
PLANET SOIL
THE POWER OF THE UNDERGROUND
WINNER
WINNER
Moss Farm on the Marsh
Prague Science Film Fest
Chicago Filmmaker Awards
OFFICIAL SELECTION
WILDLIFE FILM FESTIVAL
ALT EFF
OFFICIAL SELECTION
Nature Now Film Festival
BABUL ECO FILM FESTIVAL

CONTENTS

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release
August 1, 2024

PLANET SOIL: THE MOVIE – INTERNATIONAL RELEASE

Exciting News for Advocates of Regenerative Farming and Natural Health

AUGUST 1, 2024, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA. The Alliance for Natural Health, in partnership with the creators of the highly acclaimed Dutch documentary PLANET SOIL, already the recipient of 17 awards, is proud to announce the US and international launch of this transformative film. This initiative targets communities dedicated to organic and regenerative practices, natural health, and the core value of freedom.

"Watch this film, and you will never feel the same about what lies underfoot", says health ecologist and sustainability scientist, Rob Verkerk PhD, the founder of the Alliance for Natural Health.

PLANET SOIL, inspired by Dutch farmers' protests, and directed by award-winning filmmaker, Mark Verkerk, Dr Verkerk's brother, delves underground to uncover the fascinating living world beneath our feet.

Astonishingly, there are more living organisms in one teaspoon of healthy soil than there are people living on Earth. And all these organisms, working together in their billions, literally support all the life around us.

However, intensive farming and chemical inputs are progressively killing our soils. In a bid to find technological fixes, such as fake meat or genome-edited crops, regenerative farming practices are being side-lined by governments, researchers and the corporate lobbies that are driving the top-down, net zero and UN-directed environmental agendas.

PLANET SOIL shows a way forward at both the individual and community levels to improve our relationship with nature and our soils, while highlighting the role these immense underground communities can play in tackling some of the most intractable problems of our time.

As an Ambassador of PLANET SOIL, the Alliance for Natural Health's initiative includes identifying organizations, companies and community groups interested in becoming affiliates that can help distribute the film on a pay-per-view basis in return for a commission fee to reward their efforts.

You can find out more about the inspiring, award-winning film, as well as how organizations and individuals can get involved, by downloading the PLANET SOIL media pack.

ENDS.

ABOUT THE FILM

PLANET SOIL is a ground-breaking documentary that unveils the vital, yet often overlooked, world beneath our feet. With more living creatures in a teaspoon of soil than there are people on Earth, this ecosystem is essential for supporting all life on our planet.

By showcasing the interconnectedness, immense potential and strength of soil organisms, the film inspires us to reimagine our relationship with nature. It offers tangible solutions to improve soil health, restore biodiversity, enhance food security and capture greenhouse gases.

PLANET SOIL is a global wake-up call, urging us to protect and restore our soils for a sustainable future. This film challenges viewers to embrace the power of the underground and make a positive impact on our planet.

" A teaspoon of soil contains more living organisms than there are people on Earth.

- PLANET SOIL – the movie

VIEW THE TRAILER

THE MESSAGE

PLANET SOIL is a powerful call to recognize and appreciate the world beneath our feet. It emphasizes the incredible biodiversity and complex interactions of life on Earth. By showcasing the abundance of life in a teaspoon of soil and the immense potential of soil organisms, the film urges us to prioritize soil health and conservation. It offers hope and practical solutions, encouraging individuals and communities to adopt sustainable practices that nurture and restore our soils.

The film delivers a clear message: by understanding, respecting, and working in harmony with nature and specifically the underground world, we can address pressing global challenges such as climate change, food security, our health, and biodiversity loss, ultimately creating a sustainable and thriving future for all.

" Planet Soil makes this unseen world seen.

- Prof. Dr. Toby Kiers, the Jane Goodall of fungi and mycorrhizal networks

IMPACT CAMPAIGN

ANH has been appointed as a PLANET SOIL affiliate based on our commitment to help as many people as possible experience PLANET SOIL, while building stronger relationships with partners in the fields of organic and regenerative farming, soil health advocacy, natural health, pesticide reduction campaigners, biodiversity restoration, and food security.

Find out how you can view PLANET SOIL now.

" Planet Soil is like the story of the subcutaneous part of our body that determines how we feel and what we radiate outwardly

- Piet Oudolf, landscape artist

ABOUT THE PLANET SOIL TEAM

Director Mark Verkerk, brother of Rob Verkerk, ANH founder, executive & scientific director, is an award-winning filmmaker for broadcasters like RTL, National Geographic, and Discovery. 'Buddha's Lost Children' was his Oscar-nominated film.

