

# MY ECOLOGICAL FOOT PRINT

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When any one kicks off any project or any activities we always map out the outcome before the project. This simple investigation is a must in the entire project. Because it indicates where are we. Indicates how we can proceed. It indicates what measures to be taken and what not to be taken.

Our goal of living an environmental lifestyle could only be achieved if we know how much we consume our own habitat. Generally this means locating or calculating our ecological foot print.

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In scientific terms ecological footprint can be defined as an analysis that compares human demand on nature with the biosphere's ability to regenerate resources and provide services.

Most of us have a huge ecological footprint than what we think. This is the main reason we have to contribute to the environmental degradation. Let's consider a human degradation to the environment.

The ecological footprint accounting method at the national level is described in the Living Planet Report or in more detail in Global Footprint Network's. The national accounts committee of Global Footprint Network has also published a research agenda on how the method will be improved.

There have been differences in the methodology used by various ecological footprint studies. Examples include how sea area should be counted, how to account for fossil fuels, how to account for nuclear power (many studies simply consider it to have the same ecological footprint as fossil fuels) which data sources used, when average global numbers or local numbers should be used when looking at a specific area, how space for biodiversity should be included, and how imports/exports should be accounted for. However, with the new footprint standards, the methods are converging.

In 2003, Jason Venetoulis, PhD, Carl Mas, Christopher Gudoet, Dahlia Chazan, and John Talberth -a team of researchers at Redefining- developed Footprint 2.0. Footprint 2.0 offers a series of theoretical and methodological improvements to the standard footprint approach. The primary advancements were to include the

entire surface of the Earth in biocapacity estimates, allocate space for other (non-human) species, change the basis of equivalence factors from agricultural land to net primary productivity (NPP), and change the carbon component of the footprint, based on global carbon models. The advancements were peer reviewed and published in several books, and have been well received by teachers, researchers, and advocacy organizations concerned about the ecological implications of humanity's footprint.

