

1 **On the nexus between globalization, tourism, economic growth and biocapacity: evidence from**
2 **top tourism destination**

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19 **Abstract**

20 Several studies have investigated the relationship between tourism, consumption of energy, globalization,
21 and ecological footprint. However, the role of biocapacity alongside tourism development in
22 environmental sustainability is yet to be documented in the extant literature. No doubt, the biocapacity of
23 a country, its level of tourist's arrival as well as globalization all contribute immensely to ecological
24 footprint. Consequently, this study looks at long-run and causality connections with a special focus on
25 bio-capacity. The study uses the Pooled Mean Group- Autoregressive distributed lag model (PMG-
26 ARDL) methodology to test the causality relationship during 2016 international tourists' receipt from
27 world tourism organization data files for 10 tourism destinations. Empirical result based on the panel
28 PMG-ARDL confirms the Environmental Kuznets curve (EKC) hypothesis for the 10 tourism
29 destinations countries investigated. Furthermore, the Panel ARDL estimator was used to estimate the
30 short-run and long-run relationship simultaneously between biocapacity, tourist arrivals, GDP per capita,
31 globalization, and ecological footprints. While the Dumitrescu and Hurlin panel causality test was used to
32 establish causality relationships among the highlighted variables. The trade-off between economic growth
33 and environmental quality suggests that tourist arrival dampens environmental quality. In addition, the
34 study finds that growing biocapacity affects ecological footprints negatively. Furthermore, an increase in
35 tourism-related activities, globalization, and economic production has the potential to damage the quality
36 of the environment. To this end, given the study results, there is a need to pursue green tourism which
37 can reduce environmental degradation and destruction of land caused by multiple tourism-related
38 transportation and construction of tourist facilities respectively in the top ten tourist destination
39 countries.

40 **Keywords:** Tourist arrival; sustainable development; bio-capacity; economic growth ecological
41 footprints; globalization

42

43 1. Introduction

44 Tourism and economic growth move concurrently, especially in tourist destinations. International
45 tourism (tourist arrivals and receipts) continues to direct the pace of the global economy, especially since
46 the advanced and emerging economies are both benefits of this rise from tourism income as highlighted
47 by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) (UNWTO, 2019). The trickle-down theory explains the
48 phenomenon that tourism expansion leads to economic growth that eventually but gradually elevates
49 countries Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The impact of tourism inflow to countries for leisure
50 increases geometrically from 50% in the year 2000 to 56% in 2018 according to the World Tourism
51 Organization (UNWTO) report of 2019. Tourism inflow is seen from the creation of employment,
52 infrastructure development, and stimulation of other sectors directly and indirectly. The industry
53 witnessed 9-year conservatively sustained growth (UNWTO, 2018). Also, for 7 years in a row, the growth
54 has increased faster than merchandise exports, leading to trade deficits in several countries of the world,
55 adding a total of 79 % in domestic value, job creation and export revenue. Also, in 2016, the expected
56 tourist arrival increased by more than 1.2 billion as earlier projected (OECD 2018).

57 Furthermore, in 2018, according to the report of World Travel and Tourism, the tourism sector
58 contributed 319 million jobs (WTTC, 2019). The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in 2018
59 predicted international tourist arrival of 2019 which grew by 4% in the first half of the year 2019. The
60 growth was evident in most of the continents. For instance, the Middle East witnessed the highest tourist
61 arrival of 8% plus, followed by Asia and the Pacific +6%, 4% plus from the European region, Africans
62 +3% and Americans by 2% plus. Given verdict by sub-regions, the Caribbean witnessed the highest
63 growth of 11 % plus, the North Africa by +9%, while plus 7% was seen in North-East Asia.

64 Importantly, the tourism-led growth fortunes have not come without several problems where
65 keen attention should be paid in value rather than in volume. For instance, the last decades' study on the
66 tourism-economic development nexus has further provided insight into the environmental consequences
67 of the development in tourism sectors. As much as economic development has been investigated from
68 the perspective of the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC), so is the EKC from the tourism
69 development perspective. Another greater concern is the impact of tourism development on economic
70 growth especially when there is a flock or concentration of tourists to a particular destination, thus
71 causing over-tourism (Mass Tourism). Take for instance the mass tourism, the case of the Great Wall of

72 China, which puts enormous stress on the destination land that indirectly leads to soil erosion that
73 gradually destroys the environmental resources and other parts of the ecosystem.

74 Although, Brida et al., (2008) found a significant impact of tourism and the economy for the case
75 of Colombia over the investigated period. However, several emphases have been made on the positive
76 impact of tourism, economic growth, and development (Adedoyin & Bekun,2020; Tecel et al.,2020;
77 Akadiri et al. 2017; Albalate & Bel, 2010). Also, another study has linked economic growth and
78 environmental sustainability in Asian countries using a nonlinear autoregressive distributed lag approach,
79 however, the result shows that the economic growth pattern in the country is environmentally
80 unsustainable (Shahbaz et al. 2021). Additionally, several recent pieces of literature highlight the relevance
81 of tourism inflow to the economy either directly or indirectly (Ozcan et al., 2021; Alola et al. 2019,
82 Akadiri, Alola, Cop, & Adewale Alola, 2019, Akadiri & Alola, 2017). According to the World tourism
83 organization, the USA and European Union states are the largest tourist destination countries followed
84 by China which is the third-largest inbound tourist destination. The view of Xue, Chang and Chi-Wei
85 (2018) and the data from the National Bureau of Statistics shows that China receives 133.82 million
86 dollars as tourist revenues increase the country's foreign exchange earnings by 113.65 billion dollars, thus
87 contributing enormously to the country's GDP and increasing CO₂ emission.

