

Impacts of consumption at national scale on biodiversity world-wide

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Wageningen University & Research, 14-05-2025

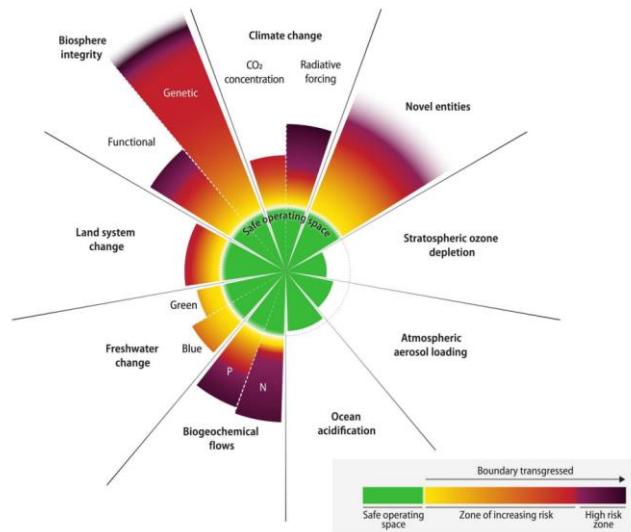


Initiative to cooperate and develop a framework for biodiversity impacts

- NL started an initiative to develop a footprint framework for impacts of consumption at national scale on biodiversity
- Impacts on biodiversity: both within/outside a country
- With this framework countries can be compared, and impacts of consumption categories can be illustrated
- This announcement =
 - Short introduction into this initiative
 - Invitation to join and collaborate

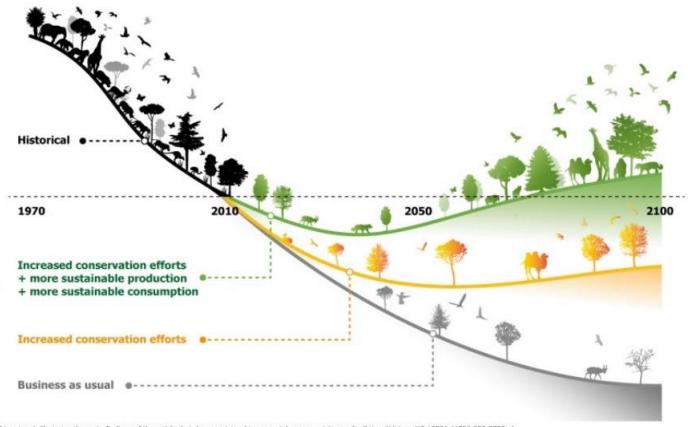
What motivates us?

- Biodiversity loss (contin.)
- Planetary boundaries (SOS)



Richardson et al., 2023. Science Advances

- Not only relevant for species, but also for humans (IPBES)



Humanity is waging a war on nature. This is suicidal. Making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st century. It must be the top, top priority of everyone, everywhere.

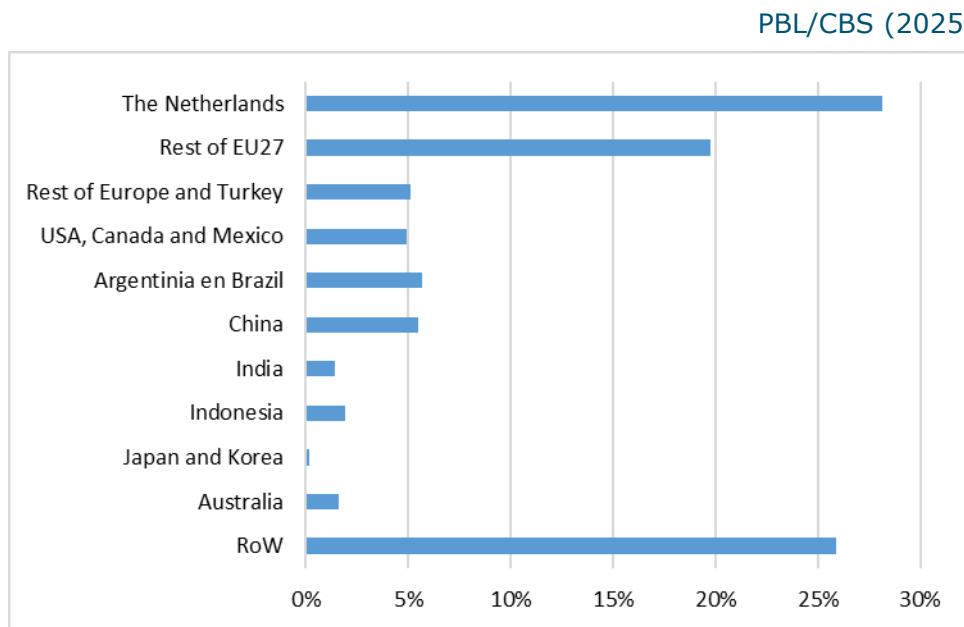
UN Secretary General Antonio Gutteres,
December 2020

What kind of footprint framework?

