

WEIGHING THE ISSUES

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① LEAVING A LARGE FOOTPRINT

- What do you think accounts for the variation in per capita ecological footprints among societies?
- Do you feel that people with larger footprints have an ethical obligation to reduce their environmental impact, so as to leave more resources available for people with smaller footprints?
- Why / why not?

② ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Erosion from agriculture
- Deforestation
- Toxic substances
- Mineral extraction & mining
- Depletion of fresh water
- Air & water pollution
- Global climate change
- Loss of Earth's biodiversity

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THE MILLENNIUM ECOSYSTEM ASSESSMENT

① The most comprehensive scientific assessment of the condition of the world's ecological systems and their capacity to continue supporting us

② In 2005, over 2000 leading environmental scientists from nearly 100 nations found:

- Our degradation of environmental systems is having negative impacts on all of us
- With care and diligence we can still turn many of these trends around

(14)

CONCLUSION :

• Finding ways to live sustainably on Earth requires :

- A solid ethical grounding
- Scientific understanding of our natural and social systems

• Environmental Science helps us :

- Understand our relationship with the environment
- Informs our attempts to solve and prevent problems

• Identifying a problem is the first step in solving it

• Find balanced, workable, sustainable solutions to environmental problems

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