

VOICE MESSAGES

*Voice Messages for the Future*

*Research and Development Group, Hitachi, Ltd*

FOR THE FUTURE





# CONCEPT

Climate change, nature loss, prolonged wars, economic turmoil, digital insecurity, political division—we are living in a tangle of crises.

Big changes in geopolitics and the environment cast a shadow over our daily lives. Meanwhile, our small decisions slowly shape the future of the world and the planet.

How can we be remembered as "good ancestors" by future generations? How can we ensure the safe and just survival of those yet to be born? What can inspire us to keep acting for the good of both now and the future?

This project aims to foster deep reflection on these critical questions about our global crisis, helping to create in you a new connection with the future.

Three virtual "mini discs" (MDs) offer music designed to create mental space for reflecting on your connection with the future. Along the way, you can listen to voice messages from a social philosopher, a United Nations leader, and a climate activist about the future.

By the time you finish listening to the music and voices on these discs, you may find a new sense of hope emerging within you.





# THE CRISIS OF OUR TIME AND HOPE



## POLYCRISIS

Climate change, nature loss, wars, economic turmoil, explosion of misinformation, and political division—our era is shrouded in the dark shadow of a polycrisis.

Its intricate impacts endanger life on Earth, hindering our ability to attain physical, mental, and social well-being.

The relentless stream of news highlights not only our inability to address these crises but also our tendency to delay solutions, worsening the situation to extremely dangerous levels.



