentions and great ideas.

The accelerating demise of human society by global infrastructure collapse due to chronic overconsumption has become inevitable. It's now embedded in the system. That's pretty much *in your face*, is it not? And if you don't buy all that, for example, because you passionately believe that technology will eventually redeem us, or that climate change is just a hobby of the left-wing elite ('A HOAX!'), then that won't change anything either. Nothing. Nada. Zilch.

'So what is your book about?', you might ask. And I'm glad you did.

The Suicide Kind is about the joint concepts of *collapse awareness*, *collapse acceptance*, and *collapse resilience*, about passively but proudly accepting our common fate. This book aims to make you aware of the misery that is coming our way. It will enable you to accept that there is no way back and as such learn to become resilient against the accelerated decline of prosperity and therefore of individual and collective well-being. It will prevent you from having to say that you didn't see it coming.

When you have finished this book, feel free to go back to what you were already doing: living out your life within your small social groups of family, household, friends, colleagues, and teammates. And continue to exist within your small and large society, your street, neighborhood, district, municipality, village, city, province, country, state or continent. It doesn't matter if you're rich or poor, or something in between, the demise of the human species ultimately affects us all on equal terms. Maybe not as fast, but just as ruthless. Now that the process of global collapse in its entirety is irreversible, we can all continue to do what we have always done: take care of ourselves and our loved ones first, then perhaps take care of others.

There are now just over eight billion of us on this planet. Every year, about eighty million people are added, because we procreate like rabbits. That brings us to ten billion individuals by 2050, divided into hundreds of millions of small social groups. Nobody in these groups wants to reduce or decline. We all, rich and poor, want to at least keep what we've got, preferably get a little more. Indeed, we consume like there's no tomorrow. That's part of what makes us tick, that's what we are. In terms of human traits and attributes, the process of evolution and natural selection has willed it that way.

But we weren't meant to be with so *many*! We may regard that fact as *collateral damage*, as a natural biological phenomenon that is unconscious, aimless and indifferent. Yes, the human species is not meant to be in the billions. We are supposed to move across the savannahs as hunter-gatherers, in small social groups of a few dozen individuals, meeting each other only sporadically, either to beat each other's brains in, or to trade (or to do both). This does not require more than a few million individuals spread across the planet. And we have been doing it for millions of years, much longer than the time we spent experimenting with a more agricultural lifestyle, that we started some ten thousand years ago.

Our unbridled fertility, along with our unique ability to form partnerships that span the globe, has brought us to where we are today: shooting over the edge and falling into the abyss. But rest assured, we still have some time. Suprasystemic collapse, the global collapse of our infrastructure, is not the same as the crash of a meteor (by the way, it's only called a *meteorite* after the crash has occurred) or like the explosion of a nuclear device. It will be another hundred years or so, before extinction becomes a serious option for the entirety of the human species.

But we, this generation, will see the beginning of the end, our children will live on the edge of hell and our grandchildren will inherit a world devoid of prosperity and well-being. That's a bitter pill to swallow, for sure, but we have only ourselves to blame. And that is why I strongly believe that we no longer deserve the predicate *Homo sapiens*, 'the wise, thinking, modern man'. As far as I'm concerned, hence forth we will be known as *Homo infantilicus*, 'the ignorant, short-sighted and stupid man'.

Duly noted. As you were. Carry on.

The Suicide Kind

Why We Are All Doomed (And You Too!)

Introduction

In 2015, I published my fifth book, *Vooruitkijken voor gevorderden* ('Futurology for Fanatics — Hope for the Future of Man Ape and Mother Planet'). It is an easy-to-read book with the same structure as its predecessor *De kenniskermis* ('The Knowledge Fair — Surviving in an Ocean of Information'). Short chapters of about 800 words, with QR codes to TED(x) talks, neat pictures and numerous references to other interesting books. In *Futurology for Fanatics*, I not only discuss the major problems of humanity, but I also provide hopeful solutions. By daring to look 100, 1000 and even 10,000 years ahead, I sketch a picture of the unlimited possibilities that Homo sapiens has to shape its own future. The ultimate objective? Preserving our planet to prepare it as a home base for the exploration of the cosmos.

