

9th Safety Forum
30 June - 01 July 2022

THE LONG AND THE SHORT OF IT

Harry Nelson

“If our descendants were to diagnose the ills of 21st-century civilization, they would observe a dangerous short-termism:

A collective failure to escape the present moment and look further ahead. The world is saturated in information, and standards of living have never been higher, but so often it’s a struggle to see beyond the next news cycle, political term, or business quarter”

Richard Fisher

What culture have you experienced most often at work?

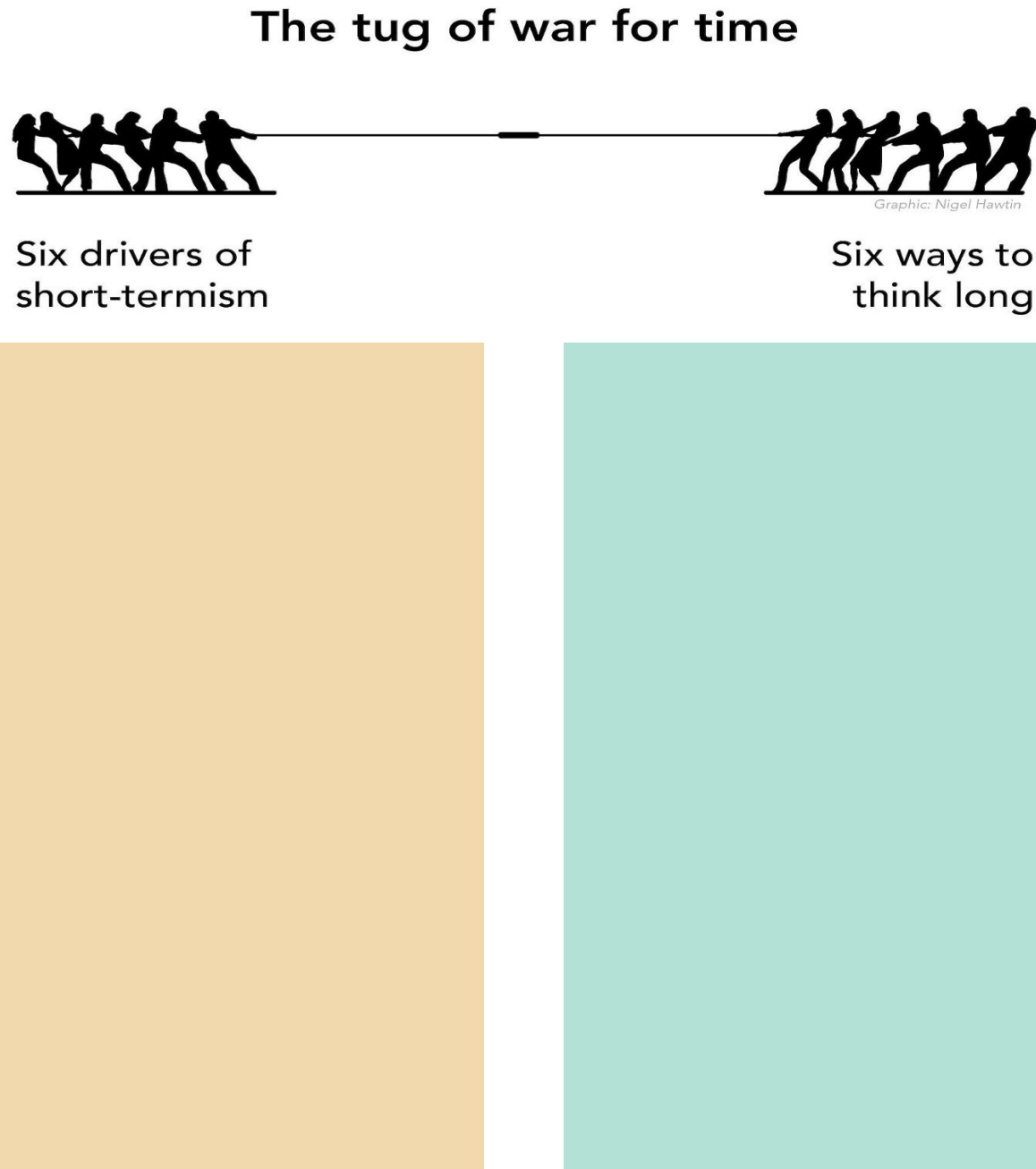


THE PARADOX we face

To solve the long term issue of sustainability we need immediate, courageous and wise decisions that will lead to effective action plans being put in place within a short time window

Even if we have the collective courage to do this, will our current, short termist focus allow us to achieve it?