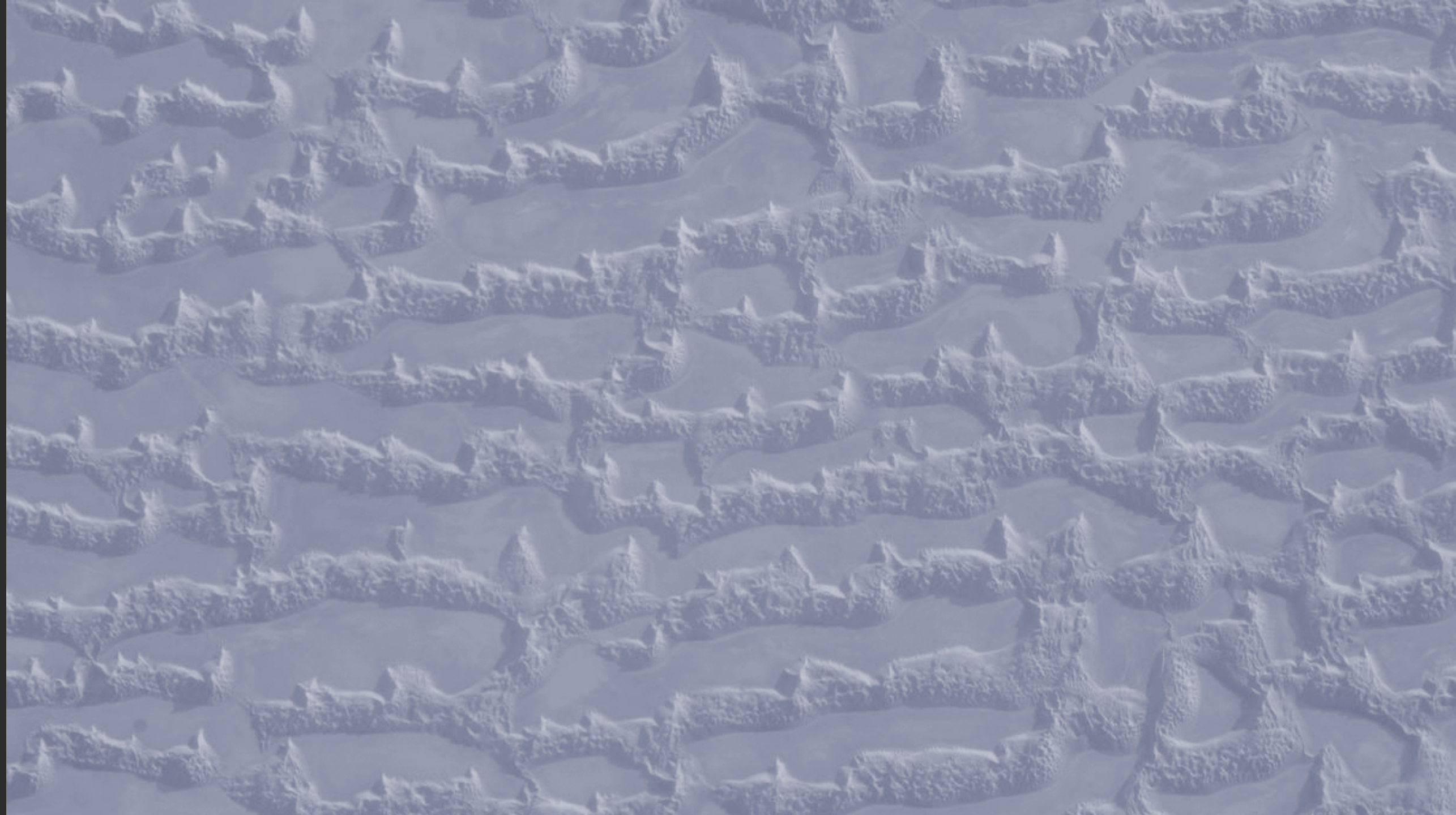
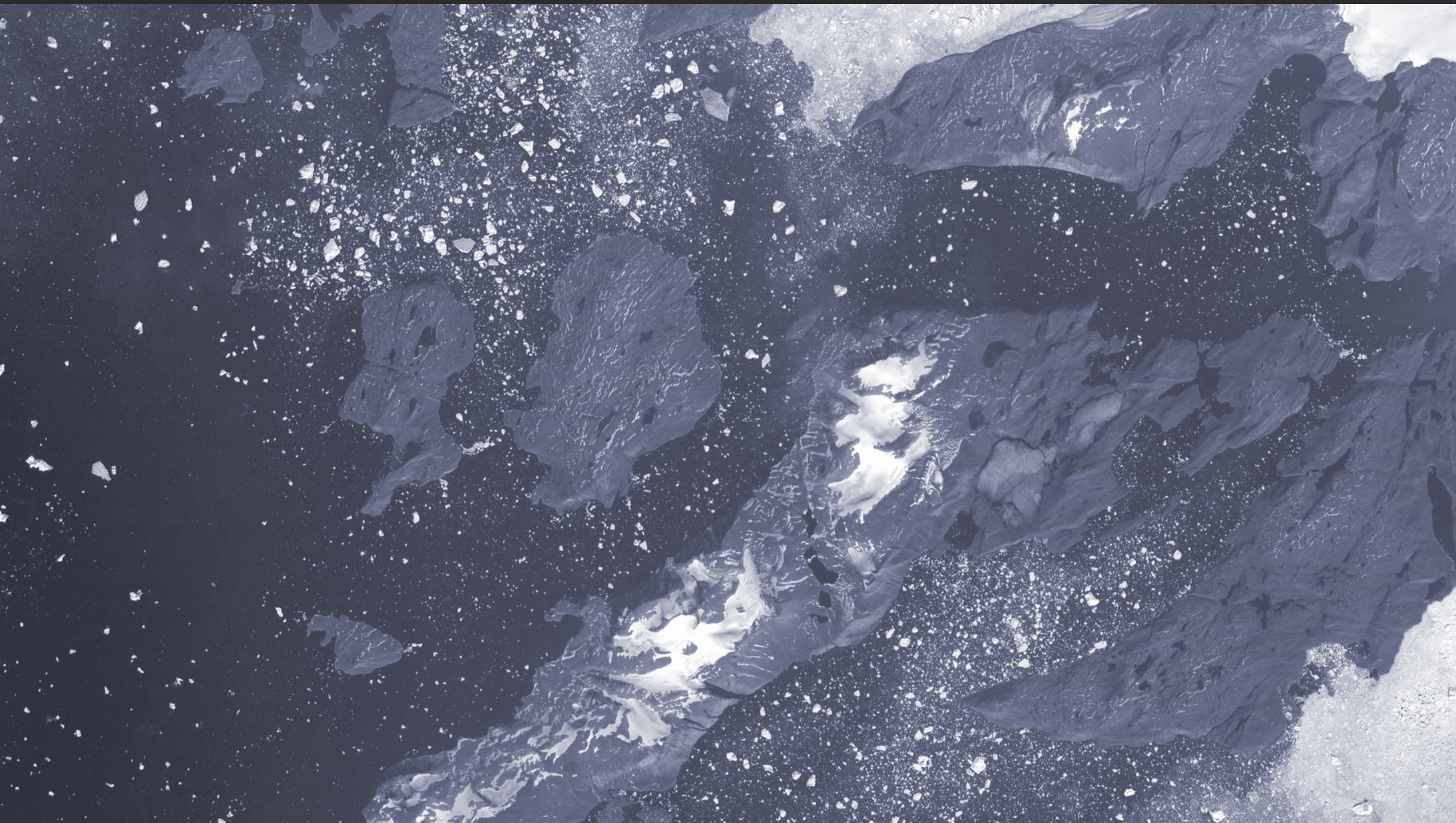
# THE PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

Amidst the urgent news of crises, the slow but steady collapse of our planet's environment is quietly eroding the very foundation of our survival.

Researchers of "Planetary Boundaries" have outlined the limits of Earth's environment that must be preserved to maintain a “safe operating space for humanity.” According to their latest studies, the Earth is hurtling towards what is known as a tipping point—a fundamental and abrupt shift in the planet's balance<sup>1</sup>.

