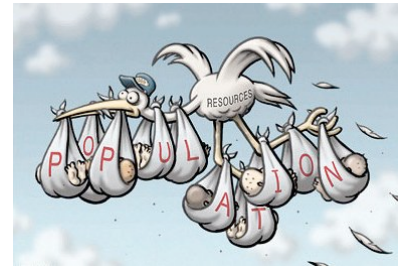


## Outline

**Overpopulation is the main threat to the planet.**

**Discuss.**



### **Definition: what is overpopulation?**

- situation when the population of a living species exceeds the capacity of living space
- example: if given environment has a population of 100 but there is food and drinking water enough for only 90 people, then that environment is overpopulated

### **Reasons for overpopulation (table US Census)**

- caused by increases in births, a decline in mortality rates linked to increases in life expectancy, or from an unsustainable use and depletion of resources

### **World population: 1950-2050 (graph US Census)**

- world's human population has reached four times the size of the population of a hundred years ago
- currently growing by about 75 million year
- world's population will reach 9.1 billion by 2050

### **What are the consequences of this growth?**

- current agricultural production sufficient to feed everyone living on Earth today if it were distributed evenly
- on a global scale, food production has grown faster than population and is predicted to increase until 2050
- humans already consume more than the fair share of the world's limited and non-renewable resources such as fuels, metals and other minerals
- without adequate consideration of the consequences to other life forms



## What are the other threats to the planet?

- War:
  - ranging from tribal or religious to nuclear
  - possibility of global annihilation by an intended or accidental nuclear attack
- Climate Change:
  - multiple ways in which we alter and spoil our soil, atmosphere and water
  - Fortunately, more and more people are working on global heating, understand how burning fossil fuels that release greenhouse gases relates to the climate change
- Peak Oil:
  - reach a peak in the rate at which we can pump oil out of the ground
  - Regardless of size of remaining oil reserves, limits exist to the speed with which we can actually extract oil
  - the soonest to hit, first of all industrial societies and, as a consequence, the whole planet

## Is Over-Population the biggest of these threats?

- My answer is 'no'
- not possible to isolate these threats from each other
- categorize them into immediate, medium-term and long-term threats
  - Peak Oil next to happen
  - developments in Afghanistan, Iraq and most recently Iran, the threat of a global war once again becomes realistic.
  - Over-Population medium-term threat
  - Climate Change falls into the long-term category
- The biggest threat to the planet is a combination of these various aspects.
- Peak Oil a wake-up call – turn to sustainable energies
- working on any of these threats, one can potentially influence all



## Conclusion

- overpopulation is a significant threat to the planet but it is neither the main threat nor the only threat our planet faces
- although negative impact on the planet's resources it is regarded as a medium term threat whereas war and the Oil Peak more urgent
- the worst szenario: a working together of two or more threats (example of Hurrican Katrina)
- need to work on these major threats, so that we might potentially influence all four in positive ways.
- in these 5 minutes 1.245 babies were born and 540 people died