

## A Fair Earth Share is a Human Right

1. There is a growing awareness that a clean and safe environment is a human right, in qualitative terms.
2. The Dutch Platform Fair and Green Economy calls for a next step: the recognition that for all people a fair share of the natural resources of our planet Earth is a human right, in a quantitative sense. Liberal philosopher John Locke (1632-1704) already stated that everyone is free to profit from nature's interest, but enough of the same quality should be left for others.
3. With the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights people already have rights to basic needs (like food and shelter, water and education). For these services some ecospace of planet Earth is needed. This means that there is an emerging recognition of the notion of a quantitative human right to part of the ecospace on the planet.
4. Around 1970 global society crossed the sustainability barrier of planet Earth, and since then global society is in overshoot (as calculated with the concept of the Planetary Boundaries and the model of the Ecological Footprint). Our planet became too small for the fast growing population with their growing consumption/global footprint. At present the overshoot is calculated to be about 75%.
5. In 2019, July 29 was Earth Overshoot Day; on that day global society had already consumed the natural resources of the entire year. Up till now, every year Earth Overshoot Days turns out to be some days earlier than in the previous year; the overshoot still increases.
6. Based on analyses of the IPCC about climate, and more recent of the IPBES on biodiversity, life on our planet is in danger and fair sharing within the safe and sustainable ecospace is now most urgent.
7. The Donut-analysis of Kate Raworth extends the analysis to arrive at a space for sustainable and fair development with the safe ecospace as a ceiling and fair sharing of the social benefits of development as a floor. This space is to be calculated so as to leave a fair amount of resources for future generations.
8. With the model of the global Ecological Footprint it is possible to make quantitative comparisons of present average claims on global ecospace between continents, between countries, between cities and between persons. With the 'Safe Planetary Boundaries' (2009) the available safe ecospace can be calculated. With these methodologies a next step towards fair global sharing can be made.

9. The Platform has been advised to seek a request from UN member countries to UNGA for an “Advisory Opinion” on this subject from the International Court of Justice in The Hague. We also have received advice to seek such a request from a combination of a high income and a low income country.
10. When the International Court of Justice starts an “Advisory Opinion” with the proposition that “A fair Earth Share is a Human Right” all member countries of the UN are invited to give their reaction, and based on all reactions the official ‘Opinion’ will be formulated.
11. The Dutch Platform Fair and Green Economy, supported by 42 NGO’s, asked the government in a Petition to drastically reduce the Dutch global footprint. All countries with footprints that are too large have an obligation to work on this, to make fair shares within safe boundaries possible. Now the Platform is seeking formal recognition of a “Fair Earth Share as a Human Right” and would like to start the procedure towards an “Advisory Opinion”, as explained in points 9 and 10.

***Platform Fair and Green Economy, with support of 42 NGO’s from the Netherlands, July 2020.***

*More information:*

*The essay ‘Towards Footprint Justice – A Fair Earth Share is a Human Right’ by Jan Juffermans: <https://www.resilience.org/stories/2020-06-04/towards-footprint-justice-a-fair-earth-share-is-a-human-right/>*

*The 2019 Petition on Footprints and Human Rights, signed by 42 NGO’s: <http://platformdse.org/petition-to-the-dutch-government-and-parliament-on-footprints-and-human-rights-2019-2030/>*

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