We already understand the profound impacts of our actions on the environment and the solutions we need. Yet, we persist in making choices that will weigh heavily on those who come after us.

<sup>1</sup> Planetary Boundaries Science, ed. 2024. Planetary Health Check: A Scientific Assessment of the State of the Planet, p. 24.



# BECOMING THE GOOD ANCESTOR

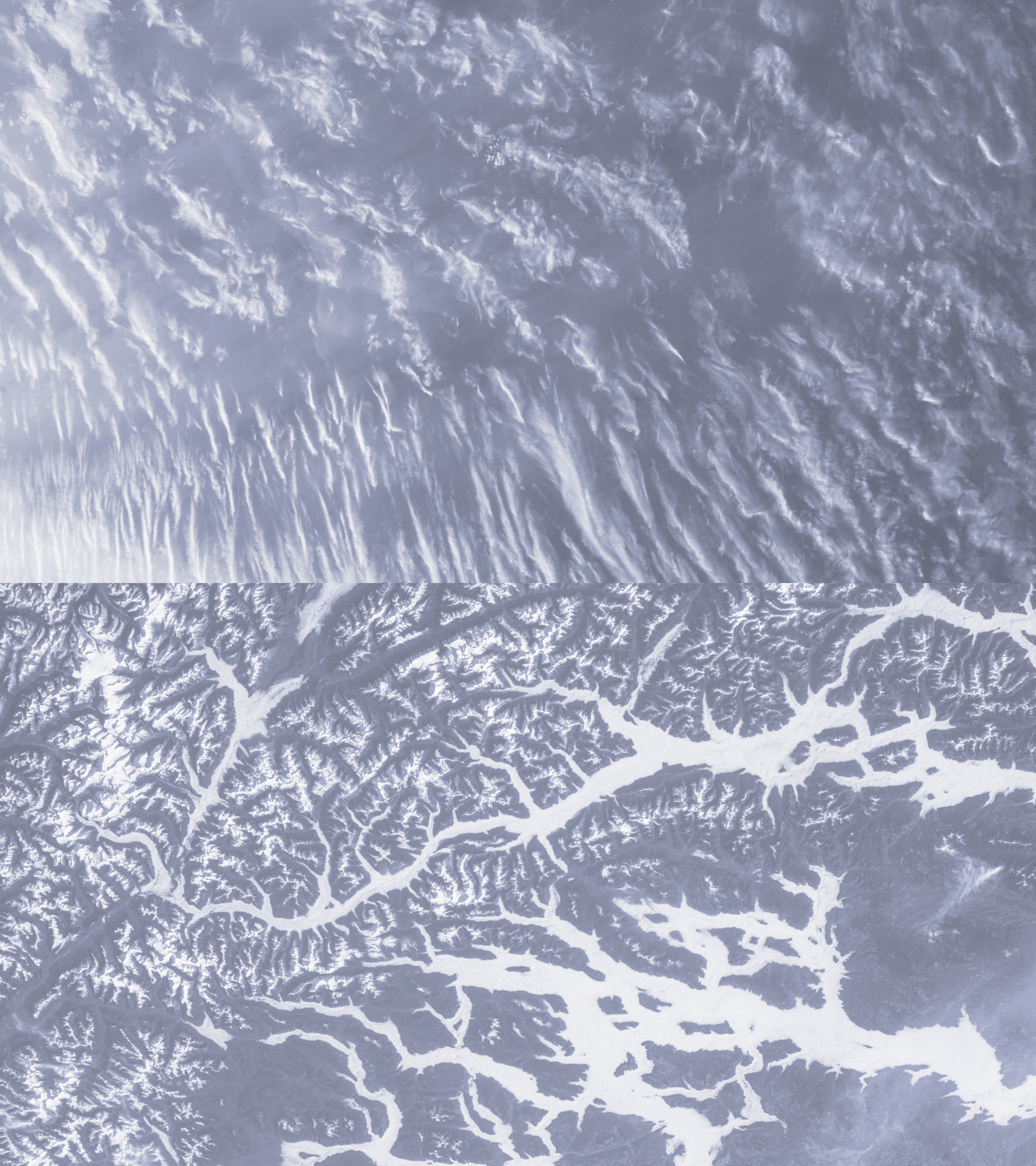
Dr. Roman Krznaric, a social philosopher at the University of Oxford, points out that our destructive behavior patterns stem from our era's extreme short-sightedness<sup>2</sup>.

We are trapped in the narrow span of the "now," treating the future as a distant colony, continually offloading our problems onto those who will live there. Humans tend to prioritize small, immediate rewards over larger, future gains. We need to expand our imagination about the future and embrace longer-term thinking.

We must ask ourselves if we can become "Good Ancestors" for future generations and act urgently based on that answer.

