

# GOD, GAIA & THE FAILURE OF THE UN CLIMATE REGIME

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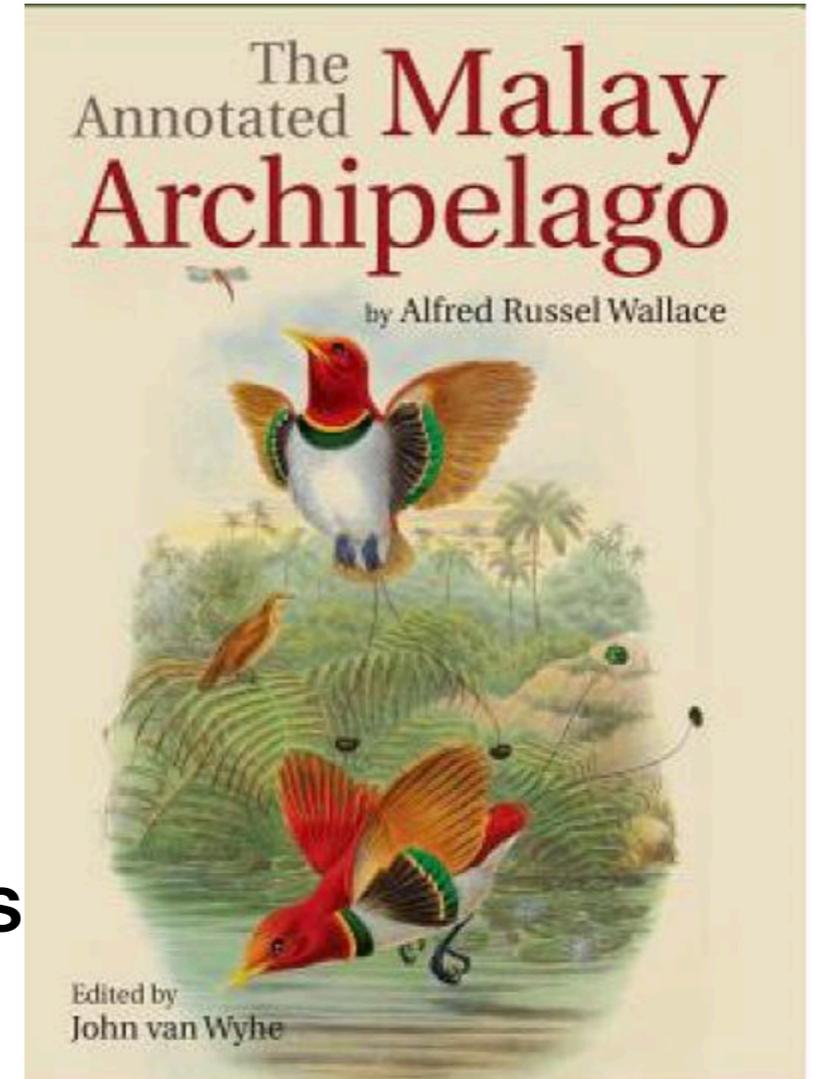
The opening image of this talk is recently cleared rainforest @ Mount Ophir, Johor, Malaysia

When Alfred Russel Wallace - inventor with Darwin of the theory of evolution - visited Mt Ophir in 19C it was virgin jungle

He observed & captured hundreds of species including many now extinct in W Malaysia

Wallace's theory of evolution gave agency to the Earth & to species, though left out humans

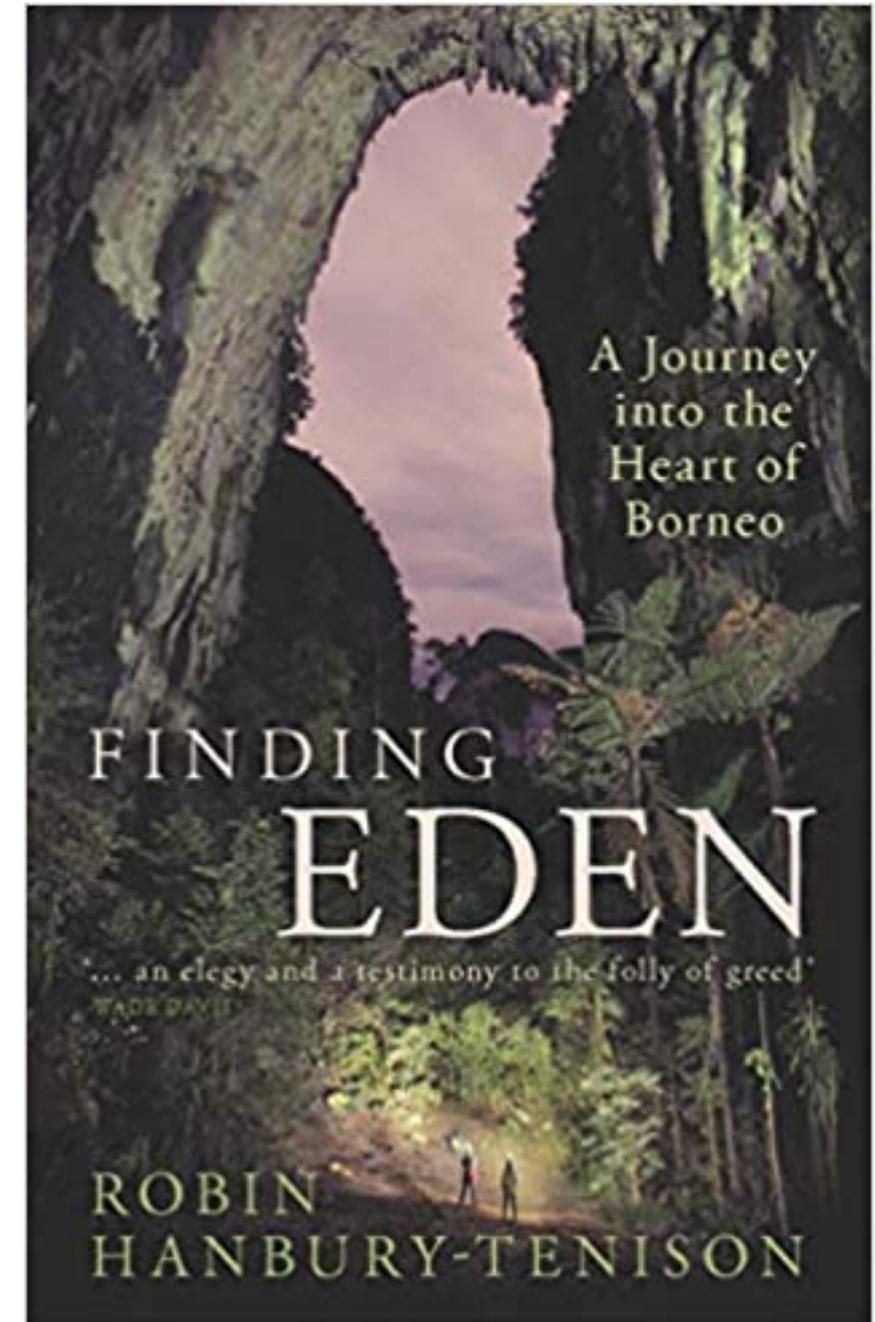
We now know large mammals inc. humans play a significant role in distribution & evolution of ecosystems & species.