Producer/Distributor Ignas van Schaick specializes in cross-media, education, and e-commerce. He produced acclaimed films, like 'The New Wilderness'.

" We know more about the movement of celestial bodies than about the soil underfoot.

- Leonardo da Vinci

SPEAKING NATURALLY ABOUT PLANET SOIL

Click the image below to listen/watch to Rob Verkerk interviewing his brother Mark about PLANET SOIL for the ANH Speaking Naturally channel

HOW TO VIEW PLANET SOIL AND BECOME A PLANET SOIL AFFILIATE

Watch Planet Soil

Viewing Planet Soil couldn't be simpler. Just follow the steps below:

1. Make a date to watch the film with your family and/or friends
2. Click on the link to go the Planet Soil website - https://www.docswithimpact.com/en/article/planet-soil-anh
3. Click on the 'Rent 48h $12.50' button
4. If you have a voucher code input the code
5. Click on Accept and finalize
6. Input your credit card details
7. Watch the film

Become a Planet Soil Affiliate

Add another layer of income to your organisation by becoming a Planet Soil Affiliate.

Please email the ANH Team on info@anhinternational.org to let us know you'd like to become an affiliate. We will then arrange for your affiliate account to be set up, send you the details, along with your unique voucher code and URL so you can become a Soil Health Advocate and share this unique film with your networks and supporters.

WHY SOIL HEALTH MATTERS

Living soils, rich in microorganisms, micro-fauna and flora play a crucial role in agricultural sustainability, food security and the restoration of biodiversity for the following reasons:

1. Nutrient Cycling: Microorganisms decompose organic matter, converting it into forms that plants can absorb. This natural process of nutrient cycling reduces the need for synthetic fertilizers, as nutrients are continuously recycled and made available to plants.

2. Biodiversity and Resilience: Soils in regenerative farming systems that are rich in microorganisms are more biodiverse not only in terms of microbes, but also fauna and flora. Such ecosystems are more resilient to disturbances caused by drought, extreme weather or pest outbreaks. Agro-ecological biodiversity helps maintain agricultural productivity under changing environmental conditions.

3. Symbiotic Relationships: Many plants form symbiotic relationships with soil microorganisms, such as mycorrhizal fungi and nitrogen-fixing bacteria. Mycorrhizal fungi networks are critical to communication among trees and other plants, they enhance the uptake of water and nutrients, especially phosphorus, while nitrogen-fixing bacteria convert atmospheric nitrogen into a form plants can use. These relationships can significantly reduce the need for chemical fertilizers.

4. Soil Structure and Water Conservation: Micro-fauna, including nematodes and arthropods, contribute to the physical structure of soil by breaking down organic material and facilitating the decomposition process. Their activity helps create soil aggregates, improve aeration, and enhance water infiltration and retention. Healthy soil structure is essential for root development and plant health. Better soil structure reduces erosion and increases the soil's water-holding capacity, making crops more resilient to drought.

5. Pest and Disease Suppression: A diverse microbial community can suppress soil-borne pests and diseases through competition and predation. Beneficial microbes can outcompete potentially harmful ones for resources and space, and some can produce natural antibiotics or other compounds that inhibit pathogens. Biodiverse agro-ecological systems support complex, multi-trophic webs that ensure potential pests and diseases are maintained at levels that limit the risk of economic damage. This reduces or avoids the need for chemical pesticides.

6. Organic Matter Decomposition: Flora, particularly plants and their root systems, interact with soil microorganisms to decompose organic matter. This decomposition process enriches the soil with organic carbon, enhancing soil fertility and structure. Plants also contribute to the soil organic matter through root exudates, which feed soil microorganisms.

7. Enhanced Plant Growth: Certain soil microorganisms, known as plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR), produce hormones and other compounds that stimulate plant growth. They can also enhance nutrient uptake, improve resistance to stress, and increase crop yields.

8. Soil Detoxification: Microorganisms can break down or immobilize pollutants, such as heavy metals and pesticide residues, reducing their toxicity and preventing them from entering the food chain.

9. Carbon sequestration: Soils rich in microorganisms and organic matter can sequester carbon, reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Healthy soils act as carbon sinks, helping to offset carbon dioxide emissions from conventional, high-intensity, agricultural activities.

