

A large, two-story brick house with a dark roof and white trim is situated in a lush green field. In the background, a dense line of trees separates the house from an industrial facility with several tall smokestacks emitting thick white plumes of smoke that rise into a cloudy sky. The overall scene suggests a juxtaposition of nature and industry.

**With no ecological
bank statement,
nations spend blindly.**

Global Footprint Network
Ten-Year Anniversary



**It's true, a nation's
GDP increases
every time money
changes hands.**

**But a growing
GDP doesn't always
create wealth.**





Many economic activities deplete ecological wealth. Nations count such depletion as income rather than liquidation.



While this may have worked in the past, as resource constraints tighten globally, nations put themselves at risk.

**Global Footprint
Network was founded
10 years ago to help
countries succeed.**

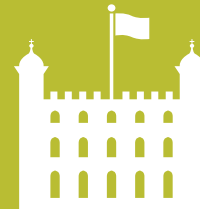
Like a bank statement, Footprint accounts tell us if we're living within our ecological budget. This bookkeeping is critical to avoid bankruptcy.



Ten years as ecological wealth accountants.
Using the Ecological Footprint to measure natural capital, we help nations understand the risks of ecological debt. What follows are highlights from our first decade.

2003

Global Footprint Network opens its doors, introducing a breakthrough notion: That the problem of overshoot could be addressed through a resource accounting system. It quickly gains the endorsement of more than 20 eminent scientists, Nobel laureates and policy makers. Building on *City Limits*, a report for the City of London by Best Foot Forward, Global Footprint Network's first project, in collaboration with partner WSP Environmental, is to help the City form policies to reduce its resource dependence.



2004

More than 30 organizations join the Partner Network. EPA Victoria in Australia embraces the Ecological Footprint, using the framework to shape its policy work. Global Footprint Network provides the data for WWF International's fifth Living Planet Report, highlighting the Ecological Footprint of 150 nations — a publication partnership that continues to this day.



2005

Global Footprint Network launches the Ten-in-Ten initiative with the goal to have 10 national governments adopt the Ecological Footprint by 2015.



2006

200 Ecological Footprint practitioners gather in Siena, Italy, for Footprint Forum, the first international conference dedicated to the Ecological Footprint. Japan includes the Ecological Footprint in its Basic Environmental Plan.



2008

The Ecological Footprint becomes an official indicator in Switzerland's sustainable development monitoring system. WWF International sets a goal for humanity's Footprint to fall to its 2000 level by 2020.



2007

Founders Susan Burns and Mathis Wackernagel receive the Skoll Award for Social Entrepreneurship. United Arab Emirates launches its Ecological Footprint Initiative. The first Ecological Footprint academic conference convenes in Cardiff, Wales. Wales pledges to reduce its per capita Ecological Footprint to the global average biocapacity available within one generation. Scotland includes the Ecological Footprint in its National Performance Framework.



2009

Ecuador incorporates the Ecological Footprint into its National Plan for Good Living and commits to reversing its ecological deficit by 2015.



2010

The UN Development Programme includes the Ecological Footprint as an important statistic in assessing lasting human progress. São Paulo, Brazil's most populous city, adopts the Ecological Footprint as a key sustainability indicator. Luxembourg's Council for Sustainable Development and the Foreign Ministry adopt the Footprint.



2011

Global Footprint Network investigates the economic risks of natural resource constraints through its Competitiveness 2.0 and Finance for Change initiatives. Costa Rica features the Ecological Footprint in its State of Nation report. Mathis Wackernagel shares the Zayed International Prize for the Environment.



2012

With the addition of the Philippines and Indonesia, 11 nations officially adopt the Ecological Footprint and Global Footprint Network's Ten-in-Ten initiative reaches its goal three years early. Global Footprint Network collaborates with UNEP Finance Initiative and leading financial institutions to develop E-RISC with the goal of integrating ecological risk into financial markets. National Footprint Accounts become available on Bloomberg terminals globally. Mathis Wackernagel shares the Blue Planet Prize and Kenneth E. Boulding Award and wins the Binding Prize.



Access to basic living resources underlies every economic activity a society can undertake.



Founders' Letter:
Ten years ago,
we launched Global
Footprint Network with
an ambitious goal:
To mobilize the world's
governments to
address ecological
overshoot. We believed
that for nations to
remain successful,
they must take nature's
limits into account.

Back then, the significance of overshoot was barely recognized. What was missing was a resource accounting system as useful to governments as their monetary accounts. The Ecological Footprint is unique in this sense: No other system compares the planet's regenerative capacity to human demand in such a comprehensive way.

Ten years later, the world is embracing this approach. More nations are turning to Global Footprint Network for the tools that can help them plan for a future of tightening ecological constraints.

We're proud of Global Footprint Network's accomplishments, made possible by our dedicated staff, partner network and funders. In 2005, we launched our Ten-in-Ten initiative, which set a goal of seeing ten national governments adopt the Ecological Footprint by 2015. We met this goal three years ahead of schedule. But this is just the beginning. For global impact, we need a critical mass of countries to shift their investments and policies.

Over the past year we launched initiatives with partners in the Mediterranean region, the Philippines and the Middle East. With UNEP Finance Initiative and 15 leading financial institutions, we developed a method to assess how a nation's ecological profile impacts its credit risk.

Our work is also being featured in the 2013 Human Development Report, the UN's flagship publication on nations' progress. The report highlights how important it is for development agencies to address ecological scarcity directly if they want development advances to last.

Reversing ecological overshoot is possible. With the traction we've gained over the past 10 years, and with your support and participation, we can make a significant contribution toward a world that works for everyone.

