



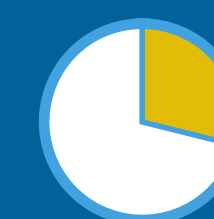
ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY INDEX

Environmental democracy is rooted in the idea that meaningful public participation is critical to ensuring that land and natural resource decisions adequately and equitably address citizens' interests. At its core, environmental democracy involves three mutually reinforcing rights; the ability for people to freely access information on environmental quality and problems, to participate meaningfully in decision-making, and to seek enforcement of environmental laws or compensation for damages.

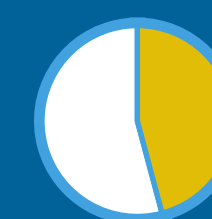
The Environmental Democracy Index (EDI) is the first interactive public platform that tracks countries' progress in establishing national laws to promote transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in environmental decision making. The index evaluates 70 countries, across 75 legal indicators, based on objective and internationally recognized standards established by the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Bali Guidelines. EDI also includes a supplemental set of 24 limited practice indicators that provide insight on a country's performance in implementation.



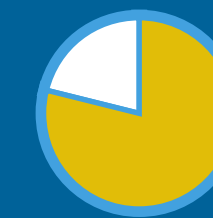
65
of the 70 countries enacted some legal provisions providing for rights to environmental information



29%
of the countries assessed have no requirements on the timely release of environmental information



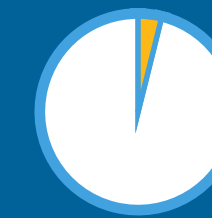
46%
of the countries assessed did not provide any ambient air quality data online for their capital cities



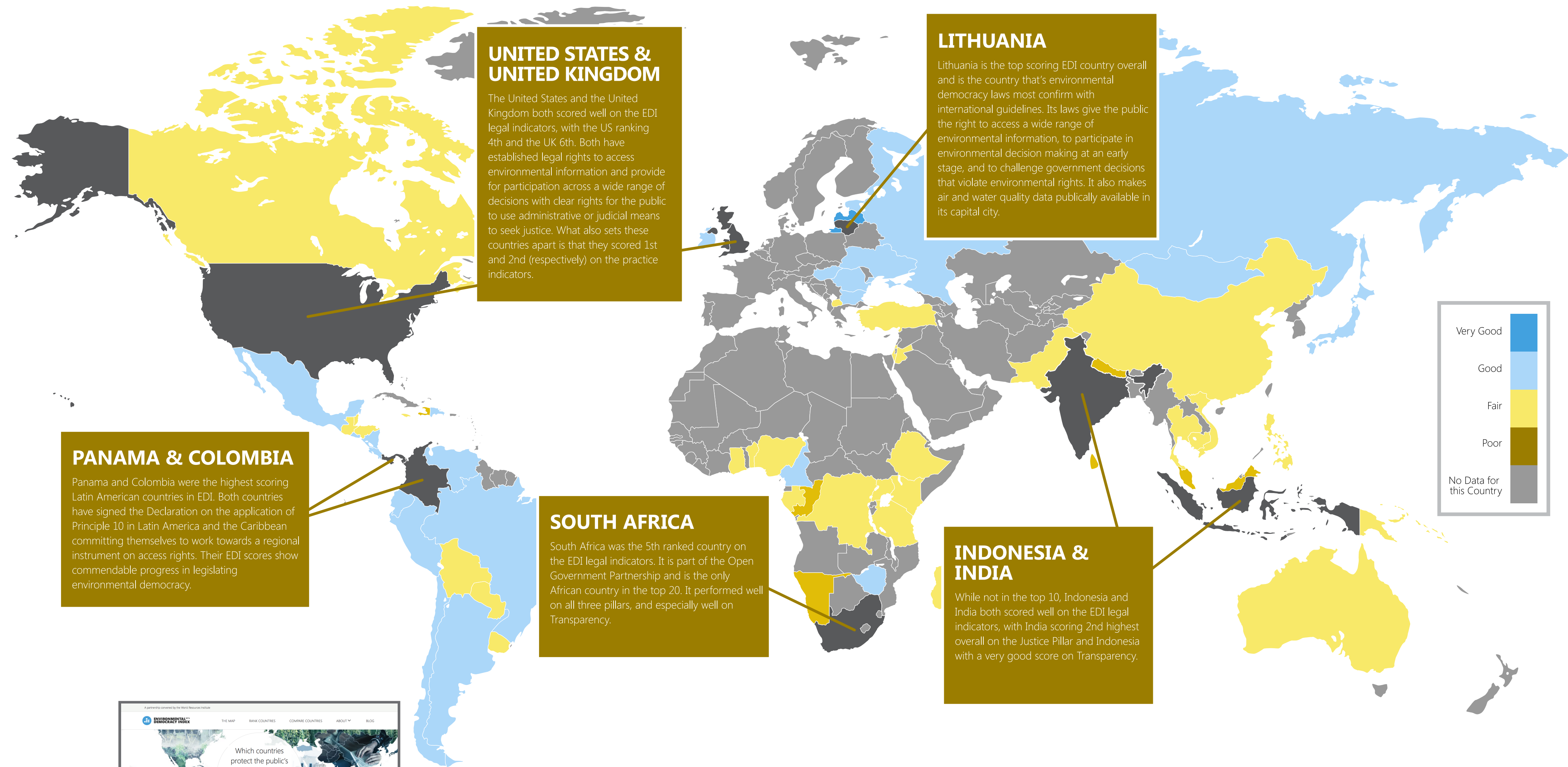
79%
were found to have fair or poor public participation provisions enshrined in law



