

## Preface

*There is anxiety throughout the world concerning reserves of energy. The demand for electricity has increased of late years at an exponential rate, and if the demand for coal oil and gas has nearly followed a straight-line law, the slope of the line has been such as to cause concern among individual nations as to when their own supplies of fossil become exhausted, and to the world in general as to possible sources of energy when there is no more coal or oil . . . In consequence of this position, there is the greatest activity all over the world to eke out coal reserves by using other sources of energy.*

From *Nature* 5 August 1950

- 1. If the present growth trends in world population, industrialization, pollution, food production, and resource depletion continue unchanged, the limits to growth on this planet will be reached sometime within the next 100 years. The most probable result will be a sudden and uncontrollable decline in both population and industrial capacity.*
- 2. It is possible to alter these growth trends and to establish a condition of ecological and economic stability that is sustainable far into the future. The state of global equilibrium could be designed so that the basic material needs of each person on earth are satisfied and each person has an equal opportunity to realize his or her individual human potential.*
- 3. If the world's people decide to strive for this second outcome rather than the first, the sooner they begin working to attain it, the greater will be their chances of success.*

Résumé of “*The Limits of Growth*,” Meadows *et al.* 1972

Since the article in *Nature* more than half of a century, since the résumé of the report to the “Club of Rome“ more than a quarter of a century has passed. Meanwhile - after heavy discussions in the seventies and early eighties - these theses are accepted even by former vehement opponents. It even seems that these formerly so called “panic makers“ are common sense nowadays. On the other hand, it looks as if we have already passed the limits mentioned - the rise of global temperature and the accumulation of natural catastrophes in the last decade are indicating it - despite better technology, stronger environmental laws, many conferences and a more ecological common sense. 1998 was by far the warmest year since worldwide records began. Mean global temperature reached a level that exceeded any of those recorded in the last 130 years and confirmed the pronounced trend (Munich Re Insurance 1998). Resignation doesn't bring us closer to the fulfillment of the needs mentioned by the report. This website been created as a small contribution to the setting up of a sustainable development.

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