

3 Ecological footprint

Definition and scope

The per person ecological footprint is a nation's total ecological footprint divided by the total population of the nation. To live within the means of our planet's resources, the world's ecological footprint would have to equal the available per person biocapacity of our planet, which currently stands at 1.7 global hectares. This means that, where a nation's per person ecological footprint is 6.8 global hectares, its citizens are demanding four times the resources and wastes our planet is able to regenerate and absorb into the atmosphere (see website below).

Hence this indicator measures how much of the regenerative capacity of the biosphere is occupied by human demand for resources and services (at country or individual level), compared to the amount and distribution of capacity available planet-wide.

Factsheet rationale

It measures the overall pressure placed on ecosystems by human production, trade and consumption of food, energy, goods and services; could be used for communication around overall SCP progress.

Current situation and progress in the Mediterranean region

The ecological footprint of the Mediterranean region countries is growing continuously and chronically, and there are no signs of improvements. It can be stated that all the Mediterranean region countries exceed the global average for the per person ecological footprint (with the exception of Syria and Morocco, both at the limit of 1.7 global hectares per person). The worsening ecological deficit throughout the region is due to the fact that the biocapacity improvements needed to accommodate the growing consumption demand require the protection and conservation of the environment (ecosystem services). Consumption and production patterns are therefore producing a chronic impact on the environment, necessitating a transformation in the Mediterranean region.

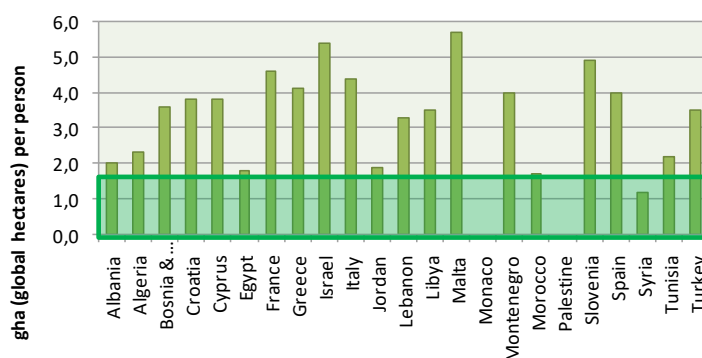
Sources
Global Footprint Network

Links
<http://www.footprintnetwork.org>

Key message

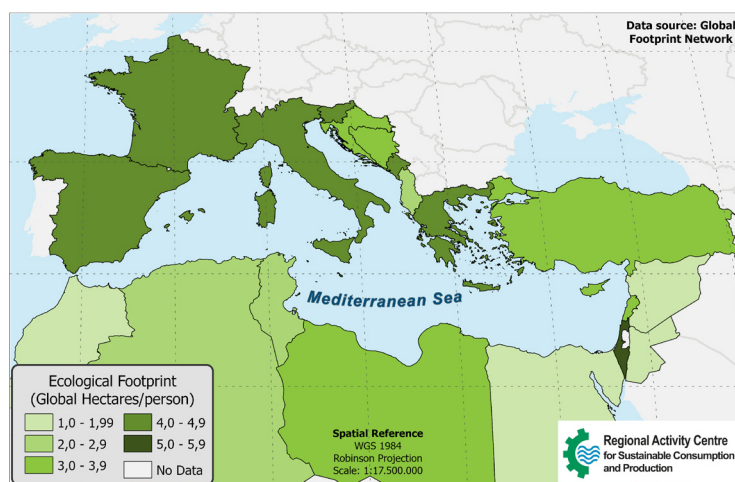
The Mediterranean region is in ecological deficit due to an excessive ecological footprint, which exhibits a continuous upward trend.

Ecological Footprint (2017)



Note: Where the global average of 1.7 hectares per person is exceeded, this indicates an imbalance between human extraction of resources (footprint) and the ability of natural capital to renew itself (biocapacity), creating an ecological deficit that is unsustainable.

Ecological Footprint (2017)



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