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Jane Goodall: Population growth should be curbed

From Herald News Services March 25, 2010

Humans should have fewer babies to help the global battle against climate change, according to the renowned British primatologist and conservationist Jane Goodall.

Goodall, whose 1960s research on chimpanzees changed perceptions of relations between humans and animals, fears the controversial issue has slipped down the agenda in the debate about man's impact on the environment.

"It's very frustrating as people don't want to address this topic," said the 75-year-old English scientist. "It's our population growth that underlies just about every single one of the problems that we've inflicted on the planet.

"If there were just a few of us then the nasty things we do wouldn't really matter and Mother Nature would take care of it -- but there are so many of us," she said in an interview.

The answer, she says, is that "we should be talking about somehow curtailing human population growth."

Goodall is a patron of the Optimum Population Trust, a registered British charity that campaigns for population stabilization and a gradual decrease globally.

It argues for improved family planning and advocates that couples voluntarily "stop at two."

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