I remember someone calling me a 'naïve idealist' back then. I defended that with fervor at the time, replying that I preferred to call myself an 'incorrigible optimist'. 'Yeah-yeah', was the response, 'Dream on!' But it was true, I was positioned on a comfortable pink cloud and peered through rose-colored glasses, which turned out to be a cold, metal telephoto lens and microscope. It wasn't until I got into my helicopter, started flying as high as I could and started looking down from far above that the scales fell from my eyes.

Fast forward to 2022

Since the publication of *Futurology for Fanatics* in 2015, about a billion people have been added to the world population (we went from 7.2 billion to 8.2 billion people), we have emitted another 330 gigatons of CO₂ (1 gigaton is 1

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billion tons) and atmospheric CO₂ has risen from 399 to 422 ppm (parts per million, as an indication of the concentration of a substance), a catastrophic rise from the 200 – 300 ppm variance over the past 800,000 years. That has transformed me from an incorrigible optimist to a 'confrontealst', someone who confronts his environment head-on with truth and reality, hard science, with observation, research, facts and evidence.

Over the past two years, extensive research has led me to author my sixth book, my Magnus Opus, in which I integrate all my previous work. *De mens als grens* ('Our Inner Limits' – *On the Unbending Barriers of Being*) is much less hopeful, unfortunately, but it still contains solutions, albeit the last solutions that are left. I'm sorry that I don't share hopeful dreams about the human species this time, which first preserves its planet and then seeks refuge among the stars. But it's time we recognize, acknowledge, and confess to what we are: social group primates and hunter-gatherers who are great at survival and reproduction. At the expense of everything and everyone. It's the nature of the beast.

Fast forward to 2024

When I delivered the final manuscript of *Our Inner Limits* to my publisher in October 2022, I could not have imagined how quickly things would get so much worse. The year 2023 is the year we passed the 'elbow' of the exponential curve. This implies that from now on, events with the environment, biodiversity and climate will no longer follow a relatively linear path, but a chaotic, totally unpredictable one.

In the sixteen months following the publication of my sixth book, I wrote a thousand 500-word posts on *LinkedIn*, about sixty a month, two a day. In

order not to let them get lost in the endless timelines of social media, I have included them in eleven addenda to *Our Inner Limits* in book form, four in Dutch and seven in English. *The suicide kind* is a summary of the latter four of eleven addenda and aims to put the finger even more clearly on the sore spot: we behave like an ignorant, short-sighted and stupid form of life, a *suicide kind*. In this book, I will accompany you on that accelerating path of decline and together we take a journey from ignorance via climate change to overconsumption and collapse.

I would have liked to tell you a different story, but it's not 2015 anymore. It's not 1970 anymore either, when we still could have done something. Or 1990, pretty much humanity's last chance to avoid collapse. I was forced to give up the 'hopeful future of man ape and mother planet' for a much less hopeful one, hence the subtitle: 'why we are all doomed (and you too!)'. Be that as it may, I sure hope you will stick with it and work your way through this, perhaps, somewhat ominous book, because it's a story that needs to be told. Science, truth, and reality are now telling us that we have actually waited too long, that it is too late. Collapse is now inevitably embedded in the system.

With *The Suicide Kind*, I aim to arm you with facts and evidence and to provide you with the latest insights from the scientific community. However, above all, I aim to make you and your loved ones more resilient to what is coming. Because our future is no longer several hundred years away. Our future will not wait for us somewhere in the next century either, or at the end of this century, or in 2070 or 2050. Our future already takes place in the next ten years.

To conclude, I won't wish you much reading pleasure. I wish you a lot of wisdom and strength instead.