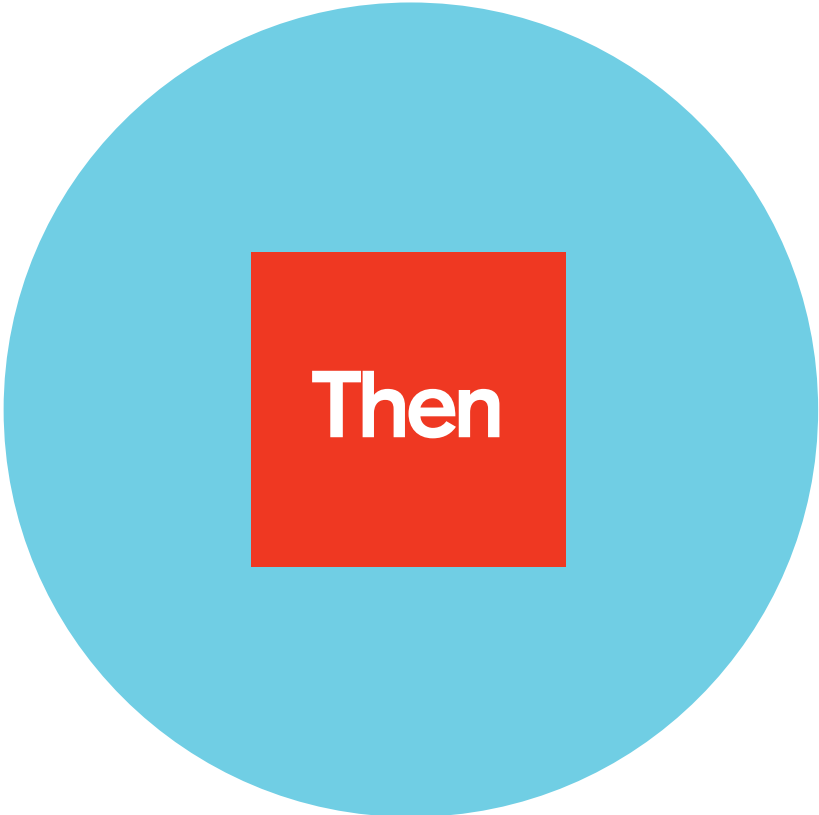
Susan Burns
Founder and
Senior Vice President

Mathis Wackernagel
Founder and
President



The rules of the game have changed.

In the past, seemingly unlimited resources fueled our economies. But humanity now demands over 50 percent more than what the planet can regenerate. We have entered a global auction, with more people bidding for fewer resources. In this world, managing our use of natural capital — and not overusing it — is a key for economic success.



An empty world allows for unlimited production of goods.

- Economy
- Biosphere




A full world turns the economy into a global auction.

As competition for resources increases, nations find it more difficult to provide food and energy security and to repay debt.



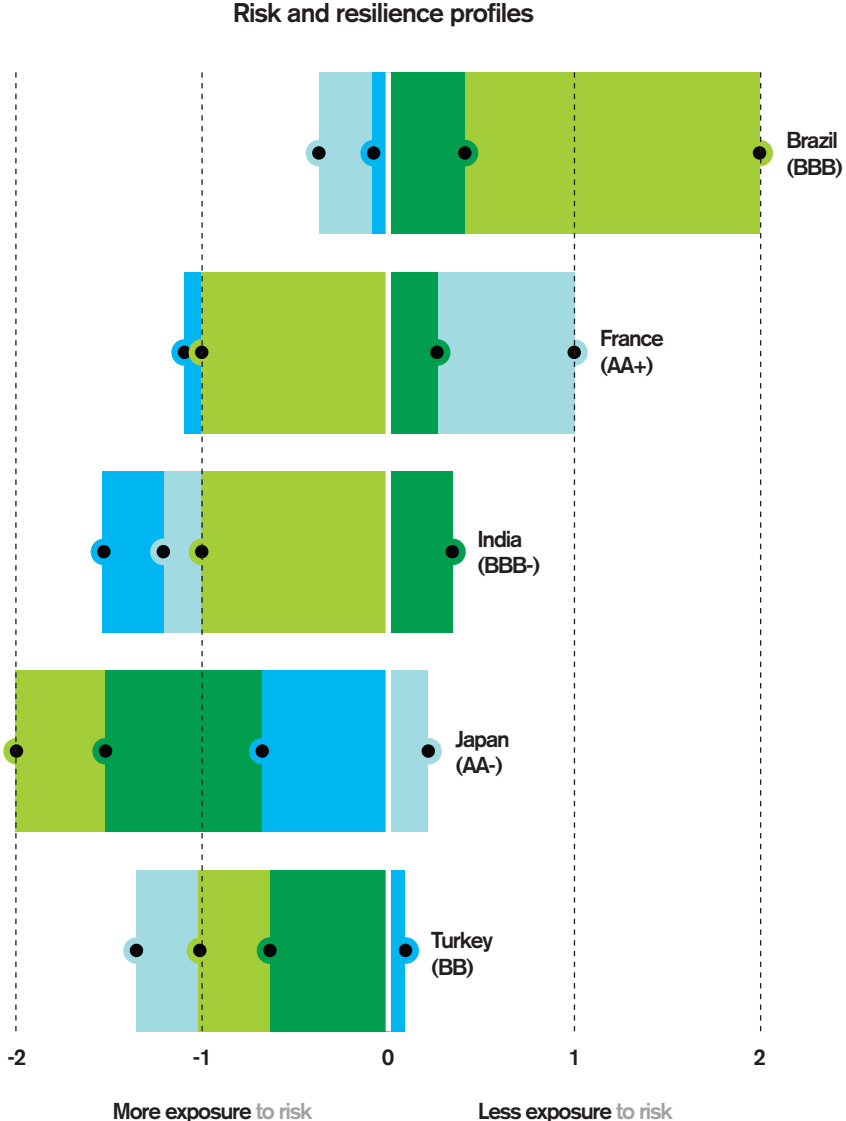
While the crisis is global, nations are impacted unevenly.

A night cityscape with several tall skyscrapers illuminated by city lights. Multiple bright lightning bolts are striking the buildings and the sky, creating a dramatic and stormy atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**Resource scarcity,
environmental
degradation and
climate change aren't
considered by the
leading credit rating
agencies.**

A rating process that includes the direct financial impact of environmental risk can add a new dimension to assessments of sovereign credit risk.