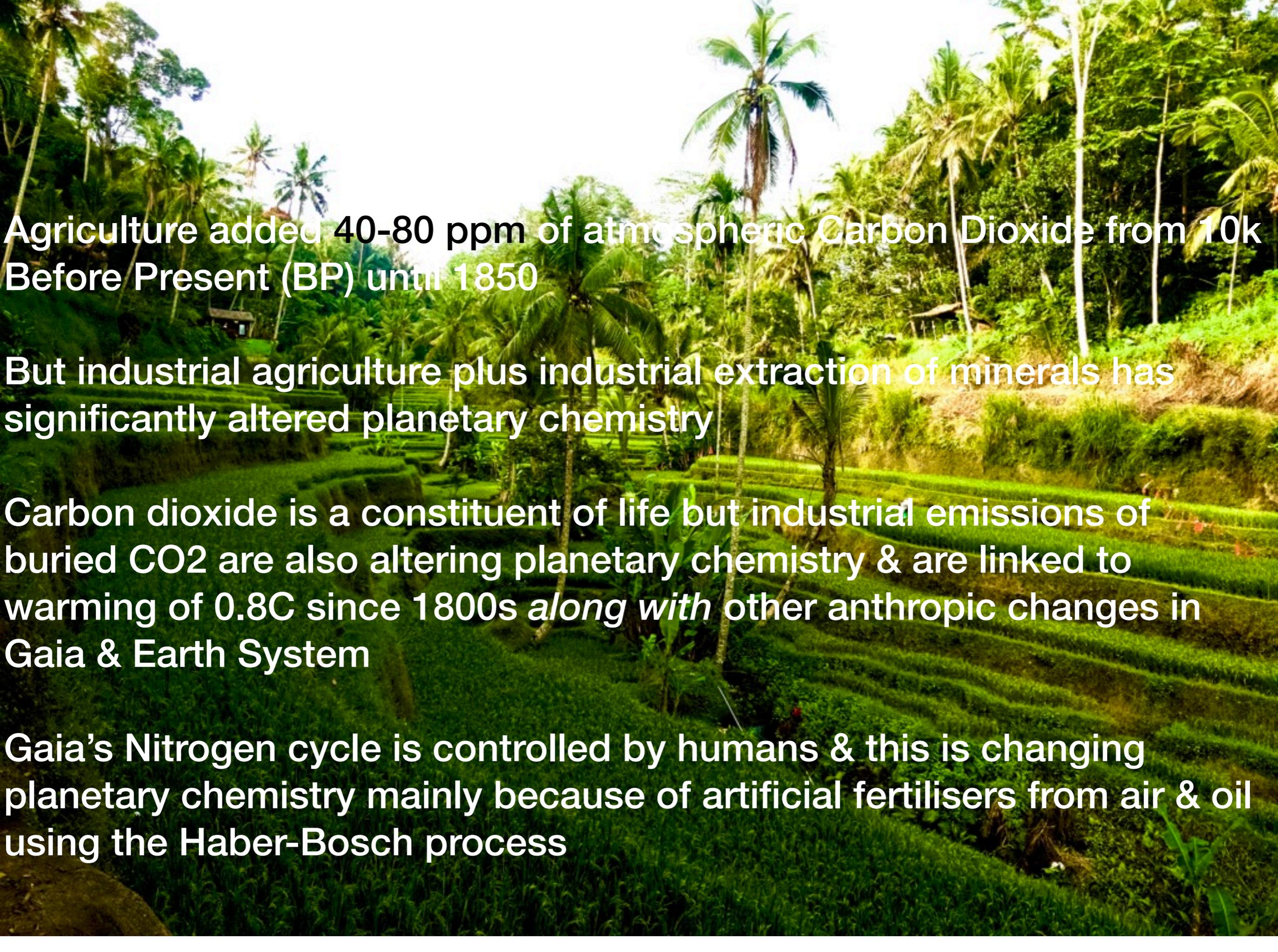


Human agency over the Earth is as old as *Homo sapiens*

Early humans reduced numbers of large mammals such as mammoths (Siberia/Canada) & flightless Moas (New Zealand) & may have helped extinguish them, along with climate change

But in many places, inc Borneo, human activities, such as hunting, fishing, small scale slash & burn farming, not only did not impact on species diversity but sustained & enhanced it, e.g. by spreading seeds around, creating forest gardens & by developing new seed varieties through plant selection, domesticating animals etc.