5
of the top 10 EDI countries are Aarhus signatories



4%
of EDI countries provide opportunities to participate early during the scoping or planning stage of projects



UNITED STATES & UNITED KINGDOM

The United States and the United Kingdom both scored well on the EDI legal indicators, with the US ranking 4th and the UK 6th. Both have established legal rights to access environmental information and provide for participation across a wide range of decisions with clear rights for the public to use administrative or judicial means to seek justice. What also sets these countries apart is that they scored 1st and 2nd (respectively) on the practice indicators.

LITHUANIA

Lithuania is the top scoring EDI country overall and is the country that's environmental democracy laws most confirm with international guidelines. Its laws give the public the right to access a wide range of environmental information, to participate in environmental decision making at an early stage, and to challenge government decisions that violate environmental rights. It also makes air and water quality data publically available in its capital city.

PANAMA & COLOMBIA

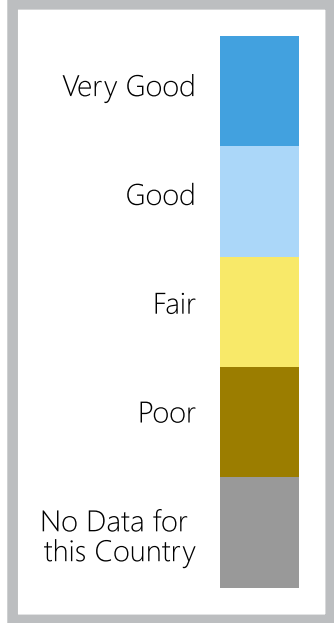
Panama and Colombia were the highest scoring Latin American countries in EDI. Both countries have signed the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean committing themselves to work towards a regional instrument on access rights. Their EDI scores show commendable progress in legislating environmental democracy.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa was the 5th ranked country on the EDI legal indicators. It is part of the Open Government Partnership and is the only African country in the top 20. It performed well on all three pillars, and especially well on Transparency.

INDONESIA & INDIA

While not in the top 10, Indonesia and India both scored well on the EDI legal indicators, with India scoring 2nd highest overall on the Justice Pillar and Indonesia with a very good score on Transparency.



EDI was developed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and The Access Initiative (TAI) in collaboration with partners around the world. To find out more about how you can participate in or support EDI, visit www.environmentaldemocracyindex.org

TAI is a global network that promotes access to information, participation and justice in environmental decision-making. To find out more, visit www.accessinitiative.org

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