

# Ecological Footprint

Everybody knows that Earth is limited and it's not infinite (laneha2eya) in the area of its land. This is what we call Earth's Capacity. But some people "use" its land more than others and either prevent those others from using it to their benefit or preventing Nature and its free animals to grow free as it should.

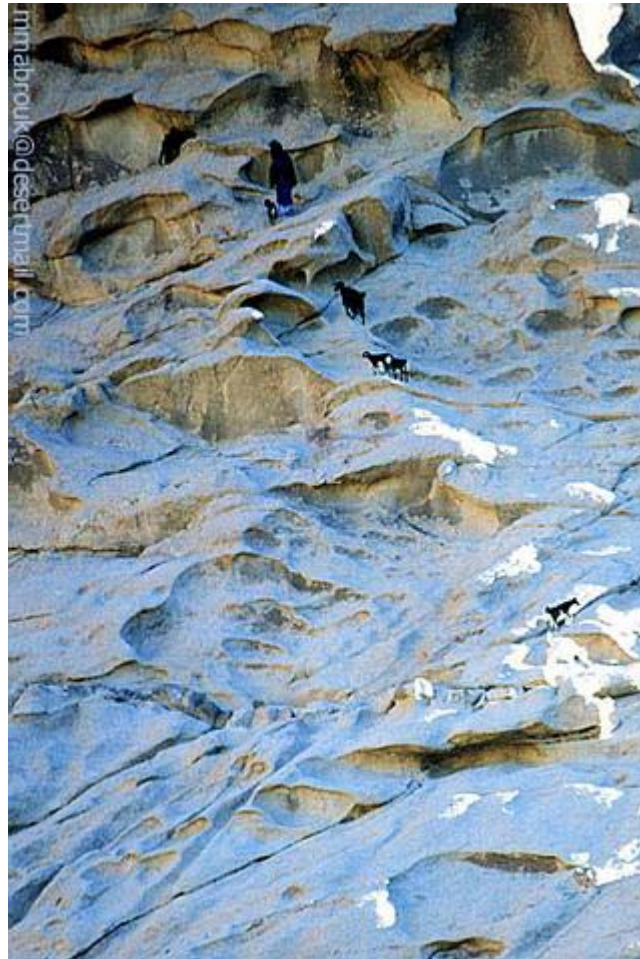
So what prevents Nature to grow free? Crops fields are good example. Much of the wild forests of Earth that are *habitats* for many species of wild animals has been cut down and made fields for any crop that humans need. But also using the land for landfilling (way to dump garbage in a big hole of land somewhere (desert?) and backfill on it after --sometimes?--processing it which makes the land of little use after that). We also use the land to build towns or resorts in which of course no wildlife can exist in it or even around it for tens of kilometers because people scare them away or kill them on sight. When it comes to generating bad gases (car's waste) things are calculated too although a bit differently.

All humans contribute to this 'taking' of the land from Nature. The total of all of the area of ALL this land combined together is the "environmental footprint" of humanity (sometimes called 'ecological footprint') and it *cannot* exceed Earth's Capacity.

Generally speaking, the concept of the footprint is based on calculating the equivalent land area necessary to support resource consumption and waste generation for an organization or person or country or for any ENTITY. Converting resource consumption and waste generation to land area is done by calculating carbon dioxide emissions (thani oxid elkarbon) that the activities of this entity generate, and the amount of land needed to reabsorb this carbon dioxide (natural forests do this absorption).

This footprint is the 'impact' of this person or society or a certain company on Earth.

Every human needs to eat and sleep somewhere so everybody have their footprint. Any human using car transportation based on petrol is contributing to the operations



of the Oil industry that eats much of the land, even if it was a hermit far in Deir elRayan who didn't see anybody for years except the one who delivers the jerrycans of gas to the monastery gate.

Some countries have their footprint growing (specially those who've consumed all their land and now importing from other countries of the world). Others who are considered "primitive" and are depending on traditional lifestyles have much smaller environmental footprints to its people activities. Unfortunately, the trend is going into developing those nations to consume more and have larger footprints.

Modern societies are growing more distant from that 'primitive' model. Much of the resources of Earth have been recklessly consumed and are bound to be totally consumed soon like in the example of Petrol (fossil oil). Due to competition, companies working in the Oil industry who know that they cannot survive after oil is finished from Earth are competing fiercely to extract it faster than the other companies and sell it to more people than others. Much pollution and waste of land has happened and the footprint is very large. All those who use gas have a share of this footprint to their credit.

<http://www.earthdayresources.org/footprint.html>

<http://www.lead.org/leadnet/footprint/intro.htm>

Mohamed Mabrouk

[SaharaSafaris.org](http://SaharaSafaris.org) Moderator (hobby)

[desertmoh@yahoo.com](mailto:desertmoh@yahoo.com)

DISCLAIMER: this is not the proper academic definition, just my interpretation to my friends and Safarists of SaharaSafaris. Please email me any corrections or comments.