



Earth Overshoot Day

 drishtias.com/printpdf/earth-overshoot-day

The Earth Overshoot Day fell on **29th July, 2019**. The day marks the **date when humanity's demand for ecological resources** (fish and forests, for instance) and services in a given year **exceeds what the Earth can regenerate** in that year.

- The concept of Earth Overshoot Day was first **conceived by Andrew Simms** of the UK think tank New Economics Foundation, which partnered with Global Footprint Network in **2006** to launch the **first global Earth Overshoot Day campaign**.
 - At that time, Earth Overshoot Day fell in October.
 - **World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)**, the world's largest conservation organization, has participated in Earth Overshoot Day since 2007.
- It is computed by Global Footprint Network by **dividing the planet's biocapacity** (the amount of ecological resources Earth is able to generate that year), **by humanity's Ecological Footprint** (humanity's demand for that year), **and multiplying by 365**, the number of days in a year:

Earth Overshoot Day = (Planet's Biocapacity / Humanity's Ecological Footprint) x 365

Global Footprint Network is an **international non profit organization** founded in the year 2003. It's key strategy has been to make available robust Ecological Footprint data.

The Ecological Footprint is a metric that comprehensively compares human demand on nature against nature's capacity to regenerate.

Earth has overshoot its resources budget

Humanity has used up this year's allowance of natural resources by July 29, a Global Footprint Network study says

EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY

Calculated since 1986 by the think tank Global Footprint Network, Earth Overshoot Day is the day on which humanity's consumption of resources, such as water, soil and clean air, for the year far exceed Earth's capacity to regenerate those resources in the same year

EARLIEST IN TWO DECADES

The 2019 Earth Overshoot Day is the earliest ever with the Day moving up by two months every year in the past two decades. In 1993, it fell on October 21, in 2003 on September 22, and in 2017 on August 2

1.75 PLANETS REQUIRED

At current consumption pace, the equivalent of 1.75 planets would be required to produce enough to meet humanity's needs

SEVERE CONSEQUENCES

According to the report, the cost of this global ecological overspending is evident in the form of "deforestation, soil erosion, biodiversity loss, or the buildup of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere"



INCREASED CO2 EMISSIONS

A major cause of the date falling earlier and earlier was growing amounts of CO2 emissions which contributes to "climate change and more frequent extreme weather events"

"We have only got one Earth - this is the ultimately defining context for human existence. We can't use 1.75 (earths) without destructive consequences."

Source: ToI