

Aanvullende quotes van de auteurs

Nature Sustainability-publicatie: 'Impacts of Meeting Minimum Access on Critical Earth Systems Amidst the Great Inequality' (10 november 2022)

Lead author, *Crelis Rammelt*, Environmental Geography and Development Studies at the University of Amsterdam and Earth Commission expert says; "Our research is important because many people assume that meeting the needs of the poorest is possible without major redistributions and transformations in society. We show that in 2018 – so with 2018 levels of inequalities, technologies and behaviors providing dignified lives for the poor would have led to further crossing of Earth system boundaries, especially for climate."

"However, it is important to frame these potential impacts in the context of wider inequalities in resource use and environmental impacts today. It is the wealthy who appropriate the bulk of the Earth's resources, not the poor", *Rammelt* continued.

Co-author *Chukwumerije Okereke*, Alex Ekwueme Federal University Nigeria and Earth Commission expert says: "The research is significant because it shows that the aching poverty and inequality suffered by people in the Global South can be addressed to provide a meaningful life for all, without transgressing key Earth system boundaries and thresholds."

"Rather than asking poor countries of the world to tighten their belts or make do without, as some in the North often tend to suggest, the emphasis should be on promoting ideals of global distributive justice and systematic transformations that will enhance wealth and opportunities for the poor" he continues.

Co-author *Johan Rockström*, Co-Chair of the Earth Commission and Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research says: "While it becomes clear that the poor are not causing the climate problem, it's also clear that we need to solve climate, to solve inequity. Climate impacts are hitting harder on those who lack the resources to cope with them, both internationally and within countries. When it comes to taking action, those who have more means to reduce dangerous greenhouse gas emissions also have a greater responsibility to do so. Stabilizing our climate is in their own interest, also because it means stabilizing societies."

Co-lead author *Joyeeta Gupta*, Co-Chair of the Earth Commission and Professor of Environment and Development in the Global South at the University of Amsterdam says, "This paper focuses only on one aspect of justice; to ensure minimum access to resources and services for the most disadvantaged."

"However, our paper shows that with contemporary technology and approaches to production, minimum access cannot be met without reallocating resources, risks and responsibilities; without redistribution and transformation. In upcoming work, we look at other aspects of justice, such as minimizing harm to humans and addressing the root causes of environmental degradation and vulnerability" Gupta continued.

Wendy Broadgate, Global Hub Director (Sweden) for Future Earth says "It is clear that we need to address inequalities and justice to tackle the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. This research highlights the deep societal transformations needed to tackle overconsumption. This transformation is essential to secure fair access to the global commons for all, whilst ensuring the stability of the planet. This work is a key contribution to the Earth Commission's forthcoming report defining safe and just Earth system boundaries."

Co-author *Cristina Inoue*, Radboud University and University of Brasilia and Earth Commission member, says, "Had we achieved access goals in 2018 with the prevailing economic frameworks and methods of production, we would have further overshoot those Earth system boundaries. We can only conclude that economic, technological and behavioral change thus far, while improving some lives, has not been sufficient to lift people to minimum access levels whilst still respecting Earth systems. This shows the urgent need for transforming our societies."

Co-author *Diana Liverman*, Professor in Geography, Development & Environment, University of Arizona and Earth Commission member says, "This new analysis shows potential trade-offs between earth system stability and development goals of eradicating poverty and ensuring food, water, shelter, mobility, and energy for all - and that reducing the consumption - especially of the wealthiest can create the space for everyone to thrive while staying within Earth system boundaries".

Co-author *Laura Pereira*, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa and Earth Commission member explains: "The paper points to the importance of fundamental transformative changes that address poverty and inequality while reducing environmental impacts - there is an urgent need for new political, economic, behavioral, and technological systems that protect people and the planet."

"Broad societal transformations across sectors, especially addressing the impacts of elites, from energy, industry and transport; food and agriculture; and the built environment, including cities and infrastructure, coupled with effective redistributive mechanisms based on principles of equity are critical to achieve a safe and just future for all." she continued.

Co-author *Ilona M. Otto*, Wegener Center for Climate and Global Change, University of Graz and Earth Commission member adds: "While the 20th Century was characterized by the phenomenon of Great Acceleration, the 21st Century is emerging as the Great Inequality era. Reducing inequalities within and across countries are at the core of addressing the climate crisis and responding to the multitude of systemic and cascading risks we are facing today. A new global social pact is needed to renegotiate the well being for all human beings on planet Earth." she continued."