

# Haiti



## 2016 Country Review

**COUNTRY WATCH**

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# Table of Contents

Chapter 1	1
Country Overview	1
Country Overview	2
Key Data	6
Haiti	7
Caribbean	8
Chapter 2	10
Political Overview	10
History	11
Political Conditions	15
Political Risk Index	58
Political Stability	72
Freedom Rankings	87
Human Rights	99
Government Functions	102
Government Structure	103
Principal Government Officials	109
Leader Biography	112
Leader Biography	112
Foreign Relations	115
National Security	120
Defense Forces	122
Chapter 3	124
Economic Overview	124
Economic Overview	125
Nominal GDP and Components	128
Population and GDP Per Capita	129
Real GDP and Inflation	130
Government Spending and Taxation	131
Money Supply, Interest Rates and Unemployment	132
Foreign Trade and the Exchange Rate	133
Data in US Dollars	134
Energy Consumption and Production Standard Units	135

Energy Consumption and Production QUADS	137
World Energy Price Summary	138
CO2 Emissions	139
Agriculture Consumption and Production	140
World Agriculture Pricing Summary	142
Metals Consumption and Production	143
World Metals Pricing Summary	145
Economic Performance Index	146
Chapter 4	158
Investment Overview	158
Foreign Investment Climate	159
Foreign Investment Index	163
Corruption Perceptions Index	176
Competitiveness Ranking	187
Taxation	196
Stock Market	197
Partner Links	197
Chapter 5	199
Social Overview	199
People	200
Human Development Index	202
Life Satisfaction Index	206
Happy Planet Index	217
Status of Women	226
Global Gender Gap Index	229
Culture and Arts	239
Etiquette	239
Travel Information	240
Diseases/Health Data	249
Chapter 6	255
Environmental Overview	255
Environmental Issues	256
Environmental Policy	257
Greenhouse Gas Ranking	258
Global Environmental Snapshot	269
Global Environmental Concepts	280

International Environmental Agreements and Associations	295
Appendices	319
Bibliography	320

# Chapter 1

## Country Overview

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## Country Overview

### HAITI

Haiti became the first independent Caribbean state when it threw off French colonial control in 1804. However, the country has been plagued by political instability for most of its history. Violence, instability and dictatorship have turned it into one of the poorest countries in the world and the least-developed country in the Western Hemisphere. After an armed rebellion led to the forced resignation and exile of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in February 2004, an interim government took office to organize new elections under the auspices of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti. Democratic rule was restored in May 2006 when Haiti finally inaugurated a democratically-elected president and parliament. In 2010, the country was hit by a devastating earthquake, whose effects are discussed below.

#### Note on Governance and Poverty in Haiti:

Haiti is one of the world's most impoverished countries and the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. It is the only country from the Americas located in the bottom echelon of the United Nations' Human Development Index. Haiti's population lives on an average of \$2 USD a day and 50 percent of the population is composed of children and youth -- the most vulnerable segment of society in a natural disaster. With a significant portion of the people --22 percent -- living in the Haitian capital city of Port-au-Prince, which was at the epicenter of the January 2010 earthquake, the effects on Haiti as a whole was expected to be staggering. As noted here, in a country of nine million, a full third of Haiti's entire population was expected to be deleteriously affected by the earthquake.

In the period before the 2010 earthquake, Haiti was already dealing with the massive destruction caused by four major hurricanes that struck the country in 2008. At the time, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, had characterized the cumulative effect of the four hurricanes of 2008 as the "worst disaster in the last 100 years" to plague Haiti.

It therefore bears repeating: The Haitian earthquake of 2010 has been a catastrophe of proportions rarely endured by a single nation state. The cataclysmic situation on the ground in Port-au-Prince augured manifold challenges in a country already wracked by a legacy of political instability and blinding poverty. As noted by United States President Barack Obama in his assessment of the situation in Haiti: "For a country and a people who are no strangers to hardship and suffering, this

tragedy seems especially cruel and incomprehensible."

As the international community has mobilized to assist Haiti in its time of need, there have been widespread discussions of the country's level of poverty and the role of international aid in less developed countries. With regard to these issues, the question arises, "Why is Haiti so poor?" The answer to that question, as one might imagine, is a complicated one and lies, to some extent, in Haiti's historical legacy.

Haiti -- once known as Saint-Domingue -- became a French colony in the late 17th century and gained the distinction of being one of the wealthiest French colonies in the New World. In fact, by the 18th century, Haiti's plantation economy was contributing to French wealth. Indeed, coffee and sugar -- two significant crops cultivated by African slave labor -- would yield enormous profits for France during that period. Haiti's shocking reversal of fortune is rooted in a conflagration of causes. After Haiti gained independence from France in 1804, following the mass revolt of slaves led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, it became the one of first independent black nations in the world. The country was eventually re-named "Ayiti" -- an indigenous Taino name meaning "land of mountains."

But peace had not easily come to independent Haiti, as a consequence of France's continued attempts to re-assert its power and re-impose slavery. Then, following independence, Haiti continued to suffer at the hands of successive oppressive leaders -- a trend that would continue for years to come. Notably, in the post-L'Ouverture years, under Jean-Jacques Dessalines, the stewardship of the Haitian economy and political arena was compromised due to his decisions to ban the country's European population from owning property, and to mandate that the African population work either in the army or on plantations in what became a system of pseudo-serfdom. Other leaders, such as Henri Christophe, reinforced a brutal but successful plantation system called "fermage" in the northern part of the country during his tenure, which disintegrated after his death. In the south under Alexandre Pétion, the agro-economy devolved into subsistence farming. Years of ongoing battles and warfare also exacted a painful and destructive toll on the landscape and resources of Haiti.

Clearly, Haiti's economic prospects were deteriorating as a result of these collective factors. Nevertheless, the likely death knell was the reparations settlement that Haiti was forced to pay France. The example of a black nation state being forged from a slave revolt was not a welcome precedent for the prevailing European colonial powers. Accordingly, Spain and the United States joined France in imposing an economic embargo onto Haiti, which ultimately forced that country in 1838 to pay an indemnity of 150 million francs to France -- an amount roughly equivalent to \$21 billion today.

Meanwhile, Haiti's national bank was being plundered by British, French, American and German forces. The ostensible result was a country in a state of debt to its former colonial master for

almost a century and a post-colonial economic disaster from which Haiti has never really ever recovered.

Haiti's more recent political and economic history has been fraught with tyrannical and dictatorial regimes, such as those led by "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his successor, "Baby Doc" Duvalier. Both Duvaliers were tacitly supported by the United States for geopolitical and strategic reasons, given Haiti's closeness to communist Cuba. Under "Papa Doc," peasant lands were seized and given to members of his paramilitary force (re: death squads) called the Tonton Macoutes. "Baby Doc" oversaw a military regime that continued a pattern of exploitation and corruption, marked by the expropriation of the government's treasury into the hands of the governing elite, and to the detriment of economic development.

This disturbing political and social terrain contributed to a mass exodus of the country's intelligentsia to neighboring Francophone islands, Francophone Canada, and urban centers in the United States. This "brain drain" served to ensure that Haiti may not have sufficient human capital (re: a dearth of technocrats) capable of solving the country's complex political and economic challenges.

Today, Haiti is the recipient of international aid and is home to a number of humanitarian aid organizations, all charged with the goal of helping the Haitian people. To this end, there have been some critiques about the utility of long-term international aid to Haiti. Some voices concentrate on the failure of governance in fragile Haiti, usually with venal and corrupt leadership at the helm. They have contended that this dysfunctional system has resulted in the Haitian people receiving only limited benefits from the billions spent in international aid.

Other voices, however, have argued that Haiti is constitutently unable to chart a better path for its people. This sentiment was recently articulated by well-known New York Times' columnist, David Brooks, who suggested that countries like Haiti suffer from a progress-resistant culture, and that there is no real knowledge of how to transform aid funding into poverty alleviation in such places.

A countervailing view, as noted by renowned economist, Hernando de Soto, is not that the less developed countries of the world suffer as a result of "a culture of poverty," but from a dearth of strong governance and a lack of corresponding institutions. Indeed, De Soto has noted that whereas developed countries of the West have established domestic and international institutions and apparatus -- from property rights to banking regulations -- intended to reinforce and reward certain economic activities, developing countries, such as Haiti, often lack predicable regulatory systems facilitating sustainable economic development. De Soto draws upon empirical field research in Haiti itself to show how bureaucratic hindrances can inhibit settlement on government land for decades. Likewise, Terry Buss at the National Academy on Public Administration, who has also studied Haiti, has noted that the effective use of foreign aid must be predicated upon a strong system of institutions. Accordingly, the lack of such a structure is surely more of a



contributing factor to the challenges of economic development, in stark contrast to dubious theories of "a culture of poverty."

In the immediate aftermath of the horrific earthquake of 2010, Haiti is simply trying to survive. In the future, as attention turns to reconstruction, the very structure of the Haitian political economy will likely be a matter of debate. While the aforementioned argument is sure to resurface -- that international aid (pre-earthquake) has seen few results -- other key facts are expected to inform the impending discussion.

Since 2004 when Jean-Bertrand Aristide (a democratically-elected leader-turned-despot) was ousted from office, Haiti was functioning under the aegis of a United Nations-mandated mission. In these recent years, the country has, in fact, seen some degree of progress. Peacekeepers have helped calm the fragile security situation, while a 2005 macroeconomic development program, forged with the help of the International Monetary Fund, has yielded modest results relative to the previous decades. As such, Haiti's long-term prospects will invariably involve participation by the international community, and success will potentially rest upon the international community's corresponding level of commitment to helping this beleaguered country.

One step in that direction might be the decision to move forward on cancelling Haiti's debt. Since Haiti has already seen some modest gains in recent years, despite being subject to a particularly harsh debt servicing schedule, it may well be the perfect candidate for debt cancellation. In September 2009, Haiti met the conditions set out by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund for possible cancellation of its external debt. The imperative to act on that development may be of vital significance to Haiti's future.

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## Key Data

Key Data	
<b>Region:</b>	Caribbean
<b>Population:</b>	10110019
<b>Climate:</b>	tropical; semiarid in the mountain regions
<b>Languages:</b>	French (Official) Creole
<b>Currency:</b>	1 gourde (G)= 100 centimes
<b>Holiday:</b>	Independence Day is 1 January (1804), Ancestry/Heroes' Day is 2 January, 18 May is Flag Day
<b>Area Total:</b>	27750
<b>Area Land:</b>	27560
<b>Coast Line:</b>	1771

## Haiti

### Country Map



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## Caribbean

### Regional Map

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# **Chapter 2**

## **Political Overview**

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## History

Comprising the western third of the island of Hispaniola (the Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds), Haiti is one of the most mountainous places in the Caribbean. The indigenous population, encountered by Christopher Columbus in 1492, consisted of Carib and Taino Indians.

Not long after the Spanish constructed the first settlement in the Americas, a fort called La Navidad along Haiti's north coast, the Native American population experienced a catastrophic decline, as a combined result of the rigors of enslavement, to which the indigenous people were subjected en masse, and of exposure to European diseases to which they had no resistance. Some theorize that African slaves intermingled with natives of the island before the latter entirely died off. The two groups may have intermarried, or at any rate there might have been an opportunity for the Native Americans to transmit some of their cultural traditions to the people arriving from Africa. Aside from this speculative survival of some prehistoric folkways, Hispaniola's original inhabitants have vanished without a trace.

The Spaniards used the island as a launching point to explore the rest of the Western Hemisphere. Later, French buccaneers made the western third of the island a base from which they conducted smuggling and pirating activities. In 1697, under the Treaty of Ryswick, Spain ceded the western third of Hispaniola to France. As buccaneering was gradually suppressed, some French adventurers became planters.

Saint-Domingue, as the French portion of the island was called, went on to become the richest colony in France's 18<sup>th</sup> century empire, often referred to as the "Pearl of the Antilles." Extensive sugarcane, coffee and cotton plantations-labored upon by African slaves-supplied rum, coffee and cotton to France under a commercial concession called the "exclusif." Under this arrangement, the island's goods could legally be sold only to France, at a price the French regime set. The colonists, however, resisted the "exclusif" and clandestinely shipped some products to other buyers willing to pay a better price. Notable among such customers were merchants in the 13 British colonies that became the United States.

By the late 1700s, Saint-Domingue was home to more than half a million African slaves. There were also small communities of escaped slaves (called maroons) living in the mountains and some free blacks in the towns who had either purchased their way out of slavery, been granted

manumission, or gained freedom by default (for example after a planter became too old or poor to maintain a complement of slaves in the standard manner). A gradually increasing contingent of mulattos, the offspring of plantation owners and slave women, also settled among the free blacks. In all, the black population on Saint-Domingue outnumbered the French by about 10 to one.

A confluence of often-conflicting historical and intellectual currents culminated in Haiti's independence as the second republic in the Western Hemisphere (after the U.S.) and the first modern-era nation founded by black people. On one hand, planters chafed under commercial regulations that enriched their rulers in Paris to the planters' economic disadvantage. On another, the ideals of the French Revolution gathered resonance, and the reverberations reached some literate elements of the slave population. Planters' allegiances were divided between the French monarchy and the French Revolution, but as agitation for emancipation rose, many leaned toward the monarchy as more apt to support the plantation system and slavery.

Once the monarchy fell, the planter class wanted to sever all ties with revolutionary France. Poorer whites, called "petits blancs"-artisans, shopkeepers, and the like-tended to be loyal to France's old regime, as they feared that Saint-Domingue's gentry would amass more exploitative economic power over their lives if the existing restraints on them from the Parisian metropole were abrogated. But the hope of the "petits blancs" that Paris would protect them and enhance their rights proved readily transferable to revolutionary France. Among the estimated 30,000 free people of color living on the island in 1789, support for freedom from France was widespread, not least among the minority of this group who, having become slave-owning planters themselves, had no wish to terminate the institution of slavery.

Although small-scale slave rebellions had been a fact of life on Haiti for many decades, the rhetoric of the French Revolution helped to spawn a major uprising on Aug. 21, 1791, generally regarded by historians as the opening date in Haiti's bloody battle for independence. Within days most of the northern littoral, site of the most prosperous plantations, had been torched, looted or otherwise devastated. Troops sent to Haiti by the General Assembly in Paris were unable to reverse the fact that the most economically developed region of Haiti had come under the control of rebelling slaves.

France's faltering grip on the island weakened further by early 1793, when war broke out between France and Britain. Fearing attack by Britain-and possibly Spain as well-a French commissioner, Leger Sonthonax, offered freedom to 15,000 armed slaves and their families if they would come over to his side and assist in fending off an expected invasion. When this action enraged the French citizens whose interests Sonthonax had ostensibly come to Haiti to protect, the commissioner perceived casting his lot entirely with the slave troops (and, more broadly, with the overwhelmingly dominant ethnic group on the island) as his best hope for self-preservation. In late August 1793, Sonthonax unilaterally declared the entire slave population of Saint-Domingue emancipated.



A few weeks later, the British landed in far western Haiti, and over the next several months succeeded in capturing substantial territory, including Port-au-Prince. Moreover, the British Navy offshore prevented the French and black forces, allied for the time being, that were holed up near the northern coast from being resupplied.

A triumphant English conquest did not ensue, however, because the English supply lines were also inadequate, and yellow fever decimated the British troops. This period marked the rise of a brilliant and ruthless black general, the former slave Toussaint L'Ouverture, one of the fathers of the Haitian state. He staged guerrilla raids against the British, pinning them along the coast. Soon, he turned against his French confederates, happenstance emancipators, and former colonial overlords. By October 1796 Toussaint was the de facto ruler of Haiti, and less than a year later there was no French presence on the island. The British vacated Haiti in 1798. Toussaint then prevailed in fierce power struggles with rival black generals, and extended his hegemony into the Spanish portion of the island, the present-day Dominican Republic.

Only one European had the temerity to challenge Toussaint L'Ouverture-the new French emperor Napoleon. Saint-Domingue was the focal point of Napoleon's imperial ambitions in the Western Hemisphere; indeed, he hoped to regain control of the island and restore its pre-French Revolution status as a slavery-based plantation economy.

Napoleon dispatched Gen. Charles Leclerc, commanding 12,000 troops, to Haiti. Landing in February 1802, Leclerc encountered strong resistance; he eventually occupied most of the coast, but not before the defenders had burned most buildings and other items of value to the ground. In June 1802, Leclerc secured Toussaint's capture by treachery after promising the enemy general a safe parley. Toussaint died a prisoner in France less than a year later.

In the short term, eliminating Toussaint might have gained the French leverage in their attempt to reconquer the island, but the outrage the sneak capture provoked among Haiti's black majority would soon rise up and strike at the French with deadly force. The former slaves, in the 11 years that had passed since the chaos of the initial rebellion, had developed substantial organizational capacities and acquired considerable military assets. They elected Jean-Jacques Dessalines as their new commander.

General Leclerc died of yellow fever in November 1802, and was succeeded by the ancient warrior Jean Baptiste Rochambeau, a soldier since the 1740s. Rochambeau was still an able strategist and bold fighter, and the French forces, including 15,000 additional troops who arrived in 1803, regained the offensive during months of combat rife with atrocities by both sides.

However, in May 1803 France became embroiled in war with Britain. Napoleon thus faced a host of new military challenges that diverted his attention from the Haitian conflict; moreover, London directly supported Dessalines with weapons and Royal Navy patrols along Haiti's coast. The

upshot was that Rochambeau's territorial gains from earlier in the year were reversed, and in November 1803, the French completely evacuated the island for the second and final time. Haiti formally declared independence on Jan. 1, 1804.

Historians widely attribute Napoleon's decision to sell the Louisiana Territory to the United States to his loss of Haiti. Without French Hispaniola, especially its lucrative sugar industry, the emperor looked on the task of administering the vast, undeveloped French holdings in the interior of North America as pointless. President Thomas Jefferson thus easily and at small expense obtained for his young nation a mammoth area of land—the majority of that portion of the contiguous United States lying west of the Mississippi River.

Meanwhile, on the island, independence did not bring peace, and the infrastructure was already largely ruined after years of fighting. Dessalines, with a ferocity that made Toussaint, the previous champion of the Haitian cause, look almost humane by comparison, massacred many of the remaining whites. He attempted to reinstitute a variant of the plantation system in which the black laborers, while not slaves, were essentially serfs.

Perhaps emulating Napoleon, Dessalines declared himself emperor. It was he who adopted the name Haiti for the country. The appellation is believed to derive from a Native American word meaning "high ground"; the Creole form of the name is "Ayiti." Dessalines followed up on Toussaint L'Ouverture's ambitions for the east of the island, today's Dominican Republic, and invaded the city of Santo Domingo. The brutality he practiced and countenanced there is an early source of the enmity that has subsequently smoldered between Haitians and Dominicans. The erstwhile Spanish domain on eastern Hispaniola remained under Haitian control until 1844, when a revolt established it as an independent republic. Dessalines himself only lived until 1806; he was killed while attempting to suppress rebels in southern Haiti.

Two separate regimes emerged in the north and south. In northern Haiti, Henri Christophe, a rival of Dessalines implicated in his assassination, took power and eventually styled himself emperor. He continued the effort to revive the plantation-based sugar economy, with a system of forced labor termed "fermage." Southern Haiti became a republic led by Alexandre Pétion, a leader of the revolt that Dessalines was fighting at the time of his death. Pétion's regime was weak, and southern Haiti quickly devolved into a subsistence farming economy. While Henri Christophe's "empire," by dint of harsh discipline, succeeded in reestablishing commercial sugar production—output briefly topped out at about 75 percent of the level that had been standard under the French—the system unraveled quickly after his death in 1818. Henceforth, the north as well as the south of Haiti became almost entirely a peasant country, characterized by families eking out a meager existence from small plots in the hills.

Twin lacks of political stability and economic development continued to fetter Haiti. As Europe reorganized in the post-Napoleonic era, France was allowed to collect a 150 million franc

indemnity from Haiti as settlement for losing the colony. Loans and interest payments to meet this obligation seriously exacerbated economic difficulties for Haiti, which would have been a very poor nation even if it did not have to shoulder this burden.

For the first several decades of Haiti's independent history, many slave-holding nations, including the United States, refused to establish diplomatic relations with a country that originated from a slave revolt. The first United States consular minister assigned to Haiti, in 1862, was the celebrated abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Even after formal recognition was granted, however, Haiti's isolation from the world community persisted. A small Haitian elite emerged, able to exploit its own people with impunity, while the participation of Haiti as a whole in the growing integration and industrialization of the world economy was extremely minimal.

In its modern history, Haiti has been ruled by unstable regimes and has suffered economically. To date, Haiti's adoption of a democratic political process and its integration into the world economic system are, at best, incomplete.

*Note on History: In certain entries, open source content from the State Department Background Notes and Country Guides have been used. A full listing of sources is available in the Bibliography.*

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## Political Conditions

### 1843 to 1934

Haiti experienced 22 changes of government from 1843 until 1915, and military occupation by the United States from 1915 to 1934. In the years 1916-1924, U.S. forces similarly occupied the adjoining Dominican Republic.

The United States intervention capped a period of tumult in Haiti—a series of assassinations and overthrows, frequent rioting, and episodes of virtual mob rule—that was extraordinary even against the background of a long-term pattern of political and economic disorder. Foreign, including the United States, business interests were notable among those pressing for external imposition of more stable conditions that would better enable them to conduct their operations. The United States was the de facto ruler of Haiti for 19 years, selecting the country's leaders and controlling its finances. Soon after the American troops arrived, a rebellion by guerrillas known as "cacos" broke out, which took slightly over a year to suppress.

The United States upgraded public administration and significantly improved the physical infrastructure. Opportunities for foreigners to invest and own property in Haiti were expanded substantially. The United States also spearheaded creation of Haiti's National Guard, a body that eventually evolved into the Haitian Armed Forces. The country's mulatto elite, over time, developed increasing resentment of what they saw as high-handed, prejudicial treatment by the occupying American forces. The United States permitted the first elections held in Haiti since 1917 to take place in 1930, and the government that emerged successfully negotiated for a full withdrawal of United States military personnel by August 1934.

### The 1930s

Democracy, however, did not take strong root, and the national military remained a key player in Haitian politics. In the neighboring Dominican Republic, Gen. Rafael Trujillo became dictator in 1930. Although the two countries reached an agreement over their long-disputed border, and Trujillo paid a well-regarded visit to Port-au-Prince soon after he took power, historically less than amicable relations between the two countries soon took a turn for the worse. Trujillo and other leaders in the Dominican Republic, where much of the population is somewhat lighter-skinned and economic development (though modest) more advanced than in Haiti, cultivated a policy of "antihaitianismo," a thinly veiled racism playing to fears that Haitians posed unwanted competition for jobs and living space on the Spanish-speaking side of the island. This policy reached a brutal culmination in October 1937, when Trujillo orchestrated a massacre of Haitians living in the border region. How many were killed is unknown; estimates range from 5,000 to more than 30,000.