- **Resource balance:** Ratio of a country's Ecological Footprint to its biocapacity.
- **Degradation-related risk:** Exposure to decline of productivity due to overharvesting.
- **Financial resilience:** Ability to respond to adverse macroeconomic shocks.
- **Trade-related risk:** Exposure to resource price volatility and supply disruption.



Footprint accounting reveals the true wealth and vulnerabilities that have been largely absent from the financial analyses of countries.





**With the right lens
to look through,
a country can see the
connection between
its ecological profile
and overall prosperity.**

Every business tracks its revenue and expenditure. Ignoring either would be foolhardy.

With economic success ever more dependent on limited natural resources, nations too need an accounting system to understand nature's budget. The National Footprint Accounts fill this gap.

Ecological Footprint accounts reveal how much land and water area a human population requires to produce the resources it consumes and to absorb its waste. They also track how much productive area—or biocapacity—is available.

Global Footprint Network's unique National Footprint Accounts form our central data and set us apart. Based on official statistics published by the United Nations and other international agencies, the Accounts track national production, consumption, exports and imports for 241 countries and territories, starting in 1961, using about 62 million data points. Every year we release improved accounts.

Results vary year to year, but one overarching trend has persisted for decades: Global ecological overshoot continues to grow. Because of its important implications for economic and social well-being, central banks, corporations, and finance, planning and environmental ministries are asking us to help them understand how to invest in the future. The National Footprint Accounts and related tools allow our clients and partners to track the speed and scale of resource and population trends, perform trade analyses and understand the demand placed on ecosystems by key economic sectors, providing them with the intelligence they need to reduce risks and seize opportunities.

Ministries and central banks seek to understand their nations' opportunities and risks in order to remain competitive. Foundations and development agencies want to know they are investing in ways that advance human well-being while not depleting the ecological assets needed to sustain development. NGOs want to help people reduce their pressure on the planet in order to conserve nature for other species.

Our overarching goal is to help make better decisions—shifting our individual choices, institutions' investments and government policies toward those that offer nations greater security and produce a sustainable world.

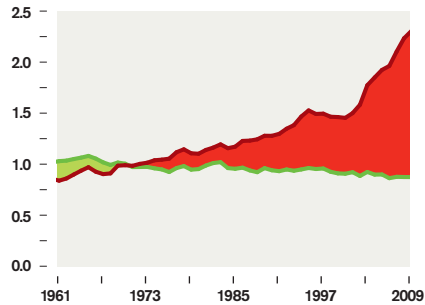
Biocapacity is the currency of the future and it's one backed by real assets. The leaders who understand their countries' resource needs, limits and dependencies will be better positioned to support their citizens' prosperity.

National Footprint Accounts

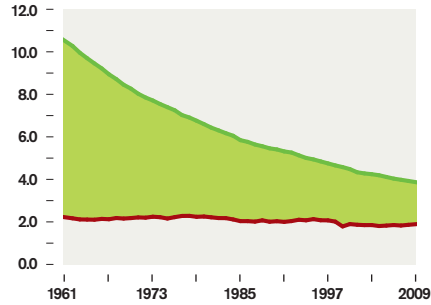
(Global hectares per capita)

National Footprint Accounts measure availability of and demand on biocapacity, using approximately 6,000 data points per country, per year. Below are eight examples from the 241 countries, territories, and regions tracked in the Accounts, which reflect time series from 1961 to the present.

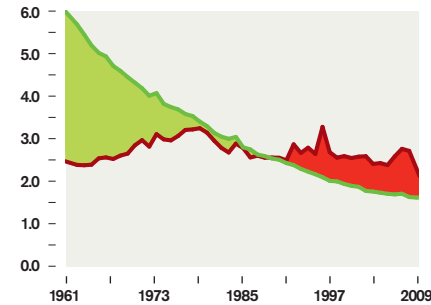
- Footprint
- Biocapacity
- Biocapacity deficit
- Biocapacity reserve



