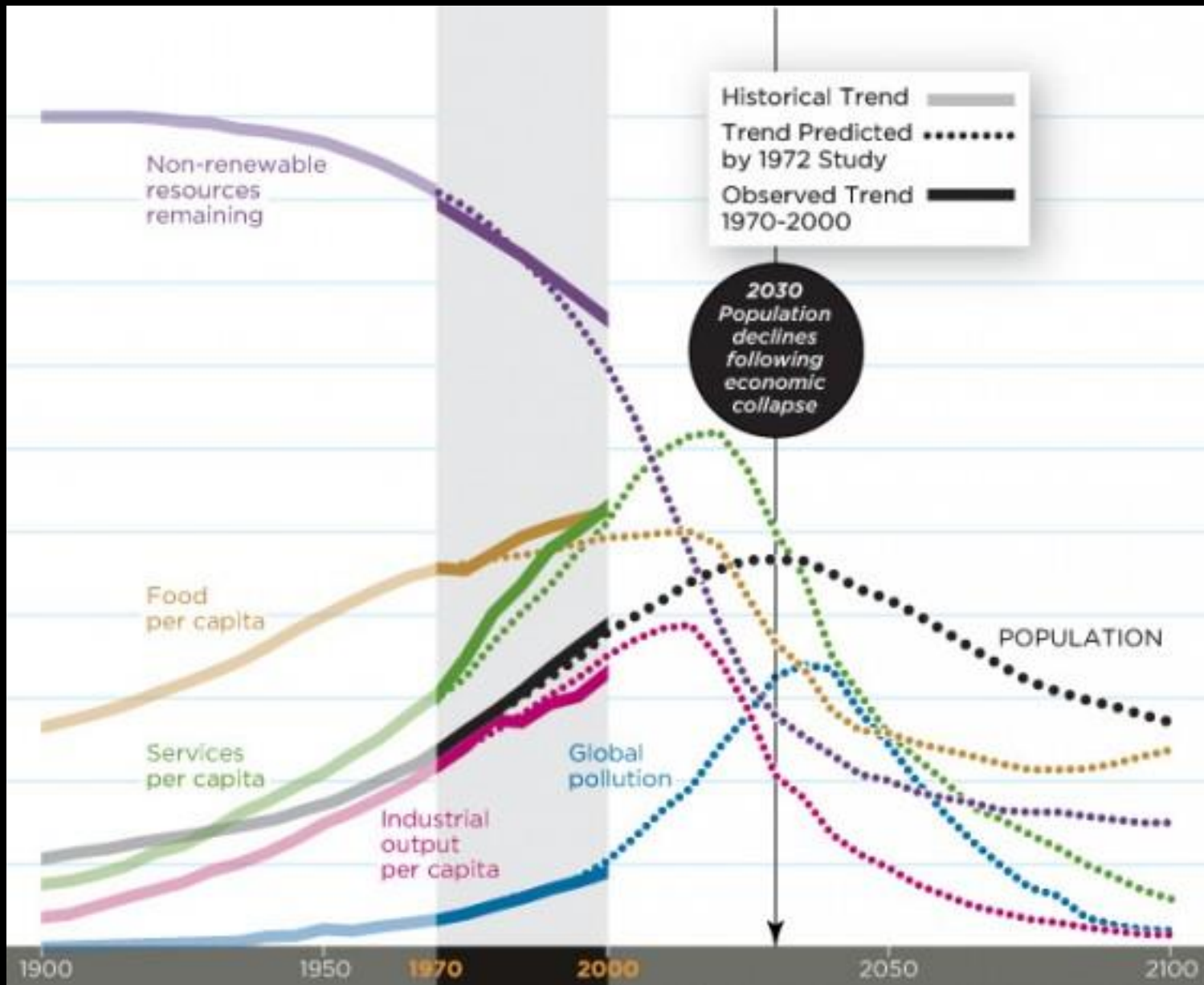




IDCA 10<sup>th</sup> International Conference on  
Poverty Eradication and Climate Change Mitigation  
IIT Rice Campus, Wheaton, IL, USA. Oct. 6-7, 2012

When East Meets West on Climate Change

Sailesh Rao, Executive Director  
Climate Healers, AZ, USA.