The tug of war for time for time



From *The Good Ancestor: How to Think Long Term in a Short-Term World* by Roman Krznaric. Graphic design by Nigel Hawtin. Licensed under CC BY-NC-ND.

ar for time



Graphic: Nigel Hawtin

Six ways to
think long



Deep-Time Humility
grasp we are an eyblink
in cosmic time



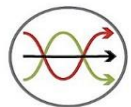
Legacy Mindset
be remembered
well by posterity



Intergenerational Justice
consider the seventh
generation ahead



Cathedral Thinking
plan projects beyond
a human lifetime



Holistic Forecasting
envision multiple pathways
for civilisation



Transcendent Goal
strive for
one-planet thriving

Deep Time Humility

Human kind is at THE most critical point in its cosmically short history

We either take on the challenge of survival
(and quality of life improvement)

or

We don't survive (at least not as we know it now)



Graphic: Nigel Hawtin

Six ways to think long



Deep-Time Humility
grasp we are an eyeblink
in cosmic time



Legacy Mindset
be remembered
well by posterity



Intergenerational Justice
consider the seventh
generation ahead



Cathedral Thinking
plan projects beyond
a human lifetime



Holistic Forecasting
envision multiple pathways
for civilisation



Transcendent Goal
strive for
one-planet thriving

Legacy mindset

But who are we to make that decision on behalf
of all the generations that have a right to follow ?

Those generations are alive now and are demanding
that we listen and act
(that's what my kids and grandkids are telling me!!)



Graphic: Nigel Hawtin

Six ways to think long



Deep-Time Humility
grasp we are an eyeblink
in cosmic time



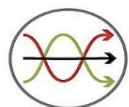
Legacy Mindset
be remembered
well by posterity



Intergenerational Justice
consider the seventh
generation ahead



Cathedral Thinking
plan projects beyond
a human lifetime



Holistic Forecasting
envision multiple pathways
for civilisation



Transcendent Goal
strive for
one-planet thriving

Intergenerational Justice

How many younger people are in this audience ?

Hands up please if you are younger than 37

Hands up please if you are over 54

Cathedral thinking

The Sagrada Familia – Barcelona



Brussels Cathedral.



Durham cathedral



Notre Dame



war for time



Graphic: Nigel Hawtin

Six ways to think long



Deep-Time Humility
grasp we are an eyblink
in cosmic time



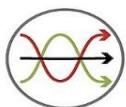
Legacy Mindset
be remembered
well by posterity



Intergenerational Justice
consider the seventh
generation ahead



Cathedral Thinking
plan projects beyond
a human lifetime



Holistic Forecasting
envision multiple pathways
for civilisation



Transcendent Goal
strive for
one-planet thriving

Holistic forecasting

Old Danish proverb

“It is difficult to make predictions,
especially for the future”