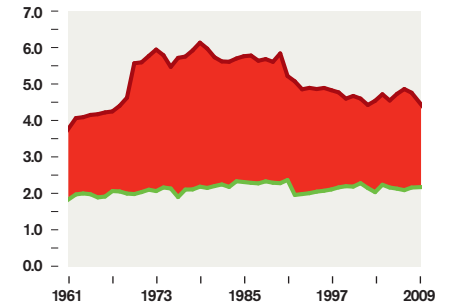
China



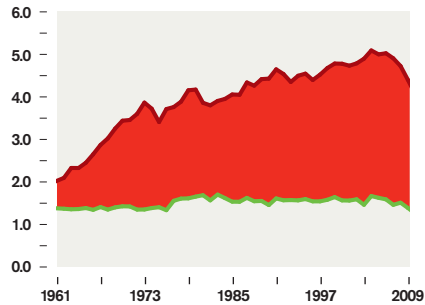
Colombia



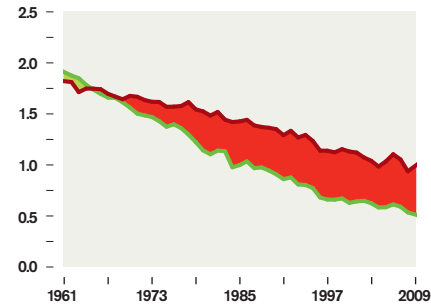
Costa Rica



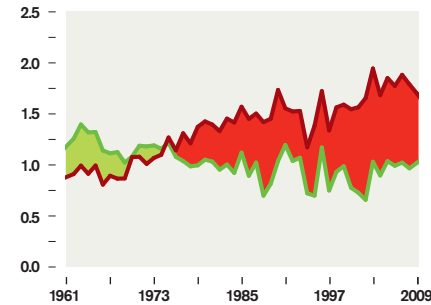
Germany



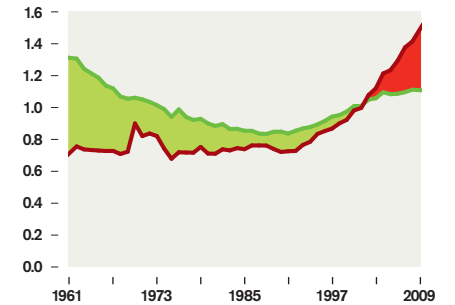
Italy



Kenya



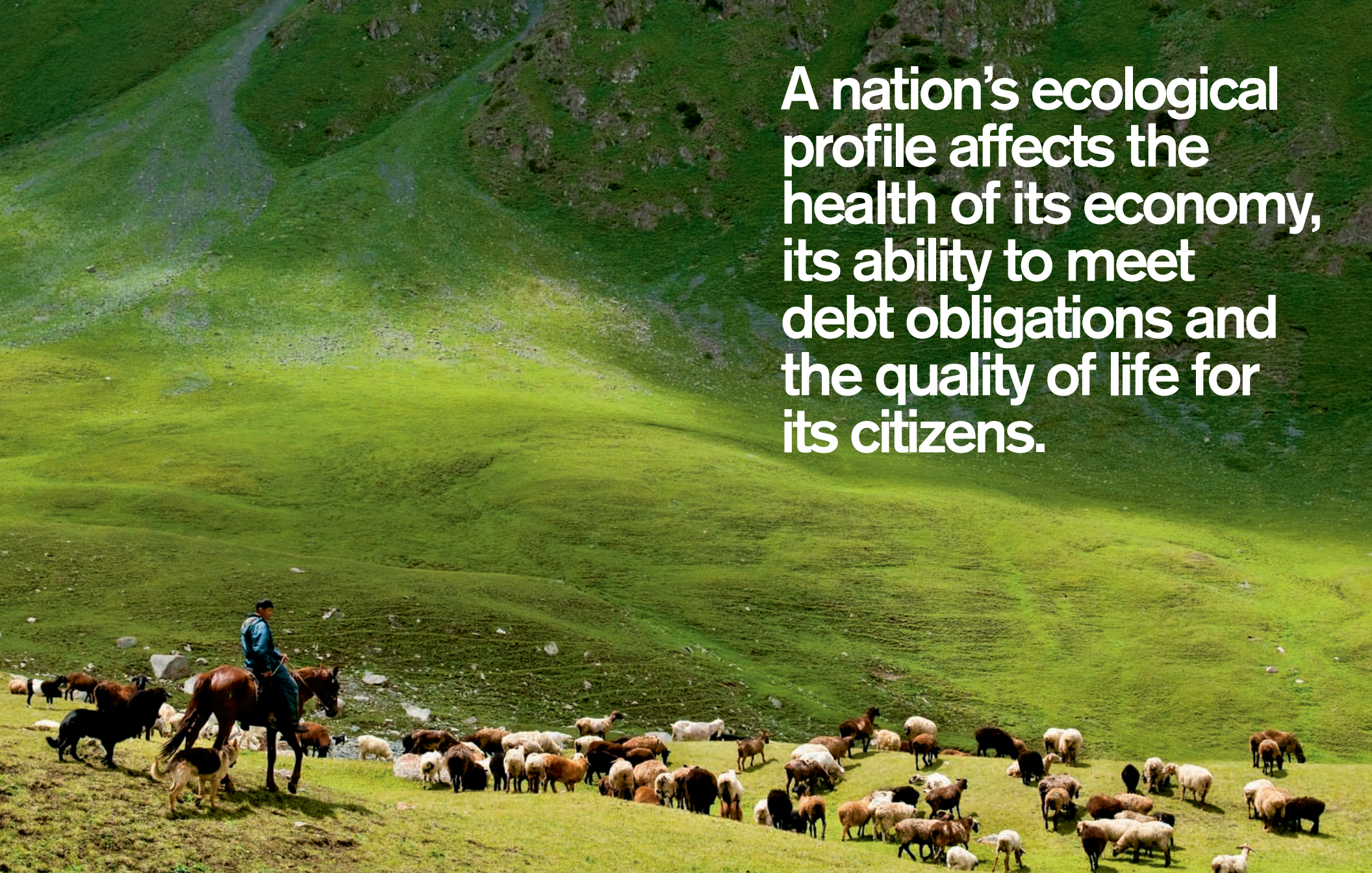
Tunisia



Vietnam

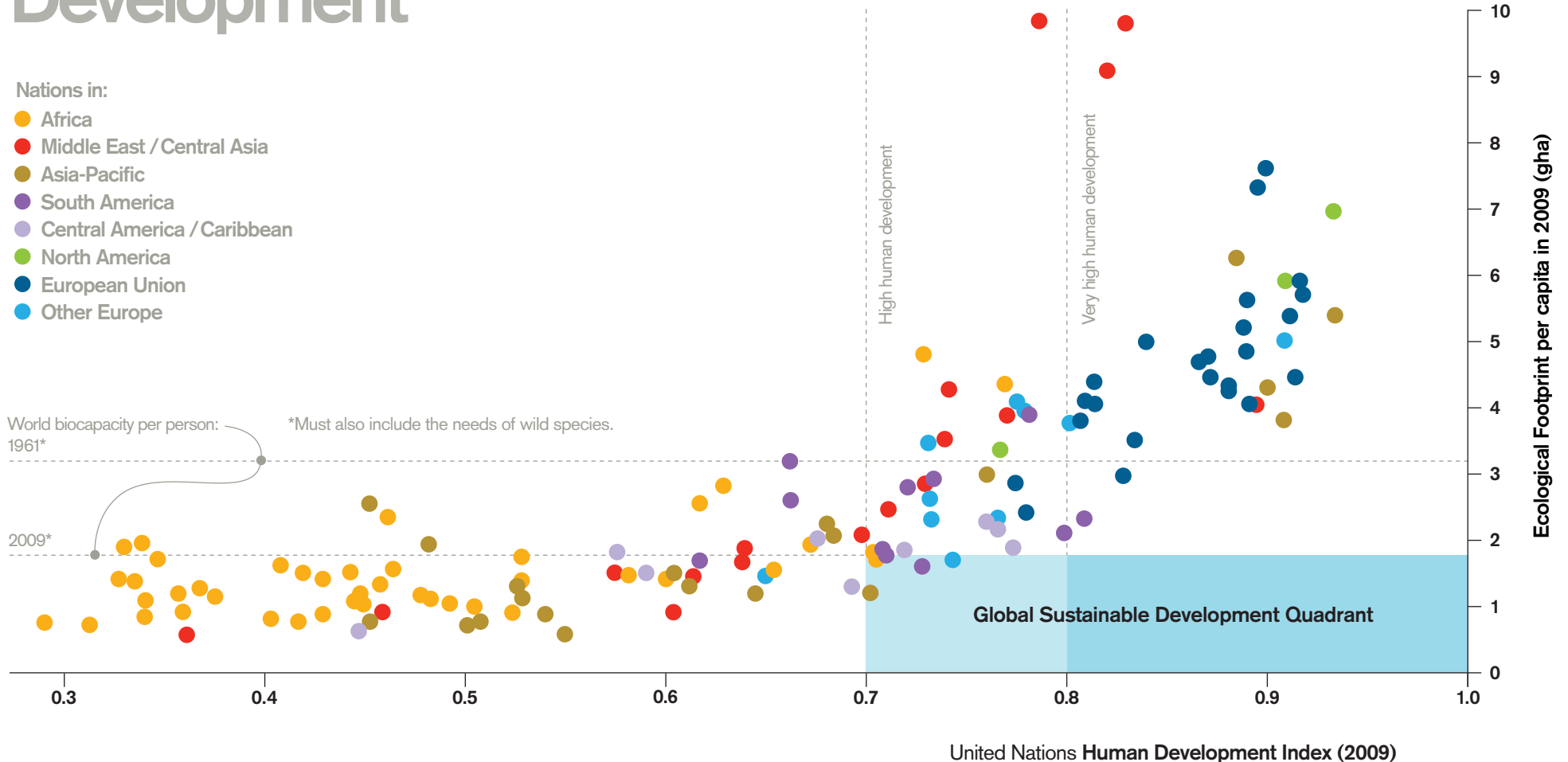
Countries not shown to same vertical scale.

A nation's ecological profile affects the health of its economy, its ability to meet debt obligations and the quality of life for its citizens.



