



WaMin
**AFRICAN WOMEN UNITE AGAINST
DESTRUCTIVE RESOURCE EXTRACTION**

2nd Annual Feminist School

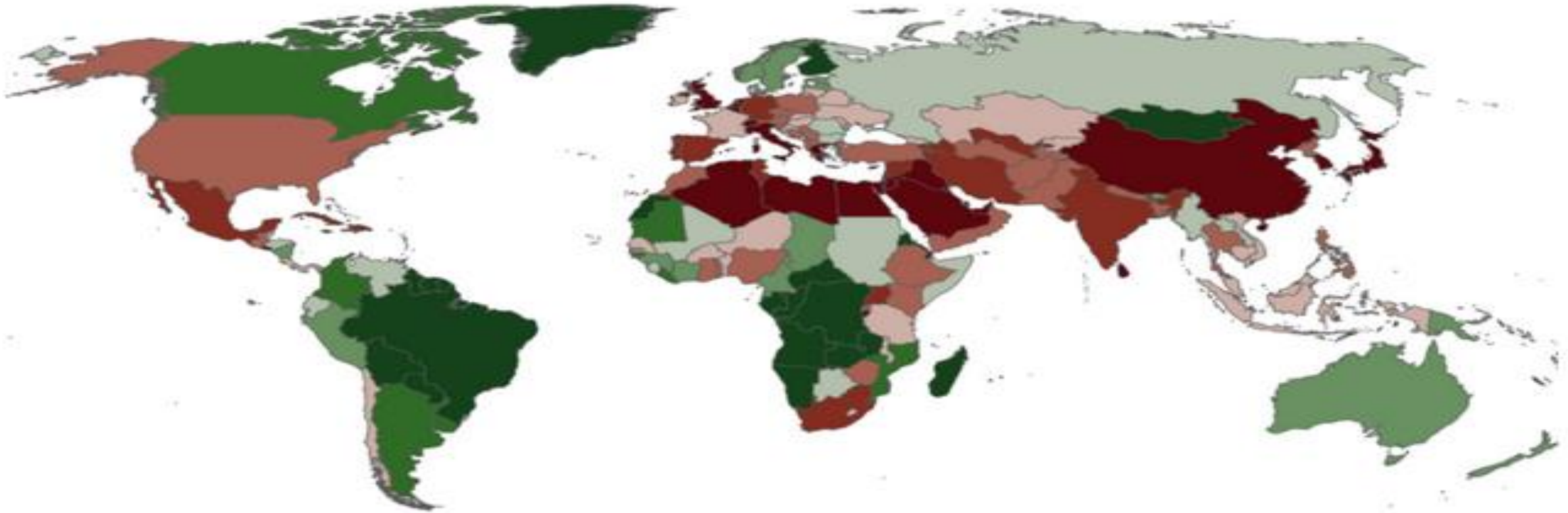
ECOLOGICAL DEBT

**Developing Our African Eco-feminist Craft: Strengthening the Tools of
Our Resistance**

Akua O Britwum

Accra, Ghana 7 – 14 June 2017

Biocapacity Deficit and Reserve

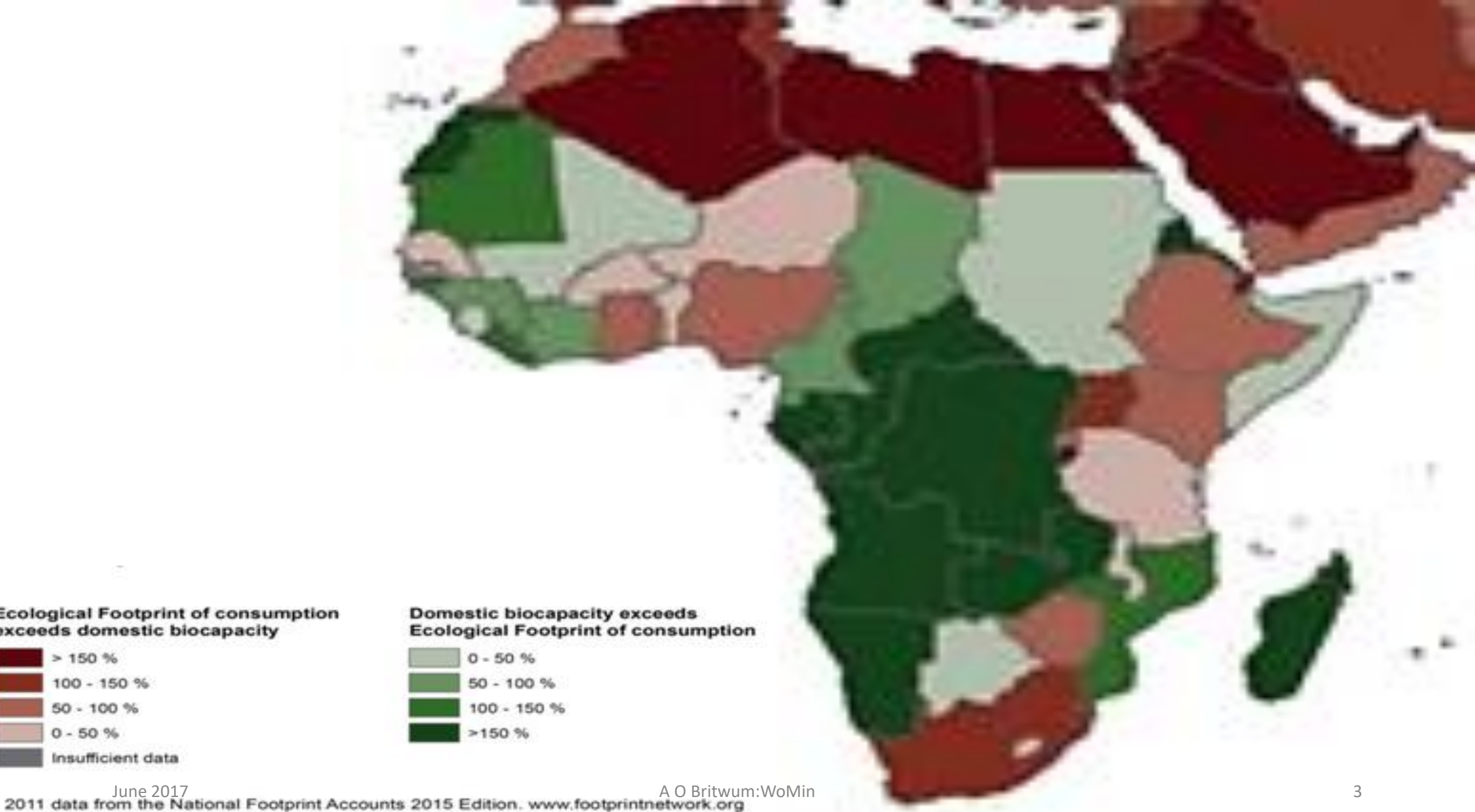


Ecological Footprint of consumption exceeds domestic biocapacity

- > 150 %
- 100 - 150 %
- 50 - 100 %
- 0 - 50 %
- Insufficient data

Domestic biocapacity exceeds Ecological Footprint of consumption

- 0 - 50 %
- 50 - 100 %
- 100 - 150 %
- >150 %



June 2017

Social issues are contentious, because they embody a system of benefits and privilege for section of society

Interventions
Determine solutions

Highlight
Develop definitions to assist understanding

Conceptualising helps us to

Set parameters, boundaries

Form a mental picture

Guide research

Establish tolerance levels

Related terms

Ecological economies

Environmental liabilities

Per capita production of greenhouse gases

Ecological footprint

Carbon footprint

Carrying capacity

Climate justice

...resource consumption and waste discharge by a population in excess of locally sustainable natural production and assimilative capacity

... consumption of resources from within an ecosystem that exceeds the system's regenerative capacity

...overall depletion of global resources beyond the Earth's ability to regenerate them'

'the debt accumulated by northern industrial countries towards third world countries on account of resource plundering and use of environmental space to deposit

wastes (Accion Ecologica, 1999)

June 2017

A C Britwum:WoMin

efore

...the ecological damage caused over time by a country in other countries or to ecosystems beyond national jurisdiction through its production and consumption patterns

Concept and use it serves

Ecofeminist connecting ecological and human exploitation (Ariel Salleh)