### The 1940s to the 1980s

Haiti was governed by a succession of unstable regimes in the 1940s and 1950s. In 1957, all semblance of democratization was abandoned when military-controlled elections installed Dr. Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier as Haiti's president. Duvalier then declared himself president-for-life and formed a notorious paramilitary movement, "les tontons macoutes," to consolidate and sustain his absolute power. These forces in essence comprised active death squads adept at eliminating any threat or perceived threat to Duvalier's power. Tens of thousands of Haitians, including political dissidents, human rights workers, journalists and lawyers, were arrested, killed or forced into exile in the Duvalier period. Among those slain by the "tontons macoutes" were several hundred peasants, and even some young school children. After the death of "Papa Doc" in 1971, the same authoritarian regime continued under his son, Jean-Claude Duvalier, known as "Baby Doc."

The Duvalier dictatorship, despite its panoply of repression, could not stem a gradually rising tide of social unrest. Jean-Claude Duvalier and his family finally agreed to accept exile to France in early 1986, and a six-member, military-dominated council led by Gen. Henri Namphy assumed

control of Haiti's government, ostensibly on a provisional basis. A new, democratic constitution was approved, but violence erupted, largely sparked by the paramilitary squads and their supporters, and the planned general elections were aborted. In 1988, following military-controlled elections, Leslie Manigat was elected to the presidency, but five months later Namphy overthrew him in a military coup. Four months after that, Namphy was himself unseated in a coup led by Gen. Prosper Avril.

Under Avril, widespread repression of political parties, unions, student groups and other democratically oriented organizations ensued. In early 1989, Avril declared a state of siege, but continued protests, both within Haiti and from the international community, induced Avril to relinquish office in 1990. A provisional government led by Supreme Court Justice Ertha Pasqualle Trouillot set elections for December of that year.

### The 1990s

This vote took place as scheduled, and international observers deemed it generally free and fair. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a charismatic Roman Catholic priest known for his support of the poor, won 67 percent of the ballots cast and took office in February 1991. His administration lasted until September, when he was ousted by yet another military coup and forced to leave the country. Estimates are that over 1,000 Haitians were killed in the days following the September coup, and 3,000 more were killed in the following three years. From October 1991 to June 1992, Joseph Nerette acted as president in an unconstitutional de facto regime, governing with a parliamentary majority and the armed forces.

In June 1992, Nerette resigned and the parliament approved Marc Bazin as de facto prime minister, with no replacement named for president. Bazin sought to negotiate a solution with exiled President Aristide, and to end the economic embargo and diplomatic isolation of Haiti imposed after Aristide's ouster. In June 1993, Bazin resigned and the United Nations imposed an oil and arms embargo, bringing the Haitian military to the negotiating table. President Aristide and Gen. Raoul Cedras, head of the Haitian armed forces, signed the U.N.-brokered Governors Island Agreement on July 3, 1993, establishing a 10-step process for the restoration of constitutional government and the return of President Aristide by Oct. 30, 1993.

The September 1991 coup that displaced Aristide led to a large-scale exodus of Haitian "boat people," who attempted to reach the United States or other Caribbean shores in old and dilapidated or rickety homemade craft. The U.S. Coast Guard intercepted 41,342 Haitians at sea in 1991 and 1992, compared to about 24,600 altogether picked up in the previous 10 years. During the interval of Haiti's greatest political unrest in the early 1990s, the U.S. adopted a "safe haven" policy toward Haitian emigrants, housing many at its Guantanamo base in Cuba and ultimately allowing some 11,000 to become U.S. residents. However, in May 1992 U.S. President George

Bush issued an executive order directing the Coast Guard to revert to its former policy of returning boat people to Haiti. The United States position has been that Haitian emigration is economically motivated and that those leaving the island have no claim to be considered for political asylum.

During the 1992 U.S. presidential campaign, Bill Clinton advocated reopening the United States to Haitian immigrants and refugees. But after his election he continued the policy of interdiction at sea and forced return, a practice that has remained in place through the present time. Haitian-American groups and other immigrant advocacy organizations have criticized the policy as politically and racially discriminatory, contrasting Haitians' exclusion with the United States' more open access to Cubans fleeing Fidel Castro's communist regime.

During the multi-stage implementation of the Governors Island Agreement, Robert Malval was sworn in as Haiti's prime minister on Aug. 30, 1993. However, the military derailed the process and the United Nations reinstated economic sanctions. Malval resigned on Dec. 15, 1993, but remained as acting prime minister for 11 more months. Haiti's political and human rights climate again deteriorated, as the military and the de facto government sanctioned repression, assassination, torture and rape in open defiance of the international community's condemnation.

In May 1994, the Haitian military designated Supreme Court Justice Emile Jonassaint as provisional president of another de facto regime. The United Nations (U.N.) and the United States reacted to this extra-constitutional move by tightening economic sanctions (U.N. Resolution 917). On July 31, 1994, the U.N. adopted Resolution 940 authorizing member states to use all necessary means to facilitate the departure of Haiti's military leadership, and to restore constitutional rule, including Aristide's presidency. At this point, Haiti had parallel governments—the illegitimate military-backed Jonassaint regime that controlled the government apparatus in Haiti, and the constitutional government, whose members were either in exile, like President Aristide, or blocked from carrying out their duties, like acting Prime Minister Malval.

In the following weeks, the United States took the lead in forming a Multi-National Force, poised to carry out the U.N.'s mandate by military intervention, if necessary. In September 1994, with U.S. troops deploying for an imminent landing in Haiti, President Bill Clinton dispatched a negotiating team led by the former U.S. president, Jimmy Carter, to meet with the de facto Haitian leadership in a final attempt to facilitate peaceful restoration of Haiti's legitimate government. The upshot was that the military regime backed down.

Cedras went into exile in Panama and other coup leaders and collaborators relocated to the Dominican Republic and the United States. The MNF deployed peacefully, quickly reaching a peak of over 20,000 troops. President Aristide returned on Oct. 15, 1994. In March 1995, the MNF was replaced by a U.N. peacekeeping mission, the size of which was gradually reduced as Haiti showed signs of stabilization and Haitians were trained to form a new civilian police. The old Haitian military, considered inextricably tied to its record of repression and human rights abuses, was



formally abolished.

After Aristide's return, Haiti successfully held elections for parliament and local government offices between June and October 1995. The process was flawed, though, in that the vote was delayed by seven months, and marred by serious administrative problems and scattered violence. President Aristide's Lavalas Party and its affiliates won by overwhelming margins in practically all the races. However, in the presidential election set for December 1995, Aristide was barred by the Haitian constitution from succeeding himself.

Another prominent Lavalas figure, Rene Preval, garnered 88 percent of the vote with the remainder divided among 13 opponents. Preval, who had been Aristide's first prime minister in 1991, assumed Haiti's presidency in February 1996. A government under Prime Minister Rosny Smarth was established at that time. Territorial elections designed to decentralize political power were held in April 1997. The results demonstrated Haitians' dissatisfaction with the ongoing lack of palpable improvement in their economic conditions, and in their wake the central government lost whatever slight cohesion it might have had. Smarth's government resigned in June 1997, although his administration stayed in office on a caretaker basis for several months.

The parliament was unable to agree on a successor government and ultimately disbanded, leaving Preval to govern without a legislature, pending the scheduled parliamentary elections of 2000. Although the presence of international peacekeeping and monitoring forces was being quite expeditiously reduced, prospects for Haiti's political stabilization and economic development continued to be questionable. Unsolved political killings still occurred sporadically, though the overall level of violence did not approach the levels seen in the Duvalier years, when the "tontons macoutes" held sway, or in the recurrent coup periods between the end of the Duvalier regime and President Aristide's return in 1994.

### Landscape in 2000

On the ground in Haiti, a climate of strife continued to prevail. Haiti's economic duress, ill-functioning civil and political infrastructure, and consequent susceptibility to corruption made the country a leading transshipment point for illegal narcotics, particularly Colombian cocaine headed for the United States (U.S.). Without doubt this issue will be a point of discussion in the continuing negotiations aimed at further normalizing Haiti's standing in the regional and international community, and restoring regular disbursements of financial aid. In mid-2000, Haiti had just 26 police officers assigned to counter-narcotics work. A low rate of drug trafficking arrests was accompanied by an even lower rate of prosecutions and convictions.

High-profile murders that, in various cases, appear to have been politically motivated continued to occur. In mid-1999, two opposition politicians, Antoine Leroy and Mireille Durocher Bertin, were

slain. In October 1999, a former army colonel, Jean Lamy, was killed. A week later, the director of the judicial police, Mario Andresol, who had been assigned to investigate Lamy's murder, was himself shot dead.

The pattern of political violence, as well as a more general breakdown of law and order, persisted and even intensified in 2000. In April, two unidentified gunmen murdered Jean Dominique, a popular radio journalist and advocate for Haiti's poor. The next few weeks saw an opposition politician, Ducertain Armand, hacked to death in the town of Thomazeau, and Dr. Harry Bordes, a leader in Haitian public health initiatives, shot dead in Port-au-Prince. One of Bordes' assailants was then killed by an angry mob. A U.N. civilian worker who died in August was apparently caught in crossfire during an armed robbery.

### 2000 to 2002

The run-up to the 2000 elections was linked to some of the violence, including bombings that left several dead and dozens wounded, for which each side blamed the other. These two sides consisted, on one hand, of the Aristide-led Lavalas Movement, pressing to remain in power; and on the other hand, an array of political actors and organizations with poor cohesion aside from opposition to Lavalas and Aristide. The legislative election was delayed until midyear, and disruptive protests against the postponement became the norm in Port-au-Prince.

On March 28, an opposition leader and his wife were shot to death at their home, while demonstrators threw stones at passing cars and erected barricades of burning tires throughout the urban center. Agitation to hold the vote was heightened by the fact that President Preval (an ally of Aristide), who had suspended parliament after the major factions became hopelessly deadlocked, was ruling the country by decree. The United Nations issued a call for Haiti to conduct its constitutionally mandated election promptly.

Aristide, constitutionally barred from succeeding himself in 1996, had waited out one term while his political ally Rene Preval held the presidency. In Haiti's 2000 election, Aristide again won the chief executive's post. Although he has been, by a dominant margin, the country's most prominent and popular political leader, the 2000 elections were widely considered tainted, especially those at the parliamentary level. Leading democratic nations, particularly the United States, have taken a wait-and-see approach in regard to endorsing Haiti's commitment to orderly democratic processes. In the meantime, most large-scale flows of international financial support to Haiti are being held in abeyance, and political and social unrest continues to be a threat.

The first round of parliamentary voting took place in May 2000. The Organization of American States stationed 200 observers around the country, and initially stated that the election process, despite scattered minor violence and irregularities, was satisfactorily democratic. However, the vote



tabulation provoked a storm of controversy as opposition parties claimed that the Lavalas party falsified the results to ensure a fifty-plus percent majority in many districts.

Candidates receiving such an absolute majority win the seat being contested outright; otherwise, a runoff vote between the two top vote getters is held. At this point, nearly all the leading opposition figures declared a boycott of the next round of legislative voting, which was held in July. No officially authorized international monitors were on hand this time.

When results were released showing a sweeping Lavalas win, giving the ruling party control of all but one of the 27 Senate seats and 89 percent of the seats in the Chamber of Deputies, the OAS and most Western democracies condemned the results as fraudulent. Major bilateral and multilateral financial donors cited the disputed legislative election as grounds for withholding planned aid disbursements to Haiti.

In early November 2000, Haiti achieved an all-too-rare victory for the rule of law, when 12 former soldiers and paramilitary men were sentenced to life in prison for their role in the mass murder of slum dwellers in 1994. The court then planned to try higher-level officials, including the former military dictator Raoul Cedras and paramilitary leader Emmanuel Constant, in absentia for their role in the same action, identified as part of a plot to destabilize and snuff out opposition to military rule. Cedras was in exile in Panama, while Constant was living in the U.S. For its part, the U.S. acknowledged that Constant had a relationship with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency during Haiti's years of military hegemony. This matter posed a challenge to bilateral relations th e U.S. refused to release documents detailing Constant's contacts and activities to the Haitian government.

On Nov. 26, 2000, Jean-Bertrand Aristide won Haiti's presidential election, with more than 90 percent of the ballots cast in his favor. This vote was also boycotted by much of the opposition, and it was not observed in any official capacity, though a few non-governmental organizations sent small teams of monitors. Aristide was inaugurated in February 2001, and named Jean-Marie Cheral prime minister.

Forming a government, however, proved problematic. The 15-party opposition alliance—a motley collection ranging from former allies of Aristide to right-wing figures with ties to Haiti's dictatorial past—promised to form a shadow government. Even some Lavalas legislators declined to take their seats in parliament, hoping to negotiate some form of official standing for a more inclusive representation of Haitian political alignments.

One of Aristide's earliest official acts after he returned to the presidency was to travel to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) conference in Bridgetown, Barbados in mid-February 2001. At this meeting, the Haitian president pledged to adopt governmental and electoral reforms that would demonstrate his country's commitment to democratization and thereby restore Haiti's good standing with international donors. US\$500 million was pledged in multilateral financial assistance,

however, disbursing agencies delayed releasing immediate assistance while Haitian governmental practices are scrutinized

Meanwhile, even after several rounds of negotiations, the government of President Aristide and the opposition failed to reach an agreement on resolving the political stalemate in the country. The failure of talks not only led to a political crisis in the country but also affected the country's weak economy, especially as urgently needed foreign aid was tied to a resolution of the political tangle, as noted above.

The country's opposition and government negotiated for several months, with the opposition's charges of voter manipulation being strengthened by the concurrence of foreign governments and international organisations of the region. The opposition, which coagulated into a coalition, Convergence Democratique, called for early elections to the national parliament in order to resolve the dispute. The opposition also demanded re-election to all the seats in exchange for a recognition of the Aristide government, while Aristide offered re-elections to seven seats of the parliament and a shortened term for the rest of the parliament. The round of talks, held in October 2001, began with lots of hope, but failed to provide a breakthrough.

During the October 2001 talks, the two sides, however, did agree to hold legislative elections for the 83-member lower house and two thirds of the 27-member Senate or the Upper House in November 2002. The two sides disagreed on whether these elections should be preceded by reruns of the disputed seats from last year's voting, when Aristide's party took control of the legislature and most municipalities. Aristide's party refused to shorten the terms of the mayors, the aldermen and the local assembly members. Lavalas maintained that the incumbents ought to stay in office till the results of the new elections were official. The party called these terms 'nonnegotiable', but the opposition rejected these conditions outright, saying the elections of 2000 were an 'electoral coup d'etat'.

Among the regional groupings trying to mediate an end to the political standoff were the Organisation of American States (OAS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Both parties' efforts were not successful. The two bodies had initially been encouraged by the suggestion that Aristide would indeed restructure Haiti's electoral council in order to accord proper representation to the opposition, the church, judiciary, business and human rights organizations. The government also agreed to guarantee the funding, independence and security of the electoral council. These measures, however, did not materialize.

In March 2001, opposition leaders led over 1,000 former members of the dismantled army in a peaceful march in the capital. The former soldiers called for the reestablishment of the army and an end to what they called Aristide's dictatorship.

In July 2001, 41 persons, most of them opposition sympathizers had been arrested following

attacks on the police academy and police stations in the country which led to the death of five police officials and left 14 injured. The opposition vehemently denied any connection with the attack on the academy and said the government was using the incident for political objectives.

Tensions mounted in November 2001 as the Haitian police raided the headquarters of an opposition party and arrested five members on charges of possessing illegal weapons. The police also accused Convention of Democratic Unity party members of stashing weapons in its headquarters in the capital, Port-au-Prince.

The opposition, however, accused the Aristide government of clamping down on political opponents through trumped up charges. The opposition said that the weapons had been planted in order to justify the arrests. The opposition denied it was plotting to overthrow Aristide and said the government was looking for excuses to detain opposition members. The arrests were significant as they were preceded by government accusations that the opposition parties in the country were plotting a coup d'etat, along with the former soldiers from the disbanded Haitian army.

Meanwhile, jurisprudence in Haiti received another blow in November 2001 as a judge investigating the slaying of a prominent Haitian journalist threatened to abandon the case. The judge made the shocking announcement days after a mob killed a prisoner wanted in connection with the enquiry into the murder of 69-year-old Jean Dominique, who was shot by gunmen seven times, minutes before he was to give his morning newscast at his Radio Haiti Inter in April 2000. A guard was also killed in the shooting. Dominique was a politically influential journalist who had helped to set up a national farmers' union that was considered as a power base in Haiti. He was also believed to be considering running for forthcoming presidential elections. Although almost 100 persons have been questioned, investigations into the killing have been hampered by the alleged political influence of some of those sought for questioning.

In mid-December 2001, a coup d'etat aimed at overthrowing President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was averted at Haiti's presidential palace. Reportedly, a cadre of unidentified gunmen took control of a wing of the palace where they exchanged gunfire with the security forces for more than six hours. They were defeated by police forces but at least two policemen were killed in the exchange of fire. This was the first such attempted coup d'etat against Aristide since he returned to office in February. President Aristide was at his residence in Tabarre, east of Port-Au-Prince, capital of Haiti, at the time of the attack.

After the attempted coup d'etat was thwarted, in a national radio address, the Haitian government urged cooperation and the prevention of further political destabilization. Thousands of people followed the radio address by taking to the streets and rallying support for Aristide's presidency. Despite the show of support, however, it is fair to state that the political situation in Haiti became increasingly tense.

Also, in the aftermath of the attempted coup d'etat, various arrests were made. The unidentified gunmen were said to include former members of the military, a former police chief and a former interior secretary under former Gen. Raoul Cedras, who ousted then-President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a coup d'etat in 1991. Cedras eventually received political asylum in Panama, where he currently resides, as noted above.

A month later, in January 2002, Haiti's President Jean-Bertrand Aristide accepted Prime Minister Jean-Marie Cherestal's resignation at a special session of the Council of Ministers. The session was convened by Aristide in order to persuade Cherestal to resign as more intense accusations arose over his alleged acts of administrative corruption and incompetence. The position of Prime Minister was left unfilled until March when Senate leader, Yvon Neptune was appointed by Aristide as the country's new prime minister.

The new Prime Minister, Yvon Neptune, soon promised that the negotiations would resume between Lavalas and the opposition umbrella entity, the Democratic Convergence, in regard to the investigations into the December 2001 attempted coup d'etat. It was Prime Minister Neptune's view that the resumption of negotiations would facilitate a return to democratization in Haiti. In his national address, Prime Minister Neptune's stated the following: "Investigations have to be carried out on some events that threaten the stability of the state, that threaten peace in the lives of Haitian people. After all these investigations are over and this attack on the National Palace, this attack on the life of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide is determined with exactitude, once this work is done, once these investigations are over, we are sure that with everybody's goodwill a date will be set so we can resume the negotiations. Let us say to continue the negotiations because as far as we are concerned we never stop any dialogue. On the contrary, we love dialogue because it is through dialogue that more light will be shed and it is through dialogue that we will understand one another better."

In February 2002, the United States, under the direction of the Bush administration, refused to offer any aid relief to Haiti on the basis of its record on human rights and its erosion of democracy. Other Caribbean nations, while sharing the same concerns as the United States on these matters, expressed shock and dismay over the decision. Generally, they believed that withholding almost \$500 million in relief aid would have a detrimental effect upon the impoverished people of the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.

Meanwhile, leaders of Democratic Convergence demanded a change in the policies of the official Lavalas Party during a demonstration in the streets of the Haitian capital. Their major demands included the coordination of political activities, economic recovery programs, a new round of negotiations with international aid agencies, election reform, a new round of elections, increases in resources for the police force, an independent judiciary, and the associated investigation of the murder of journalists. Hundreds of people, headed by opposition leaders, marched to demand these actions as well as a general climate of peace and a resolution to the state of national crisis.

The demonstration, under police surveillance, proceeded without incident.

In mid-2002, the issue of regional relations came to the foreground of Haitian politics when Haiti was approved as a full member of the Caribbean Community (Caricom). The development was hailed as a hopeful sign for the country's future.

Optimism was short-lived, however, as by November 2002, civil unrest was on a virulent upswing. Anti-government protests as well as counter-protests by Lavalas loyalists and Aristide supporters ensued. Prime Minister Neptune said, "The situation is very delicate and we fear civil war." The political instability would continue well into 2003 as violence and charges of corruption were levied, the police were accused of human rights abuses, particularly in regard to political dissidents, and mass protests and violence flared on a regularized basis.

### 2003 to 2004

In early 2003, the Haitian government accused foreign aid donors of provoking the unrest by refusing to disburse aid. Of course, as noted above, foreign aid had been restricted precisely as a result of the political scenario.

In June 2003, the chief of police tendered his resignation to President Aristide. In his letter of resignation, the ex-police chief said that he had no choice since the alternative would be to become corrupt and subservient. The previous police chief had not lasted long in the position either and had failed to ameliorate the state of the police force, which, as noted above, had been accused of brutality and repression.

In this way, it was clear that Haiti's economic conditions and political stability had only devolved in the last several years. Although President Aristide said that he was committed to political reform, most critics said that such efforts were anemic, at best.

Some modicum of optimism for Haiti was restored in July 2003 when the Inter-American Development Bank resumed its loan program in Haiti with a loan package of over \$200 million. The money is to be used on education as well as infrastructure projects. The Haitian government hoped that the package would open the door to further international support.

Although the loan might well have provided symbolic capital in these regards, the fact remained that Haiti's political situation continued to be chaotic, and as such, donor countries, most especially the United States, were wary of feeding money into an unstable regime. Indeed, in 2003, opposition members and foreign dignitaries were stoned by Lavalas supporters in a particularly impoverished area of Port-au-Prince, while media reports stated that political unrest in Cite Soleil was worsening by the day.

By 2004, political unrest would give way to political crisis as street protests and clashes between the government supporters and opposition sympathizers became the norm. The situation was so dire that it appeared as if the country was headed toward another shift of power.

### Shift of Power

Jean-Bertrand Aristide attempted to hold on to power as the president of Haiti almost until the point at which he was climbing the stairs of the aircraft which would lead him into political exile. Following attempted negotiations with CARICOM officials to end the state of political crisis in Haiti in February 2004, subsequent negotiations involved senior United States officials. Only hours after appearing on Haitian television on Feb. 29, 2004, to declare that his resignation was "out of the question" and that he would remain in office until the end of his elected term in 2006, he was being escorted to the Haitian airport by United States Marines. Aristide said that he never resigned volutarily from office but, rather, he was compelled by United States forces to do so.

After leaving Haiti, the aircraft carrying Aristide refueled on the Caribbean island of Antigua before arriving in the Central African Republic. There were conflicting reports about his request for exile in South Africa. United States officials in Washington D.C., said that South Africa refused Aristide's request for asylum, while the South African Foreign Minister in Pretoria said the request had not been made and it was not against the idea in principle. The Central American states of Panama and Costa Rica also offered asylum to Aristide.

Haiti's Prime Minister under Aristide's presidency, Yvon Neptune, said in a news conference that President Aristide had left in order to avoid bloodshed and predicted "dangerous times" for the country. The interim leader was a Supreme Court Judge, Boniface Alexandre, whose position, according to the constitution, must be ratified by the Congress. The Haitian Congress, however, was disbanded earlier in the year. Meanwhile, the international community, led by the United States, installed a new prime minister in Haiti -- Gerard Latortue.

