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To: Measuring What Matters
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What matters is the quality of life not meaningless growth for growths sake.

Thus the trite measures of GDP and population need to be removed and replaced by measuring quality not quantity.

To do this, GDP per capita must be tempered with consideration of what that GDP provides. If it is more plastic coffee cups choking dolphins this is not progress. It must be more products in a sustainable circular economy.

Similarly the measure of population should be extended to reflect a balance of all species in a sustainable environment. Feral pests, like cane toads and cats, would be inversely correlated to native species. Populations may be crudely measured by the number of deaths per kilometre of road may be a good proxy when accurate measures are not available. The number of insects accumulating on car windscreens has been decreasing at an alarming rate reflecting the crisis in species extinction.

Current estimates of resource consumption indicate the planet is overpopulated with humans. Targets of resource consumption per species and consumption per capita must be established.

i.e. the target for humans would indicate the desired population level and this would rise as resource consumption became more efficient (e.g. by increased recycling). Similarly, the target consumption per capita would rise as the quality of what was consumed improved.

These resources that are consumed are not crude capital goods. They are measured not just by their impact on the environmental sustainability, but on other key related factors like health and happiness. It is not desirable to have a population of any species sick or in cages whether this is an elephant in a zoo or a medically suppressed detainee in a nursing home.

The measures must be tempered from crude averages to accommodate equality so that variance reflecting the advantages to the rich and over-privileged is reduced and equality encouraged. Whether comparing an elephant to an ant or a billionaire to a disabled refugee, a better life for all is an important principle that must be applied to all measures whether financial, health, accommodation, education, safety, legal access and environment.

Excessive wealth and influence is undemocratic, having a high achievement in Nobel laureates is not much good if a significant number of people can't read, and an average of three bedrooms per person pointless if some people have to sleep in the gutter.

These need to be core measures not tacked on frameworks. As they are developed they should replace all the growth bias.

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