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Whither wildlife in an overpopulated world?

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Using existing crop plants and methods it may not be practicable to produce adequate food for more than four doublings of the world population, though the complete elimination of all land wildlife ... might allow two or three further doublings. (J.H. Fremlin, 1964)

Introduction

In the 50 years since Fremlin explored technical limits to the number of people that the world can support, the human population has burgeoned from three billion to more than seven billion people. The time taken for the population to double has increased slightly from the 37 years that Fremlin used as the basis for his calculations but, currently doubling every 50 years, the world population is clearly still on a fast upward trajectory. Rates of growth are generally higher in developing compared with developed parts of the world and are expected to contribute most to the increase in population size in future. Using different