war for time



Six ways to think long



Deep-Time Humility
grasp we are an eyblink
in cosmic time



Legacy Mindset
be remembered
well by posterity



Intergenerational Justice
consider the seventh
generation ahead



Cathedral Thinking
plan projects beyond
a human lifetime



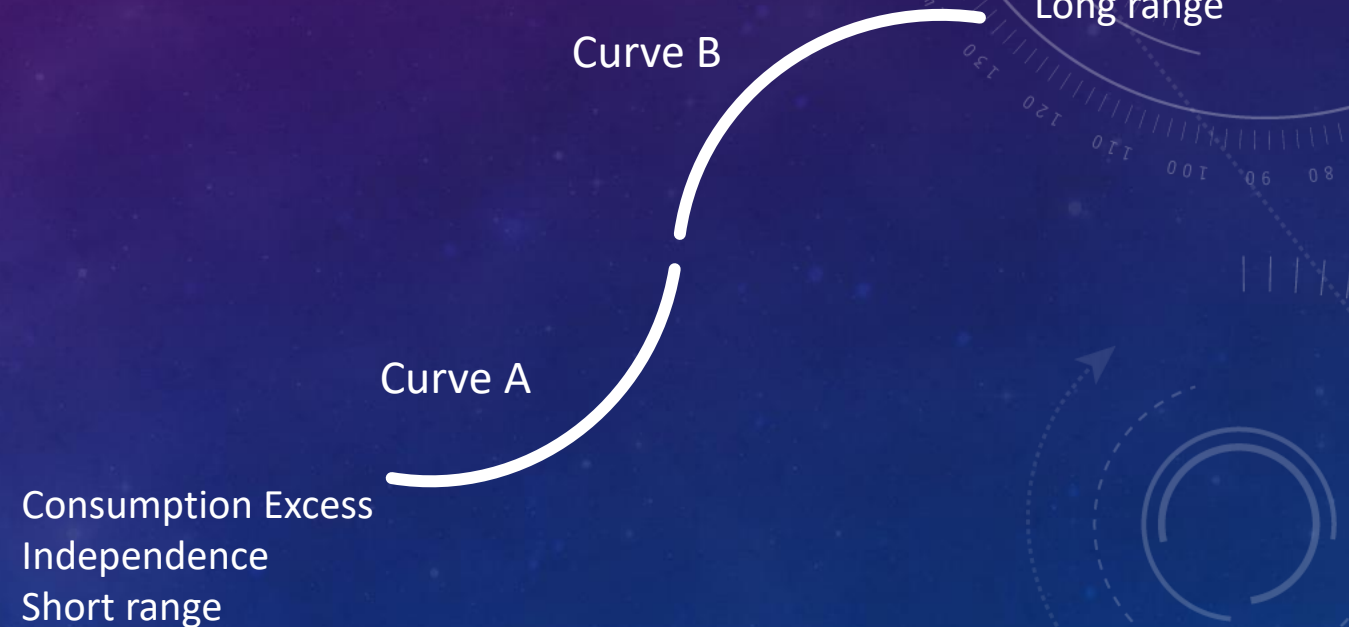
Holistic Forecasting
envision multiple pathways
for civilisation



Transcendent Goal
strive for
one-planet thriving

Holistic forecasting

Jonas Salk's "S" curve





Graphic: Nigel Hawtin

Six ways to think long



Deep-Time Humility
grasp we are an eyeblink
in cosmic time



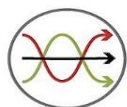
Legacy Mindset
be remembered
well by posterity



Intergenerational Justice
consider the seventh
generation ahead



Cathedral Thinking
plan projects beyond
a human lifetime



Holistic Forecasting
envision multiple pathways
for civilisation



Transcendent Goal
strive for
one-planet thriving

Holistic forecasting

What is our fundamental role?

We move people and cargo from one place to another

We encourage global communication

We deliver vital health products to countries in need

but we can also speed up disease transmission

We advance the global economy

but not necessarily in a balanced manner

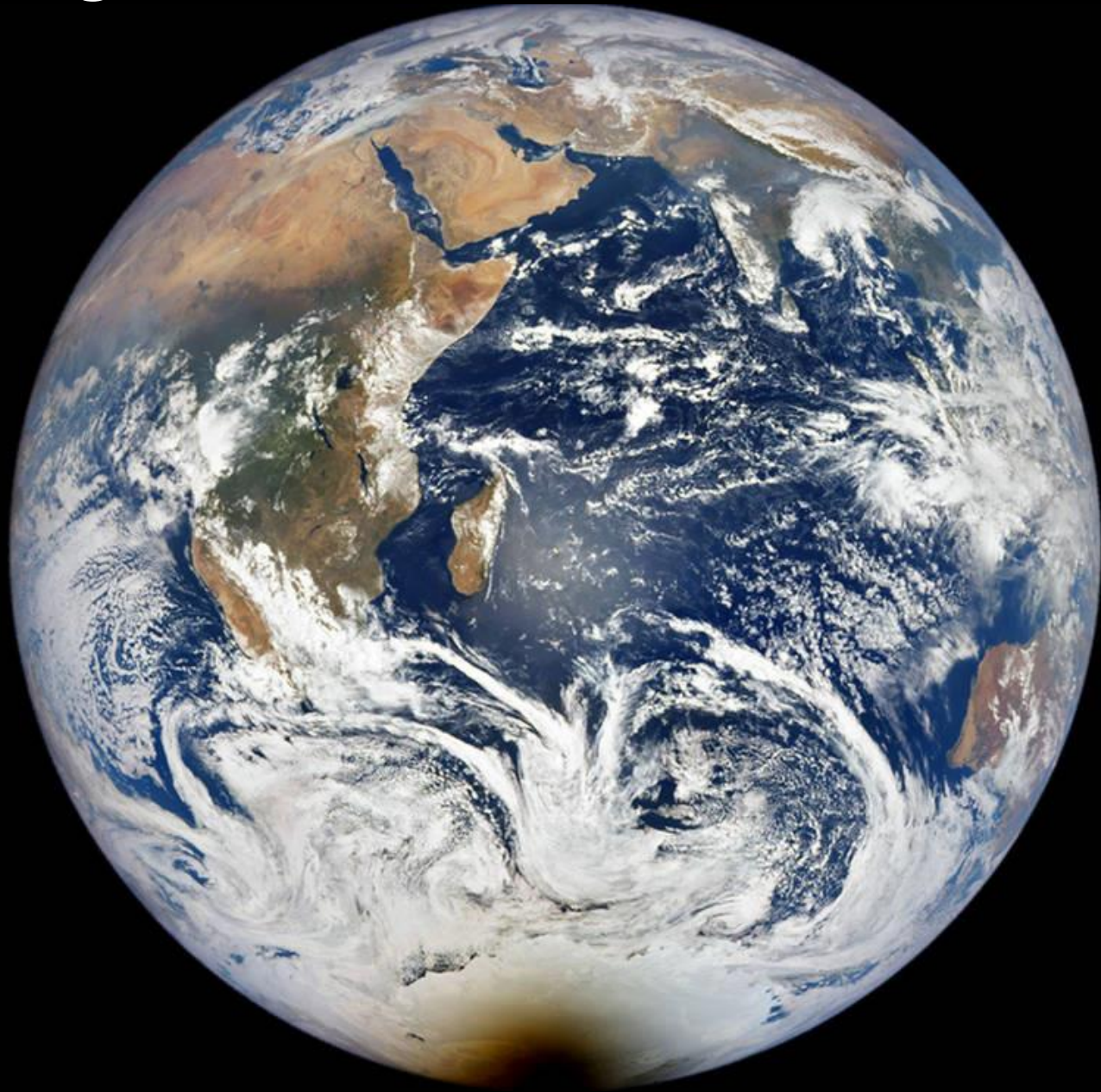
We can generate understanding and tolerance across the globe

