

# Human and Planetary Health – Blurred Boundaries

Raising awareness that polluting the planet  
eventually pollutes its tenants

## Conversation Brief

Our planet, much like ourselves, is a living, breathing thing. We depend on one another for our health and well-being. Yet, never before has humanity pressured the earth's resources to the point of overstressing its limits.

From the unsustainable consumption of our natural resources, to the amount of toxic pollutants we are pouring in to our planet's natural systems, we are pushing the limits of the environment to the loss of our own well-being. Studies now show without doubt that an ailing planet has a direct link with human health. In 2015, diseases caused by air, water and soil pollution were responsible for 16% of all global death - more than smoking, hunger, natural disasters, war, AIDS, or malaria.

And yet while awareness of our impact on our habitat is growing – the corresponding change to government policies, business practices and consumer behaviour has proven to be slower coming.

If as humanity we can have such a significant impact on the planet, what are the things we can do to affect it positively, and in turn support our own well-being? How do we reconcile human development and planetary health? How will governments, companies, organisations and individuals need to modify policies, business systems and lifestyles to bring us back in touch with our natural habitat? What role does the education system play in raising awareness about our environment and making this narrative accessible and relatable?