Canadian troops were the first international troops on the ground in Haiti. A small contingent of about 100 United States Marines arrived in were then followed by French soldiers. Most international forces arrived to protect their country's interests and citizens in Haiti; however, their presence and activities were also to involve peacekeeping given the fact that a mission had been backed by the United Nations.

At the time of arrival, the international troops were faced with lawlessness and turmoil, as evidenced by a number of "revenge killings" as anti-government rebels confronted supporters of President Aristide and his Lavalas party. Over the weekend leading up to Aristide's resignation, about 100 deaths were recorded.



To put things into perspective, the unrest over the course of several months had a fairly lengthy legacy that stemmed back to the disputed elections of 2000. The deteriorating economic situation and the lack of political dialogue with non-Lavalas members led to calls by opposition forces for Aristide to step down. The main political opposition, however, was not directly aligned with the armed rebels who led the violent uprising. The rebels were composed of various factions, such as former gang members, convicted criminals, and disgruntled ex-soldiers from the old Haitian army, which was disbanded in 1995 after Aristide was returned to power by United States forces. The group, which called itself the New Army, was led by Guy Philippe. Other rebel figures included Louis-Jodel Chamblin. Many of these rebel leaders, however, have been criticized for committing atrocities and so despite the claims of being "freedom fighters," there were questions about the credentials of the new leaders of Haiti.

For his part, in mid-March 2004, Jean-Bertrand Aristide left the Central African Republic and traveled to the Caribbean island of Jamaica, only 120 miles (200 kilometers) from Haiti. Aristide's return to the Caribbean, for the purpose of reuniting with his family and seeking permanent exile, caused some consternation in Haiti. The new Haitian Prime Minister Gerard Latortue reportedly told Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson that allowing Aristide to visit Jamaica would be regarded as "an unfriendly act," destined to increase the chaos in Haiti. Conscious of the criticism of the ousted Haitian president's visit, Jamaica government officials said they allowed Aristide's visit to take place on the condition that he did not use his stay in Jamaica as an opportunity to start a campaign to be reinstated as Haiti's leader.

In May, after some confusion, Aristide left Jamaica and went on to South Africa. There, he was to seek temporary asylum until permanent asylum could be arranged. Meanwhile, critics began to refer to the ousting of Aristide as a United States-led de facto coup. Indeed, this charge was repeatedly uttered by Aristide himself who says that he was forced to leave. The United States has denied these charges.

By mid-2004, United Nations peacekeepers arrived to take over security responsibilities from the United States-led force in Haiti in the post-Aristide period. The United Nations mandate in Haiti appeared to be quite vague and, for all intents and purposes, quite limited. United Nations peacekeepers were not expected to stay beyond six months and it was difficult to determine what could be accomplished in so short a period of time. (Note: Their mission, as intimated by various actions discussed below, was extended). Complicating matters were warnings by the United Nations, made in September 2004, regarding the challenges posed by violent militias, as well as the lack of control over the entire country.

In September 2004, Haiti was in desperate shape following a terrible hurricane. Indeed, over 1,500 lives were lost in Hurricane Jeanne. Looting and fighting over scarce food supplies caused the situation to become even worse. As well, disease epidemics were a very real threat. Although

the hurricane was not a political development in the strictest sense, the effects of such devastation will certainly be felt in a country plagued by political turmoil and economic strife.

By the close of 2004, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti issued a statement saying it had carried out operations in Cite du Soleil, a stronghold of ousted leader, Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The United Nations said it was an area where armed groups had been active and its operations were intended to restore law and order to the neighborhood.

In early 2005, gun battles between United Nations troops and local rebels have left several people dead in Haiti. Included in the death toll were two peacekeepers from Sri Lanka and Nepal respectively; they were killed in separate incidents. The rebels who helped to oust President Jean-Bertrand Aristide apparently turned against the interim government.

One key reason behind the instability was the agenda of decommissioned troops. These former soldiers, who have not been paid since the army was disbanded in 1995, played a key role in the ousting of the former Haitian government. With Aristide now exiled, they have been demanding compensation for their efforts from the interim government. For its part, the interim government has been trying to stabilize Haiti with the help of a United Nations mission made up of 7,400 peacekeepers.

#### Developments in 2005 and early 2006

By the start of May 2005, former Prime Minister Neptune was supposed to be sent to the Dominican Republic, in what was being called a kind of "forced exile." But the former head of government eschewed the efforts by the new government to have him expelled. He was reported to be in jail and in failing health, presumably brought on by his decision to go on a hunger strike to protest the ousting of the Aristide regime, which he deemed to have been unlawful. He had been jailed after Aristide's ousting due to allegations that he was involved in the killing of opposition supporters. He was never, however, convicted of any crimes associated with this claim

By mid-2005, clashes between United Nations peacekeepers and residents in the dangerous area of Cite du Soleil were still ongoing. In one case, the situation reportedly turned particularly deadly and resulted in an outcry from the Haiti Action Committee. The committee referenced the activities of United Nations peacekeepers on July 6, 2005, as "a massacre" with foreign eyewitnesses saying there was a full blown military attack on the residents in the neighborhood. Estimates suggested that up to 50 people had been killed.

In July 2005, a prominent Haitian journalist, Jacques Roche, was found dead. His handcuffed and mutilated body was found five days after his capture by kidnappers in a slum area of the capital city, Port-au-Prince. During his funeral, 1,000 protesters waving flags marched through the city to



demand action against the rising tide of insecurity in the impoverished Caribbean country. Roche was just one of hundreds of individuals abducted in recent months as the country has dissolved into a state of civil chaos, despite the presence of United Nations peacekeepers.

Questions arose as to whether elections, scheduled for later in 2005, were even possible, given the security crisis on the ground. Nevertheless, movement toward the elections were ongoing in mid-2005. By September 2005, at least 40 candidates registered for Haiti's elections -- the first to take place since President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted. The election was scheduled for Nov. 20, 2005, but that date passed with no elections taking place as scheduled.

In late November 2005, it was announced that elections would be postponed until 2006. The announcement came a week after Interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue said that the date for the elections had been set for Dec. 27, 2005.

Aristide's Lavalas party, which has enjoyed widespread support in more impoverished areas, including the capital city, said that it would boycott the elections. The threat was spurred by the fact that it was barred from registering its chosen candidate, Gerard Jean-Juste -- a Roman Catholic priest who was jailed under spurious charges about his involvement in the killing of a prominent Haitian journalist.

Some Lavalas supporters and sympathizers have said they might throw their support toward former Prime Minister Bazin, the leader of the Movement for Democracy in Haiti, which became part of the Union for Haiti coalition. Former President Rene Preval, a close ally of Aristide who had also served as his premier in 1991, was a key candidate running under the aegis of a group called "Front for Hope," made up predominantly of peasants. Also registering as a candidate was Dumarsais Simeus, a wealthy industrialist who has lived in the United States for decades. Other candidates in the running were socialist Serge Gilles, Jean Enold Buteau for the former communist party, and Guy Philippe -- the leader of the local anti-Aristide contingent which contributed to his ousting from office. Philippe was running as the representative for the National Reconstruction Front. The only female candidate has been Judie Roy from the Patriotic Grouping for a National Revival (Reparen).

Perhaps the most surprising of the candidates has been former Haitian leader Jean-Claude Duvalier, known as Baby Doc, on behalf of Haiti's National Unity Party. The party was attempting to end Duvalier's exile in France in anticipation of the election. Duvalier's father, Francois Duvalier, had been the mastermind behind Haiti's period of dictatorial rule after coming to power following a military coup d'etat in 1957. He was subsequently ousted from office in the 1980s.

In January 2006, electoral authorities in Haiti set the date for the first round of presidential and parliamentary elections to be held on Feb. 7, 2006. The second round of voting was scheduled for March 19, 2006. As noted above, the elections had been repeatedly postponed due to logistical

and security complications. With the new dates set, Rosemond Pradel, the secretary general of Haiti's provisional electoral council, expressed confidence that organizational and security preparations would be completed on time. Thirty-five candidates were expected to stand for president while hundreds of candidates were set to contest the 129 seats in Congress in the first elections since the ousting of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide from power. The president of the United Nations Security Council, Augustine Mahiga of Tanzania, urged the Haitian authorities to make sure that the elections transpired in keeping with internationally-accepted democratic standards.

Nevertheless, plans were marred to some degree, with the news of the apparent suicide of General Urano Teixeira Da Matta Bacellar -- the commander of United Nations peacekeeping forces in Haiti. His body was discovered in a hotel room in the capital city of Port-au-Prince on Jan. 7, 2005, with a bullet wound to the head. Officials surmised from the evidence on the scene that he had shot himself; however, there was little information available about the actual motive for his suicide. General Eduardo Aldunate Herman was named as the new commander of United Nations peacekeeping forces. Despite the presence of several thousands of peacekeepers in Haiti, both political and criminal violence has continued to plague the country.

In mid-February 2006, the United Security Council voted to renew the peacekeeping mandate for another six months

Editor's Note: Following the coup d'etat that resulted in the exile of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, there has been ongoing conflict between supporters of Aristide's Lavalas party, supporters of the interim administration, rebel groups now disenchanted with the new administration, and United Nations peacekeepers. Each of these factions has accused others of attacks, assaults and other acts of violence.

### Elections in 2006

Following elections held on Feb. 7, 2006, it appeared former President Rene Preval -- an ally of ousted leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide who is viewed as something of a champion for the impoverished -- was set to gain victory with around 60 percent of the votes cast. Two days later, Preval's vote share dropped to less than 50 percent, spurring speculation about a second round or run-off election, and leading to speculation about possible irregularities.

When the vast majority of the votes were counted, it appeared that Preval had 48.7 percent of the votes cast -- just under the requisite 50 percent threshold for outright victory. His two main rivals, Leslie Manigat and Charles Henri Baker garnered 11.8 percent and 7.9 percent respectively. The United States Department of State declared the election free from fraud. Some international observers however acknowledged claims of ballot mishandling and other irregularities, though not

of the type likely to affect the outcome. Nevertheless, two members of Haiti's electoral council came forward saying the vote counting process had been questionable. One candidate, Baker, claimed some people had been allowed to vote twice because there was no adherence to voter lists.

The allegations regarding voting irregularities intensified and on Feb. 14, 2006, Preval joined in the chorus of accusations of voter fraud, insisting he had won the election. By that time, tension had escalated across the country, leading to violent clashes, street protests and reports of some deaths. Preval's own supporters rallied to the National Palace in the capital city of Port-au-Prince declaring victory for their candidate and insisting they would disrupt peace if he was cheated out of a victory.

Their insistence that Preval had been wronged appeared to have some degree of legitimacy when hundreds of smashed ballot boxes, vote tally sheets and other election-related materials were found in a garbage dump in the Haitian capital. Indeed, the local media broadcast some images showing the damaged ballot boxes as well as discarded ballots strewn about -- almost all marked for Preval. United Nations spokesperson David Wimhurst characterized the revelation as "extraordinary" - an apt description given that international observers had declared the election to be both free and fair just one week earlier. United Nations security forces were deployed to retrieve the ballot boxes and other election-related items while the interim government ordered a review of the election results. As well, discussions were underway to find a peaceful solution to what was quickly becoming an election crisis.

Fearing violent reprisals in response to the apparent vote fraud that was carried out, election officials in consultation with the interim government and the Organization of American States (OAS) agreed to redistribute approximately 80,000 of the blank votes -- around 4 percent of the total -- among the candidates on a pro-rata basis. The additional vote share took Preval over the 50 percent threshold and allowed him to claim victory with a credit for 51.15 percent of the votes cast. In this way, Preval was declared winner of Haiti's presidential election a week after the actual election ensued.

One of Preval's rivals, Leslie Manigat, said the winner had been imposed and violence would be rewarded. Nevertheless, crowds of Preval supporters took to the streets of the capital city to celebrate Preval's election victory and his return to power.

Preval was an agronomist who had been educated in Belgium. In the early 1970s, he had been part of a political movement that agitated against the notorious military leader, Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier. In the early 1990s, Preval served as prime minister in Aristide's first administration. He then served as president between 1996 and 2001. The recent decline in Haiti's political and economic situation occurred around the time that his tenure in the president's office ended.

Chief among Preval's challenges as he assumed the role of president was the re-integration of

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opposition forces within the political fold. From around 2001, the opposition became increasingly estranged from those in power, eventually leading to boycotts as well as charges of disputed elections and accusations of illegitimate leadership. A repeat performance of this trend did not bode well for Haitian politics and anxieties loomed over the possibility of violence and chaos similar to that preceding the ousting of Aristide from office in 2004.

In addition to dialogue and engagement with the political opposition, Preval was also expected to improve the country's security situation, which has been severely compromised in recent years. While unlikely to be helped by the fact that the local police has been poorly-trained and badly-equipped, the decision by the United Security Council in mid-February 2006 to renew the peacekeeping mandate for another six months was expected to provide some assistance in his efforts.

A third challenge involves acquiring support for his newly-elected government from the international community. To this end, Preval would be helped by the fact that the Caribbean regional bloc, CARICOM, announced it would re-admit Haiti into the fold. CARICOM had suspended Haiti's membership after the removal of Aristide -- the democratically-elected leader -- from office. The leadership of CARICOM regarded Haiti's return to democracy, evidenced by a democratic transition of power, with relief.

Voting in Haiti's second round of parliamentary elections commenced slowly in April 2006 -- a month later than they had been originally scheduled. The first round ensued in February 2006 but only two candidates won outright victories. As a result, a second round had to be held to elect the vast majority of representatives to both the upper and lower chambers of parliament.

Once the results were finalized, parliament could be convened and a prime minister could be selected. Constitutionally, the party holding at least half of the seats in parliament chooses the head of government. The completion of this process would thus allow for the inauguration of Rene Preval as president. President-elect Preval welcomed that prospect saying, "Without support from parliament, there is not much a president can do."

### New Leadership

In May 2006, Rene Preval was inaugurated as Haiti's first democratically-elected president since Jean-Bertrand Aristide was ousted from office in 2004. The inauguration was attended by delegates from 40 countries. Perhaps as a nod to his earlier alliance with his predecessor, Preval has said that he sees no constitutionally-grounded reason why Aristide, in exile in South Africa, should not return to Haiti. Preval's position on Aristide's hypothetical return to Haiti has not been one of concurrence with the opposition.

With his ascent to power, Preval said that his priorities for the future would include poverty alleviation and security concerns in a country wracked by extreme economic hardship and lawlessness. Illustrating these very conditions on the same day of the swearing-in ceremony, a riot broke out at a prison on Haiti's capital city of Port-au-Prince. United Nations troops and police officers surrounded the prison in an attempt to bring order to the situation. It was another example of the ongoing state of instability and gang rule that has characterized Haiti in recent times, despite the presence of United Nations troops on the ground.

Later in May 2006, Haitian Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis, who had been named as head of government by President Preval, unveiled his cabinet. Included in his government were members of several rival political parties as well as seven cabinet veterans of Preval's first presidency. Debate was expected on the new government. Rejection of the government would serve as a non-confidence vote and would force President Preval to choose a new prime minister.

### Recent Developments

In other developments in Haiti, there was a rising clamor for the return of former President Aristide from exile in South African exile, as well as for the release of political prisoners. These two matters promised to factor highly on the political scene in the months to come.

Indeed, at a demonstration in the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince in July 2006, thousands of people participated in a rally at the National Palace in which they called for the return of their former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. The date of the rally coincided with the 53rd birthday of the former Haitian leader. The demonstrators also called for the release of prisoners taken into custody during the regime of former Prime Minister Gerard Latortue, who took on the role of head of government after Aristide was driven from office.

During the 2006 election campaign that brought Rene Preval -- an ally of Aristide -- to power, the new president said he would consider allowing the former leader to come home. Such a proposition was not well-regarded by the Western countries, which were reported to have been highly involved in Aristide's removal from office. The United States, for example, argued that Aristide's return would destabilize Haiti. However, many Haitians countered that claim by asserting that decisions must be made by the government of sovereign Haiti and not by outsiders.

Also in mid-2006, former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune was released from prison. As noted above, he had been jailed for alleged involvement with the killing of anti-Aristide factions, however, he was never convicted of any crimes. Having carried out a hunger strike to protest the ousting of Aristide and his own imprisonment, by the time of his release, which was granted on humanitarian grounds, his health had strongly deteriorated. From jail, he was taken to the hospital for much-needed treatment.

In 2006 and well into 2007, attention turned to the problem of violent gangs plaguing Haiti. With an eye on resolving this challenge, a constellation of schemes were considered -- some with an incentive-oriented approach, and others involving more hard-line measures. To this end, in September 2006, a program was implemented to disarm such gangs, while providing job training and grants for former gang members. The socio-economic program was backed by the United Nations. Then, in early 2007, these efforts were augmented by a more aggressive scheme to root out gangs and other criminal elements. In the violent and crime-ridden shanty town of Cite Soleil, United Nations troops launched an offensive against armed gangs and militant groups.

But by mid-2007, the situation was unabated. Rampant gang violence was ongoing but exacerbated by the rise in extra-judicial violence -- largely the result of the corrupt justice system that commanded little or no public confidence. In fact, while some people have been detained without trial, others, such as gang leaders, have been released after paying bribes to judges. Public outrage over the miscarriage of justice led some to react by carrying out lynchings or mob attacks.

In the spring of 2008, Haiti was plagued by riots as crowds attempted to storm the presidential palace in the capital of Port-au-Prince in order to protest food prices. United Nations troops fired rubber bullets at the demonstrators in an attempt to quell the chaos. The unrest began in the southern city of Les Cayes and took a violent turn with the death of five people. But there was no end in sight as Haitians expressed their frustration with the rising cost of living and the continuing struggle for survival. Indeed, hunger was becoming such a prevalent state in Haiti that the phrase "grangou klowox" or "eating bleach" was becoming a commonplace colloquialism used to describe the constant pangs of hunger; it was intended to convey the burning feeling of empty stomachs.

On April 13, 2008, as food riots were intensifying, the Haitian Senate passed a non-confidence motion against Prime Minister Jacques Edouard Alexis, resulting in his removal from office. The vote of no confidence was supported by 16 of the 27 senators in an extraordinary parliamentary session. At issue was Alexis' handling of the public's outrage over the escalating price of food. Nominated as head of government in 2006, Alexis managed to survive a no confidence vote regarding his administration's stewardship of the economy in February 2008. Two months later, he was not so fortunate. In response to the political governments, Alexis did not elaborate on his political fate, saying little to journalists other than his removal from office was "unjust."

Prior to the parliamentary vote, President Rene Preval had said he would support whatever decision parliamentarians made. With the prime minister's office vacant, President Preval said his priority would be finding a new head of government. To that end, he said, "The game for me now is, I have to go find a new prime minister." In the interim, however, he said the government would address the immediate challenge of high food prices by decreasing the price of rice -- a food staple -- by close to 16 percent. In the interim, Preval said his government would lower the price of rice by almost 16 percent.



Meanwhile, the Organization of American States (OAS) urged regional powers to provide the small and impoverished Caribbean country with short-term assistance and poverty alleviation. The OAS issued a statement warning that "unless something is done urgently, the situation could deteriorate even further." To that end, CARICOM Chairman and Bahamian Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said the regional body was in communication with Haitian President Preval. The head of the Caribbean bloc said that it was hoping to offer financial assistance, aimed at helping the suffering Haitian people. As well, United Nations spokeswoman, Michele Montas, noted that it would prioritize giving food provided by the World Food Program so that children, pregnant women and nursing mothers would be the first beneficiaries. In the United States, Congressional representatives called for both debt relief for Haiti and food aid for that country.

Several weeks later, President Rene Preval appointed economist Ericq Pierre to be the new prime minister. Pierre's appointment was to be ratified by Haiti's parliament. In mid-May 2008, the nomination of Ericq Pierre was rejected in the lower house, or Chamber of Deputies, in Haiti's parliament. The vote was 51-34 with nine abstentions. Earlier, Haiti's Senate had approved Pierre as the new head of government by a unanimous vote.

By the close of May 2008, the president issued a new selection for head of government. President Rene Preval chose one of his own stalwarts, Robert Manuel, to become the country's prime minister after lawmakers rejected his first choice. As before, Manuel's nomination would have to be ratified by Haitian lawmakers. That ratification also ended in failure.

In late June 2008, President Preval chose a new nominee, Michele Pierre-Louis, to become the country's prime minister. Yet to be seen was whether or not the third nominee would suffer the same fate as the previous two selections, both of whom were rejected by a parliamentary chamber in ratification votes. Michele Pierre-Louis passed the first hurdle by winning ratification overwhelmingly in the lower house of Chamber of Deputies in mid-July 2008. Yet to be seen was whether or not Pierre-Louis would be ratified by the Senate or suffer the same fate as the previous two nominees.

At the close of July 2008, Michele Pierre-Louis, the female nominee for Haitian prime minister, was ratified by a vote in the Senate. The lower Chamber of Deputies had already approved her candidacy earlier in the month. The ratification of Michele Pierre-Louis as head of government by both chambers effectively ended the political deadlock gripping the country since the ousting of former Prime Minister Jacques-Edouard Alexis amidst food riots. Two previous nominees to succeed former Prime Minister Alexis -- economist Ericq Pierre and presidential adviser Robert Manuel -- were not successful in shoring up support in the Senate, as discussed above.

Partial senatorial elections in Haiti were set for April 19, 2009. The Lavalas Family -- the party of exiled leader Jean-Bertrand Aristide -- has called for a boycott and urged supporters to stay home.

The result has been an election less characterized by competing parties and blocs, but rather one marked by the pro-vote front versus the pro-boycott enclave.

The election itself was marred by violence. Several polling stations were vandalized by demonstrators while one poll supervisors was shot. As well, the low voter turnout suggested that the call by Aristide for a boycott may have been successful.

Nevertheless, in the aftermath of the vote, the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) called on voters to calmly await the results of the Senate elections, which election officials said would not be available for another week. To that end, electoral workers tabulating the results reported by polling stations were being guarded at a computer center by armed United Nations peacekeepers.

In the aftermath of the senatorial elections, at least four Haitian legislators called for the annulment of results, charging that they had been marred by political manipulation and voter fraud. For its part, the Haitian Provisional Electoral Council (CEP) said it was investigating formal complaints from six administrative regions, and noted that most of the complaints had come from President Rene Preval's Lespwa movement.

Meanwhile, the United Nations said the low voter turn-out had resulted in the fact that none of the candidates garnered sufficient votes to win a seat outright. Accordingly, the United Nations peacekeeping mission called on the electoral council to focus on the next round of voting. The mission also said that the police should learn from the logistical, technical and security problems that occurred in the elections and make changes ahead of the second round.

In late October 2009, the Haitian Senate removed Prime Minister Michele Pierre-Louis from office, on the basis of the claim that since coming to office, she had failed to improve the lives of citizens. For her part, Pierre-Louis dismissed claims that she was unable to effectively use the oil discount agreement with Venezuela to improve the country's infrastructure. With the United Nations peacekeeping mission calling for the swift naming of a replacement to outgoing Prime Minister Pierre-Louis, in order to avoid political and economic instability, President Rene Preval then named Planning and Cooperation Minister Jean Max Bellervie as the new prime minister. Bellerive would still have to be approved by both chambers of parliament -- the Senate and Chamber of Deputies. In the past, this approval process has been fraught with problems.