<sup>2</sup> Krznaric, Roman. 2020. The Good Ancestor: How to Think Long Term in a Short-Term World. WH Allen.





# PACT FOR THE FUTURE

In September 2024, world leaders gathered at the United Nations "Summit for the Future," to adopt the "Pact for the Future"<sup>3</sup>.

In addition to addressing critical issues of peace and security, sustainable development, climate change, and digital cooperation, the Pact outlines commitment to ensure the meaningful participation of youth in global decision-making processes, including those within the UN.

The Pact includes the "Global Digital Compact" on global digital commons and AI governance, along with the "Declaration on Future Generations," which establishes principles, commitments, and actions to monitor the policy impact on future generations and safeguard their needs and interests.

This marks the first time world leaders have committed to take long-term thinking and the needs and interests of future generations into account in their decision-making.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations. 2024. "The Pact for the Future, Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations."

## HOPE AS A COMMITMENT TO THE FUTURE

"Inside the word, emergency is emerge," notes the American writer Rebecca Solnit, in her book, *Hope in the Dark*<sup>4</sup>. She argues that it is precisely in times of crisis that the potential for transformation arises.

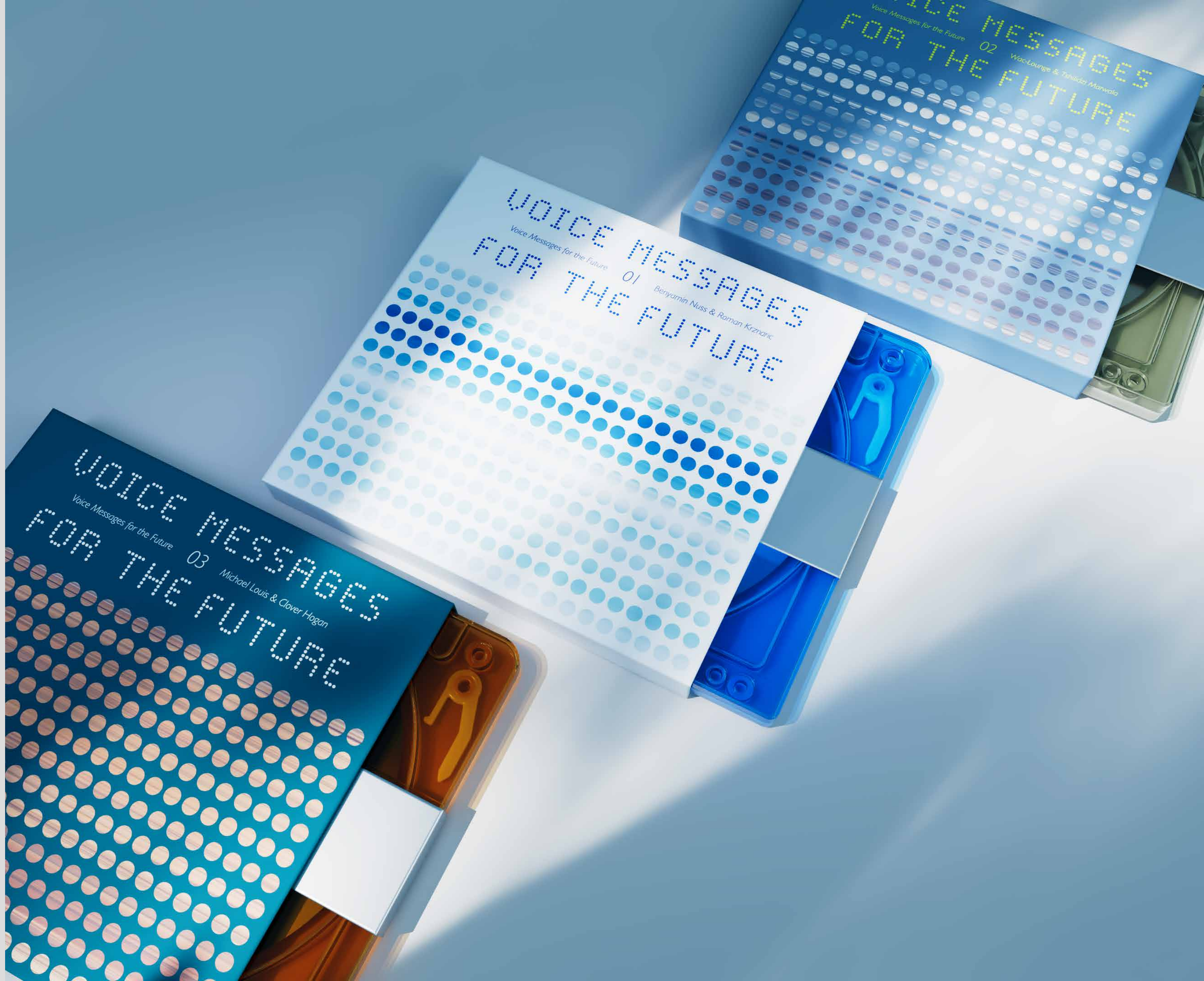
Hope is "the belief that what we do matters even though how and when it may matter, who and what it may impact are not things we can know beforehand. We may not, in fact, know them afterward either, but they matter all the same," she writes.

