FIGURE 1: High levels of human development have come at an ecological cost
Total ecological footprint by Human Development Index, by country, 2012

An ecological footprint of less than 1.7 global hectares per person, given current population and available productive land and sea area (biocapacity), is sustainable; the earth can replenish a country’s resource use.

The Human Development Index (HDI, by the UN Development Programme) measures a country’s average achievements in health, knowledge and standard of living. An HDI ranking of 0.8 or more indicates very high human development.

Singapore’s high HDI (0.91) is associated with a large ecological footprint per capita (7.97). This means that people in Singapore, although living a good life, also have high resource demand.

Source: GEM Report team analysis based on data from Global Footprint Network (2016).