88 Interestingly, as tourism is increasing, energy consumption is also increasing (fossil fuels)
89 contributing to the emission of CO₂ (Nathaniel 2021c; Balsalobre-Lorente et al., 2020; Ballie et al. 2019;
90 Gossling & Peeters, 2015). This is evident in transportation, accommodation, and other tourist activities
91 directly or indirectly. Moreover, several studies highlight the long-run relationships that exist between
92 economic growth and CO₂. For instance, the study of Eluwole et al. (2020), investigates 10 tourists'
93 destinations and came up with a conclusion that in the long run, that the impact of tourism asserts a
94 negative effect on carbon emission. Accordingly, (Kocak, Ulucak & Ulucak, 2020) a significant difference
95 exists between developed and developing countries relationship in tourism inflow and CO₂. Cai et al.
96 (2020), made a huge contribution by suggesting a practical approach to the reduction of CO₂ emissions.
97 Production and consumption of energy should be measured and improve and develop clean energy
98 power generation. On the other hand, the reduction of the use of energy will reduce CO₂ emissions
99 (Kocak & Ulucak, 2019). Although, Saint Akadiri et al. (2019), opined a negative impact of tourism
100 arrivals on CO₂ in a long run. Applying a CO₂ emissions reduction strategy that is wildly acceptable to
101 measure the sustainability of the environment (Kocak, Ulucak & Ulucak, 2020; Eluwole et al. 2020;
102 Etokakpan et al et al.,2019; Balli et al. et al. 2019), is highly encouraged.

103 In this effect, the present study deviates from the conventional approach to employ a
104 comprehensive and robust empirical technique on variables such as the total ecological footprint real
105 gross domestic product per capita, international tourist arrivals, biocapacity, and globalization in a panel
106 of 10 highest tourist destination country over the period of 1977-2018. Although recent studies have
107 investigated tourism and other variables (Katiricioglu, Gokmenoglu & Eren, 2018) finding out that
108 tourism development exerts a negative influence on ecological footprints. In the same line, Shahzad et al.
109 (2017), ascertained a positive relationship between tourism and economic growth in a study using ten
110 tourist destinations with a quantile-on-quantile approach.

111 The objective of the current research is robust in that it provides empirical outcome and
112 contribute significantly to existing literature. A comprehensive multivariate model was used for panel
113 study of the top 10 tourist destination countries comprising both developed and developing economics.
114 Choosing the 10-tourist destination cut across the continent will be a great representation and thereby
115 making the result good for generalization. The study uses tourism arrivals as a proxy for tourism relative
116 to previous literature that adopts the use of tourism receipt or tourism expenditure. The motivation for
117 the use of international tourism arrival stems from the fact that international tourism arrival is a broader
118 measure that captures more dynamics in the tourism industry both in its physical impact and income
119 basis generated aspects of tourism. On the other hand, tourism receipt only reflects wealth impact
120 (Akadiri et al.,2019, Ozcan et al.,2021). Furthermore, existing studies applied carbon dioxide, however,
121 the present study will apply ecological footprint (EFP) which encompasses several natural habitats to the
122 study model and brings novelty to the growth-tourism and environment for the top tourism destination.
123 Previous studies are conducted for small island states (Akadiri et al.,2019) and single country-specific
124 cases. The current study focuses on top tourism-dependent countries to make policy prescriptions in
125 terms of environmental sustainability with the perspective of total ecological footprint and biocapacity
126 without compromise for the bloc economic trajectory.

127 The remainder of this study proceeds with a review of related literature in section 2. Subsequently, the
128 data and methodological sequences are presented in section 3 while empirical results are rendered in
129 section 4. Finally, the concluding remarks and policy guidance for the bloc are documented in section 5
130 accordingly.

131 **2. Review of related literature**

132 **2.1 Biocapacity, Economic Growth, Tourist Arrivals in the top destinations**

133 Over the last three decades, a large number of studies have investigated the determinants of
134 environmental pollution across the countries of the world (Adedoyin et al., 2020b, 2020a; Udi et al., 2020;
135 Ahmad et al. 2021). As shown in table 1a in the appendix, a summary of the various literature in this
136 study is shown. According to Zaman et al (2016) economic growth, tourism, health, and investment are
137 responsible for carbon emissions which in turn affect the quality of the environment in high-income
138 OECD, non-OECD, EU, East Asia, and Pacific countries. Also, (Ahmad et al. 2021) employed the
139 augmented mean group method and Dumitrescu Hurlin causality to examine the long and short-run
140 connection in economic development and environmental emission among the 31 Chinese provinces,
141 their result found a simultaneous growth link as urban concentration is rising; economic development is
142 increasing both in short and long-run levels of development. Urban concentration shows a U-shaped
143 connection with nonrenewable energy use intensity and environmental emissions index. Similarly, the
144 study by Akadiri et al (2019a) on the Turkish economy from 1970 to 2016, with ARDL-VECM and
145 concluded that tourism and real income (real GDP) were important determinants of CO₂ emissions and
146 consequently the natural environment.