Non-renewable resources remaining

Food per capita

Services per capita

Industrial output per capita

Global pollution

POPULATION

1900

1950

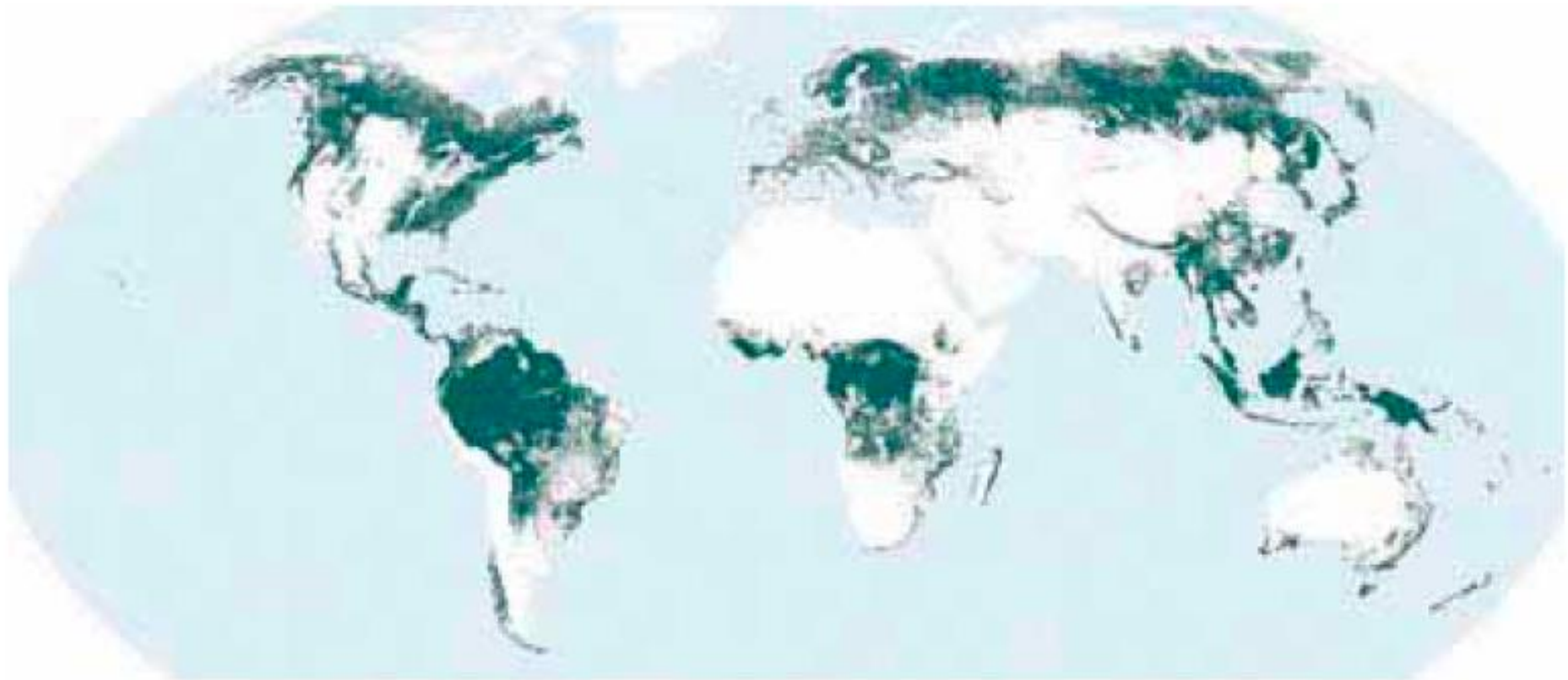
1970

2000

2050

2100

FIGURE 1  
The world's forests



- Forest (> 10 percent tree cover)
- Other land
- Water

Note: Tree cover derived from MODIS VCF\* 250 meter pixels for year 2005.

\* Moderate-resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer Vegetation Continuous Fields (Hansen *et al.* 2010).

# The Wishing Tree



Illustration by Niharika Desiraju

# The 3 Questions of Vedanta

- Who am I?

Human Rights Movements  
Indian Independence Movement (Gandhi)  
Civil Rights Movement (MLK)

- What is Nature?

Environmental Movement  
Climate Change Activism

- Who is God?

Animal Rights Movement



2008





# Interfaith Declaration on Climate Change

The nurturing and respect for life is a central doctrine of all faiths on Earth. Yet today we are endangering life on Earth with unacceptably high and rising levels of greenhouse gas emissions. These gases are destabilizing the global climate system, heating the Earth, acidifying the oceans, and putting both humanity and all living creatures at unacceptable risk.

Today our faiths stand united in their call to care for the Earth, and to protect the poor and the suffering. Strong action on climate change is imperative for the principles and traditions of our faiths and the collective compassion, wisdom and leadership of humanity.

We recognize the science of climate change, and we call for global leaders to take strong, science-based action for the reduction of greenhouse gases in order to avert the worst dangers of a climate crisis. We urge the nations of Earth to ensure that those who will suffer under climate-induced changes such as more severe storms, floods, droughts and rising seas, be aided to adapt, survive and equitably prosper.

We recognize that climate change is not merely an economic or technical problem, but rather at its core is a moral, spiritual and cultural one. We therefore pledge to join together to teach and guide the people who follow the call of our faiths. We must all learn to live together within the shared limits of our planet.

We recognize that just as climate change presents us with great challenges, so too it offers great opportunities. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions can stimulate economies sustainably, protect our planet, lift up the poor, and unite a common humanity in the face of a common danger. Assisting vulnerable communities to survive and adapt to climate change fulfills our calling to witness to the moral and ethical values of our faiths, our choices, and the way we live, and faiths - to

+ DESMOND

*[Signature]*

*Shriya Sulekh Krishna Rao*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*





# The Durban Addendum



**COP17/CMP7**  
UNITED NATIONS  
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2011  
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA

**While Climate Change is a symptom, the fever that our Earth has contracted, the underlying disease is the disconnection from Creation that plagues human societies throughout our Earth.**

**We, the undersigned, pledge to heal this disconnection by promoting and exemplifying Compassion for all Creation in all our actions.**

# **Carbon Dharma:** The Occupation of Butterflies



Courtesy Karech Village Forest Protection Committee and Foundation for Ecological Security

## **Sailesh Rao**

Foreword by Brian McLaren



Contact: [srao@climatehealers.org](mailto:srao@climatehealers.org)

<http://www.climatehealers.org>