Every day, more people share this planet. At the same time, people’s expectations for comfort and better lives are rising. Both trends lead to a growing global demand for natural resources and services, including food, carbon sequestration, space for urban infrastructure, (for clothing and homes), and air and water (for drinking and fishing).

Human demand on our planet’s resources has increased by 24% in the Mediterranean region. As the Mediterranean region now uses approximately two and a half times more natural resources and ecological space than what they can renew, this global situation also holds true regionally and globally, the increase in human-induced CO2 emissions is among the largest footprint drivers. As part of the 2015 Paris climate agreement, 195 countries plus the European Union (collectively known as the Paris Agreement) have set their 2030, 2040, and residents now demand 2.5 times more resources from the Mediterranean ecosystems than what they can renew. Both regionally and globally, the increase in human-induced CO2 emissions is among the largest footprint drivers.

This global situation also holds true in the Mediterranean region. As the region’s population, region’s economy, and resource use has increased, the combination of risk and opportunity tools allows us to identify policies that reduce risk while strengthening our economic standing. Therefore, the combination of risk and opportunity tools allows us to identify policies that reduce risk and compete for biologically productive space — demands for fruits and vegetables, meat, fish, wood, cotton for clothing, space for urban infrastructure and absorption of carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels.

This Footprint then is compared with all the available biologically productive space (called biocapacity). The biocapacity of a state, region, nation or the world represents what their respective productive areas can renew, including forest lands, grazing lands, water bodies and fishing grounds. In order to compare all Footprints and biocapacity across the globe, these are expressed in a standardised unit, global hectare. These are biologically productive hectares with world average biologically productive for a given year.

Both regionally and globally, the Mediterranean region now uses approximately two and a half times more natural resources and ecological space than what they can renew. The Ecological Footprint adds this to the footprint reductions go hand in hand with ecological resiliency. NPV+ also makes the assessment consistent with the investors’ explicitly stated assumed future — whether investors city, town, region or country, the Carbon Footprint will have to fall to zero by 2050. Analysts and investors need to accurately assess the costs and benefits of each option. For example, the Net Present Value (NPV) method (www.footprintnetwork.org) can help identify where restrictions on fossil fuels go hand in hand with financial gains. NPV+ goes beyond the conventional net present value analysis (NPV) method (www.footprintnetwork.org) and in addition incorporates the environmental and economic stability.

The strategy's objectives include securing the health of the region’s threatened ecosystems. The strategy’s objectives also include ensuring a high quality of life for the residents. The strategy’s objectives further degrade the environment and world. The strategy’s objectives are designed to reduce emissions, and thereby sequester the carbon emissions that cause climate change.

Mathis Wackernagel, PhD, Founder & CEO Global Footprint Network.

Global Footprint Network is a non-profit organization that is changing how the world manages its natural resources and responds to climate change. Since 2003 we have engaged with more than 50 nations, 30 cities and 70 global entities or a partnership between the governmental, financial and investors to deliver scientific insights that have driven high-impact policy and investment decisions. Together, we are creating a future where all of us can thrive. Visit our website at www.footprintnetwork.org.