By fostering a healthy, microorganism-rich soil, sustainable agricultural systems can reduce dependence on high-intensity agrochemical inputs, lower production costs, and promote environmental health. This approach not only supports crop productivity but also enhances ecosystem services, contributing to long-term agricultural sustainability.

CARBON AND THE DEMONIZATION OF LIVESTOCK FARMING – WHO IS REALLY BEING CAPTURED?

An essay by Robert Verkerk PhD, ecologist, sustainability scientist, parent, grandparent, and ANH founder, executive and scientific director

The element carbon—sitting innocently to the right side of the Periodic Table of Elements, adjacent to nitrogen, boron and silicon—has become synonymous with the notion of an impending environmental catastrophe. One mediated by human-induced climate change, where the biggest culprit is widely regarded as livestock farming. This view has contributed to the public demonisation of farm animals, along with a habit that predates modern humans: the consumption of the meat and milk of other animals. The vilification of animals as an agricultural resource now extends to the use of their hides as textiles for making shoes, clothes or other wares.

The narrative that positions, on one side, animal farming as unsustainable and, on the other, veganism as a crucial part of the solution to our planetary, climate-related, woes, allegedly represents scientific consensus. The trouble is, it doesn't. It's just that the opposition to this discourse aren't given the limelight to be heard. They are widely censored, both when trying to publish in scientific journals and when presenting their concerns through the mainstream media. Oh, if it were only that simple: get businesses to subscribe to Net Zero and get the public to switch to plant-based diets and—le voilà.

The Law of Conservation of Mass proposed by the French chemist, Antoine Lavoisier back in 1789, has yet to be superseded. It holds that matter cannot be created or destroyed. Matter, carbon included, can change its form, but you can't add to or eliminate it from our planetary system without sending it out into space. Carbon, like any other element, can of course combine with other elements and become another substance with a different molecular form. But that element remains. It may move physically to a different place, as the carbon in carbon dioxide does when it is absorbed from the atmosphere into plants, soil or the oceans. And it can also change its phase, from solid, to gas or liquid, in no particular order. But get this: when people talk of carbon removals, carbon isn't being removed from our planet. It's simply being moved.

All of life, with no exception, is based on carbon, and the element's central importance has spawned the field of organic chemistry, which concerns itself exclusively with the chemistry of carbon-containing compounds. There is no doubt that the Industrial Revolution, which was founded on the burning of so-called fossil fuels, has contributed to a considerable increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide since the pre-industrial era going back around 1 million years from today. But go back further than that, for example, to the Ordovician area, some 500 million years ago—the earliest period in time for which we have a snapshot estimate of CO2 levels—the levels were in the order of 10 times higher, between 3000 and 9000 ppm, compared with around 420 ppm CO2 today.

The point is, when you focus everyone's attention on carbon emissions by industry and agriculture, and spend less time looking at carbon sequestration in soils or uptake in plants, you miss a lot of nuances in the carbon story. All forms of life—from a bacteria or amoeba, through to plants and all varieties of animal—rely on a carbon source of one form or another for their organic structure and function. They can consume the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, like photosynthesising green plants do, or get it by consuming chemical compounds made by plants, like we do.

For green plants to exist, its ancestors relied on getting it from bacteria or single-celled organisms called Archaea. These are even more primitive than bacteria, meaning they were likely among the first life forms to colonise Earth. They pull carbon from their surrounding environment, creating organic molecules, including their DNA and RNA, chemically, in the absence of sunlight. To this day, they're associated with extreme environments, like volcanic hot springs. It doesn't matter which way your try to look at it: carbon is so intrinsically associated with life that if you were to try to take it out of life, there would be no life.

"Carbon is so intrinsically associated with life that if you were to try to take it out of life, there would be no life.

- Rob Verkerk, PhD

Carbon dioxide also isn't a toxic gas, the way we've typically been led to believe. It's what plants breathe in, and, as a by-product of their respiration, plants dutifully release oxygen that animals and aerobic bacteria rely on for their own respiration and energy production. It's not that carbon isn't important, or even that humans haven't had any effect on changing the levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases since the inception of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century.

What's happened that runs contrary to any attempt to forge a balanced scientific approach to resolving the environmental problems our planet currently faces is the degree of distortion of available knowledge.

As a result, some of the biggest issues facing us, many being of our species' making, others not, such as the recent freefall in the biodiversity of wildlife, have been diminished in importance for no good reason, other than to ensure a small group of people and corporations get to control the direction of the world.

