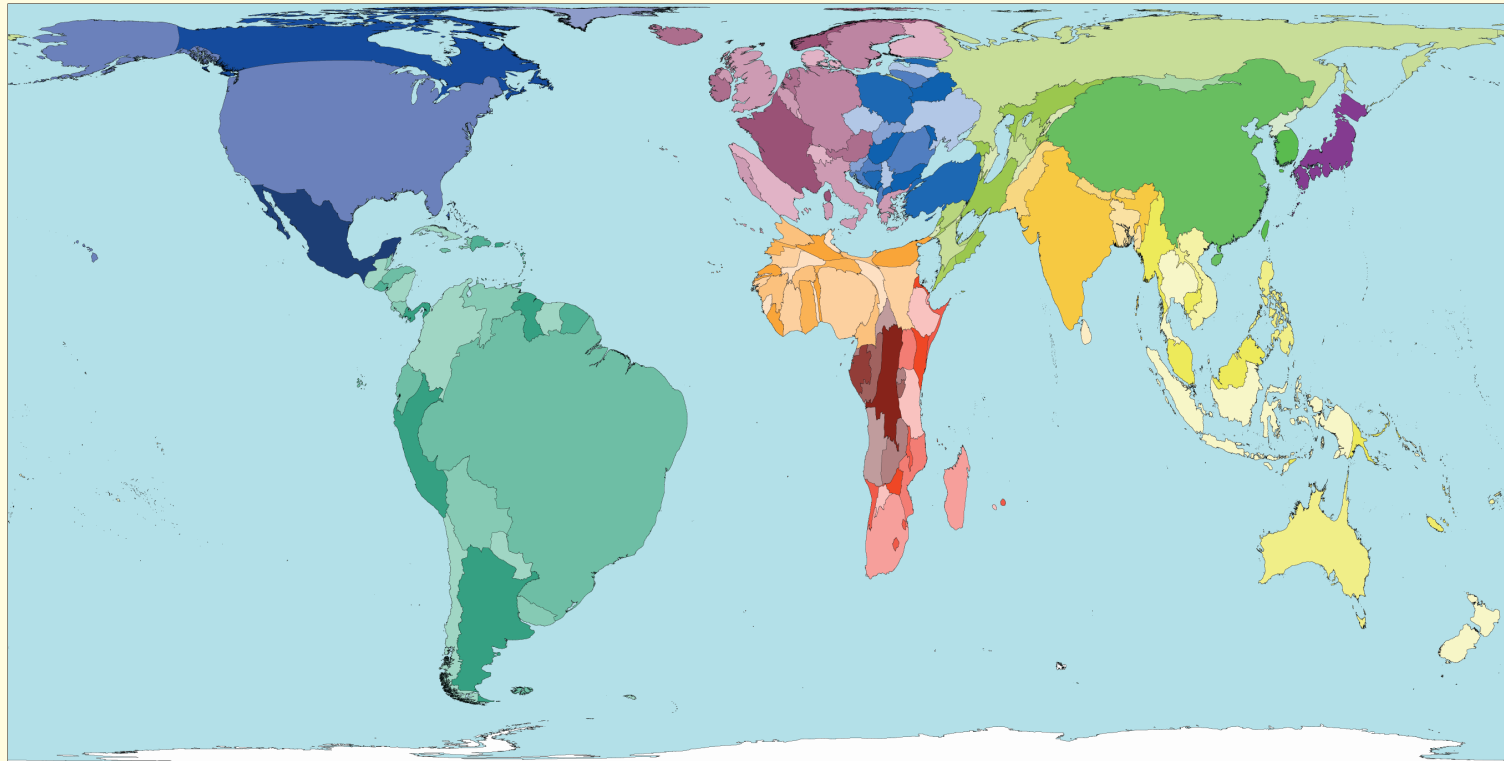


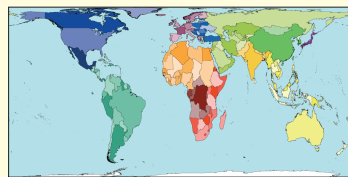
# Biocapacity



Biocapacity measures how biologically productive land is. It is measured in 'global hectares': a hectare with the world average biocapacity. Biologically productive land includes cropland, pasture, forests and fisheries. 16% of the world's biocapacity is in Brazil.

The biocapacity of a territory is affected by physical conditions and people's actions. A pertinent example of this is Iraq, the Mesopotamian marshes were once part of the fertile crescent. Much of this marshland has been drained and become desert. Trade sanctions and social upheavals also reduce people's ability to use land productively. Iraq's land is now estimated to be the least productive in the world.

Territory size shows the proportion of all biocapacity that is found there.



Land area

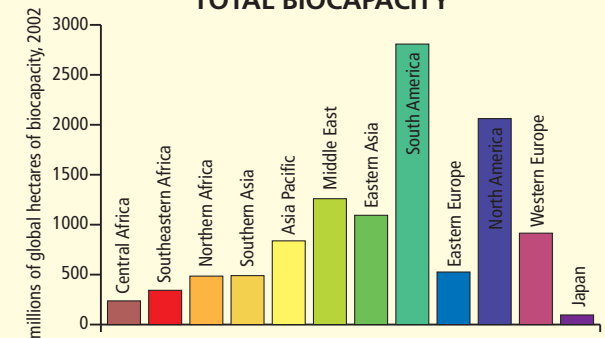
- Technical notes**
- Data are from the WWF (Worldwide Fund for Nature) International and Institute of Zoology.
  - \*Biocapacity is measured in global hectares. One global hectare is an area that has the world average biological productivity of one hectare.
  - See website for further information.

## HIGHEST AND LOWEST BIOCAPACITY

Rank	Territory	Value	Rank	Territory	Value
1	Malta	699	191	Botswana	14.4
2	Mauritius	687	192	Mali	13.1
3	Germany	429	193	Afghanistan	11.2
4	Denmark	427	194	Niger	11.1
5	United Kingdom	403	195	Somalia	11.0
6	Luxembourg	378	196	Saudi Arabia	10.5
6	Belgium	378	197	Namibia	10.5
8	Czech Republic	362	198	Algeria	8.3
9	Netherlands	357	199	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	3.1
10	France	351	200	Iraq	1.8

biocapacity in global hectares per 100 hectares, 2002\*

## TOTAL BIOCAPACITY



*“... land is ‘not only’ the ground, it is ‘not only’ a means of production and it is ‘not only’ the material reality that one knows ...”*

Claudia Briones, 2006