Agriculture added 40-80 ppm of atmospheric Carbon Dioxide from 10k Before Present (BP) until 1850

But industrial agriculture plus industrial extraction of minerals has significantly altered planetary chemistry

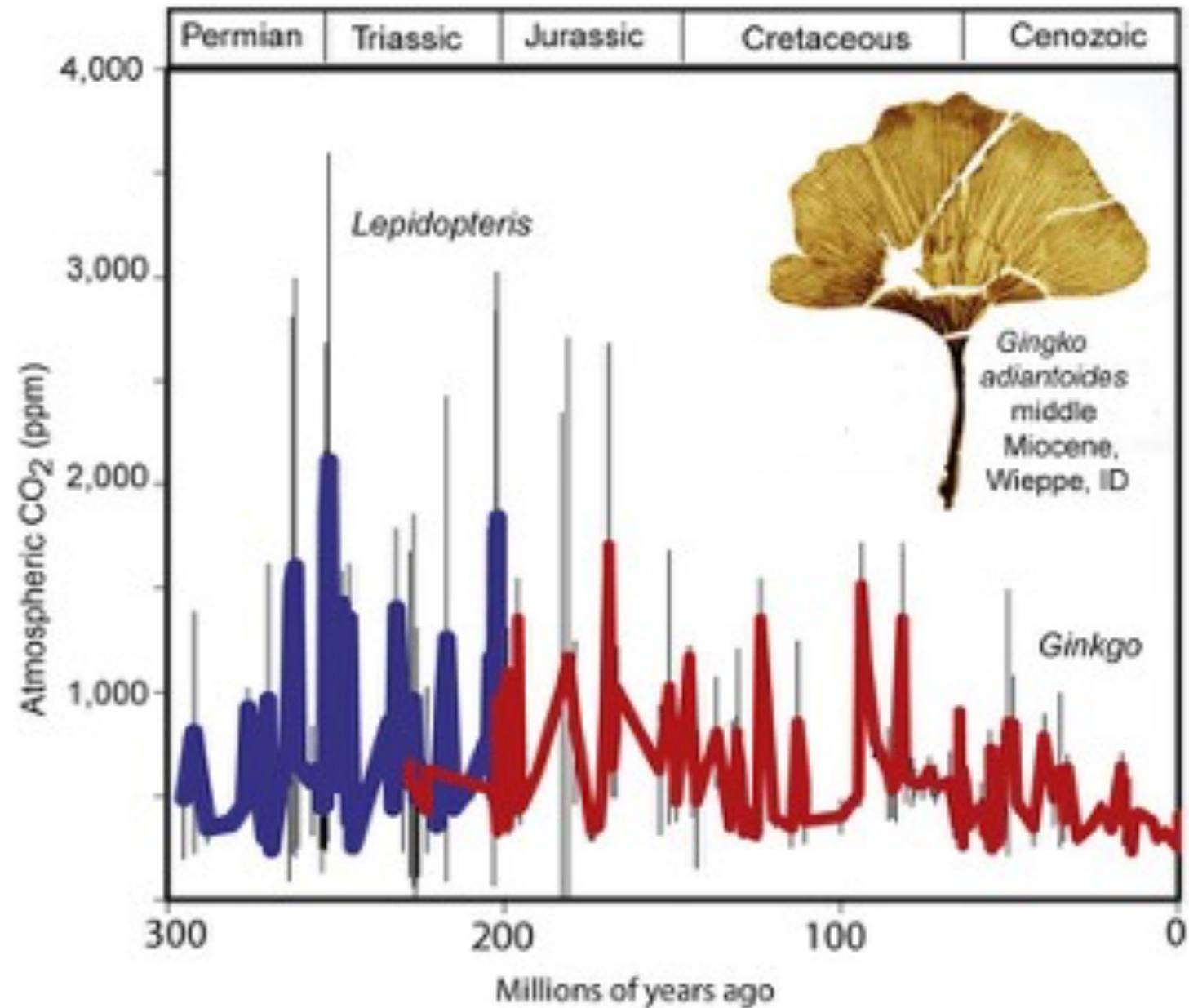
Carbon dioxide is a constituent of life but industrial emissions of buried CO<sub>2</sub> are also altering planetary chemistry & are linked to warming of 0.8C since 1800s *along with* other anthropic changes in Gaia & Earth System

Gaia's Nitrogen cycle is controlled by humans & this is changing planetary chemistry mainly because of artificial fertilisers from air & oil using the Haber-Bosch process

Atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> is now at levels last seen in the Miocene, 15-30 million years BP.

**IF** CO<sub>2</sub> is the principal driver of global warming then the planet will return to the Miocene state

Miocene epoch was characterised by absence of ice at Poles & evolution of largest number of new plants, vertebrate & invertebrate species in Earth history *including* our direct mammalian predecessors which is to say the apes.