Other environmental issues, like biodiversity, habitat destruction, loss of topsoil, desertification, chemical pollution, and acidification of the oceans have been marginalised. Others still, like the effects on wildlife of anthropogenic electromagnetic radiation from digital communication systems that are growing exponentially as the world lurches towards the Internet of Things, have been relegated to the realm of conspiracy theory. Except by those who know better, censored scientists included.

Reducing carbon emissions and, certainly, efforts to eliminate livestock farming and have animal protein replaced by cell-based 'meat', is a diversion from the real issues at hand. An age-old truism is relevant here: if you don't identify a problem correctly, you cannot find the right solution. By misidentifying the real problems we face, we're going to miss the opportunity of finding and working towards viable solutions.

Let's take livestock farming as an example. The tenet we're being offered looks something like this: animal farming is one of the biggest single contributors to carbon dioxide emissions so it must be eliminated. An associated tenet is that by relying on plants, and not animals, as human food, because they don't belch or fart out carbon dioxide like those shameful animals, has to be a good thing. It pushes us ever closer to Net Zero, surely? So let's all go vegan, we'll eat insects that don't need farmland, or we can eat fake meat grown in a Petri dish. That's got to be the way to save the world. Not so fast, kindred humans.

Critical thinking is required to weigh up any problem with the intent of finding a solution. So how's this? There are several animal farming systems that have been shown to be carbon neutral (net zero) as it stands. This includes regenerative beef, lamb and dairy farming, Aberdeen Angus beef and Welsh lamb farming among them. In this context, carbon neutral or 'net zero' simply means that if you measure the total emissions from the animals and compare them with the amount of carbon dioxide pulled out of the atmosphere and sequestered or absorbed by pasture, other plants and living soils that are teeming with microbes bolstered by the carbon-rich poop of the grazing animals, the numbers balance out.

Simplistic reasoning then tells us that given that some animal farming systems can be carbon neutral, it's not the animals, the pasture or the microbes that are at fault. The problem lies with the farming system in question, and the bias in the scientific, cultural and political approach that so often favours a focus on emissions while largely ignoring sequestration.

The data that make livestock farming look so unfavourable all come from industrial, factory farming systems, that are, somewhat perversely, referred to as 'conventional farming'. They ignore regenerative or organic farming systems that have a much longer history of practice, albeit the modern interpretation benefiting most from recent scientific and ecological knowledge. The take home is this: Nature knows what it's doing

– and we ignore the lessons that Nature offers us at our peril.

We see biases in the way the science is presented to us at every turn. While the climate change narrative has been used as a vehicle (excuse the pun!) to get the public out of internal combustion-engined cars and into electric vehicles (EVs), there was a reprehensible failure to publicise some of the downsides of EVs. This includes the devastation being caused to children and communities in the Congo and other parts of Sub-Saharan Africa enslaved to the cobalt and lithium mining that delivers the minerals required for the rechargeable batteries that run today's EVs. Not to mention our smartphones, laptops, tablets, wireless headphones and other luxuries.

When Denmark-based Ørsted A/S decided to establish the world's largest offshore wind farm in the North Sea, the project was positioned as a pro-Nature, ecological breakthrough that would help reduce UK and European dependency on Russian oil and provide enough electricity to power a quarter of UK households. That's before you look at what's involved in installing one hundred and sixty five 236-feet-tall wind turbines with 266-feet-long blades, each with foundations weighing 1,200 tons. Ecologists are now suggesting the installation may interfere with currents that carry phytoplankton that feed the North Sea's rich and recovering marine ecology. Acoustics from the turbine blades will have potentially disastrous impacts on marine life, something that has already become apparent among cetaceans around offshore windfarms, not to mention the direct mortalities of birds struck by turbine blades. In the case of migratory birds, such lethal strikes can be particularly devastating.

Myopic thinking that serves the few masquerades as consensus science over and over again. But where is it coming from?

Ultimately, there are two main drivers. One comes in the form of money, which is closely related to those who wield the greatest economic and political power. The other relates to a plan—a roadmap, if you will. In this case, the plan comes from one of the most influential inter-governmental organizations in existence: the United Nations. Most will assume that if a plan comes from such a body, it must have been based on the most solid scientific evidence and have the intention of benefiting the largest number of people—and the planet as a whole. Wrong.

The plan was first laid out in 2015 in the form of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is delivered via 17 Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs for short. On the surface, most appear laudable. It is only when you look deeper into the detail, and dissect the targets that relate to each of the 17 goals, you see the extent of what's missing, what is clearly there for show, what's untenable or unrealistic, and what's there to get people into a particular mindset or to follow a specific behaviour that's part of a false narrative.