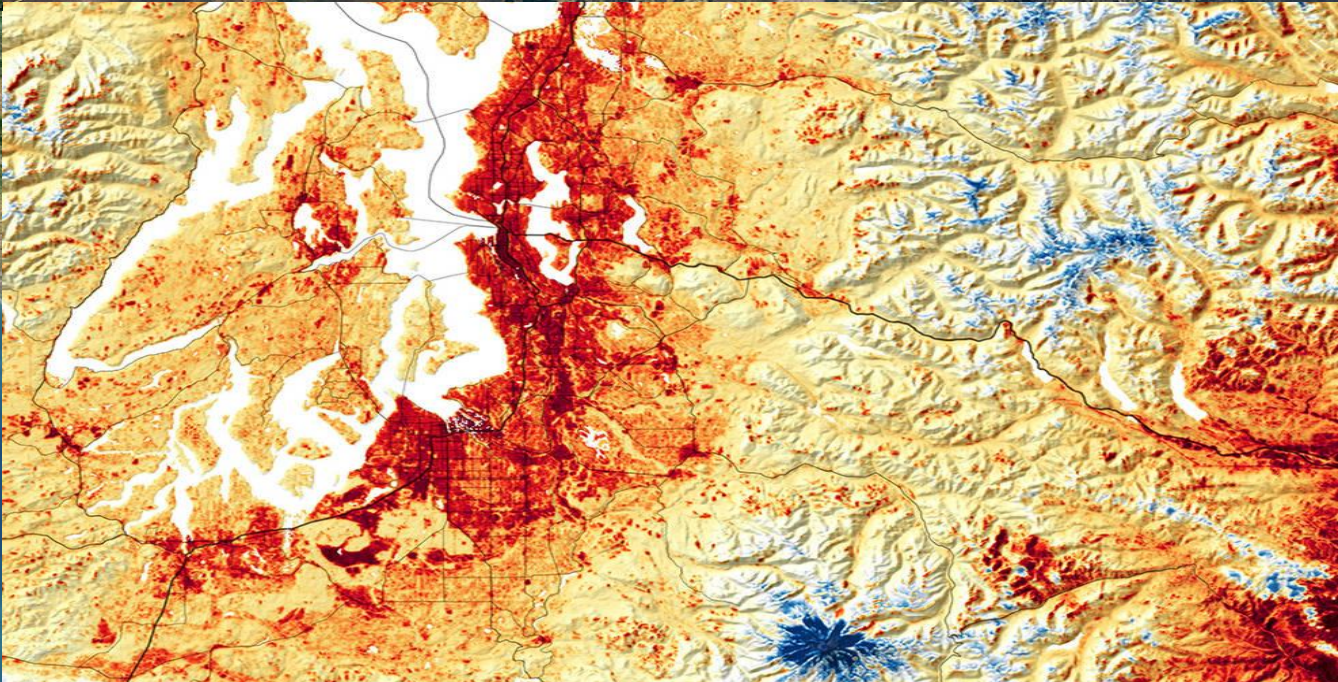
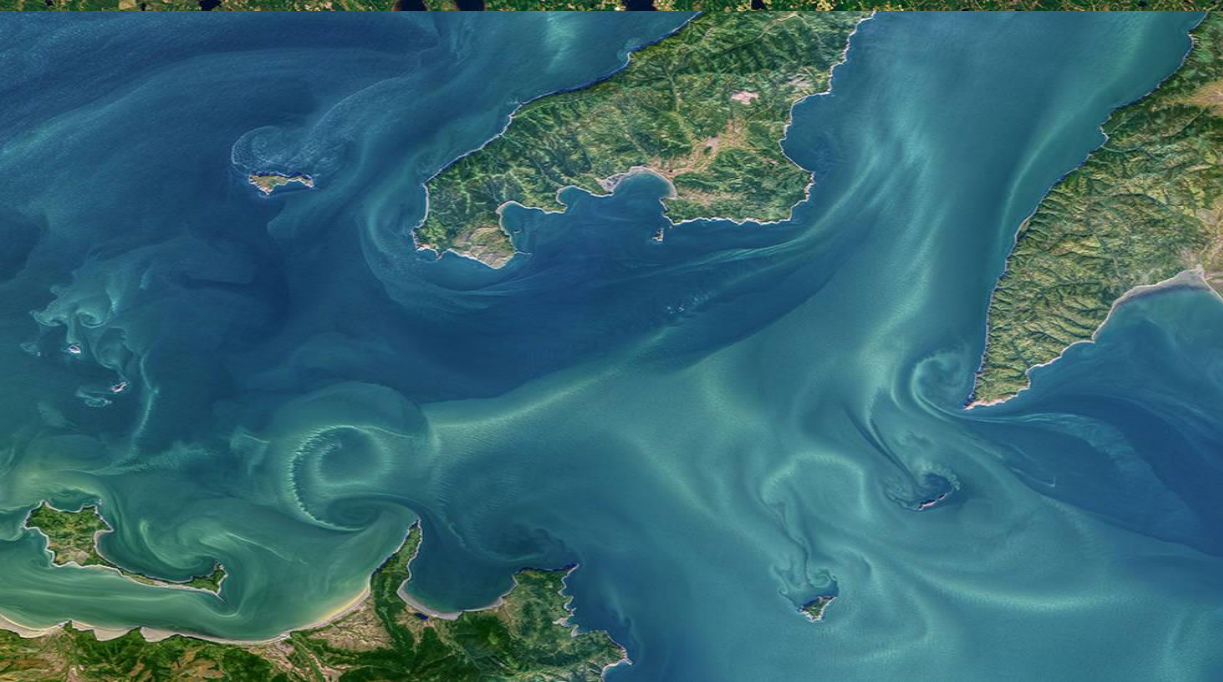