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About this book

The great thing about writing a message (a *post*) on *LinkedIn* is that, unlike Facebook, for example, you are forced to limit your message to about 500 words (3,000 characters) for a post and about 200 words (1,250 characters) for a comment. *Schrijven is schrappen* ('To write is to delete' – thank you Dutch journalist, author and poet Simon Carmiggelt) is enforced here, as it were, accurate to the punctuation mark and that's good, because for an author, it's educational. It forces you to shorten the message to a length that should be 'processable' even for the hurried, overloaded, *I'm-busy-busy-busy* reader.

This book is a summary of the latter four addenda following my *Magnus Opus De mens als grens* ('Our Inner Limits'). There are eleven addenda in total, four in Dutch and seven in English, however, the English addenda are not direct translations of the Dutch ones. On *LinkedIn*, I often respond to English posts in English. Sometimes I translate them into Dutch, but they also stand on their own. The same applies the other way around: sometimes I translate a Dutch post into English, sometimes I don't. So if you can also master the Dutch language, I would like to refer you to *De zelfmoordsoort – Waarom we er allemaal aangaan (en jij ook!)*, which is a summary of the *first* four of eleven addenda.

At an average reading speed of about 250 words per minute, each subchapter in this book will only take you a few minutes. So I would like to say: do you have a little less time now? Then choose a few chapter titles that appeal to you and spend ten or fifteen minutes on them. Each post stands on its own and the only thing I did was to assemble them within the confounds of a book, ensuring that the information I refer to and respond to is not lost. So, just pick up *The*

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Suicide Kind, read a few chapters and then put it away for a while. Whatever you do, it is best to gradually absorb the knowledge and information. I wouldn't want you to get overwhelmed. Or depressed.

By the time you've reached the end of this book, you've been on a 'condensed' journey from ignorance via climate change to overconsumption and collapse. Hopefully, by that time, I have made you realize that there is something profoundly wrong with us. That we have not only been squandering our unique qualities as a human species, but that we are still doing so at a rate that does not border on insanity, but equals insanity itself.

Not all journeys are similarly enjoyable to make and this particular journey, reading this book, is one of the beginning of the end, of head-on confrontation, of major existential problems and of the ultimate taboo: the collapse of human civilization as we know it today. However, this doesn't necessarily imply an 'end of the world'-scenario: the extinction of the human species. That ultimate consequence is not guaranteed, but it has become a real option indeed.

Finally, whereas in *Our Inner Limits* I leave it to my esteemed readers to draw their own conclusions on where the human species is headed, in *The Suicide Kind* I am more explicit, much more 'in your face' and downright confrontational. Because as a self-proclaimed *confrontealst*, I passionately believe that only a frontal confrontation with truth and reality can, perhaps, open our eyes to what is inevitably coming. Either way: I wish you strength, honor and lots of good luck!

Bart Flos, Helmond – March 2025

Chapter 1

Why we shouldn't beat around the bush

I saw a post referring to an article in The Guardian with the following title:

“Earth’s vital signs [are] worse than at any time in human history, scientists warn”.

This was the article:

<https://amp-theguardian-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/amp.theguardian.com/environment/2023/oct/24/earth-vital-signs-human-history-scientists-sustainable-future>

The post started as follows:

“Well, this was a sobering read. Not surprising, but it never fails to get my heart racing: ‘Earth’s “vital signs” are worse than at any time in human history, an international team of scientists has warned, meaning life on the planet is in peril.’ Their report found that 20 of the 35 planetary vital signs they use to track the climate crisis are at record extremes. As well as

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greenhouse gas emissions, global temperature and sea level rise, the indicators also include human and livestock population numbers.”

This was my response:

“It is really sweat that we think we’re going to get to the end of this century with some kind of human civilization running as it is today. Look, most of the progress on the measurements put forth in this dire reporting is accelerating. If you extrapolate these trends, the consequences are much more destructive to human society than we dare to admit. We are only at 1,2C of global warming and look what that brought us this year. If we think that is going to ease up, we’ve got another thing coming.