"To hope is to give yourself to the future, and that commitment to the future makes the present inhabitable."

<sup>4</sup> Solnit, Rebecca. 2016 (2004). *Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities*. Haymarket Books.



VOICE  
MESSAGES  
FOR  
THE FUTURE:  
3 MINI DISCS





DISC 01

Benyamin Nuss  
& Roman Krznaric

- I-1 Ruins (05:12)
- I-2 Another dawn (06:01)  
with the voice message by Roman Krznaric
- I-3 Transformation (04:19)
- I-4 Walk on (05:20)

Play ▶





VOICES

Roman Krznaric

VOICE

Benjamin Nuss's piano tetralogy (music made up of four pieces) begins with images of wounded land or a destroyed city. The tone is never despairing, inviting us to imagine a young person standing amidst the ruins. The music may depict this individual undergoing inner transformation, gradually expanding their perspective through deep introspection and small realizations.

In sync with the delicate unfolding of the piano music, social philosopher Roman Krznaric's voice message highlights how our modern world, trapped in short-term thinking, is "colonizing the future." He emphasizes that reversing this trend requires embracing long-term thinking.



voice

Roman Krznaric

Roman Krznaric is a social philosopher who writes about the power of ideas to create change. His internationally bestselling books including The Good Ancestor, Empathy, The Wonderbox and Carpe Diem Regained, have been published in more than 25 languages. He is Senior Research Fellow at Oxford University's Centre for Eudaimonia and Human Flourishing and founder of the world's first Empathy Museum. His latest book, published in July 2024, is History for Tomorrow: Inspiration from the Past for the Future of Humanity. Roman is a member of the Club of Rome and a Research Fellow of the Long Now Foundation.



music

Benjamin Nuss

Born in Germany, Benjamin possesses a wide range of skills as a pianist and composer. While collaborating with renowned orchestras such as the London Symphony Orchestra and the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, he has recorded numerous albums under his own name, including two solo albums released from Deutsche Grammophon. He continues to perform classical, jazz, and contemporary music throughout Europe and captivates audiences with his exceptional talent and versatility.



## *The Voice Message from Roman Krznaric*

My name is Roman Krznaric. I'm a social philosopher and I'm a writer.

What is the nature of our current planetary crisis?

Well, I believe we live in the age of the “Tyranny of the Now,” an era of chronic short-termism where our politicians can barely see beyond the next election or the latest opinion poll, where businesses find it hard to see beyond the quarterly report. Where, as individuals, we're looking at our phones and clicking the “Buy Now” button.

We urgently need to have a more long-term vision to deal with multiple problems. We need to be planning for the next pandemic on the horizon or dealing with inequalities which get passed on from generation to generation or thinking about risks from new technologies like AI and genetic engineering.

But, crucially, we must be thinking long-term about the ecological crisis, about climate change and biodiversity loss and ocean acidification. And all these things are here with us now, but they are getting worse and worse, year on year, decade on decade.

I believe we need to stop colonizing the future, in other words, we need to stop dumping our ecological and technological problems on the generations of tomorrow and start acting with urgency today. We need to become “Good Ancestors,” so we are remembered well by the generations to come.

How can we do it?

We can do it first by developing “Cathedral Thinking” by having a long-term vision where we engage in projects which go

beyond our own careers or our own lifetimes, like those who built the first cathedrals in mediaeval Europe, who knew they may take years or even decades to be completed. It's cathedral thinking which gave us the Great Wall of China, has allowed us to voyage into space or allowed the creation of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, collecting millions of seeds in an indestructible rock bunker that's designed to last a thousand years.

The second thing we need is intergenerational justice. We need to fight for the legal rights of current and future generations for a clean and healthy atmosphere. There's an organization in the United States doing this called Our Children's Trust. We need to have campaigns around the world to give tomorrow's generations legal and constitutional rights.

And the third thing we need is to remember the power of disruptive movements. All through history movements for change have sometimes broken the rules, from those who campaigned against slavery in the 19th century to those who fought for civil rights in the 1960s. Today's ecological movements need to remember they're part of long tradition of successful disruptive movements that have brought about change.

Finally, I would say we always have to act as if change is possible. Those who fought against British colonialism in India knew that their task would be almost impossible, but they acted as if they could create change and they did. So let us always act as if we can transform the world.



