TOGETHER FIRST

A global system that works for all

Risk multipliers	**Data sections?**	**Is organisation?**
Paulo	Morgan Stone of Humanity	Yes
Climate change	**Fundamentally unsolvable**	**Short**
Global catastrophic risks mitigated	**Risk multipliers managed**	**Implementation timeframe**

DETAILS

This proposal presents a new model for tariff-based governance of humankind

Throughout the history of the planet, the Earth System has existed in various states with transitions in between them, but has always functioned as a single integrated system at planetary level.

A stable climate is a visible manifestation of a well-functioning Earth System. When the issue of climate change entered into the UN agenda, one of the first questions raised was: What is climate from a legal point of view? On 12 September 1988, the Ambassador of Malta requested the inclusion of an additional item, "Declaration proclaiming climate as part of the Common Heritage of Mankind", in the Agenda of the 43rd session of the UN General Assembly.

The UN resolution passed considered climate as "common concern of humanity" although nobody knew what did it mean from a legal standpoint. 25 official climate negotiations have already happened with no practical results.

Without legally defining and recognising the climate as a "common good" that must be protected and restored, endless negotiations without results will continue.

Because the Earth System was until recently not scientifically defined and because it is not restricted to the traditional territorial global commons but also spans areas subject to national jurisdiction, the Earth System is still ignored by international law although it exists in the real world and constitutes the support system for all life on Earth.

The global functioning of the Earth System cannot be appropriated by any state as it is materially and legally indivisible. From a legal standpoint it can be classified only as an intangible asset.

A well-functioning state of the Earth System can be subject to qualitative depreciation through a wide range of human pressures. Its stability can be distrupted.

In the absence of a legal regime that regulates its use, the Earth System has been progressively used as 'no man's land' where there are neither restrictions on its depreciation nor compensation for those who maintain or recover its functional aspects. The outcome is the tragedy of this intangible global common, of which the most visible manifestation is climate change.

It is now possible to qualitatively define the key processes that underpin the functioning of the Earth System – the planetary boundaries – and to quantitatively measure the conditions required to maintain a well-functioning Earth System. This is the safe operating space for humankind.

Returning to a well-functioning state of the Earth System demands the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions, the removal of CO2 excess from atmosphere, as well as actively restoring and protecting the biosphere, which is essential for maintaining the Earth System in a Holocene-like state.

To this day the positive impacts that contribute to the maintenance of a well-functioning Earth System are economically invisible since they are produced in an intangible global common good that is not legally recognized.

The outcome is that, although technological solutions do exist, the necessary legal framework and social infrastructures required to restore a well-functioning state of the Earth System are not in place.

This qualitative condition of safety and stability, although intangible, is measurable and identifiable. It is not only possible to distinguish it from the territorial space of the planet, but also to consider it as a set of separate legal entities - the biogeophysical global-scale cycles and energy flows of the Earth System on one side, and the physical planet and the space of territorial sovereignties of the States, on the other side.

This means that it is scientifically possible to define the common good that should be the object of international law and shared governance. This good, by being global and indivisible, should belong to all humanity - the intangible Common Heritage of Humankind.

Under this proposed legal object of international law, an accounting system should be established, so the negative

impacts that contributed to the depreciation of the Common Heritage and the positive impacts that contribute to its

The fundamental role of ecosystems in the stabilization and well-functioning state of the Earth System is

incomparably higher than the value of the commodities that can be extracted from it. Nevertheless, this natural

"work" is ignored by international law and invisible to economies and societies.

Only by legally recognizing the ultimate global common good where the benefits produced by ecosystems can be

internalized and accounted for, is it possible to recognize the true value of the "work" of nature and reward

economically the intangible life-supporting function it provides, without the need to destroy it.

The economic visibility of positive impacts on the Earth System is the opportunity to break the current vicious cycle of

increasing destruction and to foster the evolution of a legal framework designed for building a sustainable,

regenerative and redistributive economy that is able to reduce pollution, and to produce, restore, maintain and

renew the core natural services provided by the Earth System. Around this intangible Common Heritage an economy

can be built where natural intangibles that support life are recognized and respected and new forms of cooperation

and inclusive multilateralism could be designed and developed. A planet with an Earth System in a non-favourable

state for humankind cannot serve as our home. Our common home is an intangible, well-functioning Earth System

within which human societies, as an integral and interacting components of a complex and adaptive Earth System

should be organized to maintain a favourable state of the system. Common Home of Humanity is committed to

work to achieve a legal solution for the climate that is able to trigger the basis for a economic system that respect

the Earth System as our Common Home. The Common Home of Humanity is considered by top-scientists of Earth

System sciences as " One of the most innovative of all new approaches is the Common Home of Humanity, which

proposes formal legal recognition of a stable and accommodating state of the Earth System itself (i.e. a Holocene-

like state, as defined by the planetary boundaries) as the intangible, natural heritage of all humanity.

https://www.nature.com/articles/s43017-019-0005-6

For more information, see:

https://www.commonhomeofhumanity.org

important factors for the success of this proposal: the conceptual and legal challenges that require an evolution of national and international law and the adaptation challenges imposed by this new approach.

3- Social media: In addition, the implementation strategy comprises the use of social media to create a network of key stakeholders and to make information, knowledge and discussions open to all.

4- Foster partnerships: The Common Home of Humanity is going to work together with the existing international forum of discussions, namely those regarding the Global Pact in order to pave the way for a more productive discussions in Stockholm 2022 that will enable the signature of a strong political declaration that will endorse this new global governance proposal.