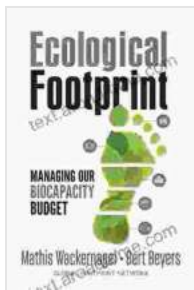


Ecological Footprint: Managing Our Biocapacity Budget

The ecological footprint is a measure of how much of the Earth's resources we are using. It is calculated by dividing the total amount of resources we use by the amount of resources the Earth can regenerate. If our ecological footprint is greater than the Earth's biocapacity, we are using more resources than the Earth can regenerate, which is unsustainable.



Ecological Footprint: Managing Our Biocapacity

Budget by Mathis Wackernagel

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 8870 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 291 pages



The ecological footprint is a valuable tool for understanding our impact on the environment and for making decisions about how to live more sustainably. It can help us to:

- Identify the areas where we are using the most resources
- Set goals for reducing our ecological footprint
- Track our progress towards those goals

Ecological Footprint Basics

The ecological footprint is calculated using a variety of factors, including:

- The amount of land we use to grow food, raise animals, and produce goods
- The amount of water we use
- The amount of energy we consume
- The amount of waste we produce

The ecological footprint is expressed in global hectares (gha). A global hectare is a measure of how much land is required to produce the resources we use and to absorb the waste we produce. The average global footprint is 2.8 gha per person.

The Earth's Biocapacity

The Earth's biocapacity is the amount of resources that the Earth can regenerate each year. Biocapacity is determined by a variety of factors, including:

- The amount of land available for agriculture
- The amount of water available for drinking, irrigation, and industrial use
- The amount of energy that can be produced from renewable sources
- The amount of waste that can be absorbed by the environment

The Earth's biocapacity is not static. It can change over time due to factors such as climate change, land degradation, and pollution.

Our Impact on the Environment

Our ecological footprint is currently greater than the Earth's biocapacity. This means that we are using more resources than the Earth can regenerate, which is unsustainable. This is having a number of negative impacts on the environment, including:

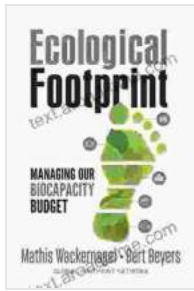
- Climate change
- Water scarcity
- Deforestation
- Pollution
- Biodiversity loss

Managing Our Biocapacity Budget

We need to reduce our ecological footprint if we want to live sustainably. There are a number of things we can do to achieve this, including:

- Reduce our consumption of resources
- Switch to renewable energy sources
- Reduce our waste production
- Protect and restore natural ecosystems

The ecological footprint is a valuable tool for understanding our impact on the environment and for making decisions about how to live more sustainably. By reducing our ecological footprint, we can help to create a more sustainable future for ourselves and for generations to come.



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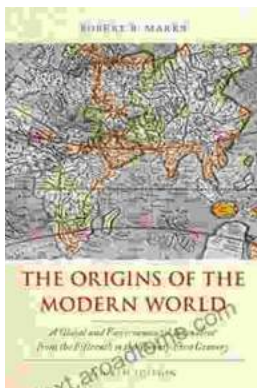
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