CIESIN, the Center for International Earth Science Information Network, is a data and research center that is part of Columbia University’s Earth Institute that addresses human interactions in 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, NY. 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

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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
Global Environmental Change

2005 Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI):
This is the fourth edition of this widely acclaimed internationally comparative index. The 2005 ESI assesses the relative sustainability of 146 countries across multiple dimensions.
www.ciesin.columbia.edu/indicators/esi

Thematic Guides: Online guides to research and data in thematic areas related to the human dimensions of global environmental change. The guides are complemented by a searchable bibliographic catalog totaling more than 4,700 records.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/tg

Climate Change Information Resources for the New York Metropolitan Region (CCIR-NYC):
Developed in collaboration with the Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Hunter College, this website provides information on the impacts of climate change and variability in the tri-state New York metropolitan area.
ccir.ciesin.columbia.edu/nyc/

IPCC Special Report on Emissions Scenarios:
This site provides the greenhouse gas emissions scenarios that were developed in support of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
sres.ciesin.columbia.edu

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

Open Meetings of the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Research Community: Includes abstracts, papers and proceedings.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/openmeeting

Potential Impacts of Climate Change on World Food Supply: This online dataset provides projected crop yield changes due to climate change.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/giss_crop_study

Environmental Treaties

Environmental Treaties & Resource Indicators (ENTRI): Permits online search and retrieval of treaty texts by signatory, date, and thematic area. It also provides country summaries of treaty participation along with EarthTrends and ESI environmental profiles.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/entri

Ramsar Wetlands Data Gateway: Provides information on wetlands of international importance through database query and web mapping tools.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/ramsardg

Population, Health & Environment

Gridded Population of the World(GPW) v.3: A flagship CIESIN data product, GPW provides population size and density in a gridded format (0.25") that can easily be combined with Earth science data.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/plue/gpw

Global Rural-Urban Mapping Project: This new spatial data product includes a global point database of human settlements of cities and towns of 1,000 persons or more, an urban extents mask of settlements of 5000 persons or more, and a 1km population grid.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/plue/gpw

Population-Environment Research Network (PERN): This online network includes an eLibrary, regular cyber-seminars and a membership database.
www.populationenvironmentresearch.org

Population, Landscape and Climate Estimates (PLACE): This tabular dataset provides national-level aggregates of territorial extent and population size by biome, climate zone, coastal proximity and elevation.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/plue/nagd

Human Footprint and Last of the Wild: GIS datasets that map the intensity and extent of human land appropriation and the remaining “wild” places.
www.ciesin.columbia.edu/wild_areas

Health Effects and Geochemistry of Arsenic and Lead: Online resources for a major biomedical and geosciences research project.
superfund.ciesin.columbia.edu

National-Level Data Collections: Collections of socioeconomic and boundary data for China, Mexico, and the United States.
www.ciesin.columbia.edu/download_data.html

National Human Development Report (HDR) Catalog: Catalog of data tables published in the national HDRs.
sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/hdr

U.S.-Mexico Demographic Data Viewer: This unique online population data mapping tool permits cross-border analysis of population and vital statistics for the United States and Mexico.
plue.sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/plue/ddviewer/ddv30-USMEX

Downscaled Population and Income Data: Provides access to country-level population and income and downscaled projections through 2100.
www.ciesin.columbia.edu/datasets/downscaled/

Remote Sensing

sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/rs_resources.html

Information Discovery Tools

Catalog Search Tool: Search all of CIESIN’s data holdings
www.ciesin.columbia.edu/eidata/

Internet Discussion Lists: CIESIN hosts a number of discussion lists, including: Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change (HDGEC), Environmental and Sustainability Indicators (indicators), International Law (INT-LAW), Task Force on the Environment (TFOE), Climate Change and Cities (urbanclimate), and Young Human Dimensions Researchers (YHDR).
www.ciesin.columbia.edu/lists.html