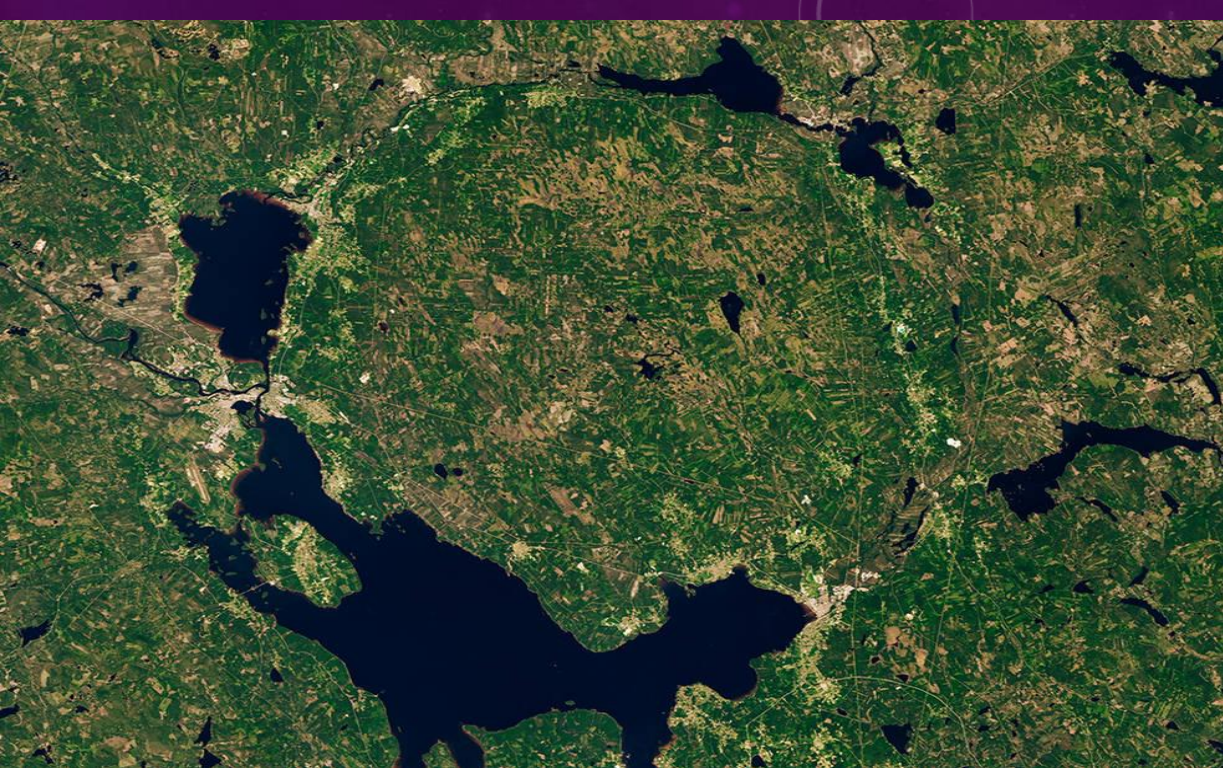
We are a force for peace (and war)

