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CONSIDERATIONS CONCERNING ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT OF ROMANIA

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Abstract

Ecological Footprint (EF) assesses the impact of the society development on sustainability. It proposes the conversion of raw materials and energy *consumed* by the assessed social-economic system, in hypothetical areas of land and water (representing the Ecological Footprint) necessary to ensure the sustainable development of the community. These areas are compared to similar ones (representing Biological Capacity), that result by converting the *available* raw materials and energy resources for this social-economic system, using the same criteria. Because the present pattern of consumption is far away from the demand of sustainable development, Ecological Footprint (EF) exceeds very often Biological Capacity (BC), the difference representing the Ecological Deficit (ED). The advantage of this modern concept of environmental management is the simplicity, allowing a synthetically comparison from the point of view of sustainable consumption of raw matter and energy versus the resources of the natural capital in a country, different countries or at the global level.

The present paper proposes the application of the concept of EF at the level of Romania both for the analysis of the present consumption pattern and the prospective assessment of the modality in which the change in the production/consumption of energy or in Biological Capacity affects Ecological Deficit.

Keywords: ecological footprint, biological capacity, ecological deficit

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