## SPECIAL REPORT:

### Earthquake in Haiti

#### Summary

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Total death toll in Haiti expected to be catastrophic; capital city destroyed and deployment of humanitarian aid challenged by logistical obstacles. U.S. President tells Haiti, "You will not be forsaken," and U.N. pledges help

## Background

On Jan. 12, 2010, an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale hit the Caribbean nation of Haiti. The earthquake was deemed the worst in that country in 200 years and reportedly destroyed the capital city of Port-au-Prince, which is home to two million people. Reports suggested that the city had been reduced to rubble, the infrastructure completely destroyed, leaving both survivors and dead bodies on the streets, and an unspecified number of people likely trapped in collapsed buildings. Poor building codes in a city that underwent hyper-development in the mid-2000s likely contributed to the fact that the infrastructure could not withstand the effects of an earthquake of such a magnitude.

Despite the collapse of the national palace and parliament, President Renee Preval, his wife, and most of the members of government appeared to have survived. Given the utter devastation of the capital city, the death toll was nonetheless expected to be heavy.

In the immediate hours after the earthquake struck, the Catholic Archbishop of Port-au-Prince, Joseph Serge Miot, was reported to have died. As well, the United Nations reported that the head of its mission, Hedi Annabi, was missing. French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner expressed his fear that Annabi -- a native of Tunisia -- may have died. Foreign Minister Kouchner's fear was later confirmed.

It should be noted that the international peacekeeping community in Haiti was badly-hit by this tragedy. David Wimhurst, a United Nations spokesman in Haiti, said that 188 United Nations staffers remained missing at the site of the headquarters in Port-au-Prince. As well, he noted that at least 36 United Nations military and police personnel were confirmed dead. China, Brazil, Argentina and Jordan all confirmed that some of their peacekeepers in Haiti had died in the earthquake. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the Haitian earthquake was likely to be the deadliest single event for the United Nations.

Among the Haitian citizenry, there were a number of estimates regarding the number of casualties. President Renee Preval said he believed thousands of people were dead, but other officials, such as Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive initially said the death toll could be as catastrophic as 100,000. In an interview with CNN, he went on to say: "I hope that is not true, because I hope the people had the time to get out." After a few days on the ground, the Red Cross estimated that the death toll from the cataclysmic earthquake may be around 50,000. But soon thereafter, those numbers were revised with news emerging that at least 70,000 people had been buried, thus

suggesting an even more extensive death toll once those missing and confirmed dead were added to the list.

By Jan. 18, 2010, United States General Ken Keen, who was directing the American military relief effort said it was a "disaster of epic proportions," and warned that death toll estimates of between 150,000 and 200,000 people were being considered. A week later, with the Haitian government confirming that 150,000 victims' bodies had been buried not including those still lost under the rubble, the estimates of the total death toll were rising to almost incomprehensible levels. Communications Minister Marie-Laurence Jocelyn Lassegue said, "Nobody knows how many bodies are buried in the rubble - 200,000? 300,000? Who knows the overall death toll?"

The International Red Cross also estimated that upwards of three million people would be deleteriously affected in Haiti. In stark terms, in a country of nine million, this meant that Haiti will have endured a massive casualty list affecting a full third of its entire population. It was a catastrophe of proportions rarely endured by a single nation state.

#### Rescue, recovery and the international response

With the airport runway intact, aircrafts carrying much-needed supplies and personnel assistance expected to be able to land in Haiti. Such assistance would be vital in a country that has suffered from chronic political instability and wrenching poverty. While many missions and charitable organizations have functioned in Haiti for several years, many agencies -- such as Medecins Sans Frontieres -- saw their buildings destroyed in the earthquake and their ability to continue their work would be severely compromised.

Survivors were gathering in large public spaces of Port-au-Prince, which were quickly turning into makeshift camps, due to general anxiety about going indoors in already-destabilized buildings while aftershocks were still taking place. There were some suggestions that there was a growing sense of frustration over the slow pace at which relief supplies were being delivered. There were reports of looting of shops, adding to security concerns. Matt Marek of the American Red Cross explained, "There is no other way to get provisions." Meanwhile, with no place to deposit dead bodies, corpses were piling up on the sides of streets. In some parts of the city, bulldozers were used to transport some corpses to isolated areas of the city.

Despite high hopes for a rapid aid and assistance response, humanitarian efforts were stymied by logistical challenges. Few of the transportation arteries to and within Port au Prince have been cleared and have been able to accommodate aid convoys. Meanwhile, the country's airport had limited resources, few runways, and limited ramp space, to accommodate a steady arrival of aircraft carrying aid from overseas. This aircraft flow was further compromised by the fact that the airport was also running low on jet fuel, meaning that jets could not easily refuel and depart, thereby providing space for the arrival of further carriers. As stated by United States Air Force Col.

Buck Elton, "There's only so much concrete" for parking planes. He continued, "It's a constant puzzle of trying to move aircraft in and out." The result was that a significant number of aircraft from across the world were forced to retreat to neighboring Dominican Republic.

Meanwhile, time was running out for expert rescue teams to arrive on the scene to help survivors. The general consensus in such catastrophes has been that rescues are only feasible in the first 72 hours, with chances of survival severely decreasing after that timeframe has elapsed. There was also a dearth of mechanical equipment available to aid in this regard. Accordingly, regular Haitians digging through the rubble with their hands -- essentially acting as the "first responders" on the scene, and trying to rescue survivors trapped in collapsed buildings. But even individuals who were rescued under these extraordinarily challenging conditions were not necessarily guaranteed to live. With few medical facilities and almost no ability to deal with rescued victims who sustained critical injuries, many survivors actually plucked from the rubble were reported to have eventually died.

The immediate needs on the ground, as of mid-January 2010, included food, water, medicine, medical ware, as well as bulldozers and heavy lifting equipment. Stefano Zannini, head of Medecins Sans Frontieres in Haiti, noted that he believed the most crucial requirements on the ground in Haiti were medical attention (including surgery), food, and safe drinking water. Illustrating the dire situation, doors were being used to transport people needing medical care instead of stretchers, while the wounded were being left untreated and at risk of preventable deaths due to infection.

Moreover, there was an over-arching requirement for organizational leadership to take charge of the rescue and recovery operations in Haiti. As noted Kate Conradt, a spokeswoman for the Save the Children, said, "Donations are coming in to the airport here, but there is not yet a system to get it in." Indeed, given the massive extent of the damage to the physical infrastructure, there was a corresponding level of damage to governmental functions. In fact, the government was in no position to take on that organizational and leadership role, given the destruction of the Grand Palace and the parliament, along with other ministries and departments. Signaling the disabled government structure, White House spokesperson Robert Gibbs said that United States President Barack Obama had tried twice unsuccessfully to reach Haitian President Rene Preval. For his part, the Haitian leader was trying to operate from the airport.

### International Assistance

In something of a positive development, Edmond Mulet, a former United Nations peacekeeping chief in Haiti, arrived on Jan. 14, 2010, from New York to lead the relief effort. A United Nations disaster coordination team accompanied him.

In a move that could potentially ease the aforementioned logistical logjam, the United States Department of State announced on Jan. 15, 2010, that it had signed a memorandum of

understanding with Haiti to allow the United States to take over indefinite control of the air traffic and airport in Haiti. Reportedly, the agreement was signed by Haitian President Rene Preval. As well, a separate memorandum of understanding was signed that would allow American doctors to immediately practice medicine on the ground in Haiti, effectively bypassing the normal bureaucratic hurdles regulating the practice of medicine in Haiti.

On that same day, United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced that she, as well as the head of United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Rajiv Shah, would travel to Haiti to personally oversee her country's aid and assistance efforts there. Secretary Clinton was on the record stating: "The United States is offering our full assistance to Haiti and others in the region." To this end, a contingent from the United States' army's airborne division was being deployed to Haiti, along with the deployment of the hospital ship, USNS Comfort, as well as the USS Carl Vinson, carrying personnel and aid. Still, sensitive to perceptions that the United States might be overstepping its boundaries, Secretary Clinton's chief of staff, Cheryl Mills, said, "We have no intention of supplanting the leadership of Haiti."

These announcements appeared to be consistent with an earlier pledge by United States President Barack Obama to contribute to one of the biggest relief efforts in recent American history. To that end, on Jan. 14, 2010, President Obama made this commitment: "To the people of Haiti, we say clearly and with conviction, you will not be forsaken, you will not be forgotten." He also promised concrete and sustained assistance saying, "Every element of our national capacity, our diplomacy, and development assistance, the power of our military and most importantly, the compassion of our country" would be used in the United States' humanitarian and aid efforts in Haiti. In total, the Obama administration said it would release \$100 million immediately, however, outlays would increase in the future with an eye on long-term recovery. \*(See Editor's Note below)

But the United States has not been the only player on what has become a global humanitarian endeavor. Indeed, the international aid effort has coalesced countries from across the world. United States President Barack Obama and French President Nicolas Sarkozy have been working closely with Canada and Brazil -- whose aid workers had the most pronounced presence on the ground in Haiti immediately after the earthquake. Other countries contributing to the humanitarian assistance efforts have included the United Kingdom Russia, China, Venezuela, Australia, and Israel. Notably, bankrupt and geographically-distant Iceland was one of the first countries to deploy rescue teams to Haiti thousands of miles away. Also notable was the fact that Cuba, already in the field with 300 doctors, was among the few medical first responders available to treat victims in the first days of the crisis. Cuba also agreed to open its air space to the United States, for the purpose of expediting medical evacuations for earthquake victims from Haiti.

Among international agencies, there was also a strong response to offer assistance. For example, the World Bank announced it was funding \$100 million in emergency aid while the World Food Programme was accumulating 15,000 tons of food. As well, the Red Cross had launched a

funding appeal that included easy means to contribute, such as via text messaging.

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon lauded the international community's overwhelming response to provide assistance to Haiti. Then on Jan. 22, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution expressing solidarity and support to the government and people of Haiti as well as to all member states that lost nationals in the tragic earthquake. The United Nations General Assembly, as well, paid special tribute to United Nations peacekeepers and other staff who lost their lives in the line of duty.

The resolution additionally called on the international community to provide "speedy, sustainable and adequate" assistance for Haiti. The United Nations General Assembly also called on relevant bodies, financial institutions and development agencies to offer "continued effective humanitarian, technical and financial assistance." United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized the need to rebuild Haiti and "turn disaster into opportunity." He spoke of the international community's imperative to help the Haitian government and the Haitian people reconstitute their country.

### Later Developments

Despite the large and globalized response, the overwhelming nature of the situation on the ground made the search and rescue efforts very difficult, and the assessment was expected to include mixed results. Jon Andrus, the deputy director of the Pan American Health Organization said, "Are we satisfied with the job we are doing? Definitely not. But progress is being made. Think of what we started with when the world came crashing down on Haiti. No roads, only rubble and dead bodies. No communication, only death and despair."

With time, the logistical challenges outlined above were starting to be resolved and there was a marked improvement in the level of aid coordination. The pace at which medical aid and food were being delivered to those in need had accelerated. Survivors were being settled in "tent cities" and there were reports that they would be resettled in to-be-built villages on the outskirts of the ravaged capital city. Still, shortages were reported, damaged roads and ports were a fact of life, and doctors conveyed continuing fears about the threat of a disease with hundreds of thousands injured and/or homeless, at risk of tetanus, gangrene, measles, meningitis, tuberculosis, malaria and other infections, not to mention challenges of malnutrition and hygiene. The establishment of mobile hospitals would play a core role in minimizing the potential of a medical disaster arising from the natural disaster.

Meanwhile, as the month of January 2010 entered its final week, the rescue operations in Haiti were winding down. Indeed, on Jan. 23, 2010, it was announced that the search and rescue phase of the earthquake relief efforts coming to a close. The United Nations' Organization for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said, "The government has declared the search and rescue

phase over." This announcement came just as two people were rescued from under the rubble. In one case, an elderly woman was freed from under her house by neighbors using their bare hands to rescue her. In the other case, Israeli rescuers were able to save a youth. While these encouraging cases constituted a reason to celebrate, the country was still being affected by strong and frightening aftershocks of the earthquake, effectively posing some degree of increased risk for humanitarian and rescue workers as well as the already-traumatized Haitians and other victims on the ground.

On Jan. 26, 2010, representatives from several countries gathered in the Canadian city of Montreal to discuss possible pathways to help earthquake-ravaged Haiti. One idea, advanced by the Canadian government, was that a 10-year aid plan be directed at Haiti. While there were no definitive plans made in terms of global long-term action, United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton proposed that a follow-up meeting take place in New York in March 2010 after further needs assessment had been completed.

As of February 2010, the humanitarian aid operation in earthquake-ravaged Haiti has continued to be slow and challenging. However, reports on the ground from the United Nations have indicated some improvement in transporting food to survivors. That being said, the United Nations emphasized that another core task was to provide shelter to about one million people who were now homeless. At the broader level, the objective was the reconstruction of Haiti. To that end, meetings commenced at the Situation Room of the World Bank in Washington D.C. among technocrats, scientists, disaster experts, development specialists and urban planners aimed at setting the path for Haiti's recovery.

In February 2010, a child trafficking case had unfolded in Haiti in which a number of American Baptist missionaries were accused of illegally trying to take children out of Haiti. The missionaries were detained and charged with child kidnapping and criminal association for attempting to cross the border into the Dominican Republic with a busload of 33 children. The ten missionaries denied the charges and argued that they were merely trying to help those orphaned by the earthquake. By mid-month, a Haitian judge ruled in favor of the release of the missionaries, however, the prosecutor noted that he would not immediately work towards their release from official custody.

Editor's Note on Governance and Poverty in Haiti:

Haiti is one of the world's most impoverished countries and the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. It is the only country from the Americas located in the bottom echelon of the United Nations' Human Development Index. Haiti's population lives on an average of \$2 USD a day and 50 percent of the population is composed of children and youth -- the most vulnerable segment of society in a natural disaster. With a significant portion of the people --22 percent -- living in the Haitian capital city of Port-au-Prince, which was at the epicenter of the January 2010 earthquake,



the effects on Haiti as a whole was expected to be staggering. As noted here, in a country of nine million, a full third of Haiti's entire population was expected to be deleteriously affected by the earthquake.

In the period before the 2010 earthquake, Haiti was already dealing with the massive destruction caused by four major hurricanes that struck the country in 2008. At the time, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, had characterized the cumulative effect of the four hurricanes of 2008 as the "worst disaster in the last 100 years" to plague Haiti.

It therefore bears repeating: The Haitian earthquake of 2010 has been a catastrophe of proportions rarely endured by a single nation state. The cataclysmic situation on the ground in Port-au-Prince augured manifold challenges in a country already wracked by a legacy of political instability and blinding poverty. As noted by United States President Barack Obama in his assessment of the situation in Haiti: "For a country and a people who are no strangers to hardship and suffering, this tragedy seems especially cruel and incomprehensible."

As the international community has mobilized to assist Haiti in its time of need, there have been widespread discussions of the country's level of poverty and the role of international aid in less developed countries. With regard to these issues, the question arises, "Why is Haiti so poor?" The answer to that question, as one might imagine, is a complicated one and lies, to some extent, in Haiti's historical legacy.

Haiti -- once known as Saint-Domingue -- became a French colony in the late 17th century and gained the distinction of being one of the wealthiest French colonies in the New World. In fact, by the 18th century, Haiti's plantation economy was contributing to French wealth. Indeed, coffee and sugar -- two significant crops cultivated by African slave labor -- would yield enormous profits for France during that period. Haiti's shocking reversal of fortune is rooted in a conflagration of causes. After Haiti gained independence from France in 1804, following the mass revolt of slaves led by Toussaint L'Ouverture, it became the one of first independent black nations in the world. The country was eventually re-named "Ayiti" -- an indigenous Taino name meaning "land of mountains."

But peace had not easily come to independent Haiti, as a consequence of France's continued attempts to re-assert its power and re-impose slavery. Then, following independence, Haiti continued to suffer at the hands of successive oppressive leaders -- a trend that would continue for years to come. Notably, in the post-L'Ouverture years, under Jean-Jacques Dessalines, the stewardship of the Haitian economy and political arena was compromised due to his decisions to ban the country's European population from owning property, and to mandate that the African population work either in the army or on plantations in what became a system of pseudo-serfdom. Other leaders, such as Henri Christophe, reinforced a brutal but successful plantation system called "fermage" in the northern part of the country during his tenure, which disintegrated



after his death. In the south under Alexandre Pétion, the agro-economy devolved into subsistence farming. Years of ongoing battles and warfare also exacted a painful and destructive toll on the landscape and resources of Haiti.

Clearly, Haiti's economic prospects were deteriorating as a result of these collective factors. Nevertheless, the likely death knell was the reparations settlement that Haiti was forced to pay France. The example of a black nation state being forged from a slave revolt was not a welcome precedent for the prevailing European colonial powers. Accordingly, Spain and the United States joined France in imposing an economic embargo onto Haiti, which ultimately forced that country in 1838 to pay an indemnity of 150 million francs to France -- an amount roughly equivalent to \$21 billion today.

Meanwhile, Haiti's national bank was being plundered by British, French, American and German forces. The ostensible result was a country in a state of debt to its former colonial master for almost a century and a post-colonial economic disaster from which Haiti has never really ever recovered.

Haiti's more recent political and economic history has been fraught with tyrannical and dictatorial regimes, such as those led by "Papa Doc" Duvalier and his successor, "Baby Doc" Duvalier. Both Duvaliers were tacitly supported by the United States for geopolitical and strategic reasons, given Haiti's closeness to communist Cuba. Under "Papa Doc," peasant lands were seized and given to members of his paramilitary force (re: death squads) called the Tonton Macoutes. "Baby Doc" oversaw a military regime that continued a pattern of exploitation and corruption, marked by the expropriation of the government's treasury into the hands of the governing elite, and to the detriment of economic development.

This disturbing political and social terrain contributed to a mass exodus of the country's intelligentsia to neighboring Francophone islands, Francophone Canada, and urban centers in the United States. This "brain drain" served to ensure that Haiti may not have sufficient human capital (re: a dearth of technocrats) capable of solving the country's complex political and economic challenges.

Today, Haiti is the recipient of international aid and is home to a number of humanitarian aid organizations, all charged with the goal of helping the Haitian people. To this end, there have been some critiques about the utility of long-term international aid to Haiti. Some voices concentrate on the failure of governance in fragile Haiti, usually with venal and corrupt leadership at the helm. They have contended that this dysfunctional system has resulted in the Haitian people receiving only limited benefits from the billions spent in international aid.

Other voices, however, have argued that Haiti is constitutently unable to chart a better path for its people. This sentiment was recently articulated by well-known New York Times' columnist, David

Brooks, who suggested that countries like Haiti suffer from a progress-resistant culture, and that there is no real knowledge of how to transform aid funding into poverty alleviation in such places.

A countervailing view, as noted by renowned economist, Hernando de Soto, is not that the less developed countries of the world suffer as a result of "a culture of poverty," but from a dearth of strong governance and a lack of corresponding institutions. Indeed, De Soto has noted that whereas developed countries of the West have established domestic and international institutions and apparatus -- from property rights to banking regulations -- intended to reinforce and reward certain economic activities, developing countries, such as Haiti, often lack predictable regulatory systems facilitating sustainable economic development. De Soto draws upon empirical field research in Haiti itself to show how bureaucratic hindrances can inhibit settlement on government land for decades. Likewise, Terry Buss at the National Academy on Public Administration, who has also studied Haiti, has noted that the effective use of foreign aid must be predicated upon a strong system of institutions. Accordingly, the lack of such a structure is surely more of a contributing factor to the challenges of economic development, in stark contrast to dubious theories of "a culture of poverty."

In the immediate aftermath of the horrific earthquake of 2010, Haiti is simply trying to survive. In the future, as attention turns to reconstruction, the very structure of the Haitian political economy will likely be a matter of debate. While the aforementioned argument is sure to resurface -- that international aid (pre-earthquake) has seen few results -- other key facts are expected to inform the impending discussion.

Since 2004 when Jean-Bertrand Aristide (a democratically-elected leader-turned-despot) was ousted from office, Haiti was functioning under the aegis of a United Nations-mandated mission. In these recent years, the country has, in fact, seen some degree of progress. Peacekeepers have helped calm the fragile security situation, while a 2005 macroeconomic development program, forged with the help of the International Monetary Fund, has yielded modest results relative to the previous decades. As such, Haiti's long-term prospects will invariably involve participation by the international community, and success will potentially rest upon the international community's corresponding level of commitment to helping this beleaguered country.

One step in that direction might be the decision to move forward on cancelling Haiti's debt. Since Haiti has already seen some modest gains in recent years, despite being subject to a particularly harsh debt servicing schedule, it may well be the perfect candidate for debt cancellation. In September 2009, Haiti met the conditions set out by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund for possible cancellation of its external debt. As of January 2010, the imperative to act on that development may be of vital significance to Haiti's future.

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#### Primer on 2010/2011 Presidential Election in Haiti

Primer on Presidential Election in Haiti (first round Nov. 28, 2010; second round delayed to March 2011) --

In August 2010, Haitian-born singer Wyclef Jean indicated that he would announce his candidacy for president of earthquake-ravaged Haiti. A presidential election in that country was set to take place on Nov. 28, 2010. Wyclef Jean was expected to run on behalf of the political coalition called Ansanm Nou Fo, which translates as "together we are strong" in Haitian Creole.

Wyclef Jean's qualifications for the office of president were expected to evoke questions since he would have to prove five consecutive years of residency in Haiti, ownership of property, and possess no other citizenship but Haitian. Having said that, adherence to such regulations has not always been strictly respected in past elections. While Wyclef Jean would command high recognition and popularity, analysts have expressed doubts about his lack of policy experience. Whoever wins the election would be faced with the monumental task of rebuilding the earthquake-ravaged and impoverished country with a history of political upheaval.

By Aug. 20, 2010, Haiti's electoral commission had ruled against Wyclef Jean, deeming him to be ineligible to stand for election on the basis that he has not lived in the country for five years prior to the election. For his part, Wyclef Jean said he would appeal the ruling, arguing that in his capacity as a roving ambassador for Haiti since 2007, he should not be held to strict residency requirements. On Aug. 22, 2010, the Haitian hip hop singer said during an interview with the Associated Press that he possessed documentation regarding his candidacy, "which shows everything is correct." He subsequently made the following announcement via Twitter: "Tomorrow our lawyers are appealing the decision of the CEP. We have met all the requirements set by the laws. And the law must be respected."

In late September 2010, though, even after he officially registered to contest the country's presidential election, Jean said in a statement: "After weeks of quiet but painstaking reflection with my wife and daughter, I have chosen to end my bid for the presidency of Haiti. This was not an easy conclusion to reach; but it is one that was thoughtfully made, taking into account many, many competing factors and weighing the course that will best advance the healing of the country and help it find the quickest path to recovery." Jean went on to say that he would spend time preparing to contest the 2015 elections in Haiti.

