

Planetary Boundaries for Phosphorus perspective and suggestion

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Anthropogenic Excretion Surplus Indicator (AESI) — Conceptual Formulation

Total metabolic phosphorus production in region r over time t (kg P yr⁻¹):

$$E_P(r,t) = E_H(r,t) + E_L(r,t)$$

Human phosphorus excretion:

$$E_H = \text{Pop}(r,t) \times e_H(r,t)$$

Where:

Pop = human population (persons)

e_H = per-capita phosphorus excretion rate (kg P person⁻¹ yr⁻¹)

Livestock phosphorus excretion:

$$E_L = \sum_i [N_i(r,t) \times e_i]$$

Where:

N_i = number of animals of species i (head)

e_i = species-specific phosphorus excretion coefficient (kg P head⁻¹ yr⁻¹)

Anthropogenic Excretion Surplus Indicator:

$$\text{AESI}(r,t) = \max [0, E_P - R_WW - R_M - A_safe]$$

Where:

R_WW = phosphorus removed or recovered in wastewater treatment systems (kg P yr⁻¹)

R_M = phosphorus captured via manure management and recovery technologies (kg P yr⁻¹)

A_safe = safe agronomic phosphorus assimilation capacity without increasing runoff or erosion risk (kg P yr⁻¹)

Normalized indicators:

$$\text{AESI_area} = \text{AESI} / A_region \text{ (kg P km}^{-2} \text{ yr}^{-1}\text{)}$$

$$\text{AESI_cap} = \text{AESI} / \text{Pop} \text{ (kg P person}^{-1} \text{ yr}^{-1}\text{)}$$

AESI provides a boundary-relevant estimate of the minimum metabolic phosphorus surplus that must be captured, redistributed, or prevented from entering aquatic systems.