Let’s not beat around the bush here. We have been exceeding the carrying capacity of our habitat for over 70 years now (*) and something’s gotta give. This year, 2023, we will already breach the 1,5C global warming barrier. Look at those graphs in this reporting! It’s mind boggling. We’re not breaking records hundredths or tenths of a degree; we’re breaking them by multiple degrees at once. If that doesn’t scare you, I don’t know what will.

We’re in for a treat. The way we are going, things will fall apart, not in a couple of hundred years, or next century, or the end of this century, or in 2070, 2050, 2040, but within the next decade!

It’s happening nów, to us, in real time.”

(*) A concept known as overshoot or overconsumption. Environmental pollution, destruction of the biodiversity and climate change are symptoms of overshoot or overconsumption: when a population exceeds the carrying

T H E S U I C I D E K I N D

capacity of its habitat. If you're interested in the concept of overshoot, see Appendix IV.

W H Y W E A R E A L L D O O M E D (A N D Y O U T O O !)

1.2

What if I provoked the matter just a tad?

A saw a post from a climate scientist, explaining the reasons, causes and consequences of the unprecedented heat in September 2023, on top of all the other extreme weather and climate disasters that washed over the planet that year. It was a well-balanced, carefully nuanced post, as you might expect from a climate scientist, explaining the El Niño — La Niña phenomenon, the influence of solar activity, the decrease of pollution particles in the air (all with only tenths or hundredths of a degree impact on global warming), bad luck/coincidence and, naturally, climate change itself.

The post was concluded, and I quote:

“Humanity must accelerate the path to net zero to prevent more record-shattering global temperatures and damaging extreme events!”

Right. This was my response:

“Thanks for your post. I follow your work with great interest. You’re being overly cautious in your analysis, which I recognize. The IPCC applies the same kind of caution, since it has to carefully walk the line between ratio/science and politics/economics. However, with all that ‘caution and care’, the less educated reader might think ‘ok, it’s bad, but not that bad yet. It might all swing back to milder conditions soon’.

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So, what would you say if I provoked the matter just a tad:

1 – It's too late, we have waited too long. We have passed the 'elbow' of the exponential curve' and now went beyond the point of no return, as the ultimate consequence of overshoot ().*

2 – From now on events won't follow a relatively linear path anymore but a chaotic, totally unpredictable one.

3 – The atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere and cryosphere have entered a state of cascade failure, the prelude to suprasystemic collapse.

4 – Extreme weather and climate disasters will further increase in frequency and intensity, creating mass migrations, collapse of the global food supply chain and crisis, conflict and war.

5 – The accelerating deterioration of our habitat will not occur over the coming 50 or 100 years, but already within the next 10 years.

What would you say? Would you concur?"

(*) Environmental pollution, destruction of the biodiversity and climate change are symptoms of overshoot or overconsumption: when a population exceeds the carrying capacity of its habitat. If you're interested in the concept of overshoot, see Appendix IV.

1.3

When all you have is a hammer...

I saw a repost on one of my posts in which I was pretty blunt about the reality of life as we live it today and about what's coming our way. In my original post I argued that, and I quote "it's pointless to speak about human abstract constructs such as GWP, GDP, economic growth or decline, profit and loss, accumulated wealth, poverty or inequality, when there's no structured, stable and contained human society to interpret them in."

But the author of the repost counter-argued me with economic arguments! He really did. He went on about free and fair markets, international import and export, corruption in relation to systemic economic stagnation in Europe and the USA, and so on. I guess it was another proof of the saying that 'when all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail'.

This was my response:

"I'm still going to be blunt, perhaps even a tad more:

Economic stagnation is irrelevant. The economy is irrelevant. Any kind of human rule, regulation or law is irrelevant. We, as the dominant, highly technological species on this planet, just don't get it. All of our abstract constructs governing our societies are irrelevant.

Why do I say ‘irrelevant’ with such derogatory confidence? Because we’re headed for societal collapse. In a collapse scenario all gloves are off, all rules, regulations and laws go right out the window (*).