Note that under Haiti's constitution, the president is elected by universal adult suffrage for a five-year term and cannot stand for immediate re-election. In this election, there were 18 candidates for the presidency. Should no one candidate cross the requisite 50 percent threshold to garner an absolute majority in November 2010, a second round would be held in January 2011.

According to a survey released by the Information Technology and Social and Economic

Development Office, former first lady and senator for Port-au-Prince, Mirlande Manigat, a candidate for the National Gathering of Progressive Democrats, was leading the pre-election polls with 36 percent. Manigat was the wife of former president Leslie Manigat, who was in office for only 130 days before being overthrown in a coup d'etat in 1988. Her election campaign has stood on the promise of improved infrastructure -- electricity service as well as the construction of schools and universities. She has also offered a withdrawal plan for the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, which has been stationed in that country since 2004. Jude Celestin, candidate for the ruling party, was carrying 20 percent in pre-election polling. A native of Port-Au-Prince, Celestin was something of a political novice although he has been distinguished as a technocrat. In 1999, Celestin became the head of the National Equipment Center, charged with reconstruction and infrastructure construction of the country. Then from 2001 to 2006, he had a key role in United Nations engineering in Haiti. His campaign platform rested on a continuation of the policies of the current government. Michel Martelly, a popular singer known as "Sweet Mickey," had 14 percent in pre-election polling preferences. Although he was born in Port-Au-Prince, Martelly was educated and worked in the United States for several years. Much like Wyclef Jean, Martelly had no political experience when he announced his intention to run for president. However, with Jean out, he has managed to draw strong youth support. He has campaigned on promises of job creation and investment in education.

Despite high hopes for the 2010 election in Haiti, the event was characterized by disappointment and violence. Ahead of the voting on Election Day, gunmen opened fire at an election rally, leaving at least one person dead. Shooting deaths were also reported as part of the pre-election violence in the south west of the country. Election Day -- Nov. 28, 2010 -- in Haiti was itself not marked by electoral success, despite the presence of United Nations peacekeepers charged with providing security and organizational support. With the voting underway, several presidential candidates warned that there had been too many irregularities to guarantee the integrity of the elections. The main opposition candidate, Mirlande Manigat, charged that the election was fraudulent and accused the election officials of stuffing ballot boxes. In a joint statement, 12 presidential candidates called for a cancellation of the election as follows: "We denounce a massive fraud that is occurring across the country. We demand the cancellation pure and simple of the elections." Meanwhile, ordinary citizens railed against the authorities when their names were not to be found on the voting lists, accusing the government of trying to deny them their voting rights.

Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council (PEC) quickly foreclosed the possibility of annulling the general elections. Gailloto Dorsainvil, the head of the PEC, also denied that irregularities had occurred. PEC Director General Pierre Louis Opont went further noting that whatever irregularities might have occurred, they would not be enough to change the election outcome. He further said that no registered voters had been prevented from exercising their rights; he said that people making such claims may have simply been at the wrong polling station, hence their absence on the voting rolls. Undeterred by such pronouncements, thousands of Haitians took to the streets to protest what they perceived as being electoral fraud. By the start of December 2010, the protests

were ongoing with demonstrators calling for a re-run of the elections and the immediate resignation of outgoing President Rene Preval, whom they accused of rigging the elections to favor his protege and presidential candidate, Jude Celestin.

On Dec. 7, 2010, the Provisional Electoral Council of Haiti issued the election results. The council reported that with no contender winning an outright majority (over 50 percent of the vote), the election would have to go to another round in January 2011. The results showed that former first lady, Mirlande Manigat, won 31.37 percent of the vote, while Preval's stalwart, Jude Celestin, garnered 22.49 percent. Michel Martelly, the musician, took third, very closely behind Celestin, with 21.84 percent. Accordingly, Martelly narrowly missed being able to contest the second or "runoff" round of the elections, which would involve Manigat and Celestin.

Given the closeness of the finish between the second and third place finishers, it was perhaps not surprising that Martelly challenged the result. His campaign manager, Damian Merlo, said: "The math says an absolute fraud." In a bid to try to inject some legitimacy to the election result, Haiti's electoral council said that it would carry out a vote recount.

Meanwhile, amidst the wider backdrop of doubt about the fairness of the election itself, there was an ever-intensifying sense of outrage from Haitian voters. Unrest was on the rise with gunfire heard across the country, violent street protests, as well as acts of vandalism. Foreign diplomats attempting meet with President Preval were unable to traverse the capital due to unsafe street conditions. In the background of the chaos was the cholera epidemic plaguing the already tragedy-stricken country, where an epidemic at the start of the year destroyed the capital city and left more than 200,000 people dead.

On Jan. 5, 2011 -- ahead of the second round of the presidential election set for Jan. 16, 2011 -- Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council's indicated that the results of the first round had not been certified and that the run-off vote would be delayed. No new date was scheduled for a second round although there were some suggestions that the runoff might be held in February 2011.

An influential think tank, the Center for Economic and Policy Research (CEPR), released a report on Jan. 9, 2011, concluding that the November 28, 2010 presidential and parliamentary elections in Haiti as being plagued by fraud. The report went further to note that the elections were "so fatally flawed as to nullify any possible attempt by professional observers to certify the election results." Mark Weisbrot, CEPR co-director and co-author of the report, said: "I don't see how any professional observers could legitimately certify this election result." Without a certified election result, it would be difficult to determine who should advance to the second round. The United States indicated that it might support the idea of canceling the result of the disputed first round of the presidential elections, if that suggestion was proposed by a panel of experts examining the vote.

Adding to the state of chaos was the return of a major player to the Haitian landscape. On Jan. 16, 2011, former Haitian President Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier shocked the country by

returning to the capital city after an extended period of exile in France. The purpose of Duvalier's return was unknown at a time when Haiti was reeling from a devastating earthquake, a cholera epidemic, and inconclusive first round elections. "Baby Doc" Duvalier succeeded his father, Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier when the older Duvalier died in 1971. Both men were notorious for their campaign of terror against their political opponents. Both Duvaliers, aided by the murderous militia known as the "Tontons Macoutes" kidnapped, tortured, and killed an untold number of people in the 1960s and 1970s.

Only days after his perplexing return to Haiti, Duvalier was taken by Haitian security forces from his luxury hotel and faced with charges of corruption, theft, and misappropriation of state funds. Port-au-Prince chief prosecutor, Aristidas Auguste, explained the development as follows: "His fate is now in the hands of the investigating judge. We have brought charges against him." To that end, a judge would have to decide whether the case against Duvalier should go ahead. While Duvalier was released following several hours of questioning, he was barred from leaving the country pending a period of 30 days in which the courts would have to decide whether or not to prosecute him. Clearly, a return ticket by Duvalier dated for Jan. 20, 2011, went unused by the former Haitian leader.

Of note at the time, however, was the fact that there were no charges issued related to Duvalier's reign of terror. Several human rights organizations, such as Amnesty International, have demanded that Haitian authorities compel Duvalier to face justice for his apparent involvement in the persecution of his political opponents during his brutal 15 years in office. While the Haitian government had not issued such charges, Duvalier was nonetheless being sued for torture and crimes against humanity.

The return of Duvalier raised questions as to whether former President Aristide -- himself in exile -- might also return to Haiti. Of Duvalier's return, Haitian President Rene Preval noted that "Baby Doc" had the right to return to Haiti and that no one could be forced to remain in exile. President Preval, however, noted that no one should be surprised that Duvalier would now have to face justice. As noted by the Haitian president, "If Duvalier is not in prison now, it is because he has not yet been tried."

Eventually, some light was being shed on the reason for Duvalier's return. Apparently, funds in a Swiss account claimed by Duvalier could go into his coffers if the Haitian government chose not to prosecute him. Duvalier may have been making the calculation that he could return to Haiti, take advantage of the power vacuum in a country bedeviled by the after-effects of the earthquake and inconclusive elections, and evade immediate prosecution. Duvalier could then approach the Swiss bank for the funds saying that since there was no legal action against him, the funds should be released. Clearly, those events did not transpire as Duvalier had hoped, leaving him without access to the money in Swiss bank account and facing a mountain of legal charges.



At the start of February 2011, former Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide said that he was ending his seven-year exile and intended to return to Haiti. In an opinion editorial published by the Guardian of London, Aristide said, "I will return to Haiti." He also condemned the "profit-driven, exclusionary" manner of post-earthquake reconstruction in Haiti. That statement appeared to indicate strong anti-American sentiment. As with the return of Duvalier, Aristide's return was expected to add further tensions to the political scene in Haiti. Still, the Haitian authorities granted Aristide a passport.

Meanwhile, on the matter of the election -- the Organization of American States (OAS) was carrying out its own recount; that recount and associated report concluded that the first round had fraudulently attributed a favorable result for Celestin -- President Preval's chosen successor.

On Jan. 26, 2011, Celestin was reported to have withdrawn from the second round of the Haiti presidential election. This development came as reports by international monitors began to emerge that the results of the first round had been manipulated in his favor, and in the aftermath of the OAS analysis. The United Nations and the United States respectively responded by urging Celestin to withdraw from the race. The United States had additionally warned that without the installation of a credible government, Haiti was at risk of losing aid from the international community.

Celestin's withdrawal was indeed confirmed and the path was cleared for a forthcoming second election round between Mirlande Manigat and Michel Martelly. In the first week of February 2011, Haiti's electoral officials invalidated the candidacy of government-backed Celestin, setting up a final contest between the conservative former first lady, Manigat, and the populist musician, Martelly.

Note that as of late February 2011, the latest polling data ahead of the run-off election for the presidency of Haiti showed singer/musician, Martelly, in the lead by a commanding margin. The survey, which was conducted by Dagmar, indicated that Martelly had the support of 60.3 percent of those polled, while former first lady, Manigat, had the support of 38.9 percent. Interestingly, Martelly was almost shut out of the second round (as discussed above) now appeared to be in a position to ultimately win Haiti's presidential election. By March 2011, the presidential contest had narrowed significantly and according to survey data by The Herald, Martelly had the support of 50.8 percent of those surveyed while Manigat had 46.2 percent.

Ahead of the vote, former President Jean Bertrand Aristide returned to the country after seven years of living in exile in South Africa. While he hailed the new day dawning in Haiti, there have been anxieties that his return could upset the political process.

Nevertheless, on March 20, 2011, Haitians went to the polls to vote in the run-off or second round of the much-anticipated presidential elections. While there were some minor electoral delays, irregularities, and other glitches as people tried to cast their ballots, the election seemed to have gone off safely. To that specific end, United Nations peacekeeping forces were deployed across the



country to aid Haitian police in maintaining stability in Haiti.

On April 4, 2011, all indications on the ground in Haiti pointed toward an impending announcement that singer and musician, Michel Martelly, had won the presidential election during the second round of voting. Martelly, known as "Sweet Micky," garnered a landslide victory of 75 percent, according to media sources. On April 21, 2011, Martelly was officially declared to be the winner of the Haitian presidential election and was set to succeed President Rene Preval, whose second term was scheduled to end on May 14, 2011. The final result showed Martelly garnering 67.6 percent of the vote share. Indeed, President-elect Martelly was expected to be inaugurated into power by the middle of May 2011.

Also announced were the final results of the parliamentary elections; the political party of outgoing President Rene Preval won a majority in the Senate. Since parliament must approve of the president's selection of the prime minister, Martelly's choice for the head of government could well be the first big test of his presidency.

Note: Martelly was officially inaugurated into power as president in the middle of May 2011. President Martelly, without governing experience, had said that he would try to attract entrepreneurs for investment in infrastructure and tourism projects. As well, with an eye on security for a country beset by political upheaval and violence, President Martelly has said that he was interested in restoring the Haitian army, which was disbanded in the 1990s amidst accusations of abuse. Until such a body could be established, Haiti would remain home to about 12,000 United Nations peacekeepers, which already provides security but whose mandate could potentially be expanded to provide training for police.

### Post-Election Developments

On June 21, 2011, the Haitian parliament rejected the nomination of Daniel Gerard Rouzier as the country's new prime minister. The Haitian Chamber of Deputies voted 42 to 19 against Rouzier on the grounds that he failed to confirm his citizenship, noting that he did not submit a copy of his passport as needed to determine eligibility for the post. Rouzier, a local car dealer and long-time friend of newly-inaugurated President Michel Martelly, had studied in the United States and earned a Master's degree there but the Haitian constitution prevents high ranking officials from holding dual citizenship. Now, President Michel Martelly would be compelled to make a new selection for the post of head of government.

On July 11, 2011, Haiti was no further along the path of finding a new head of government. President Martelly's nomination of former justice minister, Bernard Gousse, to be the country's new prime minister was met with outrage by some Haitian members of parliament. At issue was Gousse's tenure as minister of justice and public security in 2004 during the time of the interim

United States-backed government. During that period, Grouse came under criticism for his poor handling of security, the extended imprisonment of former Prime Minister Yvon Neptune, and spearheading a “witch hunt” against supporters of ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Given this background, Grouse was viewed by many in parliament as simply unacceptable, and likely to re-open old wounds in a country struggling to find its way back to stability after so much hardship in recent times.

By September 2011, President Martelly had presented Garry Conille as a candidate for the prime minister's post. The appointment of Conille -- a medical doctor with a background in development and health efforts on behalf of the United Nations, and who was charged with coordinating some of the post-earthquake humanitarian efforts -- was approved by the Haitian Chamber Deputies Sept. 16th, 2011. Then, at the start of October 2011, Conille was approved as head of government by the Senate. On Oct. 8, 2011, Conille officially became Haiti's new prime minister.

At the start of February 2012, Judge Carves Jean -- the chief investigating prosecutor of Haiti's Supreme Court -- ruled that former Haitian ruler, Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, could be tried for corruption, fraud, and embezzlement, but not for human rights abuses. Should the decision hold, then Duvalier would escape prosecution for crimes such as murder, torture, and the disappearance of political opponents, which reportedly occurred during his 15 years of dictatorial rule. The ruling was immediately met by angry protests from human rights groups, activists, and victims who were infuriated over the lack of accountability for the man whom they believe to be responsible for a particularly dark chapter of Haiti's ever-beleaguered history. They further charged that the ruling would imperil Haiti's already-weak system of justice. For his part, Duvalier spent many years in exile, before returning home to Haiti where he has since been held under house arrest. There were suggestions that the sympathetic court decision for Duvalier might be linked with the fact that he shares connections with Haitian President Michel Martelly.

On Feb. 25, 2012, Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille handed in his resignation. His concise statement of resignation, which was dispatched to President Michel Martelly, read as follows: "I am in the obligation to present you my resignation as Prime Minister of the Government of the Republic of Haiti."

Conille himself came to power in October 2011 after President Martelly's first two choices of head of government were rejected by parliament. At the time, there were high hopes that Conille -- a medical doctor with a background in development and health efforts on behalf of the United Nations -- would be a key player in the post-earthquake humanitarian efforts in Haiti. Now, those hopes were dashed with Conille's decision to step down.

Reports suggested that a deteriorating relationship between Conille and Martelly contributed to the decision. The tensions between the two men came to a head weeks prior when Martelly

interrupted a meeting between Conille and members of parliament in order to accuse them of conspiring against him. For his part, President Michel Martelly accepted Conille's resignation but expressed regret over the development. He said, "I regret that it's [Conille's resignation] at this moment when the country is taking off."

President Martelly also promised to quickly nominate a new candidate for the position of prime minister. To that end, on March 1, 2012, President Martelly nominated Foreign Minister Laurent Lamothe to become prime minister following the resignation of Conille. The nomination of Lamothe promised to evoke controversy since there were suspicions that he holds double nationality, which Haiti does not recognize.

Meanwhile, the decision to resign by Conille raised doubts about the state of political stability in Haiti as it attempted to recover from the devastating effects of the massive earthquake. Indeed, Conille's resignation came only hours after the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Haiti released a report saying that political stability was deteriorating in Haiti. According to Mariano Fernandez, the head of that peacekeeping mission, "The well functioning of institutions and the democratic process of Haiti are being affected by the recent confrontations between Haitian President Michel Martelly and the legislative power."

In the spring of 2013, a cabinet member in Prime Minister's Lamothe's government resigned over allegations of holding American citizenship. A cadre of members of parliament -- predominantly from the opposition ranks -- accused Minister of Haitians Living Overseas Bernice Fidelia of being an American. Fidelia indeed lived in the United States before moving to Haiti to work for President Michel Martelly when he took office in 2011. Although the matter of Fidelia's citizenship was not easily settled at the time the allegations surfaced, Fidelia stepped down from her post. Foreign Minister Pierre-Richard Casimir was set to assume Fidelia's portfolio, in addition to his own, according to a statement from the office of the prime minister. It should be noted that, for some time, the opposition has accused President Martelly and several top members of the government, who have previously resided in the United States, of holding American citizenship and thus being ineligible to hold office in Haiti.

Note that at the start of July 2013, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti urged Haitian authorities to make the effort to hold parliamentary elections in 2013. The statement by that body read as follows: "To hold free, transparent, credible and inclusive elections is one of the mission's tasks, also a prior requisite to guaranteeing the continuity and stability of the institutional pillars of the rule of law." The United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti also said that along the road to those elections, a bill to amend the electoral law would have to be approved into law. The 2013 timeline passed due to political infighting.

In December 2014, Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe resigned from office as the head of government in Haiti. Lamothe's resignation came amidst street protests with demonstrators

demanding that the president step down and amidst controversy over a new election law.

For his part, President Michel Martelly was hoping to tamp down tensions by accepting Lamonthe's resignation and naming his health minister, Florence Duperval Guillaume, to be the interim prime minister. A career health care technocrat, Guillaume was widely respected by the international community. There were hopes that her appointment -- even on a temporary basis as the prime minister -- would quell the unrest. But Guillaume's time in the post was short as Martelly soon named a permanent replacement for Lamonthe -- a moderate opposition politician, Evans Paul.

Of note was the fact that Paul's nomination would have to be ratified by parliament. But ratification did not occur. Instead, the parliament refused to put its legislative stamp of approval on Paul as head of government. Outside in the streets, unrest was growing along with calls for Martelly himself to step down. Those calls were certainly spurred by the opposition Lavalas party, which warned that it would continue to spark street action.

By mid-January 2015, negotiations over the electoral law ended in failure and the country's parliament was dissolved. With no schedule for future parliamentary elections on the books, Haiti was in a state of political uncertainty. While President Martelly could rule by decree, his own tenure was set to expire within a year. In a bid to introduce some stability, President Martelly used his executive powers to swear Evans Paul into power as the head of government and announced that Haiti had a new government. It was not clear how secure that government would be, given the fact that the parliament was already dissolved, as noted above.

Note that by April 2015, discussions were ongoing as regards the scheduling of highly-anticipated elections.

### 2015 presidential and parliamentary elections in Haiti

#### Primer on parliamentary elections in Haiti

Long-awaited parliamentary elections were set to be held in Haiti on Aug. 9, 2015. A second round of the parliamentary elections would also be held on Oct. 25, 2015, when the first round of the presidential contest would also be held. A run-off, if needed in the presidential election, was supposed to be held on Dec. 27, 2015; however, that date was delayed to January 2016 when the second round would be held. That second round was later delayed indefinitely.

At the parliamentary level, the composition of the bicameral "Assemblée Nationale" (National Assembly) was at stake. That legislative body was composed of the Chamber of Deputies ("Chambre des Deputes") -- a 99-seat chamber where members are elected by popular vote to

serve four-year terms, and the "Senat" (Senate) - a 30-seat chamber where members are elected by popular vote to serve six-year terms and one-third are elected every two years.

The first round of voting in the parliamentary race on Aug. 9, 2015, was regarded as something of a test, ahead of the run-off round for the parliamentary elections on Oct. 25, 2015, when voters would also cast their ballots in the first round of the presidential race. As noted by Sandra Honore, the special representative of the United Nations secretary general in Haiti, in an interview with Reuters News: "Credible, inclusive, translucent and fair elections are key to long-term stability in Haiti." But ahead of the second round, the Verite (Truth) Party announced its boycott of the election, complaining that attacks at polling stations in the first round made the elections not credible.

### Primer presidential election in Haiti

Elections were set to be held in Haiti in 2015. The long-awaited parliamentary elections were scheduled to be held in Haiti on Aug. 9, 2015. A second round of the parliamentary elections would also be held on Oct. 25, 2015, when the presidential contest would also be held. If no one candidate secured outright victory in the first round of the presidential contest, a run-off election would be held on Dec. 27, 2015, although that date was rescheduled to take place on Jan. 24, 2016, and then two days ahead of that date, it was postponed indefinitely.

At the presidential level, with incumbent President Michel Martelly ineligible to run for re-election, the race was wide open. Indeed, several candidates running under no shortage of parties and platforms were reported to be contesting the presidential election. Of note was the fact that the Verite (Truth) Party of former president Rene Preval and the Lavalas Family party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide were expected to announce their candidates for the presidency from their ranks. Some of the known candidates included Thierry Mayard-Paul, a former interior minister and adviser to outgoing President Martelly, Foreign Minister Duly Brutus within outgoing President Martelly's government, and Mario Andersol, the former chief of Haitian police. Also contesting the election would be Jovenel Moise, a banana exporter from outgoing President Martelly's Parti Haitien Tet Kale, and Jude Celestin, a Swiss-educated government technocrat and the head of the Alternative League for Progress and Emancipation of Haiti (known in French by the acronym, Lapeh). Polling data indicated that the presidential contest would ultimately be between Moise and Celestin.

The first round of elections went forward smoothly. While there were some complaints about long lines and some minor incidences at select polling stations, the elections had actually taken place without violence or immediate claims of fraud. A second round of voting would be needed to decide who the successor to President Martelly might be. To that end, Moise, who garnered 32 percent of the vote share, and Celestin, who acquired 25 percent at the presidential level, were the two candidates headed to a presidential run-off, initially set to be held on Dec. 27, 2015. Ahead

of that date, though, the second round was postponed. The new date for the run-off election was set for Jan. 24, 2016.

With the news of the two top election performers circulating through the public purview, there were accusations of fraud, with some voices suggesting that fraud had actually benefited Moïse. Furthermore, one of the two candidates making it to the second round -- Celestin -- announced that he was refusing to campaign unless there were reforms to the electoral process. Soon, Celestin was going further and insisting that he would not even participate in the second round of the elections, stating that no corrective measures were being taken, and as such, he had no confidence in the election exercise. Nevertheless, the second round was expected to go off on Jan. 24, 2016 -- quite likely with Moïse as the only candidate actively contesting the election.

Ahead of that vote, protesters were taking to the streets to agitate on behalf of a suspension of the presidential run-off election expected to take place on Jan. 24, 2016. With the eruption of these violent demonstrations, electoral officials announced the indefinite delay of the elections, with several influential institutions in Haiti acknowledging that any voting that would take place under such conditions would not be credible.