Ecological Footprint and Human Development

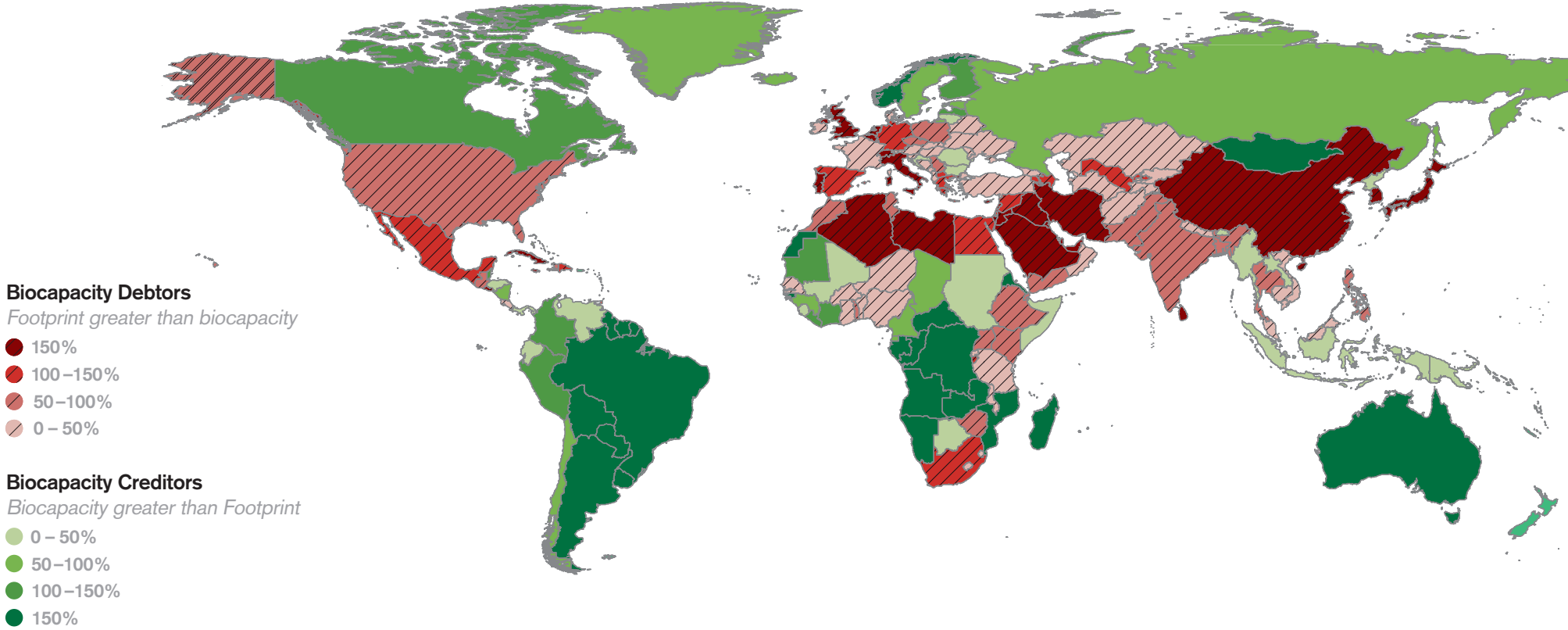
A low average Ecological Footprint and high score on the UN Human Development Index are the minimum conditions for global sustainable human development. By learning to “think inside the (blue) box,” we can strive toward a world where everyone lives well, within the means of one planet. At Global Footprint Network, we believe this is humanity’s shared goal.



