

South Australia's Ecological Footprint



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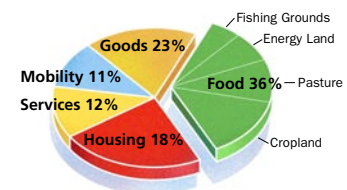
South Australia's Ecological Footprint of 7.0 global hectares per person is slightly lower than the Australian average (7.7), but considerably larger than the global average (2.2).

Over half of South Australia's Ecological Footprint results from carbon dioxide emissions from the use of energy in our homes, in transporting ourselves and in producing the goods and services we consume.

South Australia's draft Tackling Climate Change Strategy was released in January 2006. This will involve government, industry and the community in working together to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions and to develop ways to adapt to climate change. The Government has committed to reducing South Australia's greenhouse gas emissions to 60% below 1990 levels by 2050.

The SA Footprint by Consumption Type



*Energy Land refers to the amount of land required to sequester (soak-up) the carbon dioxide emitted as a result of our use of energy.

Living On One Earth

What is the Ecological Footprint?

It measures how much nature we have, how much nature we use, and who uses what. It represents the amount of biologically productive land and water a population (an individual, a city, a country, or all of humanity) requires for the resources it consumes and to absorb its waste, using prevailing technology.

Do we fit on the planet?

If we divide the planet's biologically productive areas by the number of people alive today, we get an average of 1.8 global hectares per person - space that also needs to accommodate plants, animals and other species.

The world average Ecological Footprint is 2.2 global hectares per person, 20% more than what is available on the planet. South Australia's Ecological Footprint is 7.0 global hectares per person, 3.9 times what is available per person on the planet.

Why do we need to measure our Ecological Footprint?

Sustainability means living well, within the Earth's biological capacity. Ecological Footprint accounts compute humanity's demand on nature in specific, understandable terms, using official government data. The accounts are helping hundreds of individuals, business managers, government administrators and sustainability practitioners around the world to effectively manage the earth's ecological assets and move society toward sustainability.

In South Australia, we have set a target in *South Australia's Strategic Plan* to reduce our Ecological Footprint within ten years. To achieve this, all South Australians including government, business and the community, will have to play a part.

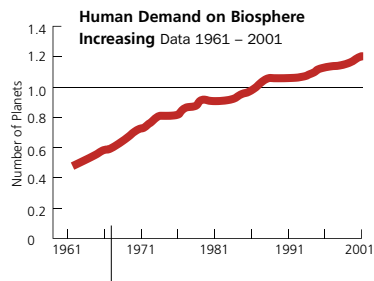
More information on the Ecological Footprint for South Australia can be found at: <http://www.deh.sa.gov.au/sustainability/footprint.html>

Read about international Ecological Footprint work at www.footprintnetwork.org

Download a Living Planet Report 2004 at www.panda.org/livingplanet

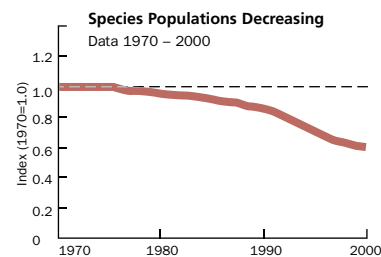
Humanity's Ecological Footprint

Humanity's Ecological Footprint is shown here in number of planets, where one planet equals the total biologically productive capacity of the Earth in any one year. In 2001, humanity's Ecological footprint was 2.5 times larger than in 1961, and exceeded the Earth's biological capacity by about 20%.



Living Planet Index

The Ecological Footprint measures the amount of nature available for human populations, but makes no assessment of what is required to be set aside for plants, animals and other species.



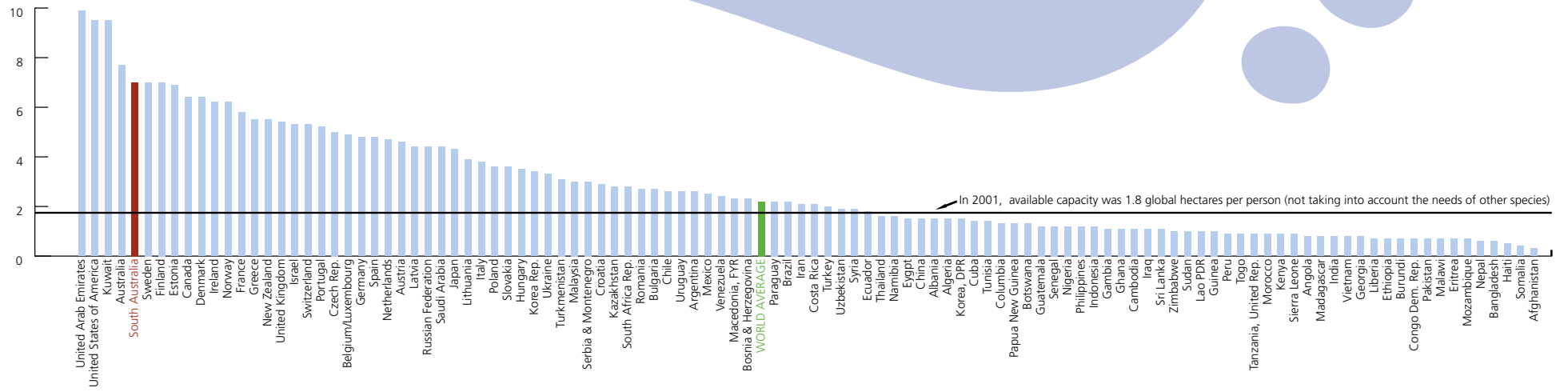
Ecological Overshoot

Ecological Overshoot means we are reducing the ability of the earth's land and water to support humans and other species into the future. Much like spending more money than you earn, it is possible to exceed ecological limits for a while, but this 'deficit spending' leads to destruction of the ecological assets upon which our economy depends, such as depleted groundwater, collapsing fisheries, CO₂ accumulation in the atmosphere and deforestation.

The WWF's Living Planet Index shows average trends in wild populations of vertebrate species worldwide. It declined by about 40 percent from 1970 to 2000. (source: LPR 2004).

The South Australian Government has set targets in South Australia's Strategic Plan to meet the challenge of declining species numbers. The establishment of 19 Marine Protected areas and five land-based biodiversity corridors by 2010 will contribute to the preservation of our native plants and animals. *No Species Loss - A Biodiversity Strategy for South Australia* has been developed to provide a vision for future biodiversity conservation and management.

Ecological Footprint of Selected Nations and South Australia (2001 Data)



The Global Footprint Network

The Global Footprint Network has been established to support the shift toward a sustainable economy by advancing the Ecological Footprint, a measurement and management tool that makes the reality of planetary limits central to decision makers throughout the world. The South Australian Government has become a partner in the Global Footprint Network, to contribute to the continuing development of Ecological Footprint accounting worldwide.

www.footprintnetwork.org

Take Action

What you can do

Calculate your Ecological Footprint at www.ecofoot.org

Visit the South Australian Government's Sustainable Living Choices website at www.sustainableliving.sa.gov.au to discover ways you can live well, within the means of nature.

What we can do

The South Australian Government has committed, through *South Australia's Strategic Plan*, to reduce our Ecological Footprint by 2014 and is currently developing strategies to achieve this in partnership with industry and the community.



What others are doing

Find out how the Ecological Footprint is helping people around the world make sense of sustainability at footprintnetwork.org.



Global Footprint Network
Advancing the Science of Sustainability

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