With no new polls set on the immediate horizon, and with outgoing President Martelly due to step down on Feb. 7, 2016, the attention refocused on the establishment of an interim government. There were efforts afoot intended to pave the way for a temporary consensus administration. But settling on the composition of that temporary consensus administration promised to be difficult. Another option was the establishment of a provisional president. An extension to Martelly's tenure was also under consideration; however, that option was being fiercely rejected by the opposition. Meanwhile, a delegation from the Organization of American States was being dispatched to Haiti to forge a resolution and avoid a deepening crisis.

Note that on Feb. 7, 2016, President Martelly stepped down from office, in keeping with constitutional provisions, but leaving in his wake something of a presidential vacuum. With a state of chaos brewing, the Organization of American States (OAS) negotiated an agreement that would leave Prime Minister Evans Paul in place for a temporary period, thus providing extra time for parliament to choose an interim president at the helm of a caretaker government.

To that end, Jocelerme Privert, an opposition senator who served as the interior minister under the Aristide presidency, was sworn into office as Haiti's provisional president on Feb. 14, 2016. For his part, Privert indicated that his objective would be to facilitate the second round of the presidential election by a date of April 24, 2016, with an eye on transitioning power to a newly elected president by mid-May 2016. He also vowed to move the country out of its state of political crisis, as he said, "I will engage in dialogue with all sectors to get the country out of crisis." Despite his measured tone, the selection of Privert was being viewed as highly partisan since he came from the Lavalas party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted



from power in a coup d'etat in 2004. With Privert now in the office of the president -- if only on a temporary basis -- the Lavalas party was celebrating its return to power.

As February 2016 came to a close, Interim President Privert named Fritz-Alphonse Jean -- an economist and a former Central Bank governor -- to be the country's new prime minister replacing outgoing Evans Paul as head of government. The decision to choose a technocrat to be prime minister emphasized the priority of dealing with Haiti's economic challenges. As stated by Privert, "The country's finances are in an alarming and catastrophic situation." President Privert quickly received criticism from former President Martelly's Tel Kale Party for making a unilateral selection in violation of the OAS-brokered agreement. However, the provisional president dismissed the claim saying his choice of Prime Minister Jean was made in consultation with the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

In March 2016, however, the Haitian parliament rejected Jean as for the position of prime minister. As such, a new candidate was brought forward -- this time, a professor of Administrative Law at the Faculty of Law and Economics (FDSE) of the State University of Haiti -- Enex Jean-Charles - who was educated in the United States and France. This selection was met with parliamentary approval and Jean-Charles became the new Haitian transitional head of government.

Haiti misses deadline set for presidential election

A long-delayed presidential election had been set to be held on April 24, 2016, in Haiti, with the intention of returning the country to proper governance. The schedule was set as part of a peace accord that established a transitional government after a contested first round of presidential voting. The intent was to have the transitional government, led by provisional President Jocelerme Privert, assume a caretaker role until this second round election could finally take place. But as discussed here, that timeline elapsed without people being able to go to the polls.

--May 2016

*Written by Dr. Denise Youngblood Coleman, Editor in Chief at CountryWatch. Sources listed in the Bibliography. Supplementary sources: Haitian Action Committee; United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti; HaitiInfo.com; Encyclopedia Britannica ([www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)); Bob Corbett, "Haitian History course" ([www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/43a/index-b.html](http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/43a/index-b.html)); OnWar.com ([www.onwar.com/aced/data/uniform/ushaiti1918.htm](http://www.onwar.com/aced/data/uniform/ushaiti1918.htm)).*



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## Political Risk Index

### Political Risk Index

The **Political Risk Index** is a proprietary index measuring the level of risk posed to governments, corporations, and investors, based on a myriad of political and economic factors. The [Political Risk Index](#) is calculated using an established methodology by CountryWatch's Editor-in-Chief and is based on varied criteria\* including the following consideration: political stability, political representation, democratic accountability, freedom of expression, security and crime, risk of conflict, human development, jurisprudence and regulatory transparency, economic risk, foreign investment considerations, possibility of sovereign default, and corruption. Scores are assigned from 0-10 using the aforementioned criteria. A score of 0 marks the highest political risk, while a score of 10 marks the lowest political risk. Stated differently, countries with the lowest scores pose the greatest political risk. A score of 0 marks the most dire level of political risk and an ultimate nadir, while a score of 10 marks the lowest possible level of political risk, according to this proprietary index. Rarely will there be scores of 0 or 10 due to the reality that countries contain complex landscapes; as such, the index offers a range of possibilities ranging from lesser to greater risk.

Country	Assessment
Afghanistan	2
Albania	4
Algeria	6

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Andorra	9
Angola	4
Antigua	8
Argentina	4
Armenia	4-5
Australia	9.5
Austria	9.5
Azerbaijan	4
Bahamas	8.5
Bahrain	6
Bangladesh	3.5
Barbados	8.5-9
Belarus	3
Belgium	9
Belize	8
Benin	5
Bhutan	5
Bolivia	5

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Bosnia-Herzegovina	4
Botswana	7
Brazil	7
Brunei	7
Bulgaria	6
Burkina Faso	4
Burma (Myanmar)	4.5
Burundi	3
Cambodia	4
Cameroon	5
Canada	9.5
Cape Verde	6
Central African Republic	3
Chad	4
Chile	9
China	7
China: Hong Kong	8
China: Taiwan	8

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Colombia	7
Comoros	5
Congo DRC	3
Congo RC	4
Costa Rica	8
Cote d'Ivoire	4.5
Croatia	7
Cuba	4-4.5
Cyprus	5
Czech Republic	8
Denmark	9.5
Djibouti	4.5
Dominica	7
Dominican Republic	6
East Timor	5
Ecuador	6
Egypt	5
El Salvador	7

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Equatorial Guinea	4
Eritrea	3
Estonia	8
Ethiopia	4
Fiji	5
Finland	9
Fr. Yugoslav Rep. Macedonia	5
France	9
Gabon	5
Gambia	4
Georgia	5
Germany	9.5
Ghana	6
Greece	4.5-5
Grenada	8
Guatemala	6
Guinea	3.5
Guinea-Bissau	3.5

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Guyana	4.5
Haiti	3.5
Holy See (Vatican)	9
Honduras	4.5-5
Hungary	7
Iceland	8.5-9
India	7.5-8
Indonesia	6
Iran	3.5-4
Iraq	2.5-3
Ireland	8-8.5
Israel	8
Italy	7.5
Jamaica	6.5-7
Japan	9
Jordan	6.5
Kazakhstan	6
Kenya	5

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Kiribati	7
Korea, North	1
Korea, South	8
Kosovo	4
Kuwait	7
Kyrgyzstan	4.5
Laos	4.5
Latvia	7
Lebanon	5.5
Lesotho	6
Liberia	3.5
Libya	2
Liechtenstein	9
Lithuania	7.5
Luxembourg	9
Madagascar	4
Malawi	4
Malaysia	8

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Maldives	4.5
Mali	4
Malta	8
Marshall Islands	6
Mauritania	4.5-5
Mauritius	7
Mexico	6.5
Micronesia	7
Moldova	5
Monaco	9
Mongolia	5
Montenegro	6
Morocco	6.5
Mozambique	4.5-5
Namibia	6.5-7
Nauru	6
Nepal	4
Netherlands	9.5

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New Zealand	9.5
Nicaragua	5
Niger	4
Nigeria	4.5
Norway	9.5
Oman	7
Pakistan	3.5
Palau	7
Panama	7.5
Papua New Guinea	5
Paraguay	6.5-7
Peru	7
Philippines	6
Poland	8
Portugal	7.5
Qatar	7.5
Romania	5.5
Russia	5.5

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Rwanda	5
Saint Kitts and Nevis	8
Saint Lucia	8
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	8
Samoa	7
San Marino	9
Sao Tome and Principe	5.5
Saudi Arabia	6
Senegal	6
Serbia	5
Seychelles	7
Sierra Leone	4.5
Singapore	9
Slovak Republic (Slovakia)	8
Slovenia	8
Solomon Islands	6
Somalia	2
South Africa	7

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Spain	7.5
Sri Lanka	5
Sudan	3.5
Suriname	5
Swaziland	5
Sweden	9.5
Switzerland	9.5
Syria	2
Tajikistan	4.5
Tanzania	6
Thailand	6.5
Togo	4.5
Tonga	7
Trinidad and Tobago	8
Tunisia	6
Turkey	7
Turkmenistan	4.5
Tuvalu	7

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Uganda	6
Ukraine	3.5-4
United Arab Emirates	7
United Kingdom	9
United States	9.5
Uruguay	8
Uzbekistan	4
Vanuatu	7
Venezuela	4
Vietnam	5
Yemen	3
Zambia	4.5
Zimbabwe	3

### \*Methodology

The [Political Risk Index](#) is calculated by CountryWatch's Editor-in-Chief and is based on the combined scoring of varied criteria as follows --

1. political stability (record of peaceful transitions of power, ability of government to stay in office and carry out policies as a result of productive executive-legislative relationship, perhaps with popular support vis a vis risk of government collapse)
2. political representation (right of suffrage, free and fair elections, multi-party participation, and

influence of foreign powers)

3. democratic accountability (record of respect for political rights, human rights, and civil liberties, backed by constitutional protections)

4. freedom of expression (media freedom and freedom of expression, right to dissent or express political opposition, backed by constitutional protections)

5. security and crime (the degree to which a country has security mechanisms that ensures safety of citizens and ensures law and order, without resorting to extra-judicial measures)

6. risk of conflict (the presence of conflict; record of coups or civil disturbances; threat of war; threats posed by internal or external tensions; threat or record of terrorism or insurgencies)

7. human development (quality of life; access to education; socio-economic conditions; systemic concern for the status of women and children)

8. jurisprudence and regulatory transparency (the impartiality of the legal system, the degree of transparency within the regulatory system of a country and the durability of that structure)

9. economic conditions (economic stability, investment climate, degree of nationalization of industries, property rights, labor force development)

10. corruption ( the degree of corruption in a country and/or efforts by the government to address graft and other irregularities)

#### Editor's Note:

As of 2015, the current climate of upheaval internationally -- both politically and economically -- has affected the ratings for several countries across the world.

North Korea, [Afghanistan](#), [Somalia](#), and [Zimbabwe](#) -- retain their low rankings.

Several Middle Eastern and North African countries, such as [Tunisia](#), [Egypt](#), [Libya](#), [Syria](#), [Iraq](#) and [Yemen](#) were downgraded in recent years due to political instability occurring in the "season of unrest" sweeping the region since 2011 and continuing today. The worst downgrades affected [Syria](#) where civil war is at play, along with the rampage of terror being carried out by Islamist terrorists who have also seized control over part of Syrian territory. [Iraq](#) has been further downgraded due to the rampage of Islamist terrorists and their takeover of wide swaths of Iraqi territory. [Libya](#) has also been downgraded further due to its slippage into failed state status; at

issue in [Libya](#) have been an ongoing power struggle between rival militias. [Yemen](#) continues to hold steady with a poor ranking due to continued unrest at the hands of Houthi rebels, secessionists, al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, and Islamic State. Its landscape has been further complicated by the fact that it is now the site of a proxy war between [Iran](#) and [Saudi Arabia](#). Conversely, [Tunisia](#) and [Egypt](#) have seen slight upgrades as these countries stabilize.

In Africa, [Zimbabwe](#) continues to be one of the bleak spots of the world with the Mugabe regime effectively destroying the country's once vibrant economy, and miring [Zimbabwe](#) with an exceedingly high rate of inflation, debilitating unemployment, devolving public services, and critical food shortages; rampant crime and political oppression round out the landscape. [Somalia](#) also sports a poor ranking due to the continuing influence of the terror group, al-Shabab, which was not operating across the border in [Kenya](#). On the upside, [Nigeria](#), which was ineffectively dealing with the threat posed by the terror group, Boko Haram, was making some strides on the national security front with its new president at the helm. [Mali](#) was slightly upgraded due to its efforts to return to constitutional order following the 2012 coup and to neutralize the threat of separatists and Islamists. But the [Central African Republic](#) was downgraded due to the takeover of the government by Muslim Seleka rebels and a continued state of lawlessness in that country. [South Sudan](#) -- the world's newest nation state -- has not been officially included in this assessment; however, it can be unofficially assessed to be in the vicinity of "3" due to its manifold political and economic challenges. [Burkina Faso](#), [Burundi](#) and [Guinea](#) have been downgraded due to political unrest, with [Guinea](#) also having to deal with the burgeoning Ebola crisis.

In Europe, [Ukraine](#) was downgraded due to the unrest facing that country following its Maidan revolution that triggered a pro-Russian uprising in the eastern part of the country. [Russia](#) was also implicated in the Ukrainian crisis due to its intervention on behalf of pro-Russian separatists, as well as its annexation of the Ukrainian territory of Crimea. Strains on the infrastructure of southern and eastern European countries, such as [Serbia](#), [Croatia](#), and [Hungary](#), due to an influx of refugees was expected to pose social and economic challenges, and slight downgrades were made accordingly. So too, a corruption crisis for the Romanian prime minister has affected the ranking of that country. Meanwhile, the rankings for [Spain](#), [Portugal](#), [Ireland](#), and [Italy](#) were maintained due to debt woes and the concomitant effect on the euro zone. [Greece](#), another euro zone nation, was earlier downgraded due to its sovereign debt crisis; however, no further downgrade was added since the country was able to successfully forge a bailout rescue deal with creditor institutions. Cyprus' exposure to Greek banks yielded a downgrade in its case.

In Asia, [Nepal](#) was downgraded in response to continuous political instability and a constitutional crisis that prevails well after landmark elections were held. Both [India](#) and [China](#) retain their rankings; [India](#) holds a slightly higher ranking than [China](#) due to its record of democratic representation and accountability. Increasing violence and political instability in [Pakistan](#) resulted in a downgrade for this country's already low rating. Meanwhile, [Singapore](#) retained its strong rankings due to its continued effective stewardship of the economy and political stability.

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In the Americas, ongoing political and economic woes, as well as crime and corruption have affected the rankings for [Mexico](#) , [Guatemala](#), and [Brazil](#). [Argentina](#) was downgraded due to its default on debt following the failure of talks with bond holders. [Venezuela](#) was downgraded due to its mix of market unfriendly policies and political oppression. For the moment, the [United States](#) maintains a strong ranking along with [Canada](#), and most of the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean; however, a renewed debt ceiling crisis could cause the [United States](#) to be downgraded in a future edition. Finally, a small but significant upgrade was attributed to [Cuba](#) due to its recent pro-business reforms and its normalization of ties with the United States.

Source:

Dr. Denise Youngblood Coleman, Editor in Chief, CountryWatch Inc. [www.countrywatch.com](http://www.countrywatch.com)

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## Political Stability

### Political Stability

The **Political Stability Index** is a proprietary index measuring a country's level of stability, standard of good governance, record of constitutional order, respect for human rights, and overall strength of democracy. The [Political Stability](#) Index is calculated using an established methodology\* by CountryWatch's Editor-in-Chief and is based on a given country's record of peaceful transitions of power, ability of a government to stay in office and carry out its policies vis a vis risk credible risks of government collapse. Threats include coups, domestic violence and instability, terrorism, etc. This index measures the dynamic between the quality of a country's government and the threats that can compromise and undermine stability. Scores are assigned from 0-10 using the aforementioned criteria. A score of 0 marks the lowest level of political stability and an ultimate nadir, while a score of 10 marks the highest level of political stability possible, according to this proprietary index. Rarely will there be scores of 0 or 10 due to the reality that countries contain complex landscapes; as such, the index offers a range of possibilities ranging from lesser to greater stability.

Country	Assessment
Afghanistan	2
Albania	4.5-5
Algeria	5
Andorra	9.5
Angola	4.5-5
Antigua	8.5-9
Argentina	7
Armenia	5.5
Australia	9.5
Austria	9.5
Azerbaijan	5
Bahamas	9
Bahrain	6
Bangladesh	4.5
Barbados	9
Belarus	4

Belgium	9
Belize	8
Benin	5
Bhutan	5
Bolivia	6
Bosnia-Herzegovina	5
Botswana	8.5
Brazil	7
Brunei	8
Bulgaria	7.5
Burkina Faso	4
Burma (Myanmar)	4.5
Burundi	4
Cambodia	4.5-5
Cameroon	6
Canada	9.5
Cape Verde	6
Central African Republic	3

Chad	4.5
Chile	9
China	7
China: Hong Kong	8
China: Taiwan	8
Colombia	7.5
Comoros	5
Congo DRC	3
Congo RC	5
Costa Rica	9.5
Cote d'Ivoire	3.5
Croatia	7.5
Cuba	4.5
Cyprus	8
Czech Republic	8.5
Denmark	9.5
Djibouti	5
Dominica	8.5

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Dominican Republic	7
East Timor	5
Ecuador	7
Egypt	4.5-5
El Salvador	7.5-8
Equatorial Guinea	4.5
Eritrea	4
Estonia	9
Ethiopia	4.5
Fiji	5
Finland	9
Fr.YugoslavRep.Macedonia	6.5
France	9
Gabon	5
Gambia	4.5
Georgia	5
Germany	9.5
Ghana	7

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Greece	6
Grenada	8.5
Guatemala	7
Guinea	3.5-4
Guinea-Bissau	4
Guyana	6
Haiti	3.5-4
Holy See (Vatican)	9.5
Honduras	6
Hungary	7.5
Iceland	9
India	8
Indonesia	7
Iran	3.5
Iraq	2.5
Ireland	9.5
Israel	8
Italy	8.5-9

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Jamaica	8
Japan	9
Jordan	6
Kazakhstan	6
Kenya	5
Kiribati	8
Korea, North	2
Korea, South	8.5
Kosovo	5.5
Kuwait	7
Kyrgyzstan	5
Laos	5
Latvia	8.5
Lebanon	5.5
Lesotho	5
Liberia	3.5-4
Libya	2
Liechtenstein	9

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Lithuania	9
Luxembourg	9.5
Madagascar	4
Malawi	5
Malaysia	8
Maldives	4.5-5
Mali	4.5-5
Malta	9
Marshall Islands	8
Mauritania	6
Mauritius	8
Mexico	6.5-7
Micronesia	8
Moldova	5.5
Monaco	9.5
Mongolia	6.5-7
Montenegro	8
Morocco	7

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Mozambique	5
Namibia	8.5
Nauru	8
Nepal	4.5
Netherlands	9.5
New Zealand	9.5
Nicaragua	6
Niger	4.5
Nigeria	4.5
Norway	9.5
Oman	7
Pakistan	3
Palau	8
Panama	8.5
Papua New Guinea	6
Paraguay	8
Peru	7.5
Philippines	6

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Poland	9
Portugal	9
Qatar	7
Romania	7
Russia	6
Rwanda	5
Saint Kitts and Nevis	9
Saint Lucia	9
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	9
Samoa	8
San Marino	9.5
Sao Tome and Principe	7
Saudi Arabia	6
Senegal	7.5
Serbia	6.5
Seychelles	8
Sierra Leone	4.5
Singapore	9.5

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Slovak Republic (Slovakia)	8.5
Slovenia	9
Solomon Islands	6.5-7
Somalia	2
South Africa	7.5
Spain	9
Sri Lanka	5
Sudan	3
Suriname	5
Swaziland	5
Sweden	9.5
Switzerland	9.5
Syria	2
Tajikistan	4.5
Tanzania	6
Thailand	6
Togo	5
Tonga	7

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Trinidad and Tobago	8
Tunisia	5
Turkey	7.5
Turkmenistan	5
Tuvalu	8.5
Uganda	6
Ukraine	3.5-4
United Arab Emirates	7
United Kingdom	9
United States	9
Uruguay	8.5
Uzbekistan	4
Vanuatu	8.5
Venezuela	4.5-5
Vietnam	4.5
Yemen	2.5
Zambia	5
Zimbabwe	3

\*Methodology

The Political Stability Index is calculated by CountryWatch's Editor-in-Chief and is based on the combined scoring of varied criteria as follows --

1. record of peaceful transitions of power ( free and fair elections; adherence to political accords)
2. record of democratic representation, presence of instruments of democracy; systemic accountability
3. respect for human rights; respect for civil rights
4. strength of the system of jurisprudence, adherence to constitutional order, and good governance
5. ability of a government to stay in office and carry out its policies vis a vis risk credible risks of government collapse (i.e. government stability versus a country being deemed "ungovernable")
6. threat of coups, insurgencies, and insurrection
7. level of unchecked crime and corruption
8. risk of terrorism and other threats to national security
9. relationship with regional powers and international community; record of bilateral or multilateral cooperation
10. degree of economic strife (i.e. economic and financial challenges)

Editor's Note:

As of 2015, the current climate of upheaval internationally -- both politically and economically -- has affected the ratings for several countries across the world. The usual suspects -- North Korea, [Afghanistan](#), and [Somalia](#) -- retain their low rankings. The reclusive and ultra-dictatorial North Korean regime, which has terrified the world with its nuclear threats, has exhibited internal instability. Of note was a cut-throat purge of hundreds of high ranking officials deemed to be a threat to Kim Jung-un. Despite their attempts to recover from years of lawlessness, war, and warlordism, both [Afghanistan](#) and [Somalia](#) continue to be beset by terrorism and turmoil. In [Afghanistan](#), while international forces have seen success in the effort against the terror group, al-

Qaida, the other Islamist extremist group, the Taliban, continues to carry out a vicious insurgency using terrorism. In [Somalia](#), while the government attempts to do the nation's business, the terror group, al-Shabab continues to make its presence known not only in [Somalia](#), but across the border into [Kenya](#) with devastating results/ Also in this category is [Iraq](#), which continues to be rocked by horrific violence and terrorism at the hands of Islamic State, which has taken over wide swaths of Iraqi territory.

Syria, [Libya](#), and [Yemen](#) have been added to this unfortunate echelon of the world's most politically unstable countries. [Syria](#) has been mired by the twin hazards of 1. a civil war as rebels oppose the Assad regime; and 2. the rampage of terror being carried out by Islamic State, which also seized control over vast portions of Syrian territory. Meanwhile, the post-Qaddafi landscape of [Libya](#) has devolved into chaos as rival militias battle for control -- the elected government of the country notwithstanding. Rounding out this grim triad is [Yemen](#), which was dealing with a Houthi rebellion, secessionists in the south, as well as the threat of terrorism from al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula as well as Islamic State, while also being the site of a proxy war between Shi'a [Iran](#) and Sunni [Saudi Arabia](#).

Meanwhile, several Middle Eastern and North African countries, such as [Tunisia](#), [Egypt](#), and [Bahrain](#) were downgraded in recent years due to political instability occurring in the "season of unrest" sweeping the region since 2011 and continuing today. All three of these countries have stabilized in recent years and have been upgraded accordingly. In [Bahrain](#), the landscape had calmed. In [Egypt](#), the secular military-backed government has generated criticism for its crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood; however, the country had ratified the presidency via democratic elections and were on track to hold parliamentary elections as the country moved along the path of democratization. Perhaps the most impressive story was coming out of [Tunisia](#) -- the country whose Jasmine Revolution sparked the entire Arab Spring -- and where after a few years of strife, a new progressive constitution was passed into law and a secular government had been elected to power. [Tunisia](#), [Egypt](#), and [Bahrain](#) have seen slight upgrades as these countries stabilize.

