

ONE-PLANET ALLIANCE

Stewards of the
National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts
to Build a Successful Future



Recognizing, valuing, and protecting biological capital of the Earth as humanity's **most critical asset**.

OVERCOMING PARALYSIS: MEASURE WHAT YOU TREASURE



Humanity seems paralyzed as it faces the obvious: the human enterprise has become so large that it is overwhelming the planet's life support systems. Symptoms include climate change, biodiversity loss, freshwater scarcity, and pollution, all leading to social conflicts. While overuse of our natural capital is possible for some time, it fundamentally puts at risk not just economic performance, but the ability for all people to thrive.

The way out starts by recognizing that this material bottleneck is rooted in the constraints of our planet's biological capacity. It is in the self-interest of countries and cities to address the squeeze. Inaction is self-defeating and becoming a security risk.

With the challenges now recognized by international accords like the Paris Climate Agreement, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Ecological Footprint accounts are increasingly being applied by governments and businesses as a means of finding solutions. Examples include Slovenia and Montenegro's sustainable development plan, Ecuador's national development strategy, Schneider Electric's internal and external communication, CBD's biodiversity indicators, and the EEA's environmental indicator system.



THE RESPONSE: THE ONE-PLANET ALLIANCE

The One-Planet Alliance, with its initial 5-8 member-countries, focuses on what shapes the future: current decisions. Effective decisions require robust information. This is what the One Planet Alliance's unique National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts deliver.

These accounts enable insights and tools that sharpen governments' ability to react to resource constraints and climate change, explore and communicate the costs and benefits of policies, and make the necessary decisions that ensure their countries' own long-term success through resource security.

BUILDING THE PLATFORM FOR NATIONAL FOOTPRINT AND BIOCAPACITY ACCOUNTS

York University in Toronto and Global Footprint Network are gathering a coalition of leading countries that owns and produces independent & transparent National Footprint and Biocapacity Accounts, supported by a solid global academic network. The goal is to generate results that inform public and private decision-making in an unbiased way.



One fundamental requirement for sustainability is to demand less from our

planet than the planet's ecosystems can renew. Ecological Footprint accounting focuses on this very requirement. Based on UN statistics, it tracks human demand on ecosystems in comparison to what ecosystems can renew. When demand exceeds renewal, ecological overshoot occurs. This leads to the degradation of natural capital, which eventually erodes economic and social welfare.



Ecological Footprint accounts link the planetary context to countries, cities and individuals' decisions.

Since the early 1990s, these detailed accounts have been the leading metric to evaluate the 'one-planet compatibility' of projects, cities and countries. They track this by adding up all the biologically productive land and water areas a person, project or population uses to produce the resources it consumes, to house its infrastructure, and to absorb its waste, given prevailing technology and resource management practices. The accounts combine clear communication with scientific validity, as they are based on a specific and relevant research question, and are subject to rigorous testing.



Gain privileged and timely access to a globally consistent, scientifically robust data base on the resource performance of countries. With ecosystem regeneration being the most limiting material factor of economies, this database helps identify potential conflicts, economic challenges, and risky trends for your country, your trade partners and the whole world.



Participate in advancing this central database, to ensure improvements to the accounts increase their accuracy and relevance. Draw on global experiences of others working at the interface of science and policy.



Learn together with your colleagues in the alliance about current thinking and best practices around the world to address resource security and bring those lessons back to administrators, economic planners, and decision-makers at home.



Boost your country's reputation as a true sustainability leader. Strengthen your credibility and influence by embracing our one-planet context.



Streamline key information on country trends by using descriptive, encompassing accounts that track resource use and availability, similar to GDP tracking an economy's value add.



Build applications that serve you. Access to an international research network opens opportunities for innovative policy applications.

ORGANIZATIONS BEHIND THE ONE-PLANET ALLIANCE



Global Footprint Network®
Advancing the Science of Sustainability

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT NETWORK is an award-winning, international non-profit organization, founded in 2003. The organization produces and promotes Ecological Footprint accounting and has worked with national and sub-national governments as well as corporations. It also runs Earth Overshoot Day to highlight the benefits of living within the means of our planet.



YORK UNIVERSITY is Canada's third largest university. It is renowned for its innovative, interdisciplinary approaches to teaching and learning. Founded in 1959, this vibrant, diverse university boasts more than 50,000 undergraduate and graduate students, 7,000 faculty and staff and more than 300,000 alumni worldwide. It established North America's first Faculty of Environmental Studies in 1968.



ROSALIA ARTEAGA OFFICE
FOR THE GLOBAL TRANSITION

THE OFFICE OF ROSALIA ARTEAGA FOR THE GLOBAL TRANSITION is the international office of the former constitutional president of Ecuador, founded in 2018 by the youngest and fourth female head of state of Latin America. Her office advances a sustainable future at the intersection of eight key drivers: education, human rights, gender, globalization, ecological sustainability, equality, access to information and governance.

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