



DATA & APPLICATIONS ONLINE

Environmental Sustainability Indicators

Overview

Since the 1980s, efforts to develop sustainability indicators have grown, spurred by the recognition that environmental policy making should be data-driven, science-based, and analytically rigorous. SEDAC's Environmental Sustainability Indicators Web site distributes sustainability indicator data produced by many different governmental and nongovernmental groups.

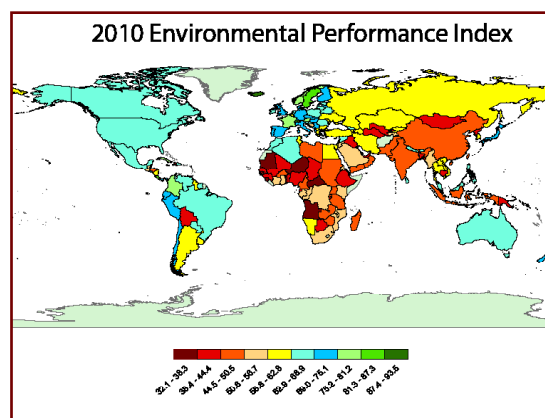
Data

To download data, go to <http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/es>.

Highlights

The Web site provides access to:

- **The 2010 Environmental Performance Index (EPI)**, which focuses on measurable outcomes in ten policy areas for 163 countries, employing a proximity-to-target approach
- Other indicator collections, including the **Natural Resource Management Index (NRMI)**, produced for the Millennium Challenge Corporation; **Population, Landscape, and Climate Estimates (PLACE)**; and the **Compendium of Environmental Sustainability Indicator Collections**, which facilitates comparison and analysis of sustainability indicators by compiling in one database 426 indicators from six collections
- Global-scale spatial sustainability data, including the **Human Appropriation of Net Primary Productivity (HANPP)**, which compares the spatial distribution of human consumption of carbon (as embodied in food, fiber, and wood products) with the ability of land-based ecosystems to produce it
 - **The Human Footprint**, which aims to measure the extent of human influence on the Earth's surface
 - **Anthropogenic Biomes**, a data set used to help delineate 21 anthropogenic biomes based on population density, land use, biota, climate, terrain and geology
 - **Global Agricultural Lands**, data sets of the proportion of land area used as cropland (land used for the cultivation of food) and pasture (land used for grazing) in the year 2000
 - **Indicators of Coastal Water Quality**, which uses chlorophyll-a concentrations from NASA's SeaWiFS sensor to analyze trends from 1998–2007 to help identify near-coastal areas that may need management intervention
- Links to related material, such as the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) catalog of indicator initiatives SEDAC's Indicators discussion list, and reports



To learn more, go to <http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/es>