DISC 02

Wac-Lounge  
& Tshilidzi Marwala

- 2-1 The Woods, His Voice (07:33)
- 2-2 Banksia Rose (07:33)  
with the voice message by Tshilidzi Marwala
- 2-3 Sunken Blue (04:20)
- 2-4 Hollow Wheel (05:52)

Play ▶





IMAGES

Tshilidzi Marwala

VOICE

Wac-Lounge stands amidst the forest, attuned to the rustling leaves and birdsong. Gradually, he begins to play his modular synthesizers, as if to start a dialogue with nature. The sense of harmony with life expressed in each piece reminds us of an alternative vision of technology, one that empowers humans to reconnect with nature.

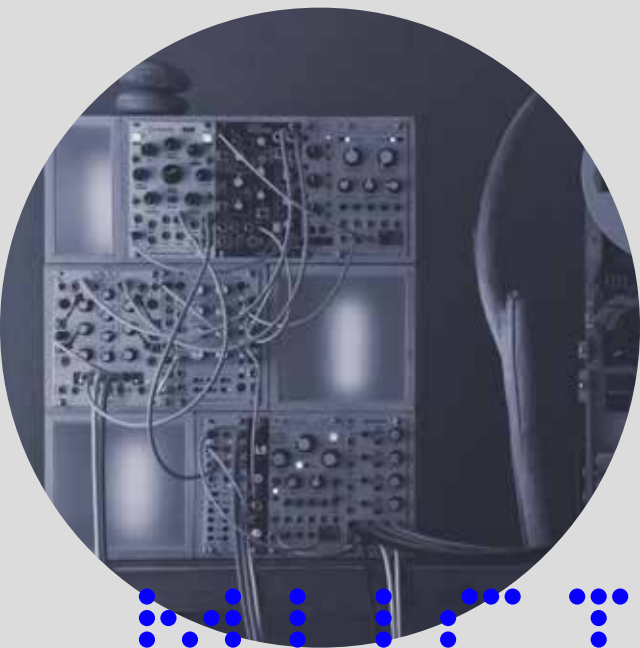
Amidst the serene soundscape created by the synthesizer, the voice message from Tshilidzi Marwala, Rector of the United Nations University, speaks about the "Pact for the Future" and the "Declaration on Future Generations." He calls on young people to pave the way for sustainable growth.



voice

Tshilidzi Marwala

Prof. Tshilidzi Marwala is the Rector of the United Nations University and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations. Prior to taking up the role of UNU Rector in 2023, he served as Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of Johannesburg (South Africa) from 2018 through 2023. Prof. Marwala is a member of the UN Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board and the author of more than 25 books. Among the awards that he has received are the Order of Mapungubwe (South Africa's highest honour) and the Academy of South Africa's Science-for-Society Gold Medal.



music

Wac-Lounge

Wac-Lounge is a solo artistic project by Hideaki Waku. As part of "eureka!" an electronic music unit, he released CD and vinyl works from a Germany-based label. He made a tour in three cities including Frankfurt and Berlin and provided a number of music to fashion brands (like BALLY) and collective audio projects. In January 2023, the NTS Radio London aired an hour of Wac-Lounge music mix. The COVID crisis inspired him to publish countless audio-visual installations on Instagram, featuring modular synthesizers and tape recorders.



## The Voice Message from Tshilidzi Marwala

I have sought to understand how we can harness technology to build a better future. Today our world is at a crossroads.

Climate change, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion are not distant concerns; they are immediate crises, destabilizing the very systems that sustain life. Addressing these challenges requires bold collective action across the world, transcending disciplines, borders, and generations.

The Pact for the Future adopted by UN member states in September 2024 is a groundbreaking step towards strengthening multilateral cooperation. Along with it, the Declaration on the Future Generations represents an unprecedented commitment and recognition that the policies that we enact today will shape the lives of those yet to be born. For the first time, world leaders have united towards a long-term vision that deliberately safeguards and supports the needs of future generations.

While I have spent much of my career focused on artificial intelligence, I firmly believe that addressing planetary crises is, at its core, a human challenge. Technology can and must support us, but it is your engagement, your ideas, and your local knowledge that will drive meaningful transformation. By taking part in this initiative, you are already playing a crucial role in shaping the future.

The next generations of leaders will not wait for others to act; they will lead. The Pact for the Future is a pledge for world leaders to listen to youths, to involve youths in decision making, and to work together with youths to build a more just and sustainable future. Planetary Boundaries are not about the limits to growth but about growth within the limits.

I commend you for your dedication and encourage you to keep innovating, collaborating, and leading the way towards a future of sustainable growth within the limits of our shared planet. That future is not only possible but essential.