War is an example of collapse. When in war, societies die in the propaganda, the violence and the destruction of lives and property. But war rarely involves all nations and people on this planet. Even the two world wars left countries and regions unaffected. Not so with suprasystemic collapse as a result of overshoot or overconsumption, when a population exceeds the carrying capacity of its habitat (**).

We’ve been at it for 70 years now and something’s gotta give. Something is giving. Suprasystemic collapse, where the suprasystem is planet Earth with all its inhabitants, involves all species, all flora and fauna. We have passed the ‘elbow’ of the exponential curve. It’s out of our hands now. We’ve waited too long, it’s too late. The Perfect Storm is coming.”

(*) Don’t believe me? I’m not just spit-balling or fearmongering here. This is the scientific underpinning:

<https://climateactionaustralia.wordpress.com/2023/10/19/10-reasons-our-civilization-will-soon-collapse/> [‘Ten Reasons Why Our Civilization Will Soon Collapse’]

(**) Environmental pollution, destruction of the biodiversity and climate change are symptoms of overshoot or overconsumption: when a population exceeds the carrying capacity of its habitat. If you’re interested in the concept of overshoot, see Appendix IV.

1.4

Is global warming linear or exponential?

I saw a post referring to an article with the title “Is global warming linear or exponential?” – a hot topic of debate by the end of 2023. This is the article:

<https://cleantechnica.com/cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/cleantechnica.com/2023/11/03/hansen-vs-mann-is-global-warming-linear-or-exponential/amp/>

This was my response:

“Global warming is accelerating. For sure.

I wonder how long it is going to take the scientific community to actually dare to say it. That it is not a linear process, no matter how hard we try to draw stacked horizontal lines through the data, or straight lines into the future. I also wonder how long it is going to take the scientific community to realize that we have already passed ‘the elbow’ of the exponential curve and that it’s already out of our hands and beyond our control. From here on out events won’t follow a relative linear path anymore, but a chaotic and totally unpredictable one.

I did a bit of manual extrapolation myself with pencil, eraser and ruler, based on the latest data on average global warming to date. Look at the three examples (*) in the comment section:

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- [1 of 3] Sequential linear extrapolation of existing data by extending the degree of ascension from the past into the future.
- [2 of 3] The difference in linear and accelerated warming in one graph, emphasizing how fast it will get out of hand after 2035.
- [3 of 3] An example of accelerated progress from the Earth Energy Imbalance Data that will send shivers down your spine. The trend line is clearly nót linear but accelerated.

I've used different graphs of past global warming to extrapolate the data in an analogous way and each time the results point in the same direction:

- *We will pass the 1,5C global warming marker within the next decade.*
- *We will reach 2C - 2,5C of warming by 2050.*
- *Depending on the level of acceleration, we will go way past the 3C global warming, after 2060, triggering a 'runaway climate' leading to a 'hothouse Earth'.*
- *At 4C of warming we will have created hell on earth.*
- *At 5C of warming we will pass the extinction threshold.*
- *Above 6C of global warming organic life on land and in the oceans can no longer be maintained.*

Based on the most extreme levels of acceleration we will pass all of the global warming markers above already this century, setting us up for the suprasystemic collapse of our global infrastructure.

We don't seem to realize that an exponential curve lulls us into a false sense of security until it's too late. Because it moves along like a seemingly horizontal line, with just the slightest degree of ascension, with nothing much happening. And then all over sudden it passes 'the elbow' and shoots up into the air almost

vertically. By that time, the entire process is out of hand and can no longer be controlled.

In nature, exponential curves always end in collapse; it's inevitable. I wonder how long it's going to take us to realize that we have now passed 'the elbow' of our own exponential curve, already underway on a steep vertical downward trajectory to dismay, disaster and destruction."

(*) For these graphs go to <https://www.demensalsgrens.nl/grafieken/>

1.5

Here's 13 different ways to say something's futile

I've seen só many posts floating by in my timelines about environmental pollution, biodiversity loss and (especially) climate change, conveying the same message over and over again:

“Yep, we've made a mess of things and it has gotten really bad. But it's not too late, we can still dó something about it, if we only start nów, keep to our promises, pledges and policies and make it snappy”.