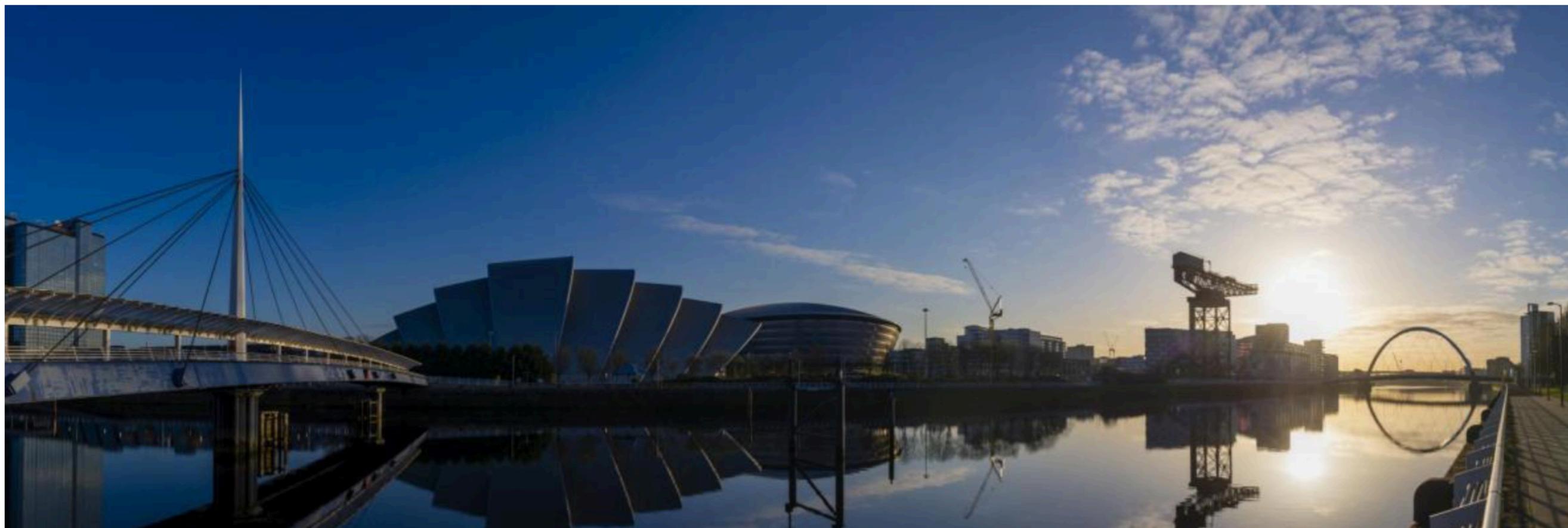
United Nations  
Climate Change



# Glasgow Climate Change Conference

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**UN Framework Convention on Climate Change assumes CO2 emissions are the main driver of climate change.**

**But UNFCCC has made zero impact on atmospheric CO2 even though its negotiations are exclusively confined to attempts to 'control' CO2 emissions.**

**UN has also done nothing to address Gaia's diminishing capacity to absorb CO2 because of industrial wreckage of for soil microbiota & marine life.**

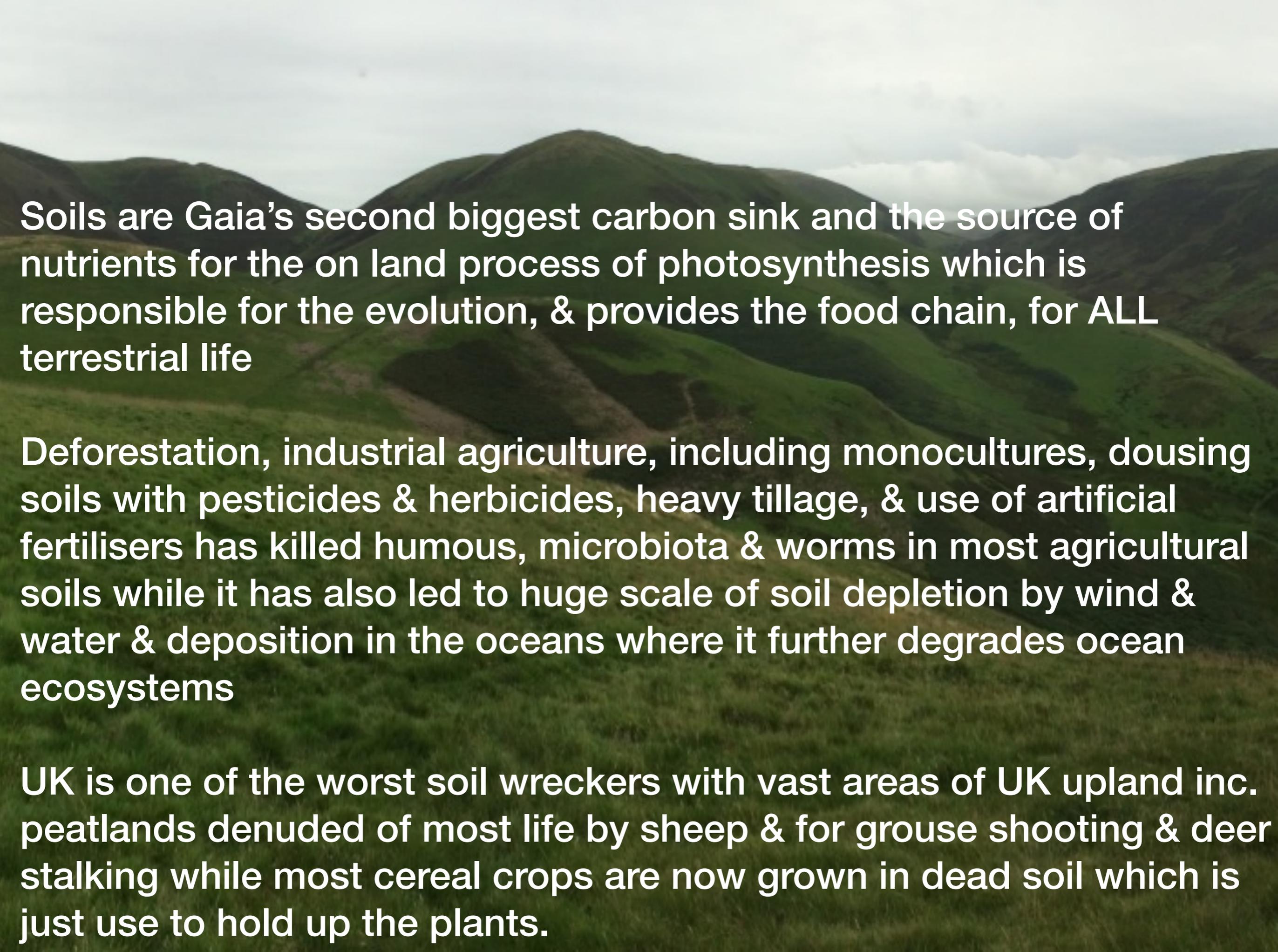
**Soils & oceans are Gaia's largest atmospheric regulators (far exceeding rocks or plants) principally responsible for maintaining the remarkable atmospheric concentration of 21% Oxygen needed for the evolution of mammals from 30 million yrs BP.**