## Wac-Lounge Patch notes

### 2-1

Field recordings = Zoom H6 & SSH-6(capsule)  
Echoed random granular voices = Hector(Plaits clone) processed by Beads & Hector(Delay) sequenced by Hector(Marbles clone) clocked by Steppy  
Echoed rhythmic voices = Hector(Plaits clone) processed by Hector(Delay) sequenced by Hector(Marbles clone) enveloped by Hector(ADSR)  
Synth lead voice = Ensemble Oscillator modulation & sequenced by Flame C-3mk2  
Reverse E.piano voice = Disting triggered by Steppy  
Master clock = Hector(LFO)

### 2-2

Echoed bell voice = Rings processed by Mimeophon(clocked by Steppy) sequenced by Mob of Emus CH3  
Granular ambient voice = Mob of Emus CH2 processed by Beads & Disting(Tape delay) sequenced by Mob of Emus CH4 slew limiter A-184-1  
Echoed arpeggio voice = Mob of Emus CH1 processed by Hector(Delay) sequenced by Flame Chord Machine clock & program changed by Steppy enveloped by MATHS  
Synth lead voice 1 = Hector(Plaits clone) processed by Hector(Delay) sequenced by Hector(Note sequencer triggered by Steppy)  
Synth lead voice 2 = Hector(Plaits clone) sequenced by Hector(Note sequencer triggered by Steppy) modulation & enveloped by Hector(ADSR)  
Synth lead voice 3 = Ensemble Oscillator modulation from Mob of Emus CH6 & MATHS sequenced by Flame C-3mk2  
Piano loop voice = Volca Sample

### 2-3

Brass-like voice = Ensemble Oscillator with modulation from A-145-4LFOs & MATHS sequenced by 2hp Arp clock controlled by Grids & Steppy  
Strings-like voice = Rings enveloped by Tides sequenced by Voltage block(CV) & Grids(Gate)  
Sine wave drone = Plaits-1 with modulation from MATHS & A-145-4LFOs Filtered by Model-D  
Bass drone = Plaits-2 with modulation from MATHS  
Reverse loop = VHS video tape  
Master clock = A-145-4LFOs

### 2-4

Wavetable voice = Plaits with modulation from A-118noise, A-145-4LFOs & MATHS sequenced by 2hp Arp  
Stereo Triangle voice = Tides sequenced by A-145-4LFO(CV) & MATHS(Gate) enveloped by A-140ADSR  
Polyphonic pad = Ensemble Oscillator sequenced by A-145-4LFO(MATHS Attenuated)  
Lo-Fi piano voice = Volca Sample  
Reverse loop = VHS tape  
Master clock = A-145-4LFOs



DISC 03

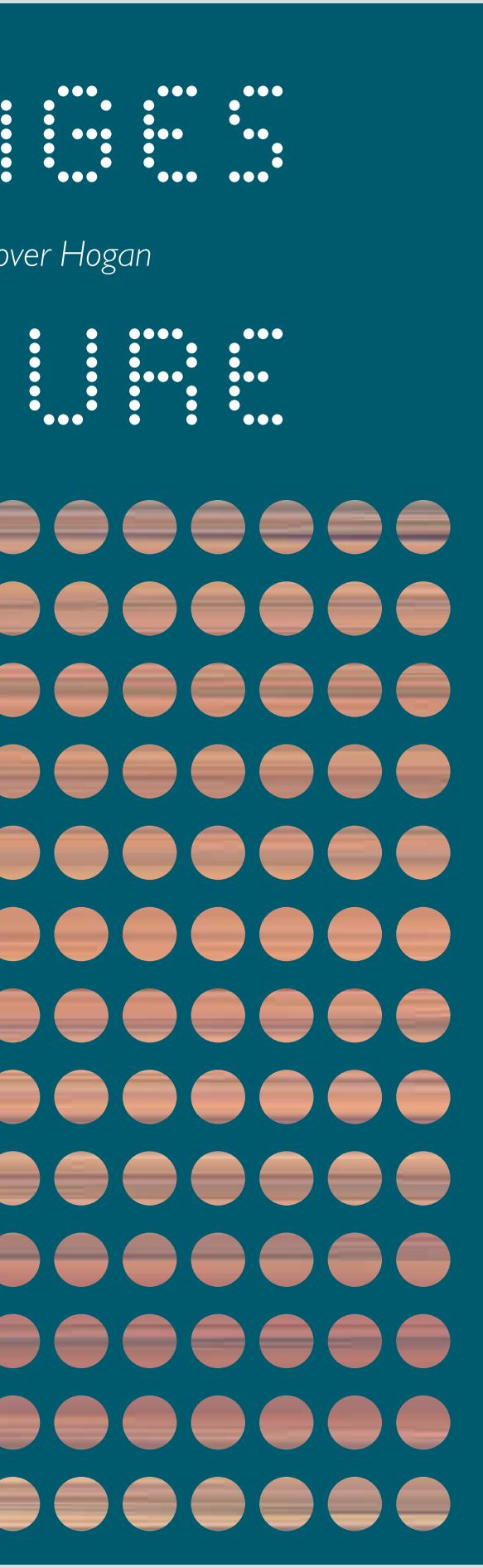
Michael Louis  
& Clover Hogan

- 3-1 There Comes A Time (04:29)
- 3-2 Hope 100 (05:52)
- 3-3 Slept-in / Part One (16:24)  
with the voice message by Clover Hogan

Play ▶







Michael Louis's sound journey begins with a reflection on life, evoking a sense of profound contentment. As you walk through streets or parks, driven by a joyful sensation, you will find yourself transported to a dark, windy forest. This dreamlike sanctuary offers a nostalgic place to reconnect with yourself and regain hope.