147 Among the related studies that made use of causality analysis, the work of Akadiri et al (2018)
148 used a panel non-causality approach and identified a causal relationship from GDP per capita and
149 tourism to CO₂ emissions in 16 developing Island countries. Interestingly, apart from confirming the
150 adverse impact of GDP and tourism on the environment, the study also found that carbon emissions
151 induce tourism and economic growth for two countries in the study-Bahamas and Papua New Guinea.
152 This means that carbon emissions have predictive power on tourism and growth in the two countries- a
153 phenomenon is known as the demand flowing hypothesis. The quest to decarbonate the environment has
154 ushered in several policies including a carbon tax. The revenue generated from the carbon tax will be
155 tailored towards energy innovation. The study of (Cheng et al. 2021) examined the impact of the carbon
156 tax and energy innovation using Quantile-on-Quantile Regression over a period of 29 years in various
157 sectors of the Swedish economy. Interestingly, the findings show that both ways (carbon tax and energy
158 innovation) will not be effective in the long run. On the other hand, the study of Zafer et al (2021),
159 investigated the effect of biomass energy and environmental quality. The study incorporated several
160 variables for a study like energy consumption, technology innovation and education on environmental
161 quality. The findings review that biomass energy use together with technological innovation has a
162 reduction on environmental quality, while economic growth accounts for a massive rise in carbon
163 emission whereas financial development and education causes a reduction in carbon emissions.

164 The reciprocal relationship between tourism and environmental degradation has been
165 documented in studies carried out in other countries around the world. In a study involving 34 high-
166 income countries from Asia, Europe and America, a reciprocal relationship between emissions and
167 tourism were identified in 12 of the countries (Khan et al, 2019).

168 Some authors believe that the adverse effect of tourism on the environment is not properly
169 accounted for, hence, they found more efficient ways of accounting for the adverse effect of tourism on
170 the ecological quality to pave the way for effective mitigation of this phenomenon. For instance, Tang et
171 al (2014) used a bottom-up approach to calculate the components of the tourism industry and the
172 collective impact on the environment. They found that tourist transportation contributed to 80% of
173 tourism carbon emissions in china while tourist activities and tourist accommodation constituted the rest.
174 In another study, Cadarso et al (2016) carried out a study on the calculation of carbon footprints in Spain
175 and found that tourism contributes up to 40% of the carbon footprints in the country. The study also
176 included the role of tourism investments which made a significant increase in the contribution of tourism
177 to the total carbon footprints in Spain. In the same line, Sun et al (2016) submitted that the depleting
178 carbon efficiency in Taiwan is due to tourism-related air travel and poor mitigation rules in the country.
179 The study which adopted an environmentally extended input-output model and data tourism-related data
180 covering the period 2001-2011 called for serious government intervention to arrest the worsening
181 environmental conditions caused by tourism-related transportation in the country.

182 Further insights on the impact of GDP on environmental quality are available in the literature.
183 Churchill et al (2018) investigated the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) for 20 OECD countries for
184 the period 1870-2014. Overall, the panel data analysis showed the presence of the EKC in the focus
185 countries which shows a U-shaped relationship between economic growth and environmental quality. On
186 the other hand, Wu et al (2017) studied BRIC countries for the period 1992-2013. With the use of panel
187 co-integration analysis, the study did not find the presence of EKC in the focus countries, however, they
188 concluded that an increase in economic growth and renewable energy consumption is responsible for
189 environmental degradation in the BRIC countries. The study further suggested that BRIC countries
190 increase their energy efficiency to reduce emissions and their harmful effects on the environment.
191 Similarly, a study by Jorgensen and Clark (2011) for 65 countries over the period 1960 to 2003 confirms
192 that rising levels of economic growth led to environmental degradation. Going further Meng et al (2016)
193 linked high levels of economic activities to Ecosystem Service Deficit (ESD) using the Ecosystem
194 Footprints Service Model for China for the period 2000-2014.

195 Given the highlighted literature, this present study including biocapacity as a determinant of
196 environmental quality is very few in the literature. Among the few is Danish et al (2019) who carried out
197 a study in Pakistan for the period 1971-2014. With the help of a dynamic ARDL, they found that an
198 increase in economic growth and biocapacity worsens ecological footprints. Based on the analysis of
199 ecological security in the Beijing-Tianjin-Heibin region for the period 1995-2010 Chu et al (2017) submit
200 that decreasing biocapacity leads to improvement of the ecological footprints in the region. More
201 recently, some studies have examined the relationship between biocapacity, ecological footprints and
202 energy consumption (Nathaniel et al 2021; Sharma, Sinha & Kautish, 2021). The biocapacity and
203 ecological footprints crisis point to the insufficiency of available resources for economic production and
204 the drive to meet specific economic development goals across the globe.