**Which countries
are best positioned
for success?**

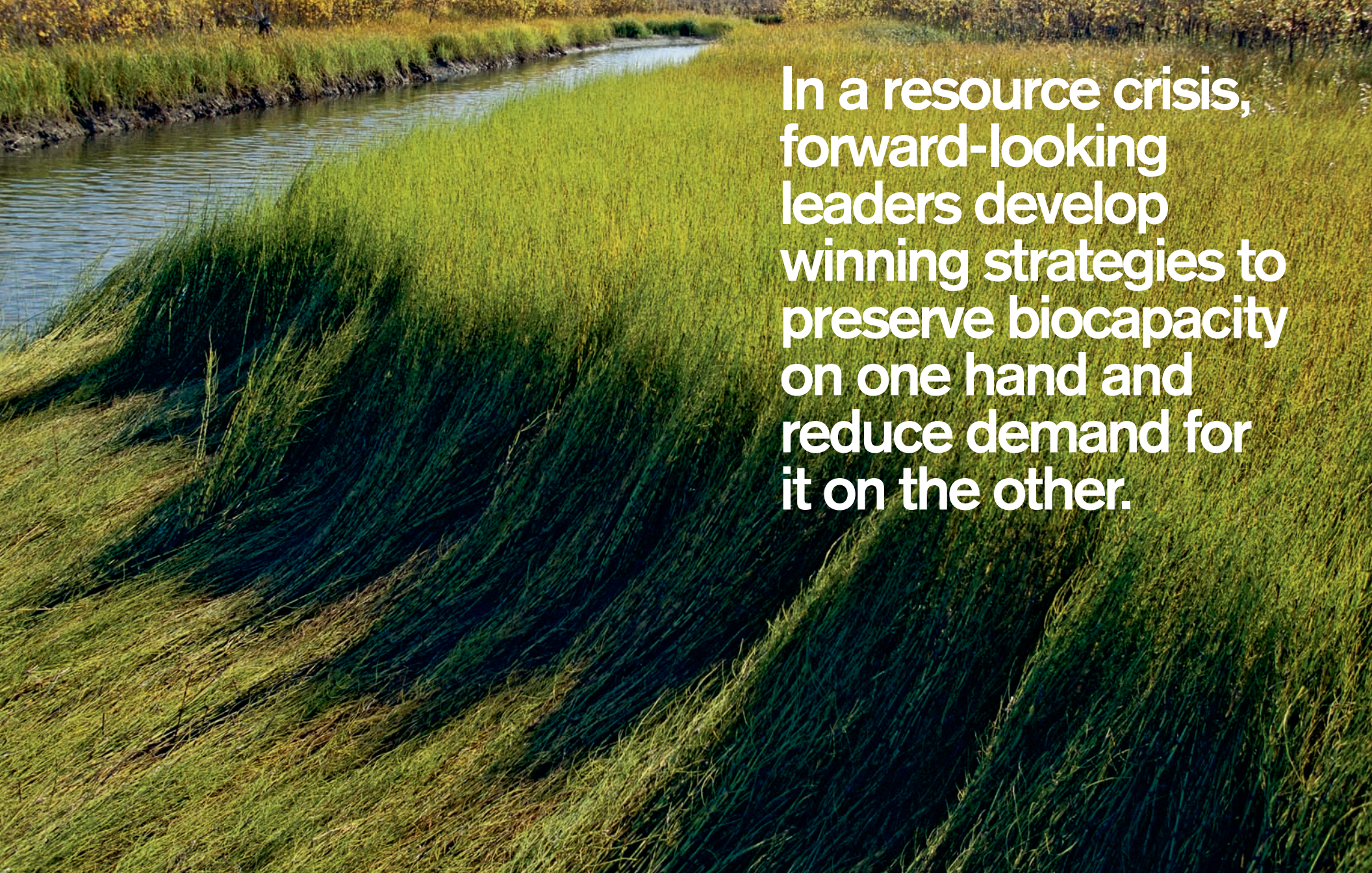
The Ecological Wealth of Nations

As global ecological overshoot grows, how will countries continue to meet the needs of their people and their economies? Maintaining natural wealth and reducing ecological demand will help countries improve economic resilience and human well-being.



Countries can still be economically successful in this resource-constrained world but must answer important questions.
Nations that choose to understand resource needs, limits and dependencies better guarantee citizens' well-being and economic prosperity.



A photograph of a river winding through a lush, green landscape. The foreground is dominated by tall, dense grasses that appear to be blowing in the wind, creating a sense of movement. The river flows from the left towards the center of the frame. The background shows more greenery and a line of trees under a bright sky. The overall scene is vibrant and natural.

**In a resource crisis,
forward-looking
leaders develop
winning strategies to
preserve biocapacity
on one hand and
reduce demand for
it on the other.**

What are world leaders saying about the Ecological Footprint?



Philippines

Naderev M. Saño

*Commissioner, Climate Change Commission
Office of the President*

“Through the Climate Change Commission, the Philippines has embarked on the critical exercise of determining its Ecological Footprint, conscious of the importance of understanding ecological limits while pursuing inclusive economic growth and enhanced social well-being for its citizens. The Footprint plays a crucial role in addressing the pervasive land use and resource management challenges in the Philippines and is seen as a potent tool for analyzing these issues.”

What are world leaders saying about the Ecological Footprint?



New Zealand

Helen Clark

Former Prime Minister

“The Ecological Footprint has become a powerful and important mechanism for quantifying and communicating clearly the extent to which human demands on nature have begun to exceed the planet’s regeneration rate. This concept has already inspired important new thinking around sustainable development. Your work provides a practical and powerful tool for the public and private sectors when planning for sustainable economies and human development.”



