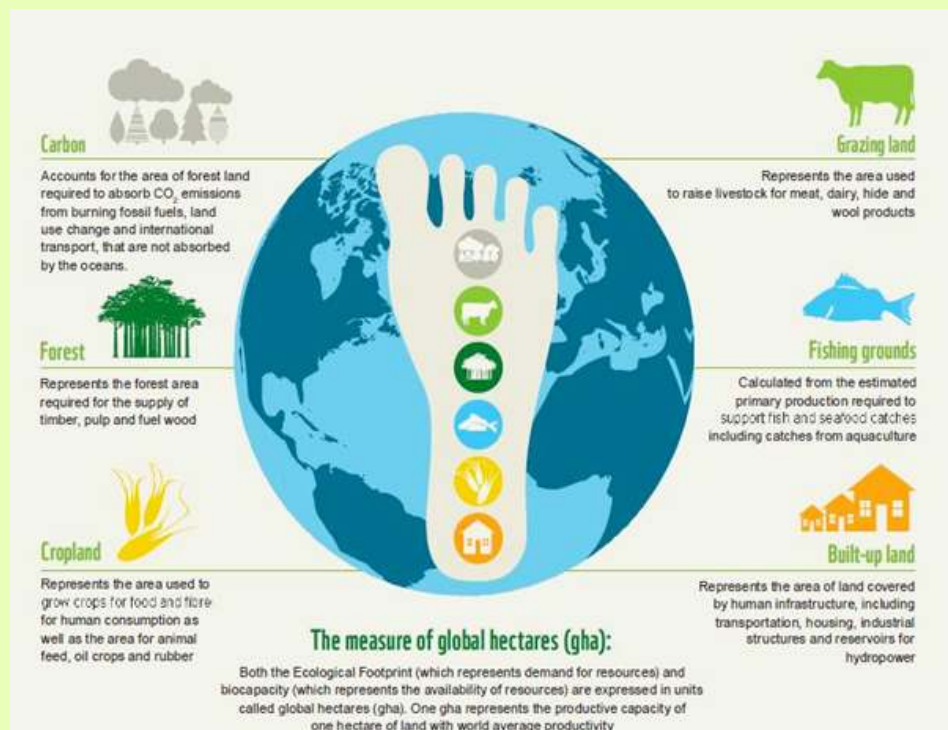


Topic of the week for discussion: 3rd to 9th Aug 2017

Topic: EARTH OVERSHOOT DAY

Earth Overshoot Day is the day when the global consumption of the human kind shoots up over and above the resources that the earth can produce through its natural renewal capacity. In other words, we are consuming more than what the earth can produce and discharging more than it can absorb. *The Global Footprint* consists of certain elements that are considered to be responsible for disturbing or maintaining the sustainability of life on our planet.



Topic
Introduction

$(\text{Earth's Biocapacity} / \text{Humanity's Ecological Footprint}) * 365 = \text{Earth Overshoot day}$

If we talk in economic terms, we are spending more than we have. For example, if we had 100 units of resources to be consumed in a year i.e. till 31st December, we exhausted all of it till 2nd August. So we are in debt for the rest of the year. Meaning, in the first seven months of 2017, we have already emitted the amount of carbon that the earth could sustain for an entire year and utilized the resources, i.e. caught more fish, felled more trees, harvested more, and consumed more water, which were supposed to last a year. To sustain the current pollution and consumption, we need 1.7 times the Earth we have right now and by the mid of the 21st century, we will need two earths to sustain life.

Last year, Earth Overshoot Day was on 8th August. Last twenty years of the last century were progressive as from the years 1980 to 2000, the Earth Overshoot Day was shifting back from November to October to September by the end of the millennium. The consumption was 78% in 1963 but has crossed 150% in the present time. Today, carbon emission counts for a whopping 60% of the global footprint. If we reduced it to half the present amount, the Overshoot day would shift back by 89 days; only 89 days! We are in a 150 day deficit. A little more effort can still save the overconsumption and emission.

According to a report by *Global Footprint Network*, India has been at the bottom of the list of large nations when it comes to overconsumption i.e. 1.5 times of the sustainable consumption. Australia is at the top consuming 5 earths. Unlike Football, India being at the bottom of a list does not hurt this time!

So, all those emotional and geeky videos about extinction of life on earth were all true. Now those science fictions with scary aliens seem to be a ray of hope hoping that those aliens may help us in the future. Various philosophies about contentment and simple living sound practical and the reports look all real. It is real ! It is happening ! Kalyug is shaping up and the face of earth has started to age and the certainly is moving towards its grave. Sorry, we are! The earth will renew itself. So will all of us! Until then, we should direct our steps towards a healthy *Global Footprint* or leave behind footsteps that the future generations will detest with empty stomachs, parched lips and rotten lungs.

Read further:

<http://metro.co.uk/2017/08/02/earth-overshoot-day-what-is-it-and-why-you-should-be-concerned-6822995/>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/earth-overshoot-day-2-august-2017-year-planet-natural-resources-clean-water-soil-air-pollution-wwf-a7872086.html>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/08/02/earth-overshoot-day-day-using-unsustainable-amount-earths-resources/>

<http://www.resilience.org/stories/2016-05-27/beyond-the-footprint/>