205 It, therefore, means that countries with sufficient biocapacity will be able to maintain a cleaner
206 environment while engaging in economic activities. Explored the nexus between ecological footprint and
207 natural resource rent, energy intensity, GDP per capita and two tourism measures such as tourism receipt
208 and international tourism arrival for data covering over three decades with panel analysis such as full
209 modified (CUP-FM) and updated bias-corrected (CUP-BC). The study submitted that ecological
210 footprint has an inverse relationship with urbanization and natural resources while natural resources and
211 increasing urban population can help to reduce environmental degradation in the tourism-dependent
212 countries This study aligns with the finding of Nathaniel and Adedoyin (2020). Nathaniel (2021a)
213 explored the economic growth trajectory for Next-11 countries where the study investigated the well-
214 being of the Next-11 countries and her environmental sustainability using second generational panel
215 techniques. Well-being was captured by composite index-human development index (HDI). The study
216 key finding includes that financial development and biocapacity increase the ecological footprint while
217 the study also reveals that natural resources and globalization reduces environmental degradation over
218 the investigated period. Subsequently, Meo et al (2021) investigated the tourism-energy and growth nexus
219 for developing countries with Pakistan as the focus country. The study considers asymmetry while
220 exploring the relationship between energy consumption, tourism arrival and institutional quality for the
221 case of Pakistan. The NARDL analysis shows an asymmetric relationship between the outlined variables.
222 The mediating role of institutional quality exerts a positive significant t role in the tourism industry given
223 more improvement in institutional apparatus in the country.

224

225 2.2 Globalization and Environmental Sustainability

226 Most of the empirical evidence supports the assertion that globalization plays a significant role in
227 environmental degradation as against environmental sustainability (Ullah et al. 2021). For instance,
228 Akadiri et al (2019b) carried out a study for Italy covering the period 1970-2014 using an ARDL and
229 Toda Yamamoto estimators which results showed a positive significant relationship between
230 globalization and CO₂ emissions in the short run and long run. A study by Khan (2019) for Pakistan
231 confirms the findings of Akadiri et al (2019b). The study which covered the period 1975-2016 and was
232 conducted with a dynamic ARDL found that the economic, social, and political aspects of globalization
233 contribute to environmental pollution in the country. Similarly, Nathaniel (2021b) explored the nexus
234 between economic complexity and ecological footprint in the era of globalization for the Association of
235 Southeast Asian Nations, abbreviated as (ASEAN) countries. The study findings lend support to the
236 study of Akadiri et al. (2019b).

237 A study of the G20 for the period 2000 to 2014 by Wang et al (2014) with the help of a panel
238 quantile regression confirms that a high level of globalization is associated with worsening environmental
239 quality in the G20 countries. However, the study also shows a declining impact of globalization on
240 environmental quality across quantiles and that greater environmental impact is felt by extremely low and
241 high emission countries among the G20. Baek et al (2009) found that the impact of globalization on
242 environmental quality differs for developed and developing countries. From the study involving 50
243 countries, panel data analysis reports that while increasing levels of globalization improve environmental
244 quality in developed countries it worsens environmental quality in developing countries. This
245 phenomenon is due to the emission-income hypothesis which submits that economic growth induced by
246 globalization leads to an increase in environmental quality through an increase in emissions until it
247 crosses a certain threshold after which further growth will lead to a decrease in emissions and
248 consequently the improvement of the environment. Also interesting is the finding that, while there is
249 unidirectional causality from growth-proxy for globalization to S02 emissions in developed countries,
250 there is uni-directional causality from S02 to growth in developing countries except for China.

251 Globalization comes with both adverse and beneficial effects on the environmental quality in
252 Africa as shown by the work of Acheampong et al (2019) on 46 sub-Saharan African countries. The study
253 used two indicators for globalization namely Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and trade openness, and
254 with the help of panel spatial analysis, it was found that while an increase in FDI improves environmental
255 quality by a reduction in carbon emissions, a rise in openness leads to environmental degradation in

256 Africa by spurring a rise in carbon emissions. The study suggests increased use of renewable energy and
257 regulation of non-sustainable production activities to mitigate environmental damage. Comparatively,
258 You and Lv (2018) differ in the globalization environmental nexus. In their study of 83 countries over
259 the period 1975 to 2013 they found an overlapping negative significant relationship between globalization
260 and environmental quality, hence, the conclusion that high levels of globalization improve the quality of
261 the environment among the 83 countries in the study. The study further inferred that being surrounded
262 by a globalized country has a positive impact on the environmental quality of a country.

263

264 3. Data, Model and Methods

265 This paper examines the causal linkage between International Tourist Arrivals, Bio-Capacity,
266 Globalization and Ecological Footprint: Evidence from Top 10 Tourism Destinations like France,
267 United States, Spain, China, Italy, United Kingdom, Germany, Mexico, Thailand, Turkey period. Hence
268 our Tourism model includes bio-capacity, globalization, and ecological footprints. Methods like panel
269 pooled Mean Group- Autoregressive Autoregressive distributed lag model (PMG-ARDL) were adopted.
270 The empirical model is given as:

$$271 \text{TEFP} = f(\text{BIO}, \text{TOU}, \text{GLO}, \text{GDP}, \text{GDP}2) \quad (1)$$

$$272 \ln \text{TEFP}_{it} = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \ln \text{BIO}_{it} + \alpha_2 \ln \text{TOU}_{it} + \alpha_3 \ln \text{GLO}_{it} + \alpha_4 \ln \text{GDP}_{it} + \alpha_5 \ln \text{GDP}2_{it} + e_{it} \quad (2)$$

273 Where TEFP represents Ecological footprints, BIO represents biocapacity, TOU represents tourists'
274 arrivals, GLO represents globalization and GDP represents real Gross domestic product subscripts e_{it}
275 refers to the error term; i represent each country while t represents the time. The choice of variables
276 follows several empirical studies in the literature. For example, the development of the tourism sector in
277 many countries is considered paramount to determining the quality of ecological footprint (Katircioglu et
278 al., 2018; Kongbuamai et al., 2020). Also, studies have examined the relationship between biocapacity,
279 ecological footprints and energy consumption (Nathaniel et al 2021; Sharma, Sinha & Kautish, 2021).
280 The biocapacity and ecological footprints crisis point to the insufficiency of available resources for
281 economic production and the drive to meet specific economic development goals across the globe.

