

# Sustainable Development: Making it Measurable

## Well-being for all, within the means of nature

### Human Development Index & Ecological Footprint per person for nations

**SUSTAINABLE (vertical axis):** Living within the means of planet Earth requires an average Ecological Footprint per person of less than 1.7 global average hectares (the supply of biologically productive planetary surface area that exists per person). The Ecological Footprint measures how much of the planet's surface people demand from nature for food, fiber, timber, and waste absorption (particularly for CO<sub>2</sub> from fossil fuel). Currently, the Footprint of humanity is 2.7 global average hectares per person.

**DEVELOPMENT (horizontal axis):** The United Nations' Human Development Index is a measure of well-being. It reflects the life expectancy, literacy, education, and income of a nation's residents. On a scale of zero to one, 0.7 is considered the threshold for a high level of development (0.8 for very high).

These two thresholds define two minimum criteria for sustainable development. The graph with 2011 data (latest available) shows that few nations have a development model that creates high human development with a resource demand that is globally replicable.

- EU
- Other Europe
- North America
- Africa
- Central America/Caribbean
- South America
- Middle East/Central Asia
- Asia-Pacific