Industrial trawlers have stripped the ocean of 90% of ALL life since 1955. This has radically reduced the capacity of the oceans to regulate global warming & absorb atmospheric carbon dioxide

The movement of life in the oceans is a vast temperature pump since creatures en masse take warm surface waters down to the depths & bring cooler water up.

Plankton & krill together with sea grass & kelp are also huge oxygen generators absorbing billions of tons of CO2 annually but again industrial ocean trashing is seriously diminishing their activities

A landscape of rolling green hills under a cloudy sky. The hills are covered in lush green grass, and the sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

Soils are Gaia's second biggest carbon sink and the source of nutrients for the on land process of photosynthesis which is responsible for the evolution, & provides the food chain, for ALL terrestrial life

Deforestation, industrial agriculture, including monocultures, dousing soils with pesticides & herbicides, heavy tillage, & use of artificial fertilisers has killed humous, microbiota & worms in most agricultural soils while it has also led to huge scale of soil depletion by wind & water & deposition in the oceans where it further degrades ocean ecosystems

UK is one of the worst soil wreckers with vast areas of UK upland inc. peatlands denuded of most life by sheep & for grouse shooting & deer stalking while most cereal crops are now grown in dead soil which is just use to hold up the plants.

**UNFCCC process while failing to stop planetary wreckage inc of Gain temperature regulators has merely achieved creation of speculative financial instruments - carbon credits, Clean Development Mechanism, green 'bonds' etc - which allow industrial capital to continue to strip biomass, minerals, ocean life & soils from ecosystems & transform it into \$\$\$\$\$**

**UNFCCC treaties such as the Paris Accord 2015 contain ZERO references to oil, gas & coal mining / drilling, industrial trawling, deforestation & soil wreckage**

**Sole treaty focus is nationally indicated greenhouse gas emissions which nations such as UK game by importing carbon heavy products such as metals, manufactured consumer goods & electronics while attributing the 'carbon emissions' to country of origin.**