In Africa, the [Central African Republic](#) was downgraded the previous year due to the takeover of the government by Muslim Seleka rebels. Although the country has been trying to emerge from this crisis, the fact of the matter was that it was difficult to halt the precipitous decline into lawlessness in that country. [Zimbabwe](#) has maintained its consistently poor ranking due to the dictatorial regime of Mugabe, who continues to hold a tight grip on power, intimidates the opposition, squashes dissent, and oppresses the white farmer population of the country. Moving in a slightly improved direction is [Nigeria](#), which has sported abysmal ratings due to the government's fecklessness in dealing with the threat posed by the Islamist terror group, Boko Haram. Under its newly-elected government, there appears to be more of a concerted effort to make national security a priority action item. [Mali](#) was also slightly upgraded due to its efforts to return to constitutional order following the 2012 coup and to neutralize the threat of separatists and

Islamists. Political instability has visited [Burkina Faso](#) and [Burundi](#) as the leaders of those countries attempted to side-step constitutional limits to hold onto power. In [Burundi](#), an attempted coup ensued but quelled, and the president won a (questionable) new term in office; unrest has since punctuated the landscape. In [Burkina Faso](#), the political climate has turned stormy as a result of a successful coup that ended the rule of the president, and then a putsch against the transitional government. These two African countries have been downgraded as a result.

It should be noted that the African country of South [Sudan](#) -- the world's newest nation state -- has not been officially included in this assessment; however, it can be unofficially assessed to be in the vicinity of "3" due to its manifold political and economic challenges. [Guinea](#) has endured poor rankings throughout, but was slightly downgraded further over fears of social unrest and the Ebola health crisis.

In Europe, [Ukraine](#) was downgraded due to the unrest facing that country following its Maidan revolution that triggered a pro-Russian uprising in the eastern part of the country. [Russia](#) was also implicated in the Ukrainian crisis due to its intervention on behalf of pro-Russian separatists, as well as its annexation of the Ukrainian territory of Crimea. [Serbia](#) and [Albania](#) were slightly downgraded due to eruptions of unrest, while [Romania](#) was slightly downgraded on the basis of corruption charges against the prime minister. [Spain](#), [Portugal](#), [Ireland](#), and [Italy](#) were downgraded due to debt woes and the concomitant effect on the euro zone. [Greece](#), another euro zone nation, was downgraded the previous year due to its sovereign debt crisis; however, the country successfully forged a rescue deal with international creditors and stayed within the Euro zone. Greek voters rewarded the hitherto unknown upstart party at the polls for these efforts. As a result, [Greece](#) was actually upgraded slightly as it proved to the world that it could endure the political and economic storms. Meanwhile, [Germany](#), [France](#), [Switzerland](#), the [United Kingdom](#), the [Netherlands](#), and the Scandinavian countries continue to post impressive ranking consistent with these countries' strong records of democracy, freedom, and peaceful transfers of power.

In Asia, [Nepal](#) was downgraded in response to continuous political instability well after landmark elections that prevails today. [Cambodia](#) was very slightly downgraded due to post-election instability that has resulted in occasional flares of violence. Despite the "trifecta of tragedy" in [Japan](#) in 2011 -- the earthquake, the ensuing tsunami, and the resulting nuclear crisis -- and the appreciable destabilization of the economic and political terrain therein, this country has only slightly been downgraded. Japan's challenges have been assessed to be transient, the government remains accountable, and there is little risk of default. Both [India](#) and China retain their rankings; [India](#) holds a slightly higher ranking than [China](#) due to its record of democratic representation and accountability. Increasing violence and political instability in [Pakistan](#) resulted in a downgrade for this country's already low rating.

In the Americas, [Haiti](#) retained its downgraded status due to ongoing political and economic woes. [Mexico](#) was downgraded due to its alarming rate of crime. [Guatemala](#) was downgraded due to



charges of corruption, the arrest of the president, and uncertainty over the outcome of elections. [Brazil](#) was downgraded due to the corruption charges erupting on the political landscape, the stalling of the economy, and the increasingly loud calls for the impeachment of President Rousseff. [Argentina](#) was downgraded due to its default on debt following the failure of talks with bond holders. [Venezuela](#) was downgraded due to the fact that the country's post-Chavez government is every bit as autocratic and nationalistic, but even more inclined to oppress its political opponents. [Colombia](#) was upgraded slightly due to efforts aimed at securing a peace deal with the FARC insurgents. A small but significant upgrade was attributed to [Cuba](#) due to its recent pro-business reforms and its normalization of ties with the United States. Meanwhile, the [United States](#), [Canada](#), [Costa Rica](#), [Panama](#), and most of the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean retain their strong rankings due to their records of stability and peaceful transfers of power.

In the Pacific, [Fiji](#) was upgraded due to its return to constitutional order and democracy with the holding of the first elections in eight years.

In Oceania, [Maldives](#) has been slightly downgraded due to the government's continued and rather relentless persecution of the country's former pro-democracy leader - former President Nasheed.

Source:

Dr. Denise Youngblood Coleman, Editor in Chief, CountryWatch Inc. [www.countrywatch.com](http://www.countrywatch.com)

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## **Freedom Rankings**

Freedom Rankings

**Freedom in the World**

Editor's Note: This ranking by Freedom House quantifies political freedom and civil liberties into a single combined index on each sovereign country's level of freedom and liberty. The initials "PR" and "CL" stand for Political Rights and Civil Liberties, respectively. The number 1 represents the most free countries and the number 7 represents the least free. Several countries fall in the continuum in between. The freedom ratings reflect an overall judgment based on survey results.

Country	PR	CL	Freedom Status	Trend Arrow
Afghanistan	6 ?	6	Not Free	
Albania*	3	3	Partly Free	
Algeria	6	5	Not Free	
Andorra*	1	1	Free	
Angola	6	5	Not Free	
Antigua and Barbuda*	3 ?	2	Free	
Argentina*	2	2	Free	
Armenia	6	4	Partly Free	
Australia*	1	1	Free	
Austria*	1	1	Free	
Azerbaijan	6	5	Not Free	
Bahamas*	1	1	Free	
Bahrain	6 ?	5	Not Free ?	

Bangladesh*	3 ?	4	Partly Free	
Barbados*	1	1	Free	
Belarus	7	6	Not Free	
Belgium*	1	1	Free	
Belize*	1	2	Free	
Benin*	2	2	Free	
Bhutan	4	5	Partly Free	
Bolivia*	3	3	Partly Free	
Bosnia-Herzegovina*	4	3	Partly Free	
Botswana*	3 ?	2	Free	
Brazil*	2	2	Free	
Brunei	6	5	Not Free	
Bulgaria*	2	2	Free	
Burkina Faso	5	3	Partly Free	
Burma	7	7	Not Free	
Burundi*	4	5	Partly Free	↑
Cambodia	6	5	Not Free	↓
Cameroon	6	6	Not Free	

Canada*	1	1	Free	
Cape Verde*	1	1	Free	
Central African Republic	5	5	Partly Free	
Chad	7	6	Not Free	
Chile*	1	1	Free	
China	7	6	Not Free	
Colombia*	3	4	Partly Free	
Comoros*	3	4	Partly Free	
Congo (Brazzaville )	6	5	Not Free	↓
Congo (Kinshasa)	6	6	Not Free	↓
Costa Rica*	1	1	Free	
Cote d'Ivoire	6	5	Not Free	
Croatia*	1 ?	2	Free	
Cuba	7	6	Not Free	
Cyprus*	1	1	Free	
Czech Republic*	1	1	Free	
Denmark*	1	1	Free	
Djibouti	5	5	Partly Free	

Dominica*	1	1	Free	
Dominican Republic*	2	2	Free	↓
East Timor*	3	4	Partly Free	
Ecuador*	3	3	Partly Free	
Egypt	6	5	Not Free	
El Salvador*	2	3	Free	
Equatorial Guinea	7	7	Not Free	
Eritrea	7	7 ?	Not Free	
Estonia*	1	1	Free	
Ethiopia	5	5	Partly Free	↓
Fiji	6	4	Partly Free	
Finland*	1	1	Free	
France*	1	1	Free	
Gabon	6	5 ?	Not Free ?	
The Gambia	5	5 ?	Partly Free	
Georgia	4	4	Partly Free	
Germany*	1	1	Free	
Ghana*	1	2	Free	

Greece*	1	2	Free	
Grenada*	1	2	Free	
Guatemala*	4 ?	4	Partly Free	
Guinea	7	6 ?	Not Free	
Guinea-Bissau*	4	4	Partly Free	
Guyana*	2	3	Free	
Haiti*	4	5	Partly Free	
Honduras	4 ?	4 ?	Partly Free	
Hungary*	1	1	Free	
Iceland*	1	1	Free	
India*	2	3	Free	
Indonesia*	2	3	Free	
Iran	6	6	Not Free	↓
Iraq	5 ?	6	Not Free	
Ireland*	1	1	Free	
Israel*	1	2	Free	
Italy*	1	2	Free	
Jamaica*	2	3	Free	

Japan*	1	2	Free	
Jordan	6 ?	5	Not Free ?	
Kazakhstan	6	5	Not Free	↓
Kenya	4	4 ?	Partly Free	
Kiribati*	1	1	Free	
Kosovo	5 ?	4 ?	Partly Free ?	
Kuwait	4	4	Partly Free	
Kyrgyzstan	6 ?	5 ?	Not Free ?	
Laos	7	6	Not Free	
Latvia*	2	1	Free	
Lebanon	5	3 ?	Partly Free	
Lesotho*	3 ?	3	Partly Free ?	
Liberia*	3	4	Partly Free	
Libya	7	7	Not Free	
Liechtenstein*	1	1	Free	
Lithuania*	1	1	Free	
Luxembourg*	1	1	Free	
Macedonia*	3	3	Partly Free	↑

Madagascar	6 ?	4 ?	Partly Free	
Malawi*	3 ?	4	Partly Free	
Malaysia	4	4	Partly Free	
Maldives*	3 ?	4	Partly Free	
Mali*	2	3	Free	
Malta*	1	1	Free	↓
Marshall Islands*	1	1	Free	
Mauritania	6	5	Not Free	
Mauritius*	1	2	Free	
Mexico*	2	3	Free	
Micronesia*	1	1	Free	
Moldova*	3 ?	4	Partly Free	
Monaco*	2	1	Free	
Mongolia*	2	2	Free	↑
Montenegro*	3	2 ?	Free ?	
Morocco	5	4	Partly Free	↓
Mozambique	4 ?	3	Partly Free	
Namibia*	2	2	Free	



Nauru*	1	1	Free	
Nepal	4	4	Partly Free	
Netherlands*	1	1	Free	
New Zealand*	1	1	Free	
Nicaragua*	4	4 ?	Partly Free	
Niger	5 ?	4	Partly Free	
Nigeria	5	4	Partly Free	↓
North Korea	7	7	Not Free	↓
Norway*	1	1	Free	
Oman	6	5	Not Free	
Pakistan	4	5	Partly Free	
Palau*	1	1	Free	
Panama*	1	2	Free	
Papua New Guinea*	4	3	Partly Free	
Paraguay*	3	3	Partly Free	
Peru*	2	3	Free	
Philippines	4	3	Partly Free	↓
Poland*	1	1	Free	

Portugal*	1	1	Free	
Qatar	6	5	Not Free	
Romania*	2	2	Free	
Russia	6	5	Not Free	↓
Rwanda	6	5	Not Free	
Saint Kitts and Nevis*	1	1	Free	
Saint Lucia*	1	1	Free	
Saint Vincent and Grenadines*	2	1	Free	
Samoa*	2	2	Free	
San Marino*	1	1	Free	
Sao Tome and Principe*	2	2	Free	
Saudi Arabia	7	6	Not Free	
Senegal*	3	3	Partly Free	
Serbia*	2 ?	2	Free	
Seychelles*	3	3	Partly Free	
Sierra Leone*	3	3	Partly Free	
Singapore	5	4	Partly Free	
Slovakia*	1	1	Free	↓

Slovenia*	1	1	Free	
Solomon Islands	4	3	Partly Free	
Somalia	7	7	Not Free	
South Africa*	2	2	Free	
South Korea*	1	2	Free	
Spain*	1	1	Free	
Sri Lanka*	4	4	Partly Free	
Sudan	7	7	Not Free	
Suriname*	2	2	Free	
Swaziland	7	5	Not Free	
Sweden*	1	1	Free	
Switzerland*	1	1	Free	↓
Syria	7	6	Not Free	
Taiwan*	1 ?	2 ?	Free	
Tajikistan	6	5	Not Free	
Tanzania	4	3	Partly Free	
Thailand	5	4	Partly Free	
Togo	5	4 ?	Partly Free	

Tonga	5	3	Partly Free	
Trinidad and Tobago*	2	2	Free	
Tunisia	7	5	Not Free	
Turkey*	3	3	Partly Free	↓
Turkmenistan	7	7	Not Free	
Tuvalu*	1	1	Free	
Uganda	5	4	Partly Free	
Ukraine*	3	2	Free	
United Arab Emirates	6	5	Not Free	
United Kingdom*	1	1	Free	
United States*	1	1	Free	
Uruguay*	1	1	Free	
Uzbekistan	7	7	Not Free	
Vanuatu*	2	2	Free	
Venezuela	5 ?	4	Partly Free	
Vietnam	7	5	Not Free	↓
Yemen	6 ?	5	Not Free ?	
Zambia*	3	4 ?	Partly Free	

Zimbabwe	6 ?	6	Not Free	
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Methodology:

PR and CL stand for political rights and civil liberties, respectively; 1 represents the most free and 7 the least free rating. The ratings reflect an overall judgment based on survey results.

? ? up or down indicates a change in political rights, civil liberties, or status since the last survey.

↑ ↓ up or down indicates a trend of positive or negative changes that took place but that were not sufficient to result in a change in political rights or civil liberties ratings of 1-7.

\* indicates a country's status as an electoral democracy.

Source:

This data is derived from the latest edition of Freedom House's Freedom in the World 2010 edition.

Available at URL: <http://www.freedomhouse.org>

Updated:

Reviewed in 2015

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## Human Rights

### Overview of Human Rights in Haiti

In 2004, a coup (believed to be backed by Western powers) resulted in the ousting of then-President Jean Bertrand Aristide. An interim government was established, and elections were later held in 2006 bringing Rene Preval to power. While Aristide's government was accused of abuses against supporters of the opposition, after his ousting from power, the interim government was made up of individuals with atrocious human rights records of their own.

To date, Haiti remains an unstable and often dangerous place. A United Nations multinational peacekeeping force, which has been in Haiti since April 2004, is trying to curtail the violence and

crime in Haiti. It has seen limited results, however, human rights abuses are still committed daily.

Under the aegis of a series of different governments, security forces have often acted with impunity. As a result, Haiti's human rights record is one of the poorest in the international arena.

Members of the Haitian National Police (HNP) are known to use excessive force in making arrests or controlling protests and demonstrations. Torture and disappearances, which are often politically motivated, are other abuses that the HNP is guilty of committing. The actions of the HNP are a major contributor to the overall insecurity of the nation.

Gang violence is rampant and continues despite attempts to bring it under control. It is exacerbated by the rise in extra-judicial violence -- largely the result of the corrupt justice system that commanded little or no public confidence. In fact, while some people have been detained without trial, others, such as gang leaders, have been released after paying bribes to judges. Public outrage over the miscarriage of justice have led some to react by carrying out lynchings or mob attacks.

Prison conditions are also poor and many suffer from overcrowding and lack of sanitation.

While the media is considered free, many practice self-censorship due to fear of reprisal from the government.

Child abuse, trafficking of children, and forced child labor remain problems. Poverty and corruption do not help the situation.

Many Haitians risk their lives trying to sail across rough seas to make it to the shores of the United States. Many of the boats are intercepted by the United States Coast Guard. Some of the boats are lost at sea. Those who make it to the United States, if caught, face mandatory detention and are sent back to Haiti.

**Human Development Index (HDI) Rank:**

See full listing of the Human Development Index located in the Social Overview of this report for this country's current rank.

**Human Poverty Index Rank:**

70th out of 103

**Gini Index:**

N/A

**Life Expectancy at Birth (years):**

55 years

**Unemployment Rate:**

> 2/3rds of the labor force do not have formal jobs.

**Population living on \$1 a day (%):**

N/A

**Population living on \$2 a day (%):**

N/A

**Population living beneath the Poverty Line (%):**

80.0%

**Internally Displaced People:**

N/A

**Total Crime Rate (%):**

N/A

**Health Expenditure (% of GDP):**

Public: 3.0%

**% of GDP Spent on Education:**

1.5%

**Human Rights Conventions Party to:**

- International Convention on the Prevention and Punishment and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- Conventions on the Rights of the Child
- Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Signed but not yet ratified)

\*Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index that measures the level of well-being in 177 nations in the world. It uses factors such as poverty, literacy, life-expectancy, education, gross domestic product, and purchasing power parity to assess the average achievements in each nation. It has been used in the United Nation's Human Development Report since 1993.

\*Human Poverty Index Ranking is based on certain indicators used to calculate the Human Poverty Index. Probability at birth of not surviving to age 40, adult literacy rate, population without sustainable access to an improved water source, and population below income poverty line are the indicators assessed in this measure.

\*The Gini Index measures inequality based on the distribution of family income or consumption. A value of 0 represents perfect equality (income being distributed equally), and a value of 100 perfect inequality (income all going to one individual).

\*The calculation of the total crime rate is the % of the total population which has been effected by property crime, robbery, sexual assault, assault, or bribery (corruption) related occurrences.

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## **Government Functions**

Independent since 1804, Haiti officially is a republic with an elected government. Much of its actual history has been characterized by periods of dictatorial rule, followed by provisional governments.

In 1987, a constitution was adopted that provides for an elected bicameral parliament, an elected president who serves as head of state, and a prime minister, cabinet of ministers, and supreme court appointed by the president with the parliament's consent. The Haitian Constitution also provides for the election of mayors and administrative bodies responsible for local government. For



purposes of local administration, the country is divided into ten geographic entities termed departments.

It should be noted that the 1987 constitution was suspended in 1988 with most articles reinstated in 1989. The constitutional government was ousted in a military coup in September 1991, although in October 1991, the military government claimed to be observing the constitution. The country was returned to constitutional rule in October 1994. Today, the constitution remains technically in force but has not been observed since Aristide's departure in 2004.

Although the judiciary of Haiti includes a number of provisions and offices, the judicial system in Haiti is still weak and remains a high priority for international donors. International aid providers, such as USAID, have tended to focus on programs to improve the judicial system. Specific projects have included ameliorating the administration in prosecutors' offices and the courts; establishing a case-tracking system; legal aid; and training for judges, court, and prosecutorial staff.

Steps have also been taken to end the culture of impunity that has dominated Haiti for decades, in which political crimes including murder often go unprosecuted. The Office of Inspector General of the Haitian National Police investigates complaints against police officers, and around 200 police have been dismissed. Training continues in an effort to build the fledgling National Police into a non-political, fully professional force committed to the rule of law.

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## Government Structure

**Names:**

*Conventional long form:*

Republic of Haiti

*Conventional short form:*

Haiti

*local long form:*

Republique d'Haiti/Repiblik d' Ayiti

*local short form:*

Haiti/Ayiti

**Type:**

Republic

**Executive Branch:**Chief of State:

Provisional President Jocelerme Privert (since 2016) came to power due to the postponement of the second round of the 2015/2016 presidential elections. See "Primer on Presidential Elections" below.

Primer on 2015/2016 presidential elections in Haiti:

Elections were set to be held in Haiti in 2015. The long-awaited parliamentary elections were scheduled to be held in Haiti on Aug. 9, 2015. A second round of the parliamentary elections would also be held on Oct. 25, 2015, when the presidential contest would also be held. If no one candidate secured outright victory in the first round of the presidential contest, a run-off election would be held on Dec. 27, 2015, although that date was rescheduled to take place on Jan. 24, 2016, and then two days ahead of that date, it was postponed indefinitely.

At the presidential level, with incumbent President Michel Martelly ineligible to run for re-election, the race was wide open. Indeed, several candidates running under no shortage of parties and platforms were reported to be contesting the presidential election. Of note was the fact that the Verite (Truth) Party of former president Rene Preval and the Lavalas Family party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide were expected to announce their candidates for the presidency from their ranks. Some of the known candidates included Thierry Mayard-Paul, a former interior minister and adviser to outgoing President Martelly, Foreign Minister Duly Brutus within outgoing President Martelly's government, and Mario Andersol, the former chief of Haitian police. Also contesting the election would be Jovenel Moise, a banana exporter from outgoing President Martelly's Parti Haitien Tet Kale, and Jude Celestin, a Swiss-educated government technocrat and the head of the Alternative League for Progress and Emancipation of Haiti (known in French by the acronym, Lapeh). Polling data indicated that the presidential contest would ultimately be between Moise and Celestin.

The first round of elections went forward smoothly. While there were some complaints about long lines and some minor incidences at select polling stations, the elections had actually taken place without violence or immediate claims of fraud. A second round of voting would be needed to decide who the successor to President Martelly might be. To that end, Moise, who garnered 32 percent of the vote share, and Celestin, who acquired 25 percent at the presidential level, were the two candidates headed to a presidential run-off, initially set to be held on Dec. 27, 2015. Ahead of that date, though, the second round was postponed. The new date for the run-off election was set for Jan. 24, 2016.

With the news of the two top election performers circulating through the public purview, there were accusations of fraud, with some voices suggesting that fraud had actually benefited Moise. Furthermore, one of the two candidates making it to the second round -- Celestin -- announced

that he was refusing to campaign unless there were reforms to the electoral process. Soon, Celestin was going further and insisting that he would not even participate in the second round of the elections, stating that no corrective measures were being taken, and as such, he had no confidence in the election exercise. Nevertheless, the second round was expected to go off on Jan. 24, 2016 -- quite likely with Moïse as the only candidate actively contesting the election.

Ahead of that vote, protesters were taking to the streets to agitate on behalf of a suspension of the presidential run-off election expected to take place on Jan. 24, 2016. With the eruption of these violent demonstrations, electoral officials announced the indefinite delay of the elections, with several influential institutions in Haiti acknowledging that any voting that would take place under such conditions would not be credible.

With no new polls set on the immediate horizon, and with outgoing President Martelly due to step down on Feb. 7, 2016, the attention refocused on the establishment of an interim government. There were efforts afoot intended to pave the way for a temporary consensus administration. But settling on the composition of that temporary consensus administration promised to be difficult. Another option was the establishment of a provisional president. An extension to Martelly's tenure was also under consideration; however, that option was being fiercely rejected by the opposition. Meanwhile, a delegation from the Organization of American States was being dispatched to Haiti to forge a resolution and avoid a deepening crisis.

Note that on Feb. 7, 2016, President Martelly stepped down from office, in keeping with constitutional provisions, but leaving in his wake something of a presidential vacuum. With a state of chaos brewing, the Organization of American States (OAS) negotiated an agreement that would leave Prime Minister Evans Paul in place for a temporary period, thus providing extra time for parliament to choose an interim president at the helm of a caretaker government.