282 The data of this study covers the 2016 period of tourist's arrivals for the top 10 tourism countries
283 highlighted. Data were extracted from World Tourism Organization data files as shown in Table 1.

284 Additionally, the selection of variables was motivated by the Ecological footprints and the Environmental
 285 Kuznets Curve. Furthermore, Table 2 presents the data and the description of the variables under
 286 consideration.

287 *Table 1. Countries of focus 2016 International tourism, receipts (current US\$)*

S/N	Country	International tourism, number of arrivals
1	France	82682000
2	United States	76407000
3	Spain	75315000
4	China	59270000
5	Italy	52372000
6	United Kingdom	35814000
7	Germany	35555000
8	Mexico	35079000
9	Thailand	32530000
10	Turkey	30289000
Source: World Tourism Organization data files		

288

289 *Table 2. Description of variables and measurement Units*

Name of Indicator	Abbreviation	Proxy/Scale of Measurement	Source
Total ecological footprint	TEFP	Area Per Capita	Global Footprint Network (2019)
Real gross domestic product per capita	RGDP	Constant 2010 US\$	WDI
International tourist arrivals	TOU	Number of arrivals	WDI
Biocapacity	BIO		WDI
Globalization	GLO	Index	The Swiss Institute of Technology in Zurich

Note. WDI is a connotation for data from World Bank Development Indicator of the World Bank database sourced from <https://data.worldbank.org/>.

290

291 As reiterated above, this study employed a panel mean group autoregressive regressive distributed
 292 lag model to capture the short-run and the long-run relationship between the target-dependent and
 293 independent variables. Although the ARDL model is capable of capturing short-run and long-run
 294 estimation, it is deficient to control the bias prompted by the associative correlation between white noise
 295 terms and the mean-differenced predictors, especially with the individual effects panel model. To
 296 overcome this bias, we used ARDL in conjunction with PMG developed by Pesaran et al. (1999) to
 297 provide challenging and suitable answers to the inappropriateness of dynamic system GMM. Moreover,
 298 Pesaran et al. (1999) posited the reliability of PMG estimators and their robustness to lag orders and
 299 outliers. Hence, following Sarkodie and Strezov (2018), we developed the model below:

$$300 \Delta \ln \text{TEFP}_{it} = \phi_i \text{ECT} + \sum_{j=0}^{q-1} \Delta X_{it} \beta_{ij} + \sum_{j=1}^{p-1} \psi_{ij} \Delta \ln \text{TEFP}_{it-j} + \varepsilon_{it} \quad (3)$$

301 Where ECT is the error correction term of the model and given in the below equation

$$302 \text{ECT}_{it} = \text{TEFP}_{it-1} - X_{it} \theta \quad (4)$$

303 Where Δ represent difference operator, ϕ and θ are coefficients of adjustment (whose product is
 304 β and ψ after convergence), and long-run coefficient, respectively. ε denote the error term, TEFT is the
 305 dependent variable, X denote the vector of predictors (BIO, TOU, GLO, GDP, GDP2) with equal lags
 306 order q across each cross-unit i in time t.

307

308 4. Results and Discussions

309 Table 3 reports the descriptive statistics of the variables at the country level and in the group. For the
 310 individual countries, The United States of America has the highest Gross Domestic Product while China
 311 has the highest Biocapacity and Ecological footprint, France records the highest receipts from tourism
 312 while the United Kingdom has the highest globalization index. For group characteristics GDP has the
 313 highest mean and median. The correlation matrix shown in table 4 Biocapacity, tourist arrivals, GDP and
 314 globalization has a positive correlation with EFP as expected.

315 *Table 3. Summary Statistics*

Individual Country Mean (1995 – 2016)					
	EFP (‘million)	GDP (‘billion)	BIO (‘million)	TOU (‘million)	GLO
France	323	2490	172	76	84.64
Spain	217	1280	63	53	81.39
United States of America	2790	14000	1100	55	79.41
China	3700	4520	1240	43	58.62
Italy	306	2070	60	41	79.82
Mexico	318	993	148	23	63.47
United Kingdom	337	2310	75	27	87.49
Turkey	207	698	112	22	66.52
Germany	435	3290	138	23	85.60
Thailand	149	292	77	15	66.49
Group Summary Statistics (1995 – 2016)					
Variable	Obs.	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
EFP (‘million)	220	878	1260	114	5260
GDP (‘billion)	220	3190	3930	199	16900
BIO (‘million)	220	319	431	47	1370
TOU (‘million)	220	38	20	7	85
GLO	218	75.34	10.59	45.65	89.35

316

317 *Table 4. Result of Pearson correlation matrix*

	LEFP2	LGDP	LGDP2	LTOU	LBIO	LGLO
LEFP2	1					
LGDP	0.7675*	1				
	0.0000					
LGDP2	0.7668*	0.9997*	1			
	0.0000	0.0000				

LTOU	0.5988*	0.6554*	0.6486*	1		
	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000			
LBIO	0.1393*	0.6651*	0.6739*	0.3135*	1	
	0.0389	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000		
LGLO	0.7949*	0.4082*	0.4016*	0.4703*	-0.3254*	1
	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	
***, **, and * connotes a statistical rejection level of normality test statistics at 1%; 5% and 10% significance levels respectively						

318

319 Subsequently, in table 5, both Im Pesaran Shin and ADF-Fisher Unit root tests show that all
320 variables are first difference stationary. Three variables are stationary at the level in both tests, hence we
321 conclude that the time series of the variables are integrated of order one, i.e. I(1).

