

War on Warming

War is nothing but the continuation
of policy by other means.

Carl von Clausewitz: "On War", 1832

War! Huh! What is it good for?
Absolutely nothing.

The Temptations: "War", 1969

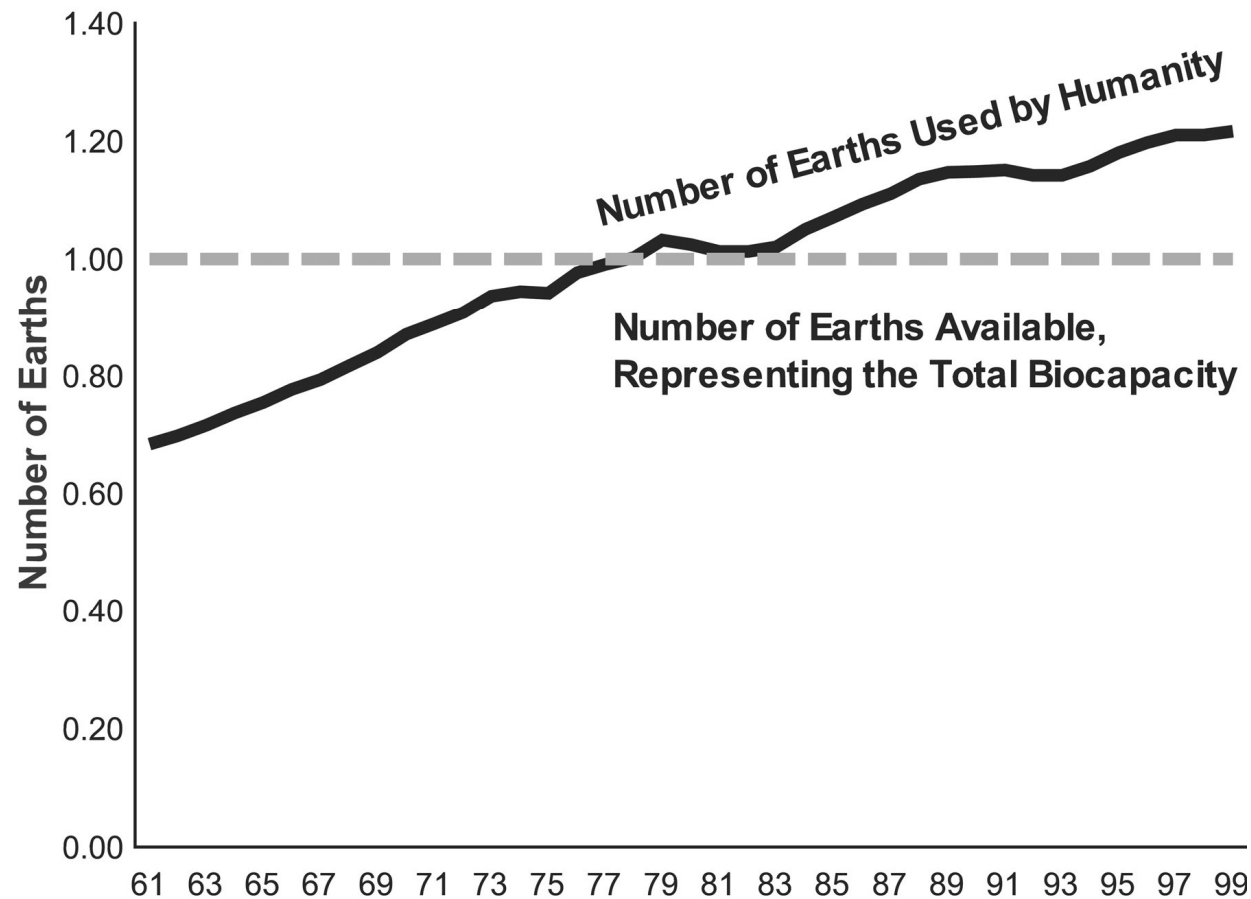
Part One:

Problem definition Rhetoric and Metaphor

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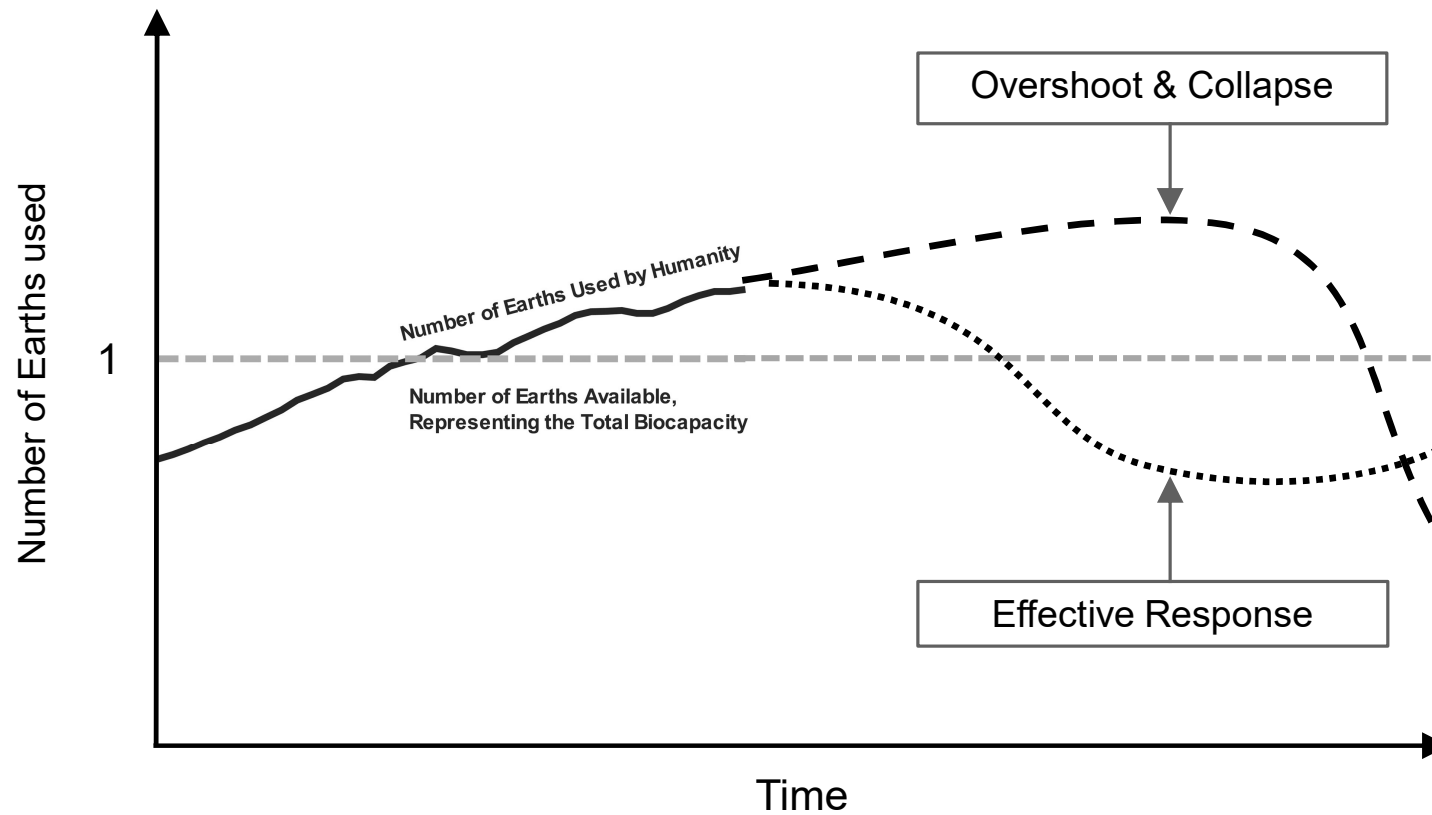
The Temptations: "War", 1969

Measuring Human Overshoot (2002)

