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RESEARCH COLLABORATION

The Czech Republic's Ecological Footprint and Biocapacity

A Joint Research Project to Improve and Extend the Czech Republic's National Footprint Accounts

Introduction

The Ecological Footprint provides a quantitative method for answer questions about ecological supply and human demand at the global, national, regional, institutional, household, and personal level. The Ecological Footprint is a widely used sustainability accounting tool and National Footprint accounts are particularly important since, in a world of increasingly limited resources, countries will benefit by tracking and managing how much biological productivity they have available within their borders and how much they use.

Ten-in-Ten's aim is to institutionalize the Ecological Footprint measure in ten countries in ten years (by 2015). Just like accounting metrics such as SEEA, GDP, or the United Nations' HDI, this project will require research beyond Global Footprint Network internal activities. We are now inviting nations and research institutions to join this collaborative project and focus on improving the specific methods and calculations for their own nation. The first six national governments we engaged in research collaborations are: Switzerland, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Ecuador, Belgium and France.

In support of this goal of achieving scientifically robust and internationally comparable systems of National Footprint Accounts, Global Footprint Network is proposing a collaboration among the Czech Republic's government (and possibly its advisory councils), the Czech Republic's research institutions (Charles University in Prague,

Environment Center), and Global Footprint Network to review, improve and extend the national Ecological Footprint accounts for the Czech Republic.

A Proposal for Collaboration: role of main actors

To this end, Global Footprint Network proposes a collaborative research effort between the Czech Republic, Charles University Environment Center, and Global Footprint Network.

The role of the Czech Republic's steering group - **Czech Government Council for Sustainable Development** (CGCSD) in this project will be to provide long-term strategic thinking and supervise project goals. The Czech Republic's government, represented by the **Ministry of Environment** (and others, solicited by the steering group) will provide funding to the research institute or consultancy to carry out their research and to Global Footprint Network for its support role.

The **Charles University Environment Center** will be tasked with carrying out the research and improvements as determined by the Czech Republic and Global Footprint Network. The project will produce a joint analysis and a report to the government of the Czech Republic and the general public. The Czech Republic will showcase a commitment to addressing core sustainability issues in the Czech Republic and take the first steps towards implementing policies based on quantitative ecological accounting.

Phase I: Testing of Current Ecological Footprint Results for the Czech Republic

The objective of collaboration in the first phase is to verify the existing National Footprint Account's data for the Czech Republic already held by Global Footprint Network. After comparing current data sources with the Czech Republic's national data sources for a consistency check, we will have a stronger reference point for the Czech Republic's current state of ecological resources and services as well as some preliminary input as to how to overcome methodological weaknesses.

Phase II: Application and testing of Ecological Footprint Results for the Central and Eastern Europe region

The objective of collaboration in the second phase is to compare trends in Central and Eastern European countries. The interpretative report will be prepared, containing description of main trends and interpretation of results with regard to resource scarcity, competitiveness and future development of the region. Results would be presented at a side event at the Earth Summit 2012 Rio +20.

Estimated Efforts and Costs

- ***Research collaboration (Phase I)***

€20,000 *Analytical and research work* Review accounts, produce technical report and react to feedback from Steering Group - Charles University Environment Center

€5,000 *Travel expenses, workshops*

€20,000 *Global Footprint Network*. This cost will fund technical support needed during the research process. Additional €30,000 would be required going towards Global Footprint Network's feasibility work towards implementing findings of the research.

- ***Policy Interpretation and Extension of Results (Phase II)***

€50,000 An interpretative report, building on phase I research, focused on the region of Central and Eastern Europe, possibly entitled "Implications of the Central and Eastern Europe Footprint & Biocapacity trends for its competitiveness", including a workshop. A report would review and summarize ecological Footprint and Biocapacity trends for Central and Eastern European countries and would be presented as a side event at the Earth Summit 2012 Rio +20.