322 Furthermore, table 6 shows the results of the cointegration tests from the Pedroni co-integration
323 test. The result confirms that there exists among cointegration relationship among LBIOCAP, LGDPC,
324 LARRIVALS, and GLO over our investigated period for the top tourism destination.

325 Table 5. UNIT ROOT ANALYSIS

TESTS variable	IPS		FISHER-ADF	
	LEVEL	Δ	LEVEL	Δ
LNARRIVALS	0.5014	-2.7086***	20.254	38.195***
LNBIOCAP	-4.0482***	-7.5015***	53.038***	87.089***
LNEFP	0.7014	-3.9855***	16.556	53.759***
LNGDPC	-1.8866**	-2.7636***	32.039**	40.364***
LNGLOBAL	-2.3171**	-4.0092***	34.955**	49.224***

Notes: Δ is the first difference operator for the model with both trend and intercept at the level. Lag length is automatically selected using the Akaike information criterion. ***, ** and * represent a rejection of the null hypothesis of “unit root” at the 1%, 5% and 10% levels of significance respectively.

326

327

328 Table 6. Pedroni cointegration test

test statistics	statistics	prob*
Panel v-Statistic	-1.398	0.919
Panel rho-Statistic	0.653	0.743
Panel PP-Statistic	-3.753	0.000***
Panel ADF-Statistic	0.050	0.520
Group rho-Statistic	2.860	0.998
Group PP-Statistic	-2.600	0.005***
Group ADF-Statistic	-0.683	0.247

329

330 Table 8 reports the regression results, which confirms the EKC for the ten countries in focus (France,
 331 United States of America, Spain, China, United Kingdom, Italy, Mexico, Turkey, Germany, and
 332 Thailand). Additionally, in Table 7, the results of the Dumitrescu and Hurlin panel causality test are
 333 presented. This is to permit an examination of the Granger non-causality from each explanatory variable
 334 to total ecological footprints in a heterogeneous panel setting.

335 Table 7: Causality Analysis

Null Hypothesis	W-Stat.	Zbar-Stat.	Prob.
LARRIVALS \neq > LEFP	7.09472	5.6174	0.0000***
LEFP \neq > LARRIVALS	2.73316	0.4992	0.6176
LBIOCAP \neq > LEFP	4.58166	2.66844	0.0076***
LEFP \neq > LBIOCAP	3.73544	1.6754	0.0939*
LGDPDC \neq > LEFP	5.45007	3.6875	0.0002***
LEFP \neq > LGDPDC	3.5541	1.4626	0.1436
LGLOBAL \neq > LEFP	5.52944	3.7806	0.0002***
LEFP \neq > LGLOBAL	4.6509	2.7496	0.006***
LBIOCAP \neq > LARRIVALS	2.21417	-0.1097	0.9126
LARRIVALS \neq > LBIOCAP	3.81864	1.7730	0.0762*
LGDPDC \neq > LARRIVALS	2.55261	0.2874	0.7738
LARRIVALS \neq > LGDPDC	4.28829	2.3241	0.0201**
LGLOBAL \neq > LARRIVALS	4.0676	2.0652	0.0389**

LARRIVALS \neq >LGLOBAL	2.0458	-0.3073	0.7586
LGDPC \neq >LBIOCAP	3.4189	1.3039	0.1922
LBIOCAP \neq >LGDPC	2.73113	0.4969	0.6193
LGLOBAL \neq >LBIOCAP	4.48228	2.5518	0.0107**
LBIOCAP \neq >LGLOBAL	1.15765	-1.3495	0.1772
LGLOBAL \neq >LGDPC	5.21625	3.41311	0.0006***
LGDPC \neq >LGLOBAL	5.83645	4.1409	0.0000***
Note: *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1 represent statistical rejection level at 1,5 and 10 per cent respectively while symbol " \neq >" denotes Granger Causality relationship between highlighted variables with the null hypothesis of no causality.			

336

337 Considering the variables in the model, biocapacity is statistically significant in the short and the
338 long run at 5 and 10 % levels respectively. However, while it is negative in the short run with a coefficient
339 of -0.327, it is positive in the long run as can be seen by its coefficient of 0.585. This implies that a 1%
340 increase in biocapacity improves ecological footprints in the short run by 0.32%, while in the long run
341 (future time) a 1% increase in biocapacity worsens ecological footprints by 0.58% in the ten countries.
342 The impact of biocapacity on ecological footprints in the countries of focus is as expected and confirms
343 the study of Danish et al (2019) for the case of Pakistan. Results from table 7 show that there is bi-
344 directional causality between biocapacity and ecological footprints. Apart from providing further
345 supports for the regression results (Table 8), this outcome entails a feedback mechanism between the two
346 variables. Hence, more biocapacity can affect ecological footprints and vice versa.