But so do other industries

Perhaps the answers lie in closer collaboration with these
'other' industries, particularly transportation industries

Transcendent goal





Our generation and its legacy responsibility

We are the first generation to experience the impact of climate change

We are the last generation to have the opportunity to deal with it

How do we want to be remembered?

..... but I want to do something now – some ideas ???

- Set up ‘future generations’ departments in all businesses and activities
- Review the company return on investment (ROI) periodicity
- Agree that all meetings conclude with a review of long-term impact (if any) and actions to reduce any negative impact
- Set up training modules that encourage and allow people to think and plan long-term
- Arrange video briefing sessions on ideas and initiatives in other industries on sustainability
- Take a personal interest in what your company or organisation is doing about sustainability
Does it have a sustainability team,? – its your future and that of your family
- If you have ideas of your own, feed them to the sustainability team. It will be the millions of small changes that make the difference in the end

- The risk of non-action is profound and not unlike that of global nuclear war in its significance. If nuclear war was imminent, how would we respond?
- The most likely risk is of international political competition wanting to gain or maintain advantage one nation unto another – short-termist thinking again when a collaborative, longer-term approach is vital
- Aviation, with its risk awareness and unity of purpose, can ‘light a beacon’ on the way forward for others to follow.
- **If correct, this demands rapid, decisive and co-ordinated activity from the UN, from ICAO and then from all regulators and influential bodies**

We understand RISK and we communicate our learning

Conclusions

1. The current business mindset is increasingly 'tuned' to short-termism particularly in financial matters. We need to increase the awareness of this trend and 'balance it' with
2. We need to convince the business world, and the general public, of the value in pursuing more long-term thinking safety policies while we drive for sustainability. Such persuasion must capture the over
3. We need to include in initial project financial planning, the cost of achieving -riding necessity to do this and the value of the longer-term prize longer-term safety (and not let it be removed later in a cost cutting exercise)
4. We must share and spread effective approaches to this major re-education initiative
5. Aviation has within it, the potential to take a leading role in the coming years

Reference Material

The LONG TIME PROJECT. <https://www.thelongtimeproject.org> Katie Paterson
The future library project.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/overview/in-the-news/the-case-against-corporate-short-termism>

Sophie Howe – Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

<https://www.futuregenerations.wales/news/wales-leading-the-way-with-future-generations-legislation-un-plans-to-adopt-welsh-approach/>

The Good Ancestor – How to think Long Term in a Short Term World
Roman Krznaric. Plus numerous TED talks

The Long Now Foundation <https://longnow.org>

Thank you for listening



From *The Good Ancestor: How to Think Long Term in a Short-Term World* by Roman Krznaric. Graphic design by Nigel Hawtin. Licensed under CC BY-NC-ND.