

Peru



Ecological Footprint: 1.6ha

Data:

Indicator	Peru
Total area in square km	1'285'220
Population	29,180,900
Life expectancy Men / Women	68.61 / 72.37
Water consumption per day per capita	161 l
Internetusers / 1000 Inhabitants	164
Passenger cars / 1000 Inhabitants	30
GDP in Dollars per Capita	2,838
Duration of work needed to buy one kg rice in min. (in Lima)	19

Important/Current Issues:

Revolts by Peru's indigenous citizens:

Several weeks after groups of indigenous citizens protested with roadblocks against new government decrees liberating the use of natural resources in the country, heavy fighting broke out between police and state-forces and the indigenous people in early June of 2009. According to official sources 23 policemen and 9 indigenous citizens were killed, but according to unofficial reports over 30 of the rebels lost their lives.

The conflict has its origins in recent decrees issued by the Peruvian state, allowing further usage of the already rapidly depleting natural resources in the Amazon region. Although the laws are meant to make a free-trade agreement with the US more plausible in the future, as well as to make natural resources more easily attainable to international companies, the indigenous people feel under threat, as not only their basic rights but also their main sources of income and lives are put in jeopardy by the proposed laws.

Madagascar



Ecological Footprint: 1.6ha

Data:

Indicator	Madagascar
Total area in square km	587'040
Population	20,042,552
Life expectancy Men / Women	60.58 / 64.51
Water consumption per day per capita	59 l
Internetusers / 1000 Inhabitants	5
Passenger cars / 1000 Inhabitants	4.93
GDP in Dollars per capita	271
Duration of work needed to buy one kg rice in min.	No data provided

Important/Current Issues:

Violent uprisings and protests took place in Madagascar's capital Antananarivo in early 2009 under the leadership of the at-the-time mayor of Antananarivo, Andry Rajoelina, who accused president Marc Ravalomanana of stealing state funds. After a failed attempt at overthrowing Ravalomanana Rajoelina sought refuge at the French embassy of Antananarivo, from where he set up a transitional government. Although president Ravalomanana stepped down on the 17th of March 2009 and Rajoelina took power four days later, Rajoelina's actions were heavily criticized by the international community, and is to this day not recognized as the official president of Madagascar. Since the uprisings began in January, at least 140 people have lost their lives.

United States of America



Ecological Footprint: 9.6ha

Data:

Indicator	United States of America
Total area in square km	9'826'630
Population	303,824,640
Life expectancy Men / Women	75.29 / 81.13
Water consumption per day per capita	553 l
Internetusers / 1000 Inhabitants	630
Passenger Cars / 1000 Inhabitants	465
GDP in Dollars per capita	41,890
Duration of work needed to buy one kg rice in min. (in New York)	8

Important/Current Issues:

On the 20th of January 2009 Barack Obama became the first Afro-American president of the United States of America. Already before the elections Obama pushed for a clear and transparent political program, a program that strongly distanced itself from that of his predecessor. In the area of environmental and climate politics Obama sought people such as Steven Chu and Carol M. Browner to join his office, both men already forerunners in the field of ecology and energy politics. Chu, who was the recipient of the Nobel Prize of Physics in 1997, is currently Energy Secretary of the Obama administration and furthermore part of the Copenhagen Climate Council, an international council with focus on the UN climate conference taking place in Copenhagen in December 2009.

India



Ecological Footprint: 0.9ha

Data:

Indicator	India
Total area in square km	3'287'590
Population	1,147,995,904
Life expectancy Men / Women	66.87 / 71.9
Water consumption per day per capita	127 l
Internetusers / 1000 Inhabitants	55
Passenger cars / 1000 Inhabitants	7.51
GDP in Dollars per capita	736
Duration of work needed to buy one kg rice in min. (in Mumbai)	32

Important/Current Issues:

In April and May of 2009 elections for the lower house of Indian Parliament, known as the Lok Sabha, were held. Considered the largest democratic election in the world, more than 713 million people were eligible to vote, and with 450.8 million people showing up to the urns, 63% of the eligible voters had their say. Due to the massive infrastructure and organization required to hold such an election, voting took place at 5 different dates, spread out during the months of April and May. The *United Progressive Alliance (UPA)*, a coalition of different parties under the Indian national congress, won the election, gaining 262 of the 543 seats, i.e. 48.3 % of all seats. The *National Democratic Alliance* received 159 seats, followed by the *Third Front* and the *Fourth Front* with 79 respectively 27 seats each in parliament.

Meira Kumar marked another important milestone in Indian history when she was elected as the head of the Lok Sabha, being the first woman to accomplish this in the history of Indian parliamentary democracy. Furthermore Kumar is a Dalit, a member of one of the lowest castes in the Indian caste system. With Kumar's rise to position the Indian national congress hopes to emphasize that it supports women's rights and that it gives opportunities to the lower social classes in India.