347 Consequently, the coefficient for tourist arrivals is not significant in the short run as well as in the
348 long run (Table 8). This means that tourist arrivals in the focus countries have no impact on ecological
349 footprints in the focus countries. Hence, it is other factors that affect ecological footprints in the study
350 countries. However, opposing results are suggested by the causality test, which shows that there is
351 unidirectional causality from tourist arrivals to ecological footprints. This implies that an increase in
352 tourist activities can contribute to environmental degradation as found by Zang (2019) in his study of six
353 South East Asian countries. Furthermore, tourism impacts negatively on the ecological footprints of
354 countries by putting excessive pressure on local land use and as well as local infrastructure. The
355 continuous use of air and road transport by tourist increase air pollution. Also, due to an increase in
356 tourist visits to a country, the construction of tourist sites and facilities destroys soil composition and
357 exposes the land to soil erosion.

358 In the case of globalization, the regression results (Table 8) suggest a non-significant effect in
 359 both the short run and the long run. Similar results have been reported by Akadiri et al. (2018, 2019) for
 360 selected tourist destination states, where they found that globalization has no statistically significant
 361 impact on environmental degradation and further, submitted that factors environmental pollution was
 362 caused by other factors within the countries such as national economic activities rather than outside
 363 factors induced by globalization. However, table 7, shows that there is bi-directional causality between
 364 globalization and ecological footprints, suggesting that globalization affects ecological footprints and vice
 365 versa. This result is consistent with that of You and Lv (2018) for 83 countries and Shahbaz et al (2018)
 366 for the Netherlands and Ireland.

367 GDP per capita is not significant in the short run but it is positive and statistically significant in
 368 the long-run coefficient of 8.451. This means that GDP per capita worsens ecological footprints in the
 369 long run only. Specifically, a 1% rise in GDP per capita will cause an increase in ecological footprints of
 370 8.45%. Consequently, results from causality tests (table 7) show that there is unidirectional causality from
 371 GDP per capita to total ecological footprints, further implying a negative effect on the environment
 372 caused by continuous economic growth among the countries in the study. It is against such negative
 373 ecological impact that environmental and macroeconomic policymakers are called upon to consider
 374 ecological preservation alongside economic development goals. (Alola et al., 2019a, 2019b; Nathaniel et
 375 al.,2021).

376 Table 8. Empirical Results

VARIABLES	MG	DFE	PMG
short-run			
ECT	-0.597*** (0.132)	-0.260*** (0.0518)	-0.375*** (0.135)
D.lnbiocap	0.433 (0.287)	0.0957 (0.079)	0.327** (0.159)
D.lnarrivals	-0.0043 (0.079)	-0.0253 (0.058)	-0.13 (0.094)
D.lnglobal	0.194 (0.422)	-0.491 (0.345)	-0.060 (0.404)
D.lngdpc	-24 (90.5)	-3.036 (3.743)	56.51 (41.48)
D.lngdpsgr	0.434 (1.585)	0.0741 (0.068)	-0.983 (0.720)
long-run			

lnbiocap	-2.299	0.434	-0.585***
	(1.517)	(0.394)	(0.105)
lnarrivals	-1.288	-0.139	0.0493
	(0.981)	(0.105)	(0.036)
lnglobal	-9.264	-0.246	0.328
	(5.881)	(0.595)	(0.201)
lngdpc	370.0***	2.556	8.451***
	(126.4)	(2.530)	(1.422)
lngdpsgr	-6.439***	-0.0358	-0.148***
	(2.158)	(0.043)	(0.027)
Constant	-1,758*	-12.37	-41.49***
	(905.4)	(9.576)	(14.980)
hausman test	0.000 (1.000)	8.18 (0.140)	0.000 (1.000)
Observations	210		210
Standard errors in parentheses. *** p<0.01, ** p<0.05, * p<0.1. *** the Hausman test shows PMG is the best model of the three models. should be considered for the analysis.			

377

378 5. Conclusion and policy implications

379 This study links biocapacity, GDP per capita, tourist arrivals and globalization to ecological
380 footprints. This panel study extends the body of knowledge by introducing ecological footprints (which
381 comprises several measures of natural habitat) in the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) framework
382 for the top 10 tourist destinations namely France, the United States of America, Spain, China, United
383 Kingdom, Italy, Mexico, Turkey, Germany, and Thailand over the period 1995 to 2016. The Panel ARDL
384 estimator was used to estimate the short-run and long-run relationship between biocapacity, tourist
385 arrivals, GDP per capita, globalization and Ecological footprints. While the Dumitrescu and Hurlin panel
386 causality test was used to establish causal relationships among the variables.

387 The study confirms that the Environmental Kuznets Curve (EKC) holds in the ten countries
388 examined., indicating that the addition of more and improved technology innovation will increase the
389 economic growth while decreasing the environmental emission at the same time. This is in line with the
390 study of Ahmad et al. (2021) and Churchill et al (2018) when they find a U shape relationship between
391 the intensity of nonrenewable energy use and emission index. But oppose the study of Wu et al (2017)
392 which poses no EKC hypothesis presence in BRIC countries. Also, the study finds that growing
393 biocapacity affects ecological footprints negatively as Danish et al (2019) also find in their study that

394 development in economic and biocapacity worsens Pakistan's ecological footprint, and Chu et al (2017),
395 whose study confirmed that improvement of ecological improvement resulted from decreasing
396 biocapacity in Beijing-Tianjin-Heibin region. Furthermore, increase in tourism-related activities,
397 globalization, and economic production have the potential to damage the quality of the environment as
398 evidenced from the research conducted by (Nathaniel 2021c) which stated that as tourism increases,
399 consumption of energy also increases, thereby releasing toxic substances that damage the environmental
400 quality.