One resounding conclusion is that there is no consistency over the targets following the best and most conclusive science. Another is that the targets tend to follow a process that allows the most powerful stakeholders to secure an even bigger slice of the action, with no guarantee things will improve either for people or the planet. The SDGs and their targets are also currently voluntary, suggesting they're optional. But stakeholders who don't play the SDG game will pay a big price in terms of penalties, lost opportunities and being side-lined from the status quo.

Take SDG 3, Good Health and Well-being, for example. There are 13 targets, most of the commendable. But not one of them deals with some of the most well-known targets for improving health and well-being, such as food quality (e.g. diverse, non-ultra-processed, low sugars, low refined carbohydrate, healthy fats, chemical-free), stress reduction or transformation (chronic stress is one of the biggest risk factors in chronic, non-communicable diseases), or increasing physical activity levels (sedentary lifestyles are one of the biggest contributors to ill health in modern societies). Not only that, the targets are so poorly prescribed that compliance can be justified simply by playing with the numbers. Target 3.4 for example aims to reduce mortality from non-communicable diseases and promote mental health.

The target proposes that "By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being". The 33% reduction is clear enough, but there is no definition of premature mortality. It could mean many things. One interpretation is that you consider premature mortality as the average of age of death in a given country in the year at which the SDGs were published, namely 2015. You then, by 2030, aim to reduce by 33% the total number of people who die from all non-communicable diseases who are less than this age. This vagueness in the scope of targets is typical of so many targets, not just in SDG3. Targets 3.B. and 3.D. play directly into the global vaccine programmes being controlled by the World Health Organization (WHO), GAVI, CEPI, the Gates Foundation and others. Improving Early Warning Systems for Global Health Risks (SDG 3.D) sets the scene perfectly for the

centralised, WHO-control of vaccine programmes following the threat of public health emergencies of international concern (PHEICs) that will be managed through binding agreement with WHO national members via amendments to the International Health Regulations (2005), which were voted through at the World Health Assembly meeting in May 2024 and the 'pandemic treaty', which continues to be negotiated.

SDG 15, Life on Land, is the goal that should include regenerative farming approaches. It could be interpreted as being supportive of regenerative farming, because it deals with a number of targets that focus on ecosystem restoration, including the protection of biodiversity and natural habitats (target 15.5) and ending deforestation and restoring degraded forests (target 15.2). Under Things To Do to achieve these targets, we're asked to compost and not use pesticides or chemicals while growing plants. Is that in our back gardens, or are these targets relevant to the biggest agricultural stakeholders who are, in the main, entirely pesticide and chemical dependent? If the former's the case, it will make two-tenths of no difference to our planet. If the latter's the case, it's a pipe dream. Looks nice on paper, but there's little chance of the goal being achieved in the present climate. Or perhaps it's a justification to herald the arrival of an ever greater number of CRISPR-edited agricultural products, the progeny of the emerging era of New Genomic Techniques (NGTs)?

Let's not forget SDG 13 on Climate Action. There are only 5 targets – but some really big ones like Implementing the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (target 13.4) that puts everyone firmly on the UN's tracks and no one else's. Or Build Knowledge and Capacity to Meet Climate Change (target 13.3). That's a way of saying knowledge and remedies will follow a specific narrative that won't take into account perspectives that are outside the UN framework. It's the work of control freaks, not scientists or ecologists with a genuine desire to create a healthy, viable planet. Where, for example, is the target that talks to re-building the microbial content of agricultural soils so that the planetary carbon cycle can do its thing? Or even tree planting or restoring natural vegetation? Where's the proposal to make sure full Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) is done to determine the net environmental impact of new technologies like EVs or fake meat? Meat demonisation makes itself heard, unsurprisingly enough, with one of the Things To Do proposing, "Consume less meat and become vegetarian for one day a week. The meat production industry has a huge impact on the environment." The fact that Climate Action gets its own SDG and that biodiversity loss that's contributing to the current sixth mass extinction of life on Earth gets shoehorned into one of several factors considered under Life on Land, is a reminder where on the totem pole of priorities the climate agenda sits.

Whether we look at any of the big issues of our time, from the management of pandemics, other issues affecting human health, agriculture, terrorism, economics or the plethora of environmental problems we face, there is a fundamental change underway affecting the locus of power and control. Despite plenty of evidence suggesting the most resilient communities are those which learn to deal with their own challenges, many of them being unique, the opposite is being done. There are major efforts ongoing that are being coordinated by elites to shift power and control away from individuals and communities, as well from democratic nations whose people ostensibly had, until very recently, a significant say in the direction of their governments. The new home for this power and control is a global and 'centralised' but still somewhat nebulous system. The reason? The multiple crises of our day, many being manufactured by elites, are offered to us as justifications. But when you look more deeply at these reasons, the most apparent appears to be to benefit those who have their hands on the tiller.

