

Multimedia Library Collection: Periodicals

"Human Overpopulation: The Elephant in the Greenhouse"

Tiffin, Helen



© Brasil2 on iStock. All rights reserved.

The copyright holder reserves, or holds for their own use, all the rights provided by copyright law, such as distribution, performance, and creation of derivative works.

Tiffin, Helen. "Human Overpopulation: The Elephant in the Greenhouse." *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review*, no. 3 (May 2023).

Human overpopulation has been repeatedly dismissed as a fundamental cause of climate change in favour of other issues, particularly overconsumption in the Global North, leading to land, water, and air pollution, biodiversity loss, and accelerated extinctions of other species. Population growth

Periodicals Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal

"Human Overpopulation: The Elephant in the Greenhouse"

Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/9642

Print date: 22 December 2025 06:37:39

has been ignored in favour of blaming the pursuit of prosperity: the acquisition of wealth and goods, the myth of unending resources, the shibboleths of "development" and "progress," technology-driven accumulation, and the capitalist orthodoxy of relentless economic "improvement." Rampant individualism and the increased privatisation of local or national "commons" continue to catalyse overconsumption, which is, of course, also a major driver of climate change. (From the article)

This article was originally published in *Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review*. *Springs* is an online publication featuring peer-reviewed articles, creative nonfiction, and artistic contributions that showcase the work of the Rachel Carson Center and its community across the world.

2023 Helen Tiffin



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License. This license refers only to the text and does not include any image rights.

Please see captions in the PDF for individual licenses.

Download:

PDF:

https://www.environmentandsociety.org/sites/default/files/key_docs/tiffin_human-overpopulation_springs_2023_1.pdf

Related links:

• Springs: The Rachel Carson Center Review https://springs-rcc.org

Websites linked in this text:

• https://springs-rcc.org/

Periodicals Collection, Multimedia Library, Environment & Society Portal "Human Overpopulation: The Elephant in the Greenhouse"

Source URL: http://www.environmentandsociety.org/node/9642

Print date: 22 December 2025 06:37:39