401 From a policy perspective, it becomes necessary that attaining environmental sustainability is a
402 commitment to be taken seriously by the individual countries in the study. Such commitment that will
403 ensure a sustainable ecological footprint and cleaner environment can be achieved in several ways. Firstly,
404 governments and organizations are advised to adopt green tourism which can reduce air pollution and
405 destruction of land caused by multiple tourism-related transportation and construction of tourist facilities
406 respectively in the top ten tourist destination countries covered in this study. Secondly, sustainable
407 economic production is desirable to reduce emissions which deplete the quality of the environment in a
408 bid to achieve economic development goals for national economies. Most of the countries analyzed in
409 this study are signatory to the Kyoto Protocol and Paris accord which are committed to reducing the
410 impact of emissions arising from economic activities on the natural habitat. Thirdly, the study has found
411 a link between globalization and high ecological footprints makes it important that sustainable
412 consumption patterns be adopted in the countries under focus to mitigate the environmental damage that
413 arises from economic activities in response to global demand for goods and services. Moreover, the
414 policy should synergize a way to properly manage the biocapacity in the region to have more control on
415 the environmental quality.

416

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418

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Appendix 1. Summary of literature

Table 1a. A summary of selected literature on Biocapacity, globalization, tourism, GDP and EF in top destinations

Author(s)	period	variables	country	methodology	Results
Zaman et al 2016	2005-2013	Tourism index, CO ₂ , GDP, Gross Capital Formation, Health Expenditure	High income OECD, Non-OECD, EU, East Asia and Pacific	Panel data analysis	Tourism induces emissions, energy induces emissions, investment induces emissions.
Sun (2016)	2001-2011	National Carbon footprints, Carbon efficiency	Taiwan	Environmental input-output model	Carbon emissions increase with low carbon efficiency
Tang et al 2014	1990-2012	Tourism-related emissions, tourism transportation, tourism activities, tourism accommodation	China	Bottom-up Approach	Tourism transportation is a major contributor to tourism-related emissions
Cadarso et al 2016	1995-2007	Domestic whole carbon footprint (DWCF), the whole carbon footprint of tourism (WCF)	Spain	Life cycle assessment input-output model	Tourism investments contribute to environmental pollution
Akadiri et al 2020	1995-2014	Tourism, GDP, CO ₂ , Glob	16 island dev countries	Panel Granger non-causality	Tourism granger causes carbon emissions
Akadiri et al 2019a	1970-2014	CO ₂ , Tourism, GDP, Glob,	Turkey	ARDL-VECM	An increase in tourist arrivals leads to an increase in CO ₂ emissions
Khan et al 2019	1975 -2017	FD, tourism, per cap energy use, Renewable energy, trade	34 high-income countries	Dumitrescu and Hurlin non-causality test	The long-run relationship between tourism and GHG emissions
Danish et al 2019	1971-2014	EF, GDP, Biocap, Human cap,	Pakistan	ARDL	Biocap increases EF
Chu et al 2017	1995-2001	Ecological tension and, ecological occupancy	China	Ecological footprint	EF increased while bio cap decreased

		and, ecological economic coordination and		approach	
Meng et al 2018	2000-2014	ESF, GDP, Income level and population	China	Ecosystem Service Footprint Model	High GDP is linked to Ecosystem Service Deficit (ESD) and vice versa
Jorgesen and Clark (2011)	1960-2003	EF, GDP, Population, military Exp, Arable land and Manufacturing	65 countries	Panel data analysis	GDP has a positive significant relationship with Environmental degradation levels
Churchhill et al (2018)	1965-2014	GDP, trade, population, FD, CO2	20 OECD countries	MG, PMG, AMG	Presence of EKC in 9 countries
Wu et al (2017)	1992-2013	RGDP, CO2, Agric, Renewable energy, Nonrenewable energy.	BRIC	Panel Cointegration analysis	RGDP and REC increase CO ₂ emissions NREC and Agric increase CO ₂ emissions

Table 1b. A summary of selected literature on Globalization and Environmental sustainability

Author(s)	period	variables	country	methodology	Results
Khan et al 2019	1971-2016	CO2, Fossil Fuel consp, Trade. GDP, FDI, Financial dev, Innovations, Economic Globalization, urban population, Social glob ind,	Pakistan	Dynamic ARDL	Economic glob, social glob, political glob has a positive effect on CO2 emissions
Akadiri et al 2019b	1970-2014	CO2, energy use, GDP, Glob,	Italy	ARDL, Toda Yamamoto	An increase in Glob leads to an increase in CO2 emissions
Wang et al	Glob, GDP,		G20	Panel quantile	Political glob has a positive impact on PM2.

2018	trade, inflation, democracy, Renew, Urbanisation, fossil, pop, FDI		countries	regression	Democracy has a positive impact on PM2.
You and Lv 2018	1985-2013	CO2, GDP. Glob, Urb, pop, Indus	83 countries	Spatial Panel approach	Glob harms CO2 emissions
Acheampong et al 2019	1985-2015	GDP, renew, trade, regulation, pop, FDI, FD	sub- Saharan countries	Fixed effect/Random effects	
Baek et al 2009	1960-2000	Trade, GDP, CO2	50 countries	VAR	An increase in GDP decreases S02 in dev countries, increase in GDP increase S02 in developing countries