The Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) is a data and research center of Columbia University’s Earth Institute that addresses human interactions with the environment. Our focus is on the impacts of human activities and institutional arrangements on the environment, and, in turn, how environmental change affects society.

We manage a number of Web sites that contain data, information, and interactive applications useful to researchers, policymakers, educators, and students.

CIESIN is located at the Lamont-Doherty Campus of Columbia University in Palisades, New York. Its international staff have advanced training in a range of fields, including geography, demography, political science, history, economics, natural resource management, geophysics, information management, library science, geospatial technologies, software engineering and computer science.

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The Earth Institute
Columbia University

The Earth Institute, Columbia University, mobilizes the sciences, education and public policy to achieve a sustainable Earth. Through interdisciplinary research among more than 500 scientists in diverse fields, the Institute is adding to the knowledge necessary for addressing the challenges of the 21st century and beyond. With over two dozen associated degree curricula and a vibrant fellowship program, the Earth Institute is educating new leaders to become professionals and scholars in the growing field of sustainable development. We work alongside governments, businesses, nonprofit organizations and individuals to devise innovative strategies to protect the future of our planet.

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Updated November 2015
Environmental Sustainability and Change


Gridded Species Distribution v1: Downloadable data available in 1 km (30 arc-second) resolution grids in .BIL format, for global amphibian distributions and for birds/mammals in the Americas. [sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/species-v1](http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/species-v1)

Global Distribution of Mangroves, 2000: Database on the extent of mangroves forests from the Global Land Survey and the Landsat archive at 30 m spatial resolution. [bit.ly/1QqZ834](http://bit.ly/1QqZ834)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Socioeconomic Data Distribution Centre (DDC): A Web site providing socioeconomic baseline and scenario data for use in climate impact assessments. [sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/ddc](http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/ddc)

Interactive Tools


The NPL Superfund Footprint Mapper: An interactive, online mapping application that visualizes demographic and environmental data for communities near U.S. hazardous waste sites. [superfund.ciesin.columbia.edu/sfmapper/index.html](http://superfund.ciesin.columbia.edu/sfmapper/index.html)

Climate and Health Analysis for Global Education Viewer (Change Viewer): 3D NASA World Wind technology is used to visualize climate change impacts on human health. [climatechangehumanhealth.org/changeviewer/](http://climatechangehumanhealth.org/changeviewer/)

Africa Soil Information Service (AFISIS) Map Tool: Displays geo-referenced digital elevation, topographic wetness, specific catchment area data, and other parameters. [africasoils.net/data/datasets](http://africasoils.net/data/datasets)

Haiti Interactive Map Tool: Displays data for development indicators relating to Haiti’s southwest coast. [haiti.ciesin.columbia.edu/haiti_mapclient/](http://haiti.ciesin.columbia.edu/haiti_mapclient/)


Population and the Environment


Millennium Ecosystem Assessment: Data sets used in the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) to assess conditions and trends in ecosystems. [sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/ma](http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/ma)

Population in the Low-Elevation Coastal Zone (LECZ): The numbers and proportions of the world’s population located in the LECZ (all areas below 10 meters elevation). [sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/lecz](http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/lecz)

Global Roads: Includes the public-domain Global Roads Open Access Data Set (gROADS) and a catalog of roads data. [sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/groads](http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/groads)

U.S. Census Grids: Census block and block group boundaries are transformed into grids for faster, easier analysis. [sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/usgrid](http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/usgrid)


Global Reservoir and Dam (GRanD), v1: 6,862 satellite-imaged records of reservoirs and associated dams. [sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/grand-v1](http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/grand-v1)


Poverty, Health, and Hazards


Satellite-Derived Environmental Indicators: Estimates of annual PM$_{2.5}$ concentrations over a 10-year period derived from NASA MODIS and MISR satellite data. [sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/sdei](http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/collection/sdei)