Kenya



Ecological Footprint: 1.1ha

Data:

Indicator	Kenya
Total area in square km	582'650
Population	37,953,840
Life expectancy Men / Women	56.42 / 56.87
Water consumption per day per capita	35 l
Internetusers / 1000 Inhabitants	32
Passenger Cars / 1000 Inhabitants	9
GDP in Dollars per capita	547
Duration of work needed to buy one kg rice in min. (in Nairobi)	33

Important/Current Issues:

One of the most famous personalities in Kenya is Wangari Maathai, an environmental activist who, in 2004, received the Nobel Peace Prize for her efforts. With projects such as the “Green Belt Movement”, an initiative to counteract deforestation and plant more trees, Maathai has shown both initiative and resilience. Between 1977 and 1993 several million trees were planted in Kenya. Currently, Maathai is a member of the patronage committee of the “Billion Tree Campaign”, an initiative created by the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The goal of the campaign is to plant 7 billion trees by the end of 2009. With her hard work Maathai serves as both an inspiration and a contributor to sustainable environmental development.

Tanzania



Ecological Footprint: 1.1ha

Data:

Indicator	Tanzania
Total area in square kilometres	945'087
Population	40,213,160
Life expectancy Men / Women	50.06 / 52.88
Water consumption per day per capita	37 l
Internetusers / 1000 Inhabitants	9
Passenger cars/ 1000 Inhabitants	1.03
GDP in Dollars per capita	316
Duration of work needed to buy one kg rice in min.	No data provided

Important/Current Issues:

The political history and development of Tanzania is in some respects due to a single person; Julius Kambarage Nyereres. Born in 1922, Nyereres initially worked as a teacher in Tanganyika, before moving to Scotland after having been offered a scholarship at the University of Edinburgh. Nyereres thus also became the first national of Tanganyika to ever attend a British university. Upon his return to Tanganyika Nyereres resumed his work as a teacher, simultaneously becoming politically active in the Tanganyika African National Union (TANU), peacefully striving for Tanganyika's political sovereignty. In 1961 Nyereres was elected as Tanganyika's first Prime Minister, consequently playing a key role in the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, which formed the republic of Tanzania, of which he became president in 1964.

Luxembourg



Ecological Footprint: 5.6ha

Data:

Indicator	Luxembourg
Total area in square km	2'586
Population	486,006
Life expectancy Men / Women	75.91 / 82.67
Water consumption per day per capita	No data provided
Internetusers / 1000 Inhabitants	690
Passenger Cars / 1000 Inhabitants	647
GDP in Dollars per capita	79,851
Duration of work needed to buy one kg rice in min.	12

Important/Current Issues:

Although a relatively small nation in terms of size, Luxembourg plays a large role in European politics. Not only is Luxembourg one of the founding nations of the European Union, but it also houses the European Court of Justice, the European Court of Auditors, the European Investment Bank and the secretariat of the European parliament to name a few.

France



Ecological Footprint: 4.9ha

Data:

Indicator	France
Total area in square km	643'427
Population	64,057,792
Life expectancy Men / Women	77.68 / 84.23
Water consumption per day per capita	270 l
Internetusers / 1000 Inhabitants	430
Passenger cars / 1000 Inhabitants	495
GDP in Dollars per capita	34,936
Duration of work needed to buy one kg rice in min. (in Paris)	13

Important/Current Issues:

France played a key role in the European integration process after World War II, and has produced a host of politicians who formed and shaped structures of the European Union, still doing so to this day. There is currently talk of a German-Franco merge within the European Union. Should this be the case the German and French alliance would be able to contest the will of minorities in the EU, creating a central-European “powerhouse” in the European political arena.

Switzerland



Ecological Footprint: 5.1ha

Data:

Indicator	Switzerland
Total area in square km	41'290
Population	7,581,520
Life Expectancy Men / Women	77.91 / 83.71
Water consumption per day per capita	225 l
Internetusers / 1000 Inhabitants	498
Passenger cars / 1000 Inhabitants	516
GDP in Dollars per capita	49,351
Duration of work needed to buy one kg rice in min. (in Zürich)	5

Important/Current Issues:

Since the 1980's Switzerland has taken a proactive role in trying to reduce environmentally hazardous emissions. In 1993 Switzerland signed the United Nations Climate Convention, and in 2003 also signed the Kyoto protocol. Currently CO2 laws play a large role in Swiss politics; by 2010 emissions produced through energy production have to be reduced by at least 10% compared to the emissions of 1990. An important tool used to reach this goal is the use of carbon credits, which take into account all forms of fossil fuels used for energy production. Up until now one ton of CO2 costs roughly 12 Swiss francs, but reports indicate that the price will increase in the future, with one ton of CO2 to cost 36 Swiss francs after the 1st of January 2012.

Slovenia



Ecological Footprint: 4.5ha

Data:

Indicator	Slovenia
Total area in square km	20'273
Population	2,007,711
Life expectancy Men / Women	73.04 / 80.66
Water consumption per day per capita	keine Angaben
Internetusers / 1000 Inhabitants	545
Passenger cars / 1000 Inhabitants	456
GDP in Dollars per capita	17,173
Duration of work needed to buy one kg rice in min. (in Ljubljana)	30

Important/Current Issues:

Slovenia has been a sovereign state since 1991, previously being a member of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. After declaring its independence on the 25th of June 1991, a short war of merely ten days, against Yugoslavian troops, broke out. A few weeks after Slovenia's victory the nation was officially recognized by the major European nations, and also later by the international community. Slovenia has been a member of the European Union since the 1st of May 2004; in fact the first eastern European nation to do so.