

## HAS HUMANITY LOST ITS MIND: IS IT TIME FOR PLANET B?

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The question which is being asked is, “Is it Time for Planet B?” (Video: <https://vimeo.com/763421741> and <https://vimeo.com/763152017>); it seems that the quest is in the air, and on everyone’s lips; this is primarily due to the sense of an impending imminent doomsday—the demise of human race. This doomsday scenario has already been put forward by the Late Professor Stephen Hawking; in fact, he pointed out: “humanity might have as little as 100 years before needing to leave Earth.” In other scenarios eco-scientists point out that the situation does not have to be so dire, they declare that we should proactively take care of this world’s ecosystems, so as to sustain the environment.

Humanity’s problems are twofold: first there is the question of overpopulation and then there are pressures imparted on the environment. So, a pertinent question to ask is: “should we continue to pursue this *pipe-dream* about going to inhabit Planet B, or should we attempt to mitigate the damage we are doing to our present environment?” If one were to carry out thought experiments on the pros and cons of travelling to other worlds in far-flung corners of our Galaxy, they may find this to really be an illusory diversion and that the Earth’s problems are here and now. It is akin to saying: “we have trashed our house and instead of cleaning it, we’ll just move to a house in the nearby pristine green valley.” Who is to say we wouldn’t trash that place also? So, shall we fall for a fallacy by thinking that we can migrate to “planet B”? Do we need to care about Earth’s sustainability? The question being asked concerns humanity’s desire to find other habitable planets versus taking good care of Earth’s natural resources and environments, Figure 1.



**Figure 1:** Why attend NoRCEL’s Blue Earth Project? Because Earth is our only home and it matters!

The discussion will be led by six international panellists (Figure 2), each of whom will deliver a 15 minutes oral presentation. Following that there will be two types of discussions—the first one being amongst the panellists themselves and the next including both the local and international audience.



**Figure 2:** Our international panellists

This, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Blue Earth Project symposium of the Network of Researchers on the Chemical Evolution of Life (NoRCEL, <https://norcel.net/>), is being held at the Quarry Hill Campus of Leeds City College, as well as online—so offering a truly hybrid experience. NoRCEL aims at fostering a global inspirational community of original creative thinkers cutting across disciplinary confines who are keen to engage in respectful discourse in order to explore new directions and to build collective endeavours. With “Blue Earth Project,” we are building a bridge between the emergence and sustainability of life, the co-evolution of life with its environment, and humankind’s responsibility for the ecosystems of our small planet. Readers may wish to gain more insight of BEP’s endeavours by consulting our first report: The Blue Earth Project: “Is Humanity Settling its Own Fate on Ecological Survival?” (Jheeta, *et al.*, 2022). The 2<sup>nd</sup> BEP hybrid symposium entitled: “Is it time for Planet B?” will be a free to attend event—to register for the event please follow this link: <https://norcel.net/bep/bep2023/> or scan the QR code.

## Reference

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