is not an insurmountable obstacle and, indeed, the involvement of stakeholders, particularly at the local scale, is essential. Even so, important elements of the assessment can and should be subjected to traditional peer review as part of a broader strategy to ensure the integrity and credibility of the findings.

E. Ayensu, D. van R. Claasen, M. Collins, A. Dearing, L. Fresco, M. Gadgil, H. Gitay, G. Glaser, C. Juma, J. Krebs, R. Lenton, J. Lubchenco, J. A. McNeely, H. A. Mooney, P. Pinstrup-Andersen, M. Ramos, P. Raven, W. V. Reid,* C. Samper, J. Sarukhán, P. Schei, J. G. Tundisi, R. T. Watson, Xu Guanhua, A. H. Zakri

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Ayensu *et al.*'s Policy Forum is right on the mark. A critical inclusion is consideration of resources essential to buffering vital life-supporting conditions for our species.

I have described a resource buffer theory: For every resource essential to a life form where a very small proportion is directly used for life processes of individuals, the vast remaining proportion of the resource is indispensable to maintain conditions under which the population as a whole can survive (*1*). For instance, although we need only about 1.5 or 2 liters of water per person per day to stay alive, the total human population needs the balance of the water resources in the atmosphere, oceans, ice, wetlands, and aquatic systems to buffer exigencies. These masses of water provide crucial functions by absorbing and redistributing energy and waste products from life forms; by shielding us against the atmosphere's fluctuations in gaseous content; and by transportation of and provision of conversion sites for nutrients. If such resources are despoiled, conditions for human life will inevitably deteriorate—my 1.5 to 2 liters of water won't save me.

Other resources that are disproportionately distributed in this manner include the atmosphere, oxygen, space, carbon, and even biodiversity itself. This broader view of the role of the "unused" portion of the resources critical to our continued existence must be included in the percentages of resource use, as Ayensu *et al.* suggest. International ecosystem assessment must include buffer reserves so that natural-resource policies recognize their role; accounting for resource buffers will substantially reduce the carrying capacity of the planet. Because we do not know specific quantities that constitute a sufficient buffer, policies must reflect and be built on the natural distribution and use of the world's resources.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

As described in the report "Identification of a mating type–like locus in the asexual pathogenic yeast *Candida albicans*" by C. M. Hull and A. D. Johnson (20 Aug., p. 1271), the *C. albicans* **a**1 sequence trace (330 base pairs) used in this work was obtained from the Stanford *C. albicans* Sequencing Project. The proper citation should have read, "Sequence data for *C. albicans* was obtained from the Stanford DNA sequencing and Technology Center website at http://www-sequence.stanford.edu/group/candida. Sequencing of *C. albicans* was accomplished with the support of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and Burroughs Wellcome Fund." The authors apologize for this oversight.