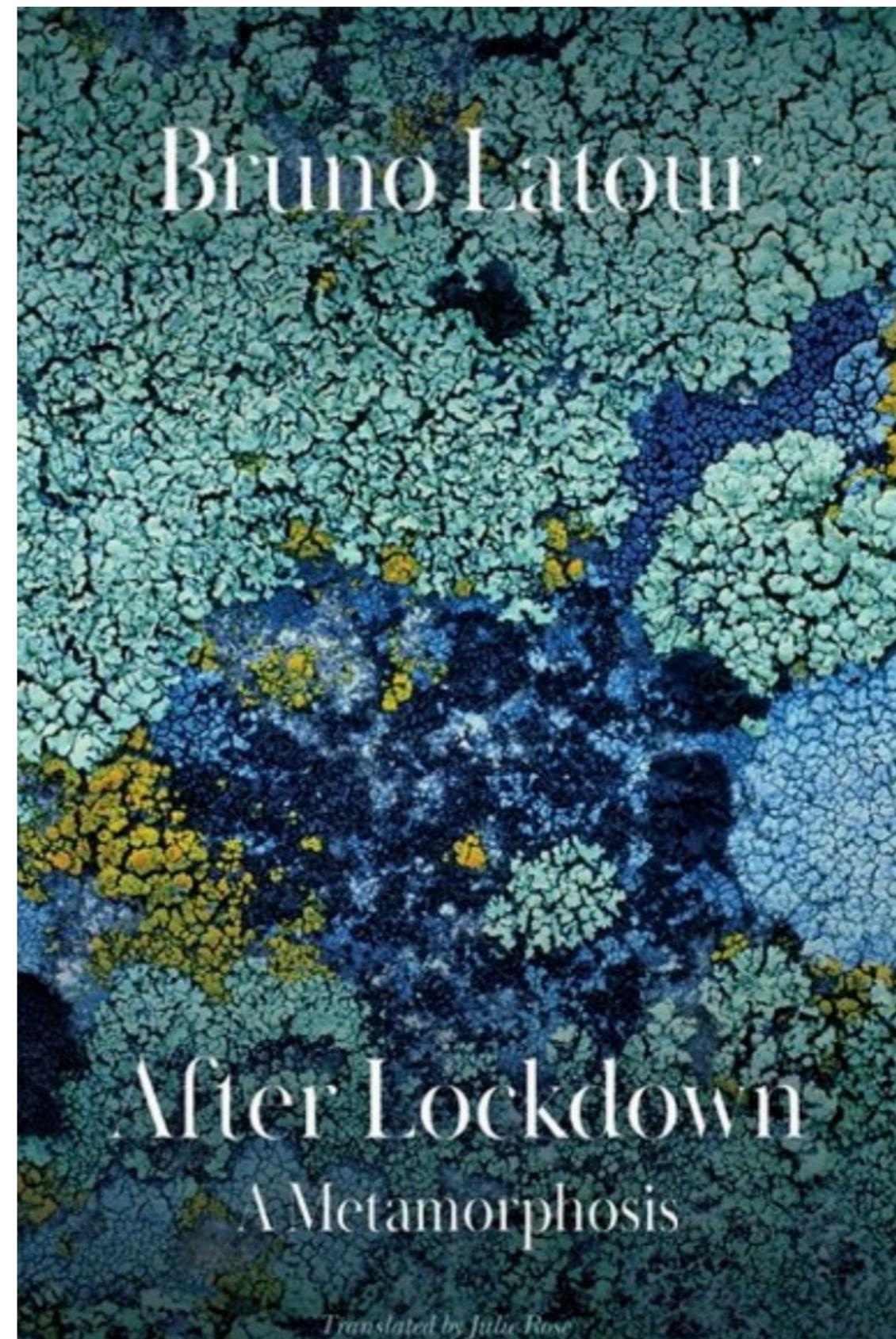
**UNFCCC focus on national carbon accounts has a perverse political effect in fostering attempts by governments to 'control' citizens' carbon use while neglecting wealth accumulation by the carbon *producers* & planetary wreckers - central bankers, investment entities such as Blackrock, & private companies inc Big Ag, Oil, Pharma, Tech et al.**

**This pits individual citizens against the 'climate' & pushes the idea that citizens have to address climate change by reducing their activities while the real Gaia wrecking entities are let off.**

**As one example, UK government proposes banning new build fossil fuel boilers within 5? years but refuses to impose duties on house builders & landlords to radically reduce energy leakiness of UK housing stock. This will push more households into fuel poverty but does not address 'climate change'.**

There is an eerie convergence in academic/media commentary between efforts to address climate change by focusing on individual citizen 'carbon footprints' & 'public health' policies of 'Covid19 pandemic'

Bruno Latour, Klaus Schwab (of World Economic Forum) Prince Charles, Tony Blair & others suggest that 'emergency' measures to control citizens behaviours & radically transform society during the 'Covid19 pandemic' are needed to control citizens, & for social change, to address a 'climate emergency'.



Principal among 'public health' policies in 2020-21 are unprecedented efforts to restrict and survey human movements, meetings and monetary exchanges by governments in partnership with Big Tech.

These measures include the use of house arrest, closure of most places except shops in which humans gather in person, substitution of online/digital services for face to face meetings, promotion of cashless, remote & robotic delivery of human goods and services, closure *en masse* of millions of small businesses & cultural venues & transfer of cultural & wealth curation to giant corporations such as Amazon, Alphabet, Apple etc.



**Covid 'public health' measures destroyed en masse the creative agencies of billions of people to grow food, to create cultural performances, to worship God, to heal the Earth**

**But these policies had very little impact on the invasive processes by which industrial technologies are destroying the diverse species habitats and ecosystems whose destruction is at the root of the ecological crisis and the increasing array of extreme weather effects which impact human life.**

**A tiny global elite (0.1 %) used Covid19 to vastly increase the money supply to underwrite more speculative activities inc in finance, in industrial agriculture & fishing, forest clearance & in drilling & mining minerals to underwrite *faster* elite wealth accumulation at cost of wellbeing of Gaia & ordinary people.**

**Cross-national comparisons show 'lockdowns' made no difference to the normal progression of seasonal respiratory infections nor to all cause mortality, though nations with the hardest lockdowns - such as the UK - experienced higher excess mortality in 2020 than nations without them.**

**Far from promoting human health the large-scale suppression of the agency of billions of humans to grow food, to gather bodily for educational, hospitality, worship and cultural performances, to walk outside under the sun or in forests, and so on had multiple deleterious impacts on human health.**

**Covid19 policies forcibly destroyed the creative agencies of billions of people but it is precisely that destruction over 500 years which is the historic root of the ecological crisis since when people are 'cleared' from the land biodiversity declines & ecosystem services are undermined.**

'Lockdowns for the climate' advocates make the claim that extreme control measures on human life - which numerous academic studies now show resulted in mass increases in bankruptcies, debt, hunger, physical & mental ill health, poverty & suicides - are needed for the 'climate emergency'.

This claim is to say the least misanthropic & it also falsely claims there is a human threat from near term climate change while ignoring mass death & injury caused not by Covid but by lockdowns

It also suggests the problem with Gaia is people in general (viz Lovelock's 'virus' metaphor) & that it would be best if human activities & numbers were reduced by top down control en masse.

