

The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review

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Chapter 4

Human Impact on the Biosphere

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4.6 Technology and Institutions

The expression $(Ny/\alpha_x + Ny/\alpha_z)$ is the global ecological footprint in absolute terms. As noted earlier, the Global Footprint Network (Wackernagel and Beyers, 2019) defines the footprint instead as the ratio of the demand to supply; that is, $(Ny/\alpha_x + Ny/\alpha_z)/G(S)$. The network's latest estimate (2020) is 1.6, which they read as a demand that can only be satisfied on a sustainable basis by, as a minimum, 1.6 Earths (Lin et al. 2020).¹⁴⁸ The estimate is very rough, but the point