As the narratives required to create this sea change over how things get done by human societies, people find themselves increasingly pitted against each other. Many of these being those exposed to masterful propaganda machines that are delivering deliberate programs into the subconscious and unconscious minds of the public.

If you raise an objection to a given narrative that seems implausible, you are immediately ejected from the status quo in-group and you are labelled a conspiracy theorist, climate denier, covid denier, anti-vaxxer, far-right extremist, or whatever other derogatory tag line they fancy. These are all labels used glibly to characterise anyone who doesn't play the game. It's a tough label to sustain if your work colleagues, your funders, your family or your loved ones don't share your world view. It's a lot easier to succumb to the narrative and live, supposedly, an easier life.

Except there's more and more people out there who're just not prepared to comply. It makes no sense to them and they care, like people on all sides of the debate, about the future generations. We used to respect our differences and build relationships around areas of common interest. The tables have now been turned: we look for the slightest reason of difference, in order to then eject a person from our circle.

When we lose tolerance of one another, we lose the capacity to cooperate. When we can't cooperate, we can't build successful, dynamic, progressive societies.

When our bodies do this, we develop autoimmune disease, of which there is now an epidemic with over 100 autoimmune conditions now described. But we also have been pushed into a planetary autoimmune condition, where we spend our time attacking each other, losing tolerance of each other, moving ever deeper into a condition of dis-ease. The medicine required to resolve this dis-ease isn't centralised power and control. That's like thinking you can solve a complex auto-immune disease with a single powerful medicine. The reality is that autoimmune conditions are complex problems that require complex solutions. You need to fix leaky barriers within your body, remove triggers from your diet or environment, change your environment, deal with unhealed trauma, alter your mindset…. the list goes on. More than that, there isn't one solution that works for everyone—each person is different, and the solutions need to be personalised to each individual.

The same goes for our planet and human societies. Everything is pointing to the fact we are getting ever further from a solution.

Four things sit at the centre of any viable solution:

Firstly, decentralisation of authority over the things that really matter to us like health, food supply, finance, and education.

Secondly, connection with each other and with nature, in ways that allow us to work and function with each other cooperatively, a necessity for a special species.

Thirdly, the empowerment of people so that we can make informed choices and act with, and be treated with, dignity and respect, and;

Finally, freedom. Freedom to move, freedom to express, freedom to protest, freedom to choose. As authoritarian and even totalitarian creep sets in—a trend that's being closely monitored by the Economist Intelligence Unit that informs us that only 24 of 167 countries in the world, and just 8% of the world's population, live in full democracies—we have a long way to go and much work to do.

ABOUT THE ALLIANCE FOR NATURAL HEALTH

The Alliance for Natural Health (ANH) International is an independent, non-governmental organization established in 2002 that promotes and protects natural, sustainable and bio-compatible approaches to health optimization. The two overarching principles that link all of our work are our commitment to 'good science' and 'good law'. Our core activities are divided into four areas: **C**ampaigns, **A**ctivism, **R**esearch and **E**ducation (CARE).

ANH-Intl's quest to help more people optimise their health by working with, rather than against nature, means we engage with a broad range of issues relating to health promotion and disease prevention, especially those involving dietary and lifestyle modification. We support the increased adoption of scientifically validated, natural, regenerative and sustainable approaches to health care, taking into account the need to protect freedom of choice and provide for cultural and individual needs. The threat of uncertainty, as well as regulatory and other pressures, including from large food, pharmaceutical, chemical and tech lobbies, continues to limit freedom of choice in the field of natural health. At ANH, we strive to protect these freedoms along with individual empowerment and engagement.

ANH-Intl was founded by Robert Verkerk PhD, an internationally acclaimed expert in agricultural and health sustainability. Our international office is based in Chilworth, UK, and we have regional offices in the US (Alexandria, Virginia) and Europe (Amsterdam, The Netherlands). We collaborate with a diverse cross-section of interests, including scientists, lawyers, medical doctors, other health professionals, politicians, companies and, above all, citizens.

ANH websites

alliance for natural health INTERNATIONAL

alliance for natural health USA

alliance for natural health EUROPE

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