It made me think about a viable alternative approach to convey the message that it is actually too late, that we actually háve waited too long and that societal collapse hás now become inevitable. Not in a few centuries, or next century, or by the end of this century, or in 2070 or 2050, but within the next decade. How can I possibly convince you, now that we've passed 'the elbow' of the exponential curve, that every effort to mitigate the consequences of our collective behavior as a species, is utterly futile? That there is nothing more we can do to prevent our societies from collapsing?

Maybe this will work: talking about 'emission reduction scenarios', 'carbon budgets', 'DAC-hubs', 'CCS-plants', 'EV's to the rescue' and 'planting a trillion trees', is like:

W H Y W E A R E A L L D O O M E D (A N D Y O U T O O !)

1. *Activating the water pumps or rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic, after it hit the iceberg.*
2. *Forming a row of beach goers with water buckets, scooping water out of the ocean and dumping it behind the dunes.*
3. *Fighting a forest fire on your own, with your home garden hose.*
4. *Trying to avoid a 100-foot yacht from slamming into the quay, with your bare hands.*
5. *Mopping the kitchen floor with all the tabs running.*
6. *Chasing flies and mosquitos with a fly swatter outside, in the open woods.*
7. *Holding back beach waves with a sand shovel.*
8. *Dragging a 50 metric ton truck with 18 flat tires through loose sand, on your own.*
9. *Using an umbrella to keep dry in a hurricane.*
10. *Pressing the walk button at an intersection over and over again.*
11. *Talking or screaming to your computer or hitting it.*
12. *Trying to lose weight permanently.*
13. *Avoiding death, taxes and problems in life.*

All jokes aside: it's true, we actually have waited too long, it now actually is too late. Suprasystemic collapse is coming, whether we want, believe, understand it or not. We'd better batten down the hatches and buckle up. The perfect storm is on its way and it's completely indifferent about our feelings.

1.6

The economy is an irrelevant measure of degree

I saw a post with an article predicting that we should ‘buckle up, because climate change could destroy half our economy by 2070’. It said:

“Have a read and let me know what you think, how it makes you feel, and what you may do differently for the sake of our children and future generations?”

This was my response:

“Ok, let me tell you what I think. Because it’s even worse.

1 – We keep correlating existential events with the economy.

Like that’s our only reference frame to measure a degree of disaster, as some kind of percentage of what the economy is today. We just can’t imagine a world without it.

2 – We do not grasp the concept of exponential growth.

We keep predicting that something dramatic will happen in 2050, 2070, 2100. But nobody predicted what would happen in 2023! Economic disaster won’t

strike in 2070. It will strike within the next decade. That is what it means to pass the 'elbow' of an exponential curve.

3 — We think it can't happen to us.

99,99% of all species that ever lived on this planet have gone extinct. We're the only ones accelerating our demise (*). How stupid is that?

The atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere and cryosphere have entered a state of cascade failure, the prelude to suprasystemic collapse. The jetstream is meandering, oceans are overheating, acidifying and deoxygenating, global ocean currents are destabilizing. And yet, we keep adding 150 million tons of CO₂-equivalent to the atmosphere every day.

The economy is irrelevant. Where we're going there simply won't be one to speak of. Where we're going only chaos will rule.

There.”

(*) Environmental pollution, destruction of the biodiversity and climate change are symptoms of overshoot or overconsumption: when a population exceeds the carrying capacity of its habitat. If you're interested in the concept of overshoot, see Appendix IV.

1.7

It's unsustainable and it's starting to show

I read an article stating that coal production in Europe was down and solar energy was up. This is what I had to say about it:

“I don't want to be a party pooper (again), but this doesn't mean anything, if the global emissions of greenhouse gasses are still increasing.

