

Today I went to feed some animals with some **stale bread**. They "live" in a quite big pen nearby a furniture store in Prosecco (TS). It's a common practise, expecially done by little children's parents, that have the opportunity of viewing living deers, fallow-deers, goats and guinea-fowls (in Italian is called "Faraona", like the Pharaoh's wife). After being mud-splashed by those (the animals, not parents or children...) flocking together at the fence to

take as much food as possible

, a comparison between their existence and the human one came on my mind, and I explain it now.

Yes, yet another explanation of the **environmental sustainability concept**.

Into the box there would be about **fifty animals**, all **herbivorous** but not despising the bread, that should live free and look for the food needed to their survival. They are in a situation where **resources are limited**,

emphasized by their condensed condition: logically

their resources

are only the

grass

in the box or - widening a bit -

branch and leaves

in the nearby and

the water

(inside the box). Naturally the

nature law

would allow

to live

only to a

little number

of individuals: each animal partake a certain quantity of grass and water, subtracted from the total available. Those consuming take place in a certain time interval and the

ratio between the used quantity and the time

is called

rate

. The sum of the eaten quantities of each individual and the rate (or speed) within those are being consumed must allow to the nature to

rebuild those fonts

, although the animals

will die

of hardships up to when the resources will exceed the quantity needed to feed the living ones and rebuild the used part. All goes around the

aequilibrium

between

the number of consumers

and the

available resources

, with growth and decreasing of the available resources and of the number of animals. Whishing not to die to any animal, the

sustainability concept

is to consume the resources at a rate that allows them not to finish.

If, as border case, **the resources should finish** before that the number of **individuals would have been decreased**

, all the animals would be assigned to die. On the other hand, another border case, but it is the reality, those animals can live only because someone feed them from the outside, giving resources that otherwise they wouldn't have got.

And the **mankind**? Leaving aparted his benefactor role in feeding the animals (that isn't the point of the thread), the man lives in those

animals in the box

lives into its beautiful fence, called Earth, that even if is bigger and offers more resources than the one in Prosecco, remains

limited

and so are the offered resources. I can add more: rather than

fifty

, there are about

6 billions

individulas. Those don't eat only grass or drink only water (except vegetarians and teetotals), but they cosume many other resources, and between them the

energy

is one of the primary ones (in all its shapes). From where comes that energy? A big part from the

sun

, even if yet a little and in a not conscious way for many people (without sun the salad doesn't grow... an so neither who eats salad and who eats who eat salad...). The other part, expecially electrical energy, house warming energy, energy for transports and industry comes from fossil fuels. Fuel means usually coal, petroleum, natural gas, wood and all those matters that oxydize with oxygen and give heat. The fossil adjective groups those formed in millions of years: a good example is

petroleum

, an oily substance coming from the decomposition of organic matters (trees, carcasses and degradable substances...) subjected to the henormous pressures of the deep underground where oil deposit are. This font had been used since

less than a century

and in many studies we already have extracted and used half of the quantity existing or drawable in an

economically advantaging way

(we ride the "

peak

" of extraction, that is the point dividing the growth and the decrease of the extraction rate and indicates that

in the future we could only extract lesser than now

, and someone will be out of the game).

Zooming the point of view to all the resources available to mankind, including also the **renewabl**
es ones

september 23rd 2008

was named the

Earth Overshoot day

by the

Global Footprint network

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: in that day the Earth

used the half of the renewable resources available

. Hence all we use from that day is "subtracted" to the future and in particular to our sons. If the consuming rate should remain the actual one on

2050 July 1st

we will reach the end of the renewable resources (the border case of the box). And no one will come to feed us from outside the fence!

It's already **late** and is required **something concrete** to evitate it, also because in that day probably mankind will not live on **another planet**

(and it wouldn't authorize ourselves to keep doing this wrong way). Therefore if we consider that

8

0 percent of the resources is actually used by 20 percent of the world population

, let's try to imagine what will happen when also the other 80 percent will start to claim its own part (it's happening right now because some countries like Brazil, India and China are on this way and they 're running).

It comes back the **sustainability concept**, that is - I repeat - **to consume the Earth resources** at a rate

allowing to renew them

Deers, goats, guinea fawls and the sustainability

Written by PaoloGabriele

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This leads surely to cut the wastes (of energy and matters), to increase the efficiency in processes (starting from industrial ones, well known as hungry of energy up to house ones, lesser hungry but consistent, like hose warming), to use renewable fonts like the sun, the wind, the sea and the biomasses. All this, if possible, without changing too heavily the quality and the standard of living (this is the real match).

It's time to renew ourselves, hurry (in a sustainable way, obvious)!

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1. Read more at <http://www.footprintnetwork.org>