



Center for International Earth Science Information Network

CIESIN, the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, 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, policy-makers, 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. For more information, please visit the CIESIN Web site at www.ciesin.columbia.edu.

Contact Information:
P.O. Box 1000, 61 Route 9W
Palisades, NY 10964 USA
Tel: +1(845) 365-8988
Fax: +1(845) 365-8922
E-mail: ciesin.info@ciesin.columbia.edu

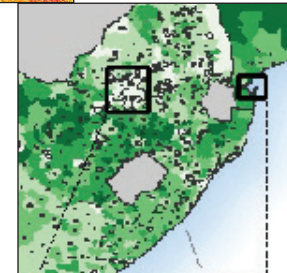
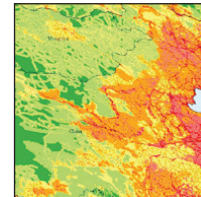
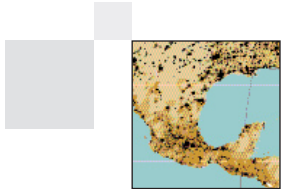


The Earth Institute at Columbia University is the world's leading academic center for the integrated study of Earth, its environment and society. The Earth Institute builds upon excellence in the core disciplines—Earth sciences, biological sciences, engineering sciences, social sciences, and health sciences—and stresses cross-disciplinary approaches to complex problems. Through research, training and global partnerships, the Earth Institute mobilizes science and technology to advance sustainable development, while placing special emphasis on the needs of the world's poor. www.earth.columbia.edu

Updated April 2009

Data and Information Resources

Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN)



Environmental Sustainability and Change

Environmental Performance Index (2008 EPI): Using a proximity-to-target approach, the EPI measures progress towards environmental goals for 149 countries.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/es/epi

Compendium of Environmental Sustainability Indicator Collections: Contains 426 indicators compiled from the EPI, Environmental Sustainability Index, Environmental Vulnerability Index, Wellbeing Index, National Footprint Accounts, and the Rio-Jo'burg Dashboard.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/es/compendium.html

Natural Resource Management Index (NRMI): A composite of four indicators evaluating country performance in environmental health and ecosystem protection. Updated annually to help determine funding eligibility by the US government's Millennium Challenge Corporation.
<http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/es/mcc.html>

Global Geographical Distribution of Vulnerability to Climate Change: A report, global distribution maps, and data available for download. Developed by a team of scientists to advance understanding of the nature of climate change risks and vulnerabilities.
www.ciesin.columbia.edu/data/climate

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Socioeconomic Data Distribution Centre: A Web site providing access to baseline and scenario data on population, economic development, technology, and natural resources for use in climate impact assessments.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/ddc

Assessment of Impacts and Adaptations to Climate Change: A resource for researchers on climate change impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/aiacc

Species Distribution Grids: A search facility lets you quickly locate and download 1-kilometer (30 arc-second) resolution grids of the distribution of species. Data available for global amphibian distributions and for birds and mammals in the Americas. Individual species distribution grids and family grids show the density and distribution of species within a given family.
<http://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/species/>

Thematic Guides: Online guides to research and data related to the human dimensions of global environmental change.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/tg

Online Tools

Environmental Treaties & Resource Indicators (ENTRI): Online search and retrieval of treaty texts by signatory, date, and thematic area; includes country summaries of treaty participation, and EarthTrends and ESI environmental profiles.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/entri

ENTRI Conference of Party Decision Search Tool: An add-on to ENTRI, the tool is powered by a Google appliance and includes controlled "metadata" (coding of each decision document) to enable powerful advanced text searches by COP number, date, or document title.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/entri

SEDAC Map Client: Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)-compliant tool lets users explore different thematic views of SEDAC global data holdings, or incorporate data available through other OGC services; the resulting map file may be shared with others.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/mapviewer/index.jsp

Population and the Environment

Gridded Population of the World (GPW), v. 3: A flagship CIESIN data product, GPW provides population size and density in a gridded format (2.5 arc-minutes) that may be easily combined with earth science data.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/plue/gpw

Global Rural-Urban Mapping Project (GRUMP): This spatial data collection includes a global point database of human settlements (cities and towns of 1,000 persons or more), an urban extent mask of settlements of 5,000 persons or more, and a 1km population grid.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/plue/gpw

U.S. Census Grids: Census block and block group boundaries are transformed into grids for faster and easier analysis. Population and housing counts, plus a wide variety of socioeconomic characteristics, are available for the year 2000.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/usgrid

Population, Landscape, and Climate Estimates, v. 2 (PLACE II): A tabular data set providing national-level aggregates of territorial extent and population size by biome, climate zone, coastal proximity and elevation.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/place/index.jsp

Human Appropriation of Net Primary Productivity (HANPP): A global spatial data set describing global

patterns of net primary productivity (NPP) and human consumption thereof.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/es/hanpp.html

The Human Footprint and The Last of the Wild: Data sets that map the intensity and extent of human land use and the remaining "wild" places.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/wildareas/

Population in the Low-Elevation Coastal Zone (LECZ): Data on the numbers and proportions of the world's population located in the LECZ, defined as all areas below 10 meters elevation. Country estimates by urban and rural population are provided.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/gpw/leczip

Population-Environment Research Network: An online resource including an eLibrary, regular cyberseminars, and a membership database.
www.populationenvironmentresearch.org

Poverty, Health, and Hazards

Global Poverty Mapping Project: Downloadable maps, spatial data, and tabular data of subnational measurements of poverty. Global coverage of infant mortality and malnutrition; higher-resolution national coverage for consumption and basic needs in 28 countries.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/povmap

Natural Disaster Hotspots—A Global Risk Analysis: Developed with the World Bank and others, a global geospatial data set on six major natural hazards and associated risks of mortality and economic loss.
www.ideo.columbia.edu/chrr/research/hotspots

Remote Sensing and Geospatial Data

2008 TerraViva! SEDAC Viewer: A global spatial data visualization and analysis software application (Windows-only) to enhance viewing of SEDAC collections of sustainability and socioeconomic variables and maps. Includes analytical tools. Free of charge.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/terraVivaUserWeb

Remote Sensing (RS) Resources: Links to RS resources for environmental treaties, urban RS, Thematic Guide to Social Science Applications of RS, and others.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/rs_resources.html