

ESS111

TUTORIAL 1 – ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINTS

The purpose of this practical is to determine your and change your own environmental footprint by using a specific online footprint calculator. Embedded in the calculator are variables on which you have to (honestly) respond and the programme will then quantify all your responses and rework it into an average footprint expressed in land area in the form of **global hectares** needed to support and sustain your life style. A global hectare is a productivity weighted area used to report both the biocapacity of the earth, and the demand on biocapacity (the Ecological Footprint). It is therefore not necessarily the same in size as a geographical hectare (100 x 100 metres).

Go to http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/personal_footprint/ and do the following:

1. Take the quiz
2. Select your location – South Africa – on the world map screen.
3. On the screens that follow, select now the options that represent your lifestyle the best re the consumption of FOOD, GOODS, SHELTER and MOBILITY resources.
4. Look at your footprint on the RESULTS page after you've completed the quiz and write your statistics down or print the page.
5. Select now **EXPLORE** on your RESULTS page for individual footprint reduction options.
6. On the next screen you can now set your own footprint targets by adjusting your responses to the original quiz.
7. Work your way to the NEW RESULTS page and see if you've reached your target and explain how your adjusted footprint compares with per capita gha footprints in other countries. What can you infer from this?
8. Over and above the options that you have chosen from the programme to reduce your footprint, what other general measures in your opinion could have been included as reduction options?
9. Return to your original RESULTS page and explore now options for “how we can all live well within the means of one planet”. This will take you to http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/world_footprint/
10. Select countries of your choice in the categories high, middle and low income and print the graphs showing their ecological footprints and biocapacity. Source information and write short notes on: (a) differences between graphs and (b) significant differences and similarities in individual graphs of the countries that you've selected.

NB: You may work individually or in groups of maximum five. Submissions preferably to be typed out. Due date - 17 February 2011 @ 1400.