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To the point!

Cross-Asset- and Strategy-Research

# The world is not enough

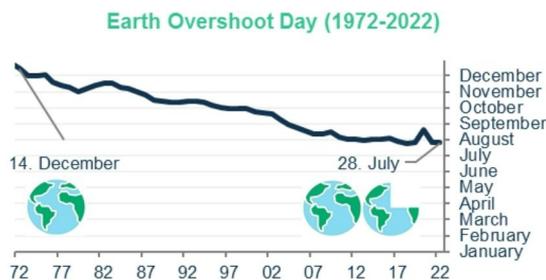
Humanity is not making enough progress on sustainability

Yesterday was the so-called "[Earth Overshoot Day](#)" (EOD). Between New Year's Day and yesterday mankind consumed as many resources as our planet is capable of regenerating in the course of an entire year. As of today, we are living on credit.

Putting it differently, the global population acts as if there were 1.75 planets on which we could draw. Mankind therefore lives far beyond its means, because the planetary boundaries are binding.

Between 1994 and 2014, the availability of natural resources per capita decreased by [40%](#) worldwide. There is little to suggest that this trend has been halted, let alone reversed, since then.

For us in Germany, by the way, the imbalance is even more pronounced. Our national Earth Overshoot Day was already at the beginning of May. If the entire population of the world were to live our lifestyle, three Earths would be needed.



Unfortunately, the problem of over-consumption of natural resources has not improved in recent decades. As the figure shows, we were still roughly in equilibrium in the early seventies. The EOD was just before Christmas.

By the time the James Bond movie, from which the title of this edition of To-The-Point! has been taken showed in theaters in



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To satisfy mankind's current lifestyle in the long run, we would need 1.75 planets

Between 1994 and 2014, natural resources per capita have decreased by 40% worldwide

1999, the EOD had advanced to the end of September (equivalent to the consumption of 1.35 Earths).

Since the financial crisis, the seemingly inexorable forward movement of the EOD date has slowed. That's encouraging on the surface. But it does not mean the situation is improving. It only shows that the process of degradation of our resource stewardship has slowed. So we are still a long way from achieving anything resembling real sustainability.

### What to do?

If we do not want to rely on the interplanetary colonization fantasies of an Elon Musk, the only thing left is a prudent use of the available resources our planet is able to provide us with.

[There are numerous starting points for](#) counteracting the worrying trend of overexploitation of our planet.

- By cutting food waste in half, the EOD can be pushed back 13 days toward the end of the year.
- Halve fossil fuel emissions: 93 days.
- Application of existing technologies to increase energy efficiency: 21 days.
- Reforestation 350 million hectares: 8 days.
- Retrofit energy efficiency measures in multifamily buildings: 5 days.
- Halving global car traffic: 13 days.

One thing is clear: planetary sustainability can only be secured through a large number of coordinated activities. Germany should lead the way and set clear targets on how far we want to move the EOD backwards again and through which interventions we plan to get there.

Continuing without change leads us down a precarious path that will lead into a dead end. Quite literally.

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Many intervention points exist to counteract the overuse of our planet

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