

**FOREST ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT ANALYSIS : ROLE OF NON-TIMBER
FOREST PRODUCTS (NTFPs) IN FOOTPRINT GENERATION & EXAMINING
CROSS-BORDER TRANSFER OF FOREST RESOURCE BURDEN**

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ABSTRACT

In today's continuous evolving world, there is more focus on moving towards sustainability with dwindling resources which can be attributed to increasing incomes and populations. The resource availability to sustain the existing populations has been on a shrinking spree across all ecosystems. Consequently, the assessment of existing demand patterns and policies becomes an engrossing point at this stage of the 21st century. This study investigates the impact generated by human demands on the existing forest resources embodied as a part of the Ecological Footprint accounting, that is the Forest Ecological Footprint (FEFP) for developed, developing and least developed economies from 1990-2016. With diverse goods that trees provide humans with, this analysis intends to explore the impact of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) on the footprint of forest ecosystems. Also, with today's evolving and expanding global markets and the ease in meeting varying demands across the borders through international trade, the demand for a country's goods are no more limited to domestic boundaries. This causes a consequent impact on environmental resources as well. Our study explores the effect of trade on forest resource demand (FEFP). However, in addition to ascertaining the impact of trade, the study also investigates the spill over of forest resource demands across the borders in the form of traded goods. This part of analysis checks for resource burden shifts from developed to less developed economies. The domestic production of NTFPs and the openness to trade exhibit a positive impact on all three categories of countries. However, with trade openness revealing a positive impact on the forest footprint, the conjecture of trade causing a significant transfer of forest resource burden from developed to less developed economies is yet to be explored further.

Key words : Forest Ecosystems, Forest Ecological Footprint, Trade, Non-Timber Forest Products

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