— *Global gas, oil and coal production are up, not down.*

— *The global CO₂-emissions of fossil fuels and industry were 37,5 gigaton in 2022 an all-time high), increasing to 43 gigaton in 2050.*

— *Global atmospheric CO₂-level is at 420 ppm, rising to 500 ppm in 2050 (preindustrial levels were at 280 ppm).*

As long as we keep dumping 150 million tons of CO₂-equivalent into our atmosphere every day (!), Europe's efforts to contribute to a more durable future are mere splatters on a hot plate.

Just consider this: Europe represents only 6% of the world's population and only 7% of the world's CO₂-emissions. The only thing that really matters is the decrease of emissions of greenhouse gases and the atmospheric level of greenhouse gasses (CO₂, methane, nitrous oxide, water vapor), on a global scale.

Putting a magnifying glass on specific reductions of CO₂-emissions and coal production, or on the increase of wind, solar and other green initiatives, is creating false hope by false prophets. It's 'Hopium for the People'. The only thing that matters is reductions on a global scale. On that level however, everything is still going up and up.

Furthering my point:

China is constantly in the news about the 'dramatic development' of renewables such as wind and solar and the production of EV's. But China is the worst coal polluter in the world, with hundreds of coal plants in the making, both domestic and abroad (see attached graph). It's a form of green washing in its own rights and it only distracts, misinforms and misguides us.

Small potatoes will not help us. We need a globally consorted, consolidated and coordinated approach to solve our existential problems. Currently there's no such global effort. None. It's all limited to the individual, local and regional level, creating the false image that 'we'll be ok, that we're going in the right direction, that it's not too late, that we can still fix it, that technology will fix everything.'

It won't. Because while we allow ourselves to be distracted by Pyrrhic victories, the global battle against overconsumption is lost. We're at 8 billion people, growing to 10 billion in 2050. Each of us wants to get rich, healthy, happy and grow old. Nobody wants to decline or reduce. We all want to at least keep what we've got, preferably get a little bit more.

It's simply unsustainable and it's starting to show."

1.8

Why we must stop fooling ourselves

Somebody posted a link to an article with the following header:

“World at ‘beginning of end’ of fossil fuel era, IEA says.”

The sub-header read:

“Global demand for oil, natural gas and coal expected to peak before 2030”.

The post read:

“The world is at ‘the beginning of the end’ of the fossil fuel era, according to the leading global energy watchdog, which for the first time has forecast that demand for oil, natural gas and coal will all peak before 2030.

New projections by the International Energy Agency forecast that the consumption of the three major fossil fuels will start to decline this decade because of the rapid growth of renewable energy and the spread of electric vehicles.

‘We are witnessing the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era and we have to prepare ourselves for the next era,’ IEA head Fatih Birol said of the

projections, due to be published next month in the body's World Energy Outlook. 'It shows that climate policies do work.'"

This was my response:

“‘World at the beginning of the end’. That part I agree with. ‘Expected to peak’? That only implies that the excavation of oil, natural gas and coal is allowed to carry on as usual, until that magical year of 2030. ‘...prepare ourselves for the next era’. Really? An era of what? A world devoid of prosperity and wellbeing?

Look, I’m not a partypoooper here, but we really need to wake up and stop fooling ourselves:

- *CO₂-emissions of fossil fuels and industry were 37,5 gigaton in 2022, an all-time high.*
- *Based on the economic plans of the 200 countries of the world, this will rise to 43 gigaton in 2050.*
- *Atmospheric CO₂-level is at 420 ppm, rising to 500 ppm in 2050.*
- *The world's population is growing with 80 million people each year.*

Even in the IEA’s scenario of 2030 we still add another 280 gigaton of CO₂ to the 1.500 gigaton of cumulative emissions. In the real world, however, we’ll have dumped another 1.000 gigaton of CO₂ into the atmosphere by 2050. What do you think will happen by 2030? A sudden magical drop to zero? Kumbaya? By that time we will have added half a billion consumers to the human population, so what do you think they are going to do?

We all seem to be waiting for that Technology-Driven ‘Green and Lean’ Renewables Miracle that is about to unfold. I’m sorry, but are we really that

obtuse? This year something has changed dramatically. 2023 might well prove to be the year we passed the ‘elbow’ of the exponential curve.

The atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere and cryosphere have entered a state of cascade failure, the prelude to suprasystemic collapse, due to the consequences of overshoot or overconsumption: when a population exceeds the carrying capacity of its habitat. Overconsumption is not just beginning; it’s been going on for over half a century now and is currently in its accelerating phase. Collapse is inevitable. It’s locked into the system. What we are still trying to do is just too little, too late.

The jetstream is meandering, the oceans are overheating and the ocean currents are destabilizing. Those are Earth’s Main Management and Control Systems. These planetary life support systems are gigantic! There’s no on/off switch, no reset button, no edit/undo function.

We’ve waited too long and now we’ve passed the point of no return. Our planet is moving towards a new post-collapse equilibrium and we, the human species, might not have a place in it anymore. And so, we’ve proven *nó*t to be *Homo sapiens*, the ‘wise, thinking, modern man’ at all. We’re *Homo infantilicus*.”

1.9

This should scare the bejesus out of all of us

In September 2023, the news about humankind having crossed six out of nine planetary boundaries went viral. It is usually shown as a circle divided into nine segments, one for each specific boundary:

1. *Biosphere Integrity*
2. *Land System Change*
3. *Freshwater Change*
4. *Biogeochemical Flows*
5. *Ocean Acidification*
6. *Atmospheric Aerosol Loading*
7. *Stratospheric Ozone Depletion*
8. *Novel Entities*
9. *Climate Change*

The status of each segment varies from green via orange to red and 'blood red'. But it typically shows only the current situation, how bad it is now, in the present.

So, I wrote:

Why We Are All Doomed (And You Too!)

“I think it is a good thing that we share this news. And it’s a clear, insightful depiction of our existential predicament. But this is just a ‘snapshot’ of the current situation, however dire it may look. I would therefore urge everybody to use a different depiction next time and compare the current situation to the previous ones, say in 2009 and 2015. Because in 2009 we crossed three boundaries, in 2015 we were at five and in 2023 we added another four boundaries crossed, whilst making each previous one moving closer to or entering the ‘blood red’ zone.

Seeing it develop so badly in such a brief period of time has a completely different impact than looking at a status quo. It’s not just the shit storm that we’re in today, it’s the trend line that scares the bejesus out of me. And I’m not scared easily. Look at the accelerated development in less than 15 years! This should scare the bejesus out of all of us.

Ecological overshoot (*) is not just some random freak event, or a temporary situation that will self-reverse itself in the coming decade or so. And so, I ask you: do you dare to extrapolate? Just give it a try and predict what the state of these planetary boundaries will be in say 5, 7 or 10 years from now.

Did you dare? Have you been honest and truthful?

Ok. Now what?

(*) Environmental pollution, destruction of the biodiversity and climate change are symptoms of overshoot: when a population exceeds the carrying capacity of its habitat. Overshoot is not just beginning. If you’re interested in the concept of overshoot, see Appendix IV.

The Suicide Kind

Why We Are All Doomed (And You Too!)

The Suicide Kind

Why We Are All Doomed (And You Too!)

Yep, we are all doomed, and so are you! Maybe not today, but it won't take another hundred years either. We have been exceeding the carrying capacity of our living environment for more than half a century now. Any species that does that will inescapably collapse. The ultimate consequence? Extinction.

Consider this: we are the only species on Earth that hastens its own demise. We procreate like rabbits and we keep on consuming like there's no tomorrow. That makes us an extremely ignorant, short-sighted and stupid form of life: a suicide kind. This book tells you why that is the case.

In 2022 public speaker and change specialist Bart Flos authored his Magnus Opus *De mens als grens* ('Our Inner Limits'), about the unbending barriers of being. *The Suicide Kind* is a summary of the latter four of eleven addenda that followed. This book takes you on a confrontational journey from ignorance via climate change to overconsumption and collapse. It will prevent you from having to say that you didn't see it coming.