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# **MEASURING THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF INDUSTRIES**

## **FOOTPRINT TARGET TOOL FOCUS ON ASSESSING HABITAT DEGRADATION AND STRUCTURAL CONNECTIVITY**

par

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- Since the development of industry, humanity is in constant evolution, both demographic and technological. Its accelerated and continuous expansion puts pressure on resources, planetary functioning and biodiversity. Biological and chemical cycles are disrupted, natural resources are overexploited, ecosystems are polluted, transformed, fragmented and even destroyed. This leads to the premature disappearance of many species.
- Although there has been an environmental awareness for several centuries, the real public and political consideration is only gradually noted since the last decades, aiming more generally to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. However, climate change represents only a small part of the threats to biodiversity. The erosion of biodiversity is a growing concern, well known in the research sector, but is not sufficiently emphasized today by public policies and businesses. Thus, together with the lack of tools and regulations, the "green" actions undertaken by industries are deeply distanced from the needs to fight against biodiversity loss.
- With this in mind, FootPrint Target was developed based on the five causes of biodiversity loss – and use change, overexploitation, climate change, pollution, and invasive alien species – to help companies fully assess their environmental impact throughout the life cycle of their products. By measuring the full range of environmental indicators related to biodiversity loss, such as the actual consumption of water resources, pollution by microplastics, the risk of introduction of invasive species or the quality of habitat connectivity – a topic we will present in more detail – we enable companies to become fully aware of their environmental impact and improve it accordingly.
- In particular, in order to assess the impact of companies on the mobility capacities of species in their natural habitats, we have built a calculation method based on satellite data and specific data provided by companies. The structural connectivity of habitats, strongly degraded by the increase of agricultural crops and urbanization, can thus be qualified thanks to the landscape mosaic of natural environments and the intensity of anthropization conversion. By coupling this information with data on the origin of the evaluated product (material, geographical coordinates), we can contextually quantify the surface fragmented by the company and the impact this has on local biodiversity.
- Cet exposé sera en Français.