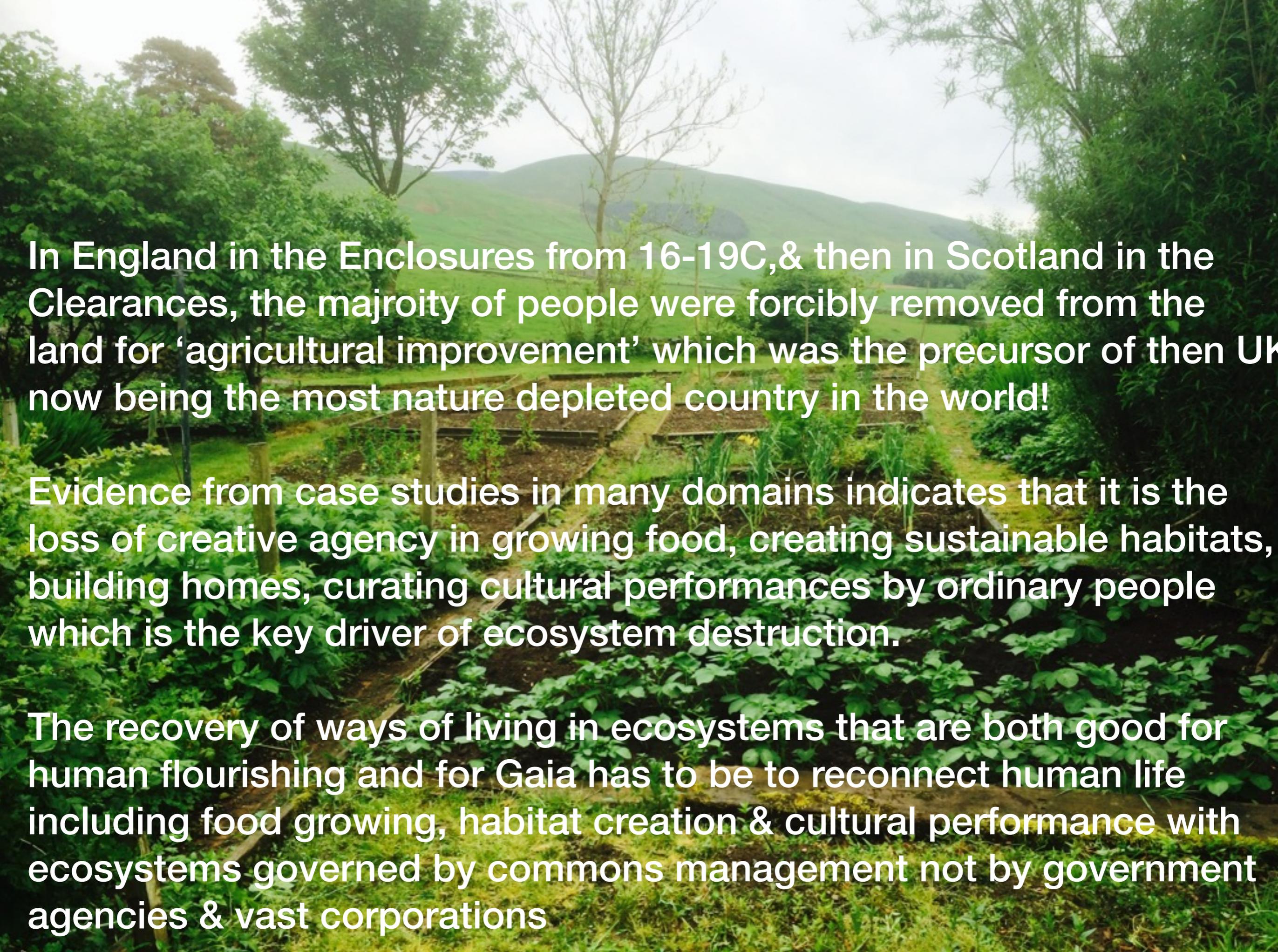
**BUT** Gaia is principally suffering because of the activities of giant corporations & their central banking & investor elite owners



**Against the suppression of the agency of ordinary people in Covid-19 as a 'solution' to climate change I argue that ecological and climate crises can only be turned around when people recover their agency as co-creators and co-curators of their habitats & of cultural & material resources they need for human flourishing & habitat.**

**There is multiple evidence that small coastal fishers, small farmers, smallholders forest & market gardens foster hugely more biodiversity & benign forms of ecosystem governance than do large government & private agencies when they take over fishing, food growing, timber extraction etc.**

**Furthermore the reduction of producers into 'consumers' is the root of the very alienation between citizens & nature which many environmentalists argue is the root of the ecological crisis (instead of corporate capital accumulation).**

A lush green landscape with a garden in the foreground and rolling hills in the background. The garden features various plants, including leafy greens and herbs, arranged in neat rows. The background shows rolling green hills under a bright sky, with several trees scattered across the scene.

In England in the Enclosures from 16-19C, & then in Scotland in the Clearances, the majority of people were forcibly removed from the land for 'agricultural improvement' which was the precursor of then UK now being the most nature depleted country in the world!

Evidence from case studies in many domains indicates that it is the loss of creative agency in growing food, creating sustainable habitats, building homes, curating cultural performances by ordinary people which is the key driver of ecosystem destruction.