Ecological debt as a tool for assessing the cost of extractivism (on economic, social, political, cultural)

Making a case about imbalance between deficit from the ecological impact of Global North and the financial debt burden of the South

Examines ecological damage of 500 years of colonial extractivism

Capitalism production and environment

Describes the commodification/monetisation of nature: for profit

Significance of concept

Highlights political powerlessness of poor regions and countries

Explains the cause of debt: exports of raw materials and products in the absence of compensation

Exposes the disproportionate use of environmental resources (space/services) without payment

Introduces notion of Debt Treaty placing ecological debt in contraposition to external debt

Ethical and political matters arising

Periodisation of the debt

Who takes responsibility

Who should bear the cost of reparation

Yet we know that ...

Some are bearing the cost of damage

Others are better off from the benefits accrued

QUESTIONS

What use does the term ecological debt serve in your work

What additional information and skills we need to apply the concept in our work?

Will settling ecological debts address the fundamental problems of extractivism?

SOURCES

Goeminne, G., Paredis, E. (2010) The concept of ecological debt: some steps towards an enriched sustainability paradigm. *Environment, development and sustainability*, 12(5), 691-712.

Salleh, A. (2009). *Ecological debt: embodied debt. Eco-Sufficiency and Global Justice*. London: Pluto Press.

U. Thata Srinivasan et al. (2008). The debt of nations and the distribution of ecological impacts from human activities. *The National Academy of Sciences of the USA*, 1. Retrieved from <http://www.pnas.org/cgi/doi/10.1073/pnas.0709562104>.

Links

[Global Footprint Network - Ecological Debt Day](#)

[European Network for the recognition of the Ecological Debt](#)

[World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 - Ecological Debt](#)