

EASAC 10th ANNIVERSARY

Brussels, 7th November 2011

**Science Advice and
Policy Making**

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Science advances have, in general made life better for everyone (e.g. life-expectancy at birth 50 years ago, was 46 years, today it is 68 years).

But these well-intended changes have created new problems for tomorrow's world.

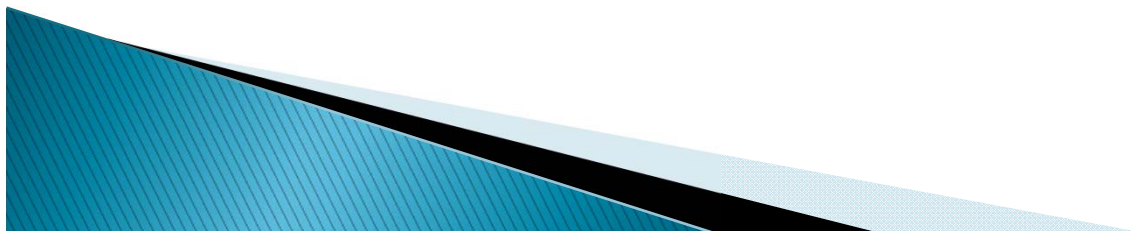
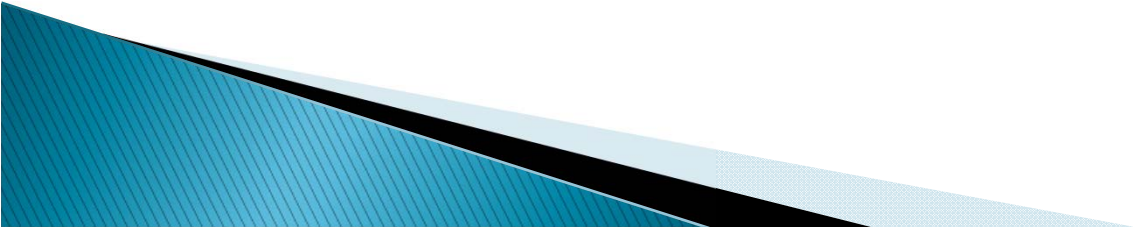
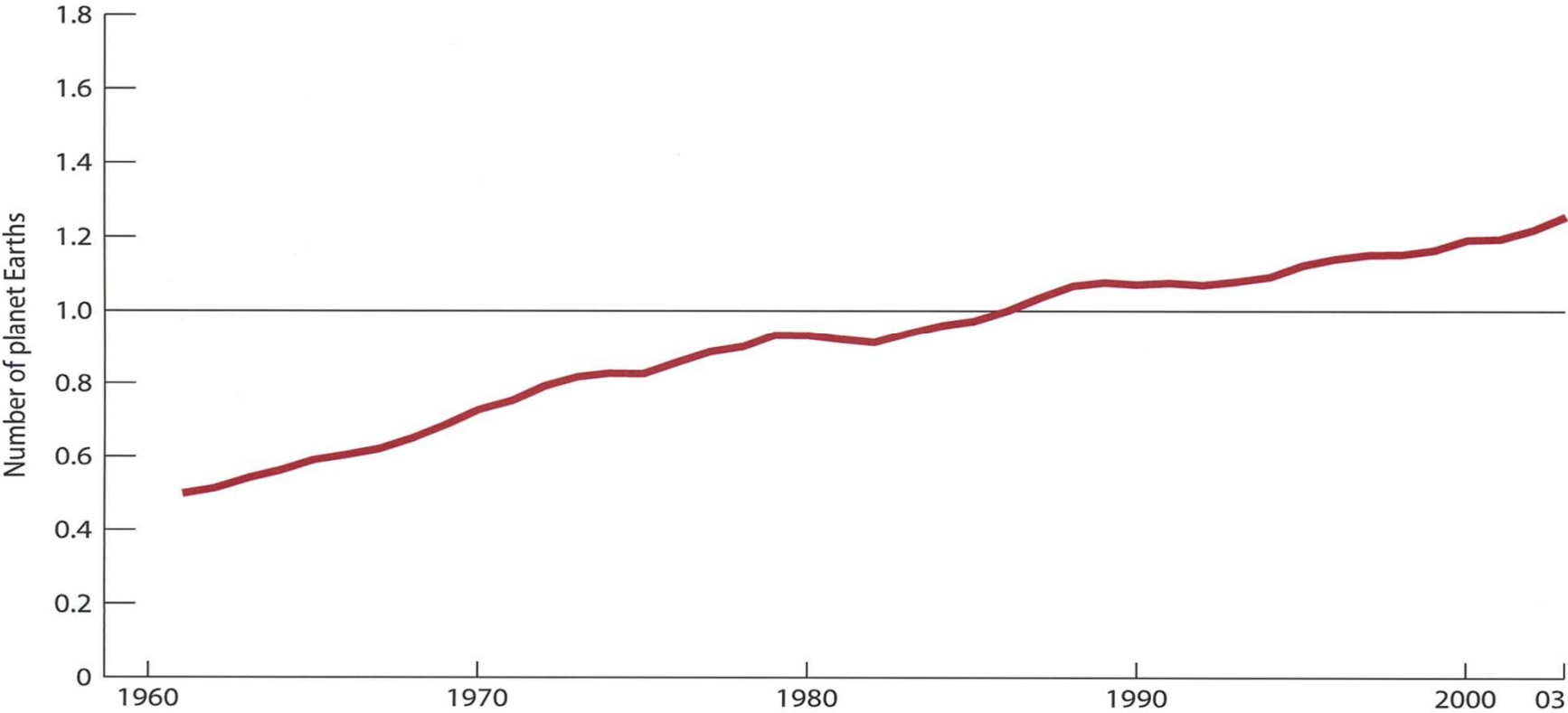
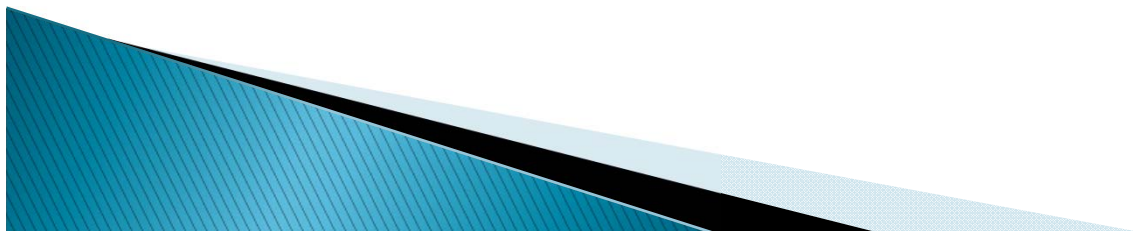