The recovery of ways of living in ecosystems that are both good for human flourishing and for Gaia has to be to reconnect human life including food growing, habitat creation & cultural performance with ecosystems governed by commons management not by government agencies & vast corporations

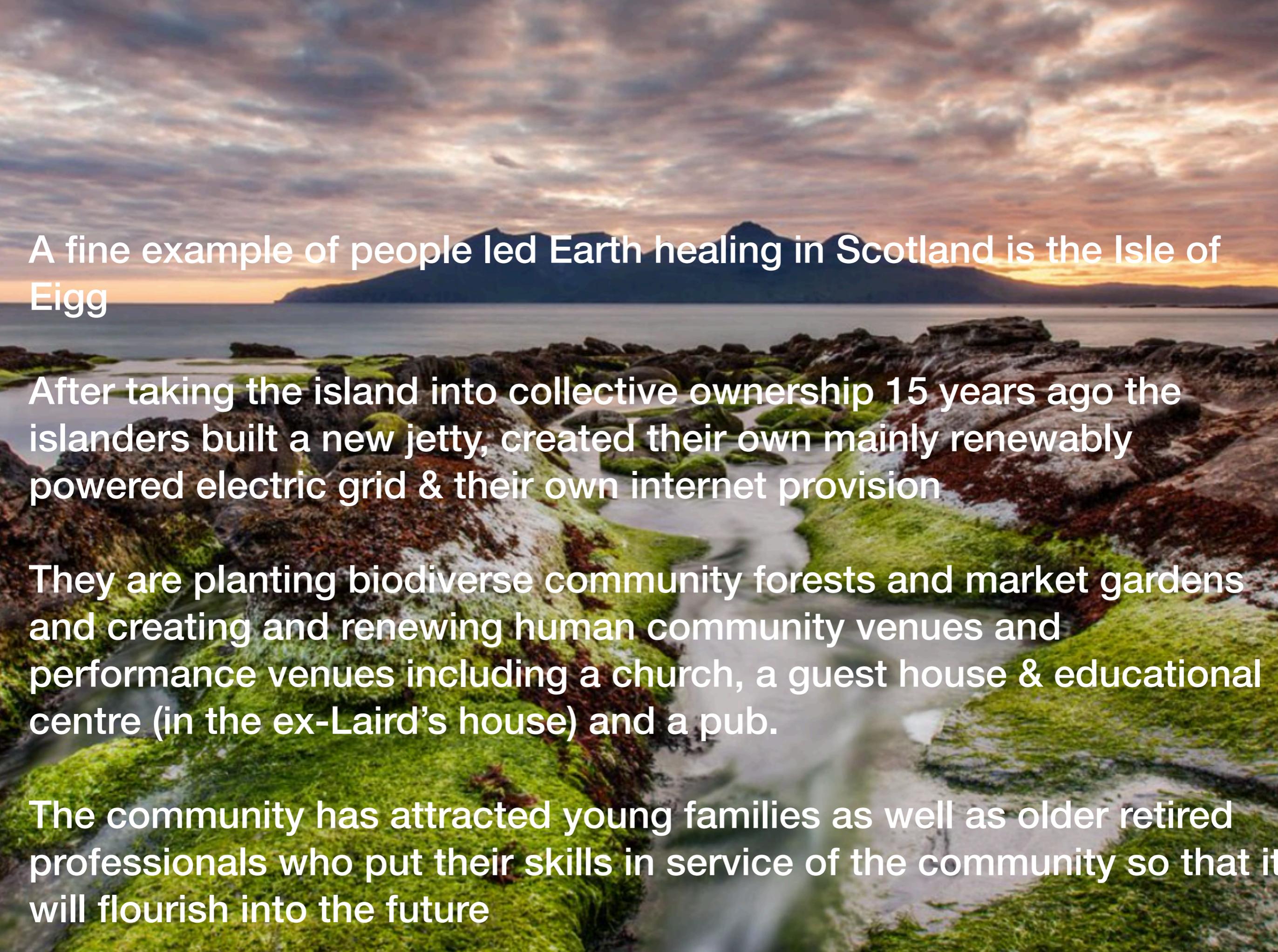
**A Gaian approach to the relationship between human activities and the health of the Earth system will not reductively focus on the production of just one constituent atmospheric gas.**

**Instead it will consider the Earth as a nested Earth system of constituent ecosystems which are in turn composed of the relational agencies of myriad creatures whose agency has been suppressed by the extent of industrial harvesting of creatures, and re-engineering of ecosystems since the scientific revolution.**

**Earth healing requires a multi-pronged approach to reviving the agency of creatures and enabling them to restore the health of ecosystems so as to enable Gaia to recover her agency from the giant Promethean machine represented by the global industrial economy.**



In England a fine example of animal-led rewilding is the Knepp Estate in which the farmer - Charles Burrell - removed all the fences and the farm machines and chemicals and the large mammals gradually created an area of 1000 plus acres south of Gatwick airport in which there are now more kinds of resident and migrant species than ANY land area of the UK INCLUDING science-led human conservation sites which are typically scientific and reductionist and focused on habitat for just one or a few species and in which animal agency is not allowed



A fine example of people led Earth healing in Scotland is the Isle of Eigg

After taking the island into collective ownership 15 years ago the islanders built a new jetty, created their own mainly renewably powered electric grid & their own internet provision

They are planting biodiverse community forests and market gardens and creating and renewing human community venues and performance venues including a church, a guest house & educational centre (in the ex-Laird's house) and a pub.

The community has attracted young families as well as older retired professionals who put their skills in service of the community so that it will flourish into the future

**Mother Earth vibrates with the divinity of all life**

**Each successive climate linked mass extinction event over 500 million years was followed by a huge explosion in more diverse & beautiful life forms**

**This culminated in the Miocene epoch 30 MBP with the extinction of most of the dinosaurs and the evolution of mammals culminating in Homos & then Homo sapiens**

**The Divinity of ALL Life is beyond scientific understanding BUT when we connect with her through spiritual practices we will discover her depths and heights and the reductionist controlling limitations of the industrial and scientific worldview and its manufactured emergencies**