

Country examples and their national Ecological Footprint

Ranking	Country	Size of the footprint in millions gha	Available area (biocapacity) in millions gha	Population in millions	National ecological deficit National ecological surplus
1	China	5.200	1370	1.370	278 %
2	USA	2.600	1170	322	122 %
3	India	1.550	566	1.324	173 %
4	Russian Federation	740	1	144	35 %
5	Brazil	580	1,8	208	209 %
6	Japan	570	74	128	672 %
8	Germany	400	133	82	199 %
11	France	288	154	65	87 %
12	United Kingdom	287	72	65	301 %
15	Italy	264	56	60	371 %
17	Nigeria	202	128	186	59 %
20	Spain	187	64	46	194 %
26	Australia	160	296	24	85 %
29	Bangladesh	137	66	163	107 %
32	Ethiopia	107	62	102	72 %
37	United Arab Emirates	83	5	9	1,5 %
54	Sudan	48	44	40	9 %
57	Portugal	43	13	10	225 %
59	Switzerland	39	8	8	362 %
60	Denmark	39	24	6	63 %
62	Qatar	37	3	3	1,3 %
127	Rwanda	9	5	12	70 %
158	Eritrea	2	8	5	220 %

* retrospectively calculated values, based on rounded data from 2016 (published 2019 by Global Footprint Network),

* see Interactive World Maps for Footprint and Biocapacity at data.footprintnetwork.org

86 percent of the world's population lives in countries with ecological deficits - in other words, its inhabitants demand more from nature than the ecosystems can regenerate.

Seventy percent of humanity live in countries with ecological deficits and below-average income. Therefore, these countries can hardly buy their way out of the resource crisis.

Evaluation and reflection:

The reflection can be as intense and detailed as desired.
The following questions serve as support and as a basis for discussion.

Questions

- What is the difference between the per capita footprint and the national footprint?
 - Which do you think is more meaningful?
- Which countries have a particularly large/small footprint and how can this be explained?
- Is there a correlation between material well-being and the size of the footprint?
- What does the national ecological deficit mean for the economy of a country?
- Is it possible for a country to grow economically and still reduce its footprint?
- What are the possible consequences for countries' economies if the world population continues to live within the earth's resource-based limits?