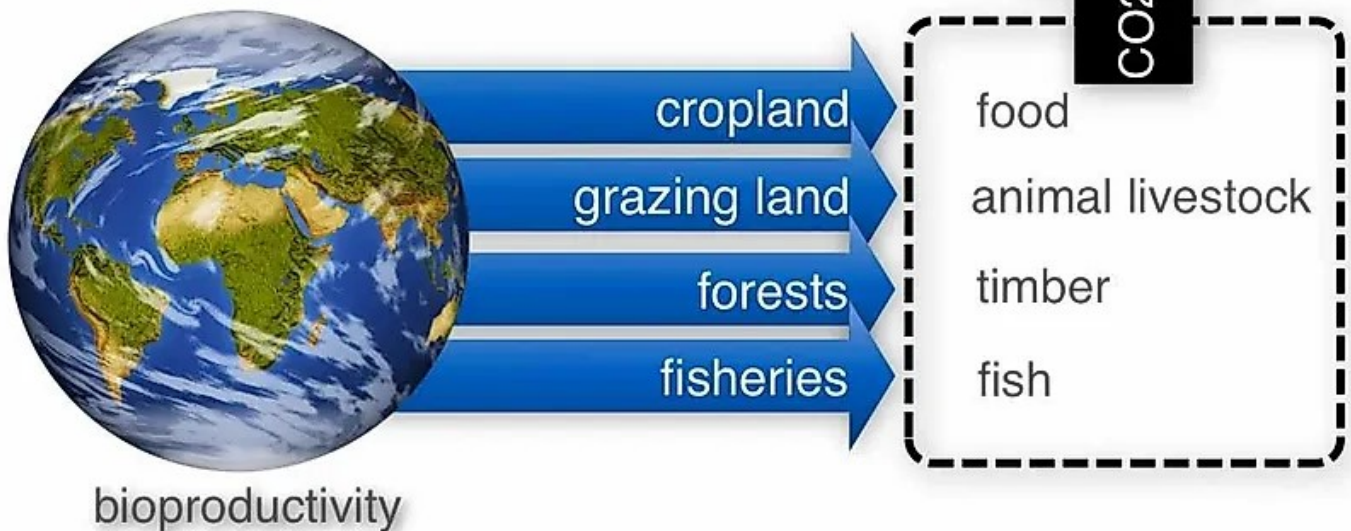




# Countries With The Largest Ecological Footprints

## Ecological Footprint



*Ecological Footprint Is The Impact Of An Individual/Community On The Environment Measured As Land Required To Sustain Their Usage Of Natural Resources.*

Today, society has become aware that its daily actions have an effect on the global environment. One way to measure this impact is by determining the ecological footprint of a person, household, or business. An ecological footprint measures to what extent an activity uses productive land and sea resources versus how much land and sea is available. These two resources are important as their use is required for food, water, timber, mining, energy, and infrastructure. It is measured in global hectares per person. The larger the footprint, the less ecologically or sustainably responsible is the activity. Which countries produce the largest ecological footprint has been up for debate for some time. This article clears that up with a list of the highest ecological footprint producing nations. The results may be surprising.



## The United Arab Emirates

The United Arab Emirates occupies the number one spot on this list. The ecological footprint is 10.68 gha/pers. The majority of resource demands come from households and their energy use. Other factors contribute to this large number. The Dubai Executive Flight Service catered to over 6,000 private jet flights in one year. Taxis are more popular than public transportation. “The World” project, which seeks to create islands shaped like all the world continents, has used 34 million tons of rock. Once complete, homeowners will only be able to arrive via boat or private jet. That said, the country has created a task force to understand and reduce its energy consumption.

## Qatar

The second highest ecological footprint is Qatar. It follows close behind the UAE with a footprint of 10.51 gha/pers. It is necessary to take into account the small population size of the country, however. One of the biggest contributors to this number is the amount of water consumed followed by energy used. How can residents afford to use such high levels of energy? The answer is simple. The government provides free energy for nationals and heavily subsidized energy for everybody else.

## Bahrain

Number 3 on the list is Bahrain with an ecological footprint of 10.04 gha/pers. This number can be explained by the heavy dependence on fossil fuels, low levels of environmental education, and extravagant lifestyles in Bahrain.

## The Countries Of The Western World

Other countries on the list are outside of the Middle East. These include [Denmark](#) (8.26 gha/pers), [Belgium](#) (8 gha/pers), [United States](#) (8 gha/pers), [Estonia](#) (7.88 gha/pers), [Canada](#) (7.01 gha/pers), [Australia](#) (6.84 gha/pers), and Iceland (6.5 gha/pers).

## What Can Be Done?



ecological footprint. After this step, the next most important action to take is reducing carbon emissions. This reduction can happen through education initiatives aimed at residents to encourage a reduction in energy usage. Countries can also invest in renewable energy such as solar and wind power. Those nations that are going through building booms, like the UAE, can focus their construction efforts on green building designs as well. These are building that have been built according to resource efficient standards and uses sustainable and local building materials. The answer is easy. Taking action, however, requires commitment and a mutual effort.

## Countries With The Highest Ecological Footprints

Rank	Country	Ecological Footprint In Global Hectares Per Capita
1	United Arab Emirates	10.68
2	Qatar	10.51
3	Bahrain	10.04
4	Denmark	8.26
5	Belgium	8.00
6	United States	8.00
7	Estonia	7.88
8	Canada	7.01
9	Australia	6.84
10	Iceland	6.50

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