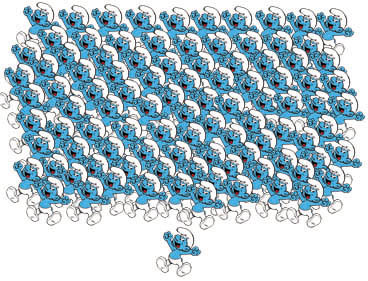
by [Ryan Somma](http://www.scq.ubc.ca/author/ryansomma/)

Our Earth is filled with finite resources that we, as the Human Race, exploit for personal gain. Oil, Fish Stocks, Forests, Clean Air, and water are just a few of the resources that nobody “owns,” but everybody needs in order to survive. However, in our current system, nobody who is taking away these natural resources from the whole of us has to pay back into the natural system. Thus, there is a great incentive to consume all of the available resources before somebody else gets to them, Garrett Hardin called this nuance the “Tragedy of the Commons.”

Let’s take Smurfs as a natural resource. There are 100 smurfs living in smurf village and they do not reproduce. Every Saturday in the 1980s, entertainment producers broadcast a show documenting the life and times of Smurf Village, and made money from the advertising revenue brought in from millions of viewers watching the show. The cartoon’s producers use the smurfs in the manufacture of intellectual goods.



Also every Saturday, Gargamel, the smurf’s antagonist, tries to catch the Smurfs so he can convert them into gold. Gargamel wants to use the smurfs in the manufacture of material goods.

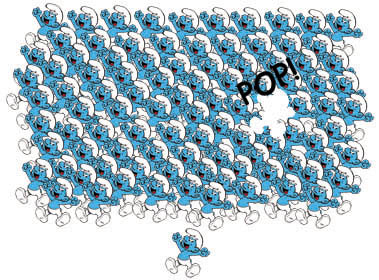
The material use of the smurf requires killing the smurf to convert it into gold [1]. Once a smurf is killed, it’s no longer available for other uses. So every time Gargamel consumes a smurf, he hurts the profitability of the Cartoon’s Producers. If Gargamel consumes all of the smurfs, the Cartoonists will be out of business.

According to Market Logic, no one owns the smurfs. Just as no one owns the oil underground, the fish in the sea, or the rainforests. No one owns these things, that is, until they pick them up to sell to other people. According to Market Logic that is.

In reality, the fact that Smurfs don’t belong to anybody means they belong to *everybody*. Everyone has the right to enjoy the Smurfs, just like everyone has the right to enjoy nature.

So what is the market value for a smurf?

Gold is valued at about $800 an ounce presently. If we make the generous assumption that a single smurf can be converted into a pound of gold, then that’s $12,800 a smurf! No wonder Gargamel wants the Smurfs so badly. It only costs him the time it takes to grab and process a Smurf to make a cool $12.8 grand! Cha-ching!



Gargamel’s profit means there are only 99 Smurfs left in the world for the rest of us to enjoy. We still have to figure in the smurfs’ profitability to the cartoon’s producers:

Let’s say the show earns the producers $1 Million dollars a week in advertising revenues. That means, dividing the entertainment effort across 100 smurfs, each smurf is worth $10,000 a week to the cartoon’s producers.

So Gargamel’s $12.8k one-time profit will cost the Smurf Cartoon $120k over the next year, as the production must now work one percent harder to find enough Smurf antics to fill a show’s content, and the remaining 99 smurfs are all now worth $10,101 each to the producers [2].

So in order to prevent Gargamel from smashing all the Smurfs into gold, or Coal Plants from giving them neurological disorders by dumping mercury all over them, or farms from polluting their water with run off fertilizer we need to establish a market system that approximates the value of smurfs. We need Smurf Credits, which are like Carbon Credits, only cuter.

Market Logic needs to play by the rules of Real logic, which tells us that potable water, clean air, biodiversity, coal, oil, and countless other natural resources are things those of us living on spaceship Earth all require to survive. They are our birthright.

The Smurfs belong to everyone. They’re our smurfs. The Gargamels aren’t playing fair. They’re ripping us off, and we have to stand up for ourselves.