

# What is Biological Carrying Capacity?

Biological carrying capacity is the maximum number of individuals of a species that can exist in a habitat indefinitely without threatening other species in that habitat. Factors such as available food, water, cover, prey and predator species will affect biological carrying capacity. Unlike [cultural carrying capacity](#), biological carrying capacity cannot be influenced by public education

When a species exceeds its biological carrying capacity, the species is overpopulated

## **Examples:**

Some scientists believe that humans have exceeded their biological carrying capacity.

# What is Cultural Carrying Capacity?

**Definition:** Cultural carrying capacity is the maximum number of individuals of a species that the human population will tolerate. The number may or may not be the same as the species' [biological carrying capacity](#). Cultural carrying capacity depends on human attitudes towards a species, so it can be influenced by public education campaigns.

## **Examples:**

Hunting proponents argue that the deer have not reached their biological carrying capacity, but have reached their cultural carrying capacity.

<http://animalrights.about.com/od/wildlife/g/What-Is-Biological-Carrying-Capacity.htm>

<http://animalrights.about.com/od/wildlife/g/What-Is-Cultural-Carrying-Capacity.htm>