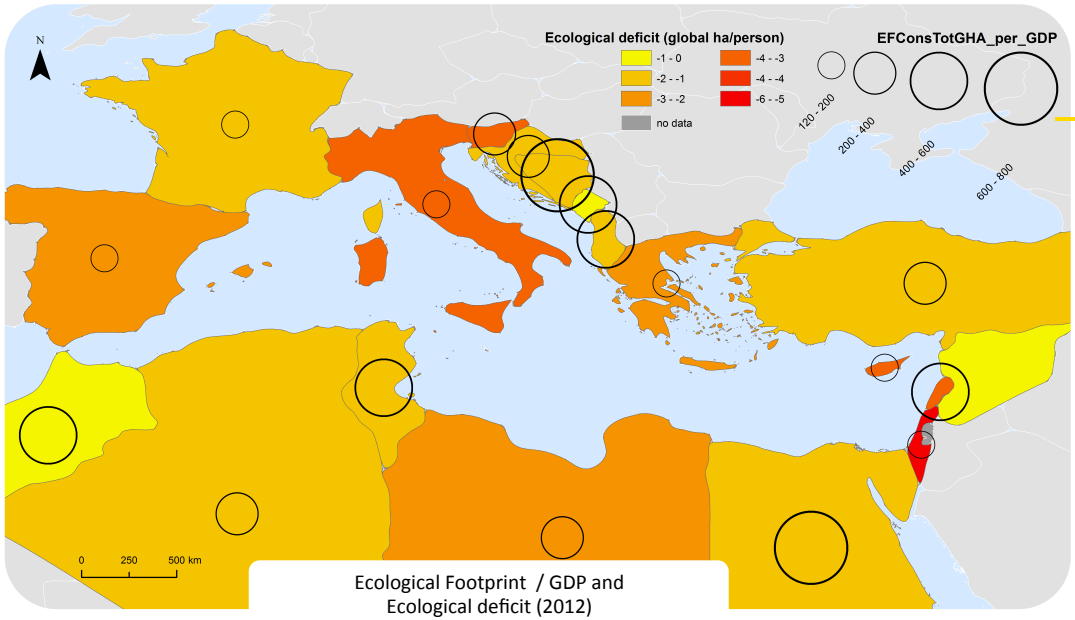
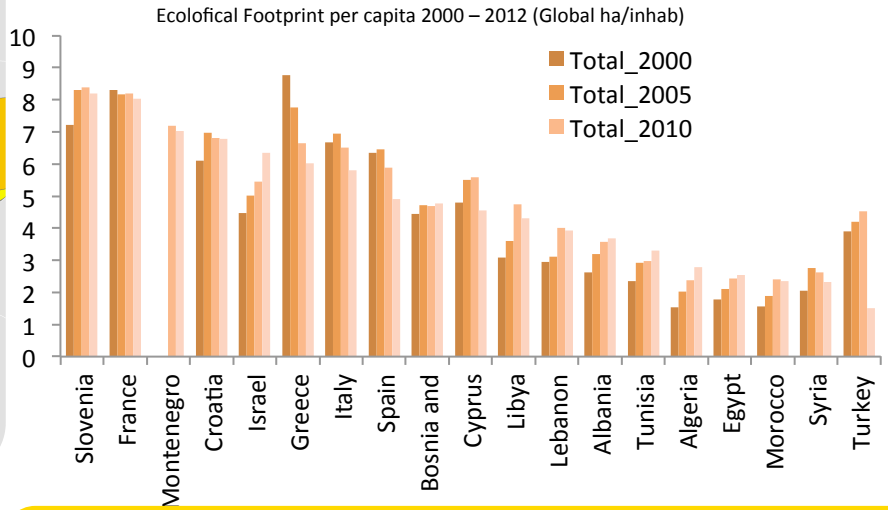
What is the impact of human activities on the environment?

Global

Ecological Footprint



Ecological Footprint / GDP and Ecological deficit (2012)



All the Mediterranean countries had an Ecological Deficit in 2012. This means that the environmental capacity of the region is used up faster than it is renewed.

Definition :

- **Ecological Footprint**: Amount of biologically productive land and water a country requires to produce all the resources it consumes and to absorb the carbon dioxide emissions it generates.
- **Biocapacity**: Capacity of ecosystems to produce useful biological materials used by the economy and to absorb carbon dioxide generated by human.
- **Ecological deficit / reserve**: The difference between the Biocapacity and Ecological Footprint of a region or country. Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity are expressed in units of global hectares.

Precautions / Notes :

EF only measures one aspect of sustainability, that is whether human societies are able to live within their annual biocapacity budget. It therefore deals with only the environmental pillar of sustainability and, even for this pillar, important environmental parameters are not considered (pollution due to GHGs other than CO2, impact of nuclear energy, etc)

Sources / References : Global Footprint Network 2016. National Footprint Accounts, 2016 Edition.

The Ecological Footprint is used to assess the level of the consumption of available resources connected to the human activities. Compared to the Biocapacity, this indicator offers the possibility to calculate the Ecological Deficit or Reserve in a region or country.

From 2000 to 2012, the Ecological Footprint per capita decreased in Greece, Spain, Italy, and Syria. For other countries, the Ecological Footprint remained stable or increased

- Thus, the Mediterranean Ecological Footprint **(3.32 gha/cap**) is higher than the planet's Ecological Footprint **(2.8 gha/cap).**
- The Mediterranean's Ecological Deficit (**2.05 gha/cap**) is two times greater than the world's Ecological **Deficit (1.1 gha/cap).**
- The Ecological Footprint of the northern Mediterranean countries decrease since few years (from 4.4 gha/cap in 2009 to 3.34 gha/cap in 2012). This is mostly due to the effects of the economic crisis, which slowed down resource consumption and, primarily, CO2 emissions
- The Ecological Footprint per unit of GDP is less than 200 gha per million dollars in most of northern countries except in the Balkan countries (695 in Bosnia-Herzegovina). In the southern countries the maximum values are for Algeria (390 gha per million of dollars) and Lebanon (413)