Climate activist Clover Hogan's voice message candidly addresses the stagnation of global climate action and political backlash. Yet, she reminds us, as Rebecca Solnit wrote, that recalling the struggles of women throughout history and envisioning the lives of those yet to be born renews our resolve to act.



voice

### *Clover Hogan*

Clover Hogan is a climate activist and the founding Executive Director of Force of Nature – the youth non-profit turning climate anxiety into action. She has worked alongside the world's leading authorities on sustainability, consulted within the boardrooms of Fortune 50 companies, and counselled heads of state. Clover has taken the stage with global change-makers such as Jane Goodall and Vandana Shiva, and interviewed the 14th Dalai Lama. Her TED talk, 'What to do when climate change feels unstoppable', has been viewed 2 million times.



music

### *Michael Louis*

Michael Louis Aaberg is an Oakland Native, a producer, musician and educator. He's the producer behind artist Goapele's 'Closer' and her musical director. He's played keys and recorded for Lalah Hathaway including her Grammy winning Live record. He's featured on Derrick Hodge's "Color of Noize" and Ambrose Akinmusire's "Origami Harvest" on Blue note Records. He has started his own label Tiger's Eye Music and his debut, "Slept On" as well as his latest release "Shapes & Shades" are both available on Bandcamp only. Michael resides in the Bay Area with his wife and daughter.



*The Voice Message from Clover Hogan*

I know many of us have been feeling overwhelmed. Frankly, I think it's hard not to, with the constant barrage of depressing headlines and with the doom scrolling.

Whenever I'm feeling anxious and unsettled about the future, I find it really helpful to actually look to the past. To think about the movements of people that have come before us and how they fought for many of the rights and freedoms that we perhaps take for granted today. I think about the suffragettes, the civil rights movement, anti-apartheid, queer liberation, the Stonewall uprising, and I think about the figureheads in these movements.

Emmeline Pankhurst, the suffragette. In her lifetime, it wasn't just that women were not allowed to vote in the UK, but most forms of rape were still legal. Rosa Parks. She was arrested and convicted for refusing to give up her seat on the bus to a white man. Or Marsha P Johnson, an eminent figure from the Stonewall uprising. In her lifetime, it was illegal to be gay, and it was illegal to be trans.

When I think of these activists — some whose names we know and many whose names we don't — , I'm reminded of just how much courage they had in the face of tremendous opposition. They teach us that change didn't come from the corridors of power. Yes, it was ratified by judges, by lawmakers, but change it came from the margins. It came from people who had been failed by the system. People who were disillusioned, who were angry, who were passionate and determined to create a better world, and to stand up in the face of injustice. Not when it was easy, but especially when it was hard.

These movements of people teach us that change is not inevitable. It is fought for and won. But also that change and progress is not always linear. And that is really what we're seeing now. You know, we're seeing a reversal in progress. And that is why it is more important than ever that we band together. And not when it's easy, but when it feels overwhelming.

And sometimes I find it comforting to think of myself not just in the context of my own, frankly, short lifespan, but in the context of this legacy. Because we inherit a legacy of activism from previous generations. And I take action today as a climate activist not just for the people that I love and the places that I love today, but for future generations because I want generations that are growing up today or even generations not yet born to be able to look back on their ancestors, just as we look back on people-powered movements of the 1900s. I want them to look back on the people today and know that we did everything in our power.

And not because we knew we would win... Frankly, we don't know... Or because we thought my drop is going be the drop in the bucket to tip it over. But for no greater reason, because we knew it was the right thing to do.

*Michael Louis*    There Comes A Time

There comes a time  
When you want to be older  
There comes a time  
When you want to be bolder  
I love you more  
When it's over  
I love you more  
There comes a time when you're helpful  
There comes a time when you're doubtful  
I love your life more when you're spiteful  
I love you more  
There comes a time to wake up to what's  
happening  
There comes a time to get out of what's  
happening  
I love you more than what's happening  
I love you more  
There comes a time when you're near me  
There comes a time when you're near me  
A time that captures what we're after  
A time  
A time  
A time  
A time





Voice Messages

Music

Sound Engineering

The Digital Booklet

Production Support

Special Thanks to

Concept and Executive Direction

*Roman Krznaric, Tshilidzi Marwala, Clover Hogan*

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