- Various existing initiatives:
 - Product environmental footprints (PEF's),
 - Regulations for deforestation-free products,
 - Protected areas, etc.
 -
- However, still missing:
 - An option to **compare countries** with respect to their impact on biodiversity due to consumption and
 - being able to **inform consumers** about their impact on biodiversity

Why a biodiversity consumption footprint?

- Consumption has important impacts on biodiversity worldwide



Distribution of the reduction in species abundance due to Dutch consumption in 2020 per region in %.

- Effects abroad are less visible, and hidden in some cases

(Ex.: soybean yields oil and meal, oil is **food**, meal is **feed**, feed can be **imported**, while the animal product can be **exported**, and therefore **consumed elsewhere**)

Policy background

■ SDGs

- Goals: Life on land / below water
- Indicators 8.4.1 and 12.2.1: material footprint



■ GBF

- Target 16: reducing consumption footprint
- NBSAPs

■ OECD

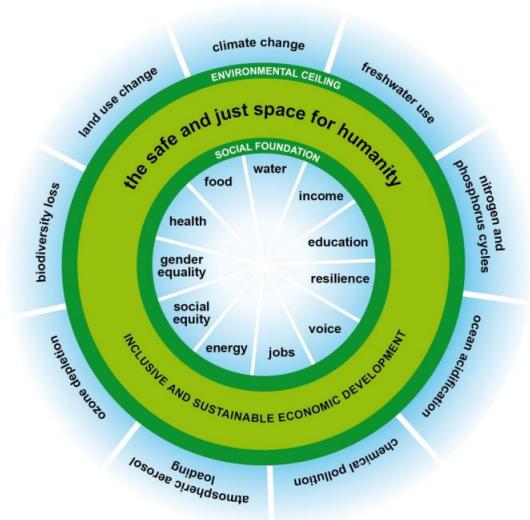
- Support in designing biodiversity policies
- Footprint work (GHG, land, ...)

■ EU

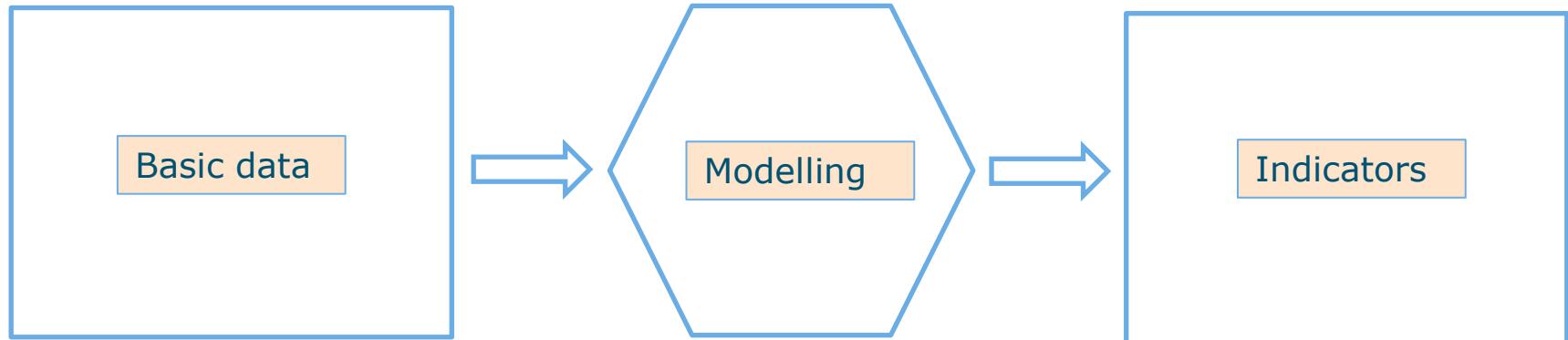
- Biodiversity Strategy for 2030

Folke et al., Ecology & Society, 2016

Figure 4. A safe and just space for humanity to thrive in: a first illustration



Digging a little bit deeper



- Production, consumption, trade
- Financial / mass / area
- Exiobase, GTAP, FIGARO, FAO, ICIO, etc.
- ...

- Consistent (EE)MRIO
- Linking to pressures
- Estimating impacts on biodiversity
- ...

- Combination of footprints
- Biodiversity (multiple)
- Coherence with other indicators
- ...

Some 'building blocks'/specifications

- Use existing databases, already monitored for other purposes (OECD, EU, FAO, ...?)
- Look for connections with other consumption footprints, already assessed for other purposes (GHG, land, (bio)mass, ...)
- Use data with sufficient frequency ((bi)annual) and coverage of consumption categories and countries
- Characteristics: time- and cost-efficient, clear meaning, linked to policy options, scientifically accepted, transparent and agreed by countries

Initiative to develop a footprint framework

- For its purpose, a **uniform approach** of the footprint framework is needed (*avoiding fragmentation*)
- Development in collaboration with **OECD** (and CBD)
- Start with **interested countries** and experts to discuss specifications and opportunities for this uniform approach (*autumn, 2025*)
- Involve also **non-governmental organisations**, like **WWF** (*with whom we already discussed this initiative in 2024*)

Thank you for your attention!

Any Questions?

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