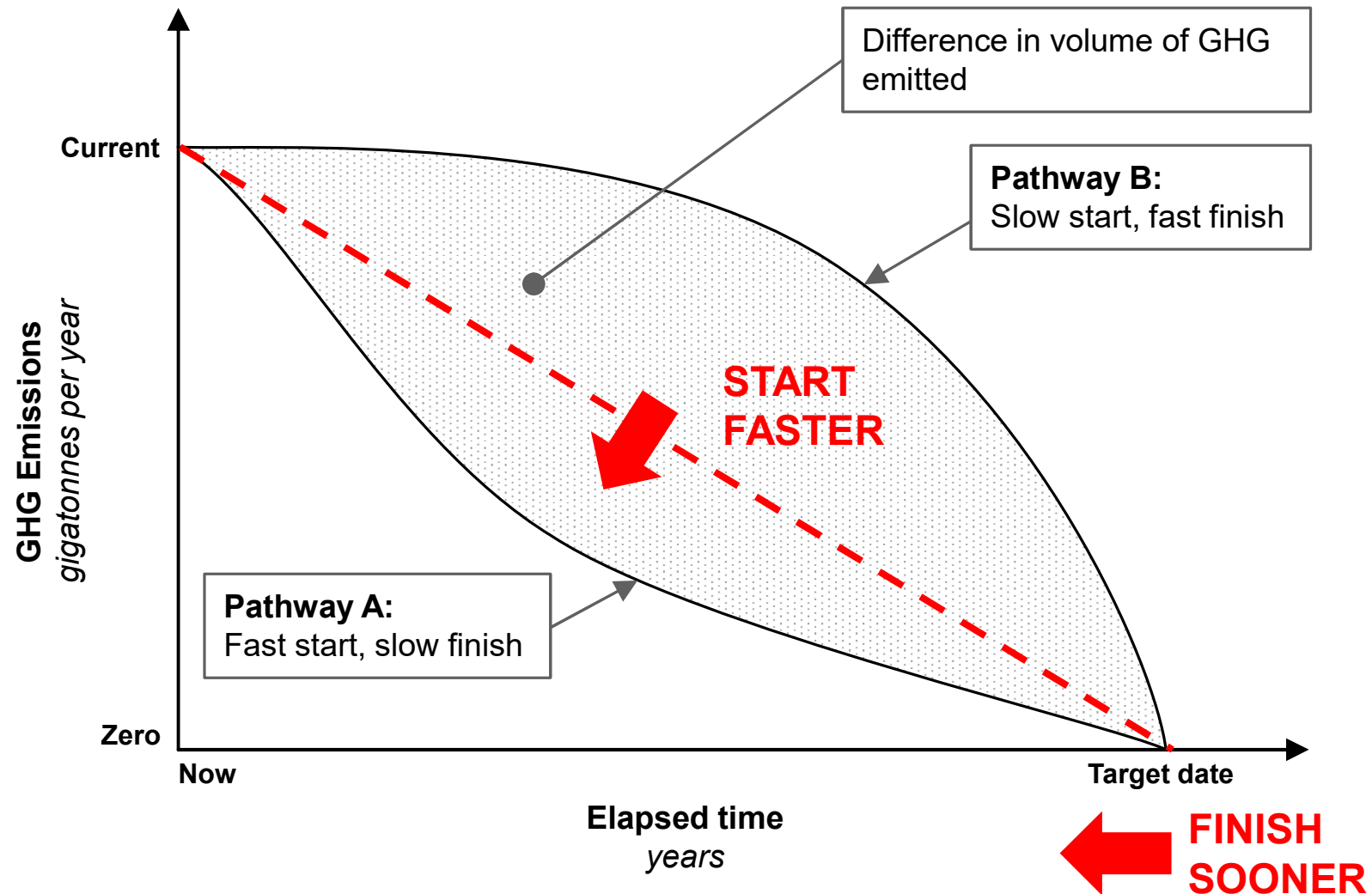


Wackernagel, M., et al (2002) *Tracking the ecological overshoot of the human economy*, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA

Two scenarios



Rapid and Urgent responses



Rhetoric and Metaphor

Rhetoric

Persuasive communication; using various figures of speech, which may include metaphor.

Metaphor

Can assist understanding of a new problem or situation by likening it to one already known and understood.

A class of metaphors

War on Warming (War on Carbon, World War Zero)

- ...on Poverty & ...on Crime (Lyndon B. Johnson), ...on Drugs (Nixon), ...on Terror (G.W. Bush)

Green New Deal

- US weaned off fossil fuels, while creating new high-paying jobs in clean energy industries.

Climate Emergency

- “This is an emergency and for emergency situations we need emergency action” (Ban Ki Moon, 2007)

Disruption, Rebellion (etc)

Part Two:

Real political conflict

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Nature of the conflict

A “cold war”

- Fought through media, politics, influence.

A “civil war”

- Intra-national conflict over values, interests, goals.

A “proxy war”

- Fought elsewhere: in time, rather than space.

A personal struggle

Jihad: Spiritual struggle within oneself against sin (materialism).

A very human emergency

Not caused by nature

- Experienced as a series of natural and ecological disasters: floods, drought, rising sea levels, extreme weather events.
- Caused by human interaction with the ecosystem.

Global in scale

- Experienced locally
- Caused globally (and unequally)

Emergency response: the “4 Rs”

Reduction

Minimise the probability and impact.

Readiness

Identify and prepare necessary resources.

Response

Take deliberate, organised, and effective action.

Recovery

Plan to repair, restore and rebuild.

Economic effects of crisis

Mass migration

- Refugee populations; fleeing drought, fire, famine, flooding and coastal inundation.

Destruction and stranding of assets

- Infrastructure and capital assets destroyed by sea level rise, flooding, extreme weather events.
- Assets replaced, retired, repurposed, or written-off

Economic responses

Significant government 'intervention'

- Transformation of energy and food production systems.
- Strategically-directed investment in research, development and new technology.

Rationing

- Raw materials and consumer goods.
- Dealing with the economic consequences of rationing: emergence of black and grey markets.

Global coordination dilemma

		New Zealand	
		Succeeds	Fails
Rest of World	Succeeds	It's all Good	Land of Long-lost Hope
	Fails	We'll be right	Dead End

Part Three:

What to do, how to talk about it

*"...there is nothing more difficult to take in hand,
more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its
success, than to take the lead in the introduction
of a new order of things..."*

Niccolò Machiavelli, The Prince

Non-violence

Don't talk about the war

- Be cautious about using metaphors.

Understand and engage with the conflict

- Don't be naive: assume the 'enemy' will not respect the rules, or will seek to have them changed to favour their interests.
- Build coalitions: build alliances. Be inclusive, adaptive and accepting of difference.
- Watch out for "Ifs" and "Whens": preconditions and perfectionism can be barriers to action.

Non-violent strategy and tactics

Mahatma Ghandi

Satyagraha means holding firmly to the truth. the doctrine came to mean vindication of truth, not by infliction of suffering on the opponent, but on oneself.

Martin Luther King

Non-cooperation and boycotts are not ends themselves; they are means to awaken a sense of moral shame in the opponent. The end is redemption and reconciliation.

Discussion

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