UAE

HE Dr. Rashid Ahmed Bin Fahad
Minister of Environment and Water

“The United Arab Emirates, with its rapidly expanding economy, has also become increasingly resource dependent. This is why we have developed a close collaboration with Global Footprint Network: To better understand our Ecological Footprint and biocapacity trends and the challenges we face. This collaboration has helped us foster more effective relationships between ministries, and helped us make sustainable investments. Our goal is to secure great lives for all. To succeed in this goal requires living within the means of nature.”



Ecuador

Domingo Paredes Castillo
President, National Electoral Council
Dania Quirola Suarez-Paredes
Senior Advisor to the National Secretariat of Planning and Development

“There was a time when natural resources seemed inexhaustible. We no longer have the luxury of this outdated way of thinking. That is why in 2009 we incorporated a goal in our National Plan for Good Living to maintain our Ecological Footprint at a level within what our ecosystems can renew. Making decisions that affect Ecuador’s long-term sustainability requires utilizing science-based tools like Global Footprint Network accounting. We know that safeguarding our natural heritage and biodiversity means safeguarding the security of our citizens and our planet.”



Bhutan

Jigmi Thinkley
Prime Minister

“The Ecological Footprint is certainly one of the most important and influential measurement and communication tools of the century. It is without question one of the most powerful ways to put the responsibility for sustainability firmly on all our shoulders through awareness of every resource we consume and every nuance of our behaviors and lifestyles.”



Switzerland

Maya Graf
President of the National Council

“Switzerland’s Constitution declares the need of the Confederation and the Cantons to balance human demand with what nature can renew. Switzerland stands out as being among the few countries that formally recognize this necessity and use the Ecological Footprint as a metric for how much nature we have and how much we use. I strongly commend Global Footprint Network for advancing such a comprehensive resource accounting system. This tool is critical for building a sustainable and prosperous future.”

Leaders are starting to see why addressing a problem borne by all of humanity is in their national self-interest.



Strategic collaborators.

Collaborators from all sectors and from across the globe are crucial if humanity is to thrive within the means of one planet. This year we highlight five key partnerships from 2012 that are either helping to embed considerations of ecological risk into decisions about investments or are bringing Footprint accounting to more national leaders.

Finance Initiative: What are the economic risks of resource constraints?

The impact of tightening resource constraints on national economies has been largely absent from financial analyses. To help fill this gap, Global Footprint Network, in collaboration with UNEP Finance Initiative and leading financial institutions, developed the Environmental Risk Integration in Sovereign Credit (E-RISC) initiative, launched in London (at Bloomberg) and New York City (at Citi). E-RISC demonstrates that ecological risks are significant economic factors and affect countries very unevenly, a fact that would rearrange traditional credit ratings significantly.

Bloomberg L.P.: Bringing the National Footprint Accounts to investors

Global Footprint Network's National Footprint Accounts are now available on Bloomberg's terminals. This means that Bloomberg's 300,000 global subscribers will have access to data that will help them integrate natural resource risk into sovereign debt, economic growth and company valuation models.

AFED: Bringing the Footprint to the Arab world In November, more than 500 delegates from nearly 50 countries participated in the Arab Forum for Environment and Development's (AFED) annual conference in Beirut to discuss the region's deepening ecological deficit and strategies to reverse it. The study at the heart of the conference, "Survival Options: Ecological Footprint of Arab Countries," was released in partnership with Global Footprint Network, and is the most comprehensive survey of the Arab region's demands on and supply of natural resources.

Philippines: Introducing a measure for resilience In November, Global Footprint Network released "A Measure for Resilience: 2012 Report on the Ecological Footprint of the Philippines," in collaboration with the Climate Change Commission of the Philippines and the French Agency for Development. It is the first Footprint report for a Southeast Asian nation. The cabinet-level Climate Change Commission unanimously adopted the findings of the report and circulated it to other government agencies.

Mediterranean region: Exploring the links between ecological and economic crises

In October, dozens of government representatives, NGO leaders and academics met in Venice, Italy, to discuss the links between ecological and economic crises in the Mediterranean region at the two-day international conference, "Securing Competitiveness for the Mediterranean." Organized by Global Footprint Network and UNESCO-Venice, with support from the MAVA Foundation, the gathering focused on the findings of the Mediterranean Ecological Footprint Trends report. Workshops have been held across the region since then to better inform decision-makers and identify viable alternative policy strategies.

78 partners in 29 countries working to achieve large- scale change.

We know the goal of ending ecological overshoot is ambitious. Fortunately, we are not alone in the endeavor. For 10 years, strong, strategic partnerships have been the backbone of bringing the Footprint tool to a broad array of sectors and decision-makers. With new partners (such as ALISOS, which helped introduce our work at the government level in South America) and long-time partners (WWF-International and Sarasin Bank), we continue to challenge prevailing assumptions—and traditional indicators—of a nation's wealth.

On our Ten-Year Anniversary, we give a special thanks to our founding partners who helped us launch Global Footprint Network.

Ambiente Italia
Best Foot Forward
CES — Centro de Estudios para la Sustentabilidad —
Centro Universitario Hispano Mexicano
CRAS s.r.l. — Centro Ricerche Applicate per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile
De Kleine Aarde (The Small Earth)
Ecolife
EcoSTEPS
Empreinte Ecologique SARL
EPA Victoria
Finnish Ministry of the Environment
Global Village Beijing
Government of South Australia
GPI Atlantic
IFF Social Ecology
Instituto de Ecología Política
IRES — Istituto di Ricerche Economiche e Sociali
LEAD International
Ministry of Environment and Housing of Catalonia
new economics foundation
OeKU
Rete Lilliput
The Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education
The Sustainable Scale Project
University of Sydney — ISA
Western Region Environment Centre
WWF-International

78 partners in 29 countries working to achieve large- scale change (continued).