Fig. 2: HUMANITY'S ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT, 1961-2003

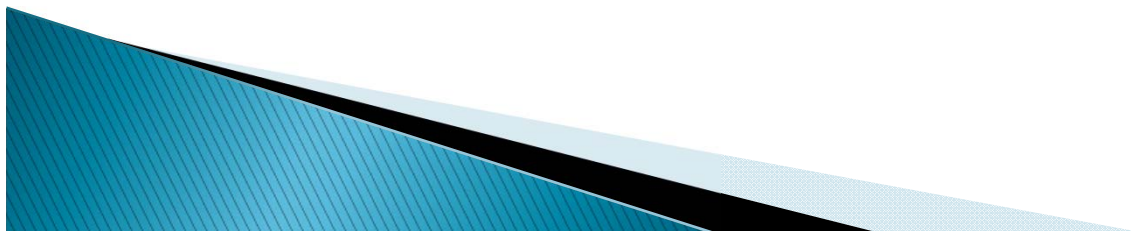


Ideally, science sets the stage. Upon this stage, a process of democratic debate and choice ensues.



Guidelines for Science Advice and Policy Making help set the stage

- ▶ Consult widely, soliciting dissenting views.
- ▶ Do not exclude people with special interests, but make these interests clear.
- ▶ Admit, indeed emphasise, uncertainties.
- ▶ ABOVE ALL, OPENNESS.



Problems in Implementing This Process

Recognise the fundamental distinction between:

- ▶ a process where science tells us the facts (and uncertainties), and
- ▶ a process where fixed beliefs or *a priori* judgements effectively constrain scientific research.



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