

OVERSHOOT



Overshoot, or ecological deficit, is defined as taking more than nature can renew in terms of both sources and sinks.

- Overshoot for **sources**: Taking more resources than the earth can provide, or using them faster than they regenerate.

Ex: Harvesting forests faster than they can grow back.

- Overshoot for **sinks**: Putting more wastes into the ecosystem than the earth can absorb.

Ex: Putting more carbon into the atmosphere than the ecosystem can absorb.

Overshoot means drawing down natural capital rather than living off the interest- the 'flow' of resources and services, such as the growth in forests, the cleansing of water, and the absorption of air pollution.

There are 1.89 hectares (4.5 acres) of ecologically productive land available for each person on earth. Current average usage is about 2.2 hectares (5.5 acres), resulting in 20% total overshoot.