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NGOs AASHE — Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education / AGIR 21 / ALISOS — Alianzas para la Sostenibilidad / Association with Innovation for Sustainable Development / BioRegional Development Group / CELF — Children’s Environmental Literacy Foundation / Dutch Footprint Group — Werkgroep Voetafdruk Nederland / Earth Day Network / Eco-Norfolk Foundation / EcoLife / Emirates Environmental Group / Emirates Wildlife Society / Estudio MC / Foundation for Global Sustainability / Fundacion Amigos de la Naturaleza / IRES Piemonte / KOVET Association for Sustainable Economies / new economics foundation / One Earth Initiative / Platform Footprint / Population Matters / Pronatura Mexico / The Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education / The Natural Step International / The Sustainable Scale Project / The Web of Hope / Utah Population and Environment Coalition / WWF / Water Footprint Network

Thank you for your generous donations.

(Received January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012)

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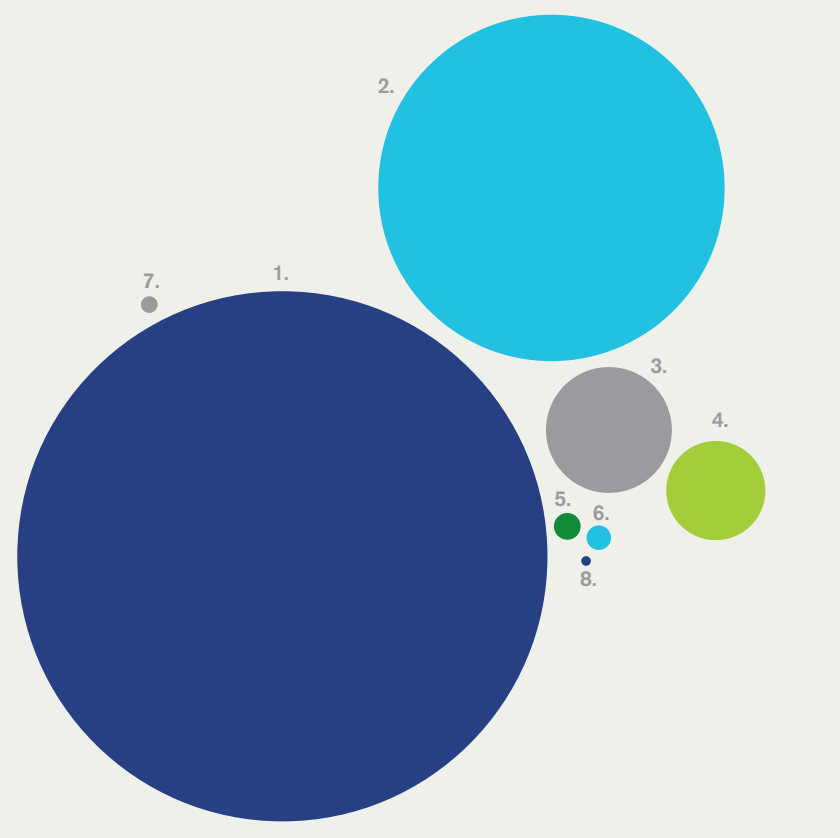
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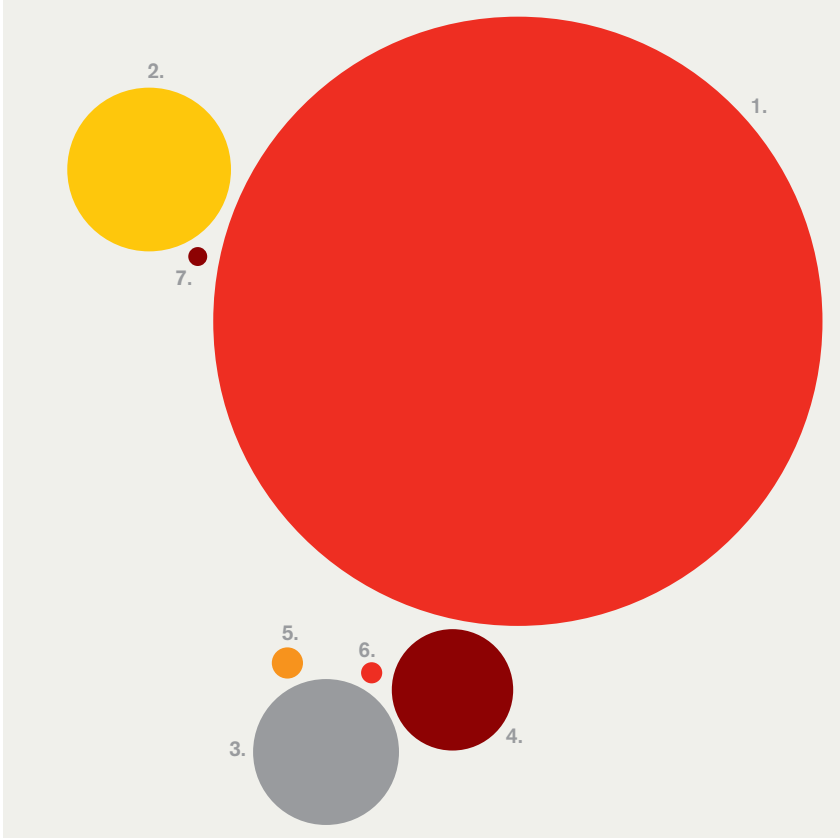
2012 Financials



2012 Income by Category / Total \$2,533,682

1. Foundations \$1,207,437	5. License Fees \$61,254
2. Fee for Services \$788,986	6. Reimbursed Project Expenses \$5,761
3. Individual Contributions \$287,667	7. Speaking Honorarium \$4,019
4. Contributed Services & Materials \$176,791	8. Royalties \$1,768

Consolidated results for California, Geneva and Brussels offices. All values shown in U.S. dollars.



2012 Expense by Category / Total \$2,870,500

1. Payroll & Personnel Expenses \$1,572,815	5. Program Expenses \$81,746
2. Operations \$424,173	6. Travel \$54,904
3. Direct Project Expenses \$376,950	7. Computer-Related Expenses \$42,276
4. Professional Fees \$314,637	

Working within
nature's budget builds
the foundation for
securing our future.



Design: Bob Dimezz Design



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Advancing the Science of Sustainability

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2012 Annual Report

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