To that end, Jocelerme Privert, an opposition senator who served as the interior minister under the Aristide presidency, was sworn into office as Haiti's provisional president on Feb. 14, 2016. For his part, Privert indicated that his objective would be to facilitate the second round of the presidential election by a date of April 24, 2016, with an eye on transitioning power to a newly elected president by mid-May 2016. He also vowed to move the country out of its state of political crisis, as he said, "I will engage in dialogue with all sectors to get the country out of crisis." Despite his measured tone, the selection of Privert was being viewed as highly partisan since he came from the Lavalas party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted from power in a coup d'etat in 2004. With Privert now in the office of the president -- if only on a temporary basis -- the Lavalas party was celebrating its return to power.

As February 2016 came to a close, Interim President Privert named Fritz-Alphonse Jean -- an economist and a former Central Bank governor -- to be the country's new prime minister replacing outgoing Evans Paul as head of government. The decision to choose a technocrat to be prime

minister emphasized the priority of dealing with Haiti's economic challenges. As stated by Privert, "The country's finances are in an alarming and catastrophic situation." President Privert quickly received criticism from former President Martelly's Tel Kale Party for making a unilateral selection in violation of the OAS-brokered agreement. However, the provisional president dismissed the claim saying his choice of Prime Minister Jean was made in consultation with the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

In March 2016, however, the Haitian parliament rejected Jean as for the position of prime minister. As such, a new candidate was brought forward -- this time, a professor of Administrative Law at the Faculty of Law and Economics (FDSE) of the State University of Haiti -- Enex Jean-Charles - who was educated in the United States and France. This selection was met with parliamentary approval and Jean-Charles became the new Haitian transitional head of government.

Haiti misses deadline set for presidential election

A long-delayed presidential election had been set to be held on April 24, 2016, in Haiti, with the intention of returning the country to proper governance. The schedule was set as part of a peace accord that established a transitional government after a contested first round of presidential voting. The intent was to have the transitional government, led by provisional President Jocelerme Privert, assume a caretaker role until this second round election could finally take place. But as discussed here, that timeline elapsed without people being able to go to the polls.

**Legislative Branch:**

Bicameral "Assemblée Nationale" (National Assembly):

Consists of the "Senat" (Senate) and the "Chambre des Deputes" (Chamber of Deputies)

"Senat" (Senate)

30 seats; members elected by popular vote to serve six-year terms; one-third elected every two years

Chamber of Deputies ("Chambre des Deputes"):

99 seats; members are elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms

Primer on 2015 parliamentary elections in Haiti:

Long-awaited parliamentary elections were set to be held in Haiti on Aug. 9, 2015. A second round of the parliamentary elections would also be held on Oct. 25, 2015, when the first round of the presidential contest would also be held. A run-off, if needed in the presidential election, was supposed to be held on Dec. 27, 2015; however, that date was delayed to January 2016 when the second round would be held. It was later delayed indefinitely as discussed above.

At the parliamentary level, the composition of the bicameral "Assemblée Nationale" (National Assembly) was at stake. That legislative body was composed of the Chamber of Deputies ("Chambre des Députés") -- a 99-seat chamber where members are elected by popular vote to serve four-year terms, and the "Senat" (Senate) - a 30-seat chamber where members are elected by popular vote to serve six-year terms and one-third are elected every two years.

The first round of voting in the parliamentary race on Aug. 9, 2015, was regarded as something of a test, ahead of the run-off round for the parliamentary elections on Oct. 25, 2015, when voters would also cast their ballots in the first round of the presidential race. As noted by Sandra Honore, the special representative of the United Nations secretary general in Haiti, in an interview with Reuters News: "Credible, inclusive, translucent and fair elections are key to long-term stability in Haiti." But ahead of the second round, the Verite (Truth) Party announced its boycott of the election, complaining that attacks at polling stations in the first round made the elections not credible.

**Judicial Branch:**

Supreme Court; Court of Appeal ("Cour de Cassation")

**Legal System:**

Based on Roman civil law system; accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction

**Constitution:**

Approved March 1987; suspended June 1988 with most articles reinstated March 1989; constitutional government ousted in a military coup in September 1991, although in October 1991, military government claimed to be observing the constitution; returned to constitutional rule in October 1994; constitution, while technically in force between 2004-2006, was not enforced; returned to constitutional rule in May 2006

**Administrative Divisions:**

10 departments (departements, singular - departement); Artibonite, Centre, Grand 'Anse, Nippes, Nord, Nord-Est, Nord-Ouest, Ouest, Sud, Sud-Est

**Political Parties and Leaders:**

Assembly of Progressive National Democrats or RDNP [Mirlande MANIGAT]  
Christian and Citizen For Haiti's Reconstruction or ACCRHA [Chavannes JEUNE]  
Convention for Democratic Unity or KID [Evans PAUL]

Cooperative Action to Rebuild Haiti or KONBA [Jean William JEANTY]  
December 16 Platform or Platfom 16 Desanm [Dr. Gerard BLOT]  
Democratic Alliance or ALYANS [Evans PAUL] (coalition composed of KID and PPRH)  
Democratic Centers's National Council or CONACED [Osner FEVRY]  
Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti-Revolutionary Party of Haiti or MODELH-PRDH  
Effort and Solidarity to Create an Alternative for the People or ESKAMP [Joseph JASME]  
Fanmi Lavalas or FL [Jean-Bertrand ARISTIDE]  
For Us All or PONT [Jean-Marie CHERESTAL]  
Grouping of Citizens for Hope or RESPE [Charles-Henri BAKER]  
Haiti in Action or AAA [Youri LATORTUE]  
Haitians for Haiti [Yvon NEPTUNE]  
Independent Movement for National Reconstruction or MIRN [Luc FLEURINORD]  
Konbit Pou refe Ayiti or KONBIT  
Lavni Organization or LAVNI [Yves CRISTALIN]  
Liberal Party of Haiti or PLH [Jean Andre VICTOR]  
Liberation Platform or PLATFORME LIBERATION  
Love Haiti or Renmen Ayiti [Jean-Henry CEANT and Camille LEBLANC]  
Merging of Haitian Social Democratics or FUSION [Edmonde Supplice BEAUZILE] (coalition of Ayiti Capable, Haitian National Revolutionary Party, and National Congress of Democratic Movements)  
Mobilization for National Development or MDN [Hubert de RONCERAY]  
National Front for the Reconstruction of Haiti or FRN [Guy PHILIPPE]  
New Christian Movement for a New Haiti or MOCHRENA [Luc MESADIEU]  
Peasant's Response or Repons Peyizan [Michel MARTELLY]  
Platform Alternative for Progress and Democracy or ALTENATIV [Victor BENOIT and Evans PAUL]  
Platform of Haitian Patriots or PLAPH [Dejean BELISAIRE and Himmler REBU]  
Popular Party for the Renewal of Haiti or PPRH [Claude ROMAIN]  
Rally or RASAMBLE  
Respect or RESPE  
Socialist Action Movement or MAS  
Strength in Unity or Ansanm Nou Fo [Leslie VOLTAIRE]  
Struggling People's Organization or OPL [Sauveur PIERRE-ETIENNE]  
Union [Chavannes JEUNE]  
Union of Haitian Citizens for Democracy, Development, and Education or UCADDE [Jeantel JOSEPH]  
Union of Nationalist and Progressive Haitians or UNPH [Edouard FRANCISQUE]  
Unity or Inite [Levaillant LOUIS-JEUNE] (coalition that includes Front for Hope or L'ESPWA)  
Vigilance or Veye Yo [Lavarice GAUDIN]  
Youth for People's Power or JPP [Rene CIVIL]

**Suffrage:**

18 years of age; universal

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## Principal Government Officials

### Government of Haiti

Chief of State:

Provisional President Jocelerme Privert (since 2016) came to power due to the postponement of the second round of the 2015/2016 presidential elections. See "Primer on Presidential Elections" below.

Primer on 2015/2016 presidential elections in Haiti:

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At the presidential level, with incumbent President Michel Martelly ineligible to run for re-election, the race was wide open. Indeed, several candidates running under no shortage of parties and platforms were reported to be contesting the presidential election. Of note was the fact that the Verite (Truth) Party of former president Rene Preval and the Lavalas Family party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide were expected to announce their candidates for the presidency from their ranks. Some of the known candidates included Thierry Mayard-Paul, a former interior minister and adviser to outgoing President Martelly, Foreign Minister Duly Brutus within outgoing President Martelly's government, and Mario Andersol, the former chief of Haitian police. Also contesting the election would be Jovenel Moise, a banana exporter from outgoing President Martelly's Parti Haitien Tet Kale, and Jude Celestin, a Swiss-educated government technocrat and the head of the Alternative League for Progress and Emancipation of Haiti (known in French by the acronym, Lapeh). Polling data indicated that the presidential contest would ultimately be



between Moise and Celestin.

The first round of elections went forward smoothly. While there were some complaints about long lines and some minor incidences at select polling stations, the elections had actually taken place without violence or immediate claims of fraud. A second round of voting would be needed to decide who the successor to President Martelly might be. To that end, Moise, who garnered 32 percent of the vote share, and Celestin, who acquired 25 percent at the presidential level, were the two candidates headed to a presidential run-off, initially set to be held on Dec. 27, 2015. Ahead of that date, though, the second round was postponed. The new date for the run-off election was set for Jan. 24, 2016.

With the news of the two top election performers circulating through the public purview, there were accusations of fraud, with some voices suggesting that fraud had actually benefited Moise. Furthermore, one of the two candidates making it to the second round -- Celestin -- announced that he was refusing to campaign unless there were reforms to the electoral process. Soon, Celestin was going further and insisting that he would not even participate in the second round of the elections, stating that no corrective measures were being taken, and as such, he had no confidence in the election exercise. Nevertheless, the second round was expected to go off on Jan. 24, 2016 -- quite likely with Moise as the only candidate actively contesting the election.

Ahead of that vote, protesters were taking to the streets to agitate on behalf of a suspension of the presidential run-off election expected to take place on Jan. 24, 2016. With the eruption of these violent demonstrations, electoral officials announced the indefinite delay of the elections, with several influential institutions in Haiti acknowledging that any voting that would take place under such conditions would not be credible.

With no new polls set on the immediate horizon, and with outgoing President Martelly due to step down on Feb. 7, 2016, the attention refocused on the establishment of an interim government. There were efforts afoot intended to pave the way for a temporary consensus administration. But settling on the composition of that temporary consensus administration promised to be difficult. Another option was the establishment of a provisional president. An extension to Martelly's tenure was also under consideration; however, that option was being fiercely rejected by the opposition. Meanwhile, a delegation from the Organization of American States was being dispatched to Haiti to forge a resolution and avoid a deepening crisis.

Note that on Feb. 7, 2016, President Martelly stepped down from office, in keeping with constitutional provisions, but leaving in his wake something of a presidential vacuum. With a state of chaos brewing, the Organization of American States (OAS) negotiated an agreement that would leave Prime Minister Evans Paul in place for a temporary period, thus providing extra time for parliament to choose an interim president at the helm of a caretaker government.



To that end, Jocelerme Privert, an opposition senator who served as the interior minister under the Aristide presidency, was sworn into office as Haiti's provisional president on Feb. 14, 2016. For his part, Privert indicated that his objective would be to facilitate the second round of the presidential election by a date of April 24, 2016, with an eye on transitioning power to a newly elected president by mid-May 2016. He also vowed to move the country out of its state of political crisis, as he said, "I will engage in dialogue with all sectors to get the country out of crisis." Despite his measured tone, the selection of Privert was being viewed as highly partisan since he came from the Lavalas party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who was ousted from power in a coup d'etat in 2004. With Privert now in the office of the president -- if only on a temporary basis -- the Lavalas party was celebrating its return to power.

As February 2016 came to a close, Interim President Privert named Fritz-Alphonse Jean -- an economist and a former Central Bank governor -- to be the country's new prime minister replacing outgoing Evans Paul as head of government. The decision to choose a technocrat to be prime minister emphasized the priority of dealing with Haiti's economic challenges. As stated by Privert, "The country's finances are in an alarming and catastrophic situation." President Privert quickly received criticism from former President Martelly's Tel Kale Party for making a unilateral selection in violation of the OAS-brokered agreement. However, the provisional president dismissed the claim saying his choice of Prime Minister Jean was made in consultation with the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

In March 2016, however, the Haitian parliament rejected Jean as for the position of prime minister. As such, a new candidate was brought forward -- this time, a professor of Administrative Law at the Faculty of Law and Economics (FDSE) of the State University of Haiti -- Enex Jean-Charles - who was educated in the United States and France. This selection was met with parliamentary approval and Jean-Charles became the new Haitian transitional head of government.

Haiti misses deadline set for presidential election

A long-delayed presidential election had been set to be held on April 24, 2016, in Haiti, with the intention of returning the country to proper governance. The schedule was set as part of a peace accord that established a transitional government after a contested first round of presidential voting. The intent was to have the transitional government, led by provisional President Jocelerme Privert, assume a caretaker role until this second round election could finally take place. But as discussed here, that timeline elapsed without people being able to go to the polls.

-- as of 2016

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## Leader Biography

### Leader Biography

#### President of Haiti

Provisional President Jocelerme Privert (since 2016) came to power due to the postponement of the second round of the 2015/2016 presidential elections. See "Primer on Presidential Elections" below.

#### Primer on 2015/2016 presidential elections in Haiti:

Elections were set to be held in Haiti in 2015. The long-awaited parliamentary elections were scheduled to be held in Haiti on Aug. 9, 2015. A second round of the parliamentary elections would also be held on Oct. 25, 2015, when the presidential contest would also be held. If no one candidate secured outright victory in the first round of the presidential contest, a run-off election would be held on Dec. 27, 2015, although that date was rescheduled to take place on Jan. 24, 2016, and then two days ahead of that date, it was postponed indefinitely.

At the presidential level, with incumbent President Michel Martelly ineligible to run for re-election, the race was wide open. Indeed, several candidates running under no shortage of parties and platforms were reported to be contesting the presidential election. Of note was the fact that the Verite (Truth) Party of former president Rene Preval and the Lavalas Family party of former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide were expected to announce their candidates for the presidency from their ranks. Some of the known candidates included Thierry Mayard-Paul, a former interior minister and adviser to outgoing President Martelly, Foreign Minister Duly Brutus within outgoing President Martelly's government, and Mario Andersol, the former chief of Haitian police. Also

contesting the election would be Jovenel Moise, a banana exporter from outgoing President Martelly's Parti Haitien Tet Kale, and Jude Celestin, a Swiss-educated government technocrat and the head of the Alternative League for Progress and Emancipation of Haiti (known in French by the acronym, Lapeh). Polling data indicated that the presidential contest would ultimately be between Moise and Celestin.

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## Foreign Relations

### General Relations

Haiti is one of the original members of both the United Nations and several of its specialized and related agencies, and of the Organization of American States. It maintains diplomatic relations with several countries.

Haiti is a member of the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of countries, and as such is developing a special relationship with the European Union to further investment, trade, and other development activity. Haiti has signed a number of international environmental accords, and welcomes the participation of international environmental organization in efforts to restore and protect its environment. Cultural exchange is another area in which Haiti expects to play an increasing international role.

## United Nations and Haiti

The international community rallied to Haiti's defense during the three years of illegal military rule from 1991 to 1994. In the end, a total of 31 countries participated in the United States-led Multi-National Force (MNF), which, acting under United Nations auspices, intervened in September 1994 to help restore the legitimate government and create a secure and stable environment in Haiti.

At its peak, the MNF had over 23,000 troops and more than 1,000 international police monitors. After six months, the troop level was gradually reduced as the United Nations Mission in Haiti, consisting of some 6,000 U.N. peacekeeping troops sent by total of 38 countries, replaced the MNF and integrated 900 civilian police into positions of authority. This force, too, was gradually scaled back. It was replaced, first, by a transition mission, and subsequently, by a small civilian-monitoring contingent. The latter was terminated just prior to President Aristide's inauguration in February 2001.

The international presence in the country diminished quickly after the arrival of the Multinational Force in 1994. By 1997, the international military contingent on duty in Haiti had been scaled back to a nominal size, and the last peacekeeping troops deployed under United Nations (U.N.) military auspices departed in 2000, replaced by a small U.N.-sponsored staff of civilian monitors. This group left on Feb. 6, 2001, the day before the re-inauguration of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

In mid-2004, following the overthrow of President Aristide, U.N. peacekeepers arrived to take over security responsibilities from the United States-led force in Haiti since the ousting of Aristide. The United Nations mandate in Haiti appeared to be quite vague and, for all intents and purposes, quite limited. United Nations peacekeepers were not expected to stay beyond six months and it was difficult to determine what could be accomplished in so short a period of time. (Note: Their mission -- as intimated by various actions discussed in the "Political Conditions" section of this review -- was extended beyond that short timeframe.)

## External Assistance

Although United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan called for the establishment of a new mission in Haiti in late 1999 to help secure the country's democratization and development, funding constraints and multiple peacekeeping commitments elsewhere around the world at present preclude implementation of Annan's expressed wish.

The United Nations considered alternate funding arrangements that might enable reinstatement of a democratic development-monitoring program in Haiti. The greatest concern is to assure the successful institution of a civilian-based judicial and police system that respects human rights and possesses appropriate technical competence.

Haiti's overriding present challenge is to foster democracy and alleviate poverty. It seeks to demonstrate its capacity to be a stable democratic nation that respects human rights and the rule of law, so that international financial donors and investors will deem Haiti both deserving of assistance and the site of potentially remunerative business opportunities.

In order to spur Haiti's economic recovery, international development banks and donor agencies pledged to provide over \$2 billion in assistance by 1999, but much of this amount was not disbursed pending a determination that Haiti's current regime is fully committed to democratic political processes. A loan package by the Inter-American Development bank in 2003 was hoped to open the door to the resumption of international aid. Historically, the major bilateral donors have been the United States, Canada, France, Germany, and Japan. Haiti is substantially dependent on international aid, including food assistance. In 2004, more than \$1 billion in donor funds were pledged.

### Regional Relations

Haiti is active in the Organization of American States and the Caribbean Community, seeking to enhance its economic development through regional integration and trade. Haiti became a full member of the Caricom (Caribbean Community trading bloc) in 2002.

Haiti has pledged to cooperate with other nations in the region, including the United States, on matters of concern including narcotics interdiction.

Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola with the Dominican Republic. The two countries have an uneasy relationship, dating back to early 19th century invasions of the present-day Dominican Republic by Haitian forces, as well as a 1937 massacre of Haitians in the border region instigated by the Dominican dictator, Rafael Trujillo. In two incidents during the year 2000, Dominican soldiers shot Haitians who were trying to cross the border illegally. Moreover, some former military and paramilitary figures with a role in human rights abuses when Haiti was under dictatorial rule have found refuge in the Dominican Republic. Yet, notwithstanding persistent tensions between the two nations, they are also economically interdependent. Haitians form a sort of gray market labor pool for tasks, especially the sugar harvest, shunned by most Dominicans.

The earnings Haitian migrant workers receive in the Dominican Republic, minimal as they are, provide a significant flow of hard currency into Haiti's struggling economy. According to many estimates, around 500,000 Haitians, mostly lacking legally documented status, currently reside full-time in the Dominican Republic. Officials from the two nations, which at the beginning of the 21st century both have new administrations attempting to establish more effective democratic rule, have shown indications of being ready to engage in more active and constructive dialogue. Outstanding issues awaiting resolution are the status of Haitians currently in the neighboring country, and a



reformed system to regulate the practice of seasonal employment of Haitians in the Dominican Republic.

Following the ousting of President Aristide in 2004 and the installation of new leadership, discussions ensued amongst Caribbean leaders as to whether or not links with Haiti should be renewed following the overthrow of President Aristide. While several leaders, including Prime Minister Patrick Manning of Trinidad and Tobago, said that Haiti should be "properly integrated" again, other leaders at a regional Caricom summit, such as the leadership of Jamaica, took a different view. Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson warned that he would take note of any decision made by Caricom.

### Other Significant Relations

United States (U.S.) policy toward Haiti is designed to foster economic growth, enhance government capacity, and strengthen democracy; help alleviate poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition; promote respect for human rights; counter illegal migration and drug trafficking; and assist in the reconstruction of the country after the January 2010 earthquake. The U.S. also supports and facilitates bilateral trade and investment along with legal migration and travel. U.S. policy goals are met through direct bilateral action and by working with the international community. The Haitian Diaspora is a potentially powerful ally in the effort to strengthen U.S. policy initiatives in Haiti.

The United States has taken a leading role in organizing international involvement with Haiti. The United States works closely with the OAS, particularly through the Secretary General's "Friends of Haiti" group (originally a UN group that included the U.S., Canada, France, Venezuela, Chile, and Argentina which was enlarged in 2001 to add Germany, Spain, Norway, Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, and The Bahamas), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and individual countries to achieve policy goals.

Maintaining good relations with and fostering democracy in Haiti are important for many reasons, not least of which is the country's geographical proximity to the continental U.S. In addition to the many Haitians who receive visas to immigrate into the U.S. (averaging over 13,000 annually in FY 1999-2003), there is a flow of illegal migrants. Haiti's relations with the U.S. are complicated by, among other things, the U.S. policy of intercepting and returning Haitian emigrants at sea. Economic hardship in Haiti essentially assures that a large influx of migrants will take to nearby waters and seek new lives in the United States or in other Caribbean nations. The forced return of these persons has stressed relations with the U.S. and other countries, and -- given their difficulties in finding a suitable livelihood in Haiti -- such actions may heighten Haiti's difficulty in achieving economic and political stability.

Recent U.S. policy toward Haiti -- primarily driven by former U.S. President Bill Clinton in the

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early 1990s -- has been designed to foster democracy, help alleviate poverty in the Western Hemisphere's poorest country, and promote respect for human rights. The United States has taken a leading role in organizing international efforts at the United Nations, within the Organization of American States, and with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as well as various individual countries to achieve these objectives.

Former Haitian President Preval joined former U.S. President Clinton and 14 other Caribbean leaders in May 1997 in Bridgetown, Barbados, for the first-ever U.S.-regional summit. The meeting strengthened the basis for regional cooperation on justice and counter-narcotics, finance and development, and trade.

Although the Bush administration, which succeeded the Clinton administration, eschews the kind of engagement in Haitian affairs that has ensued in the last several years, President Bush stated that he was interested in building hemispheric ties. Presumably, hemispheric relations include Haiti.

The U.S. decision to withhold aid to Haiti, made in February 2002 under the Bush administration, however, was viewed as detrimental to the impoverished people of Haiti. Although the decision was made in the face of Haiti's recent erosion of democracy and human rights abuses, most international observers found the U.S. course of action to be highly disturbing as it will directly affect the most needy contingent of Haitians.

Neighboring Caribbean countries, particularly those belonging to the Caribbean free market associations, Caricom, have expressed shock and dismay at this decision. They believe that it will exacerbate the Haitian refugee situation (noted above), which ultimately affects not only Caribbean countries but the U.S. as well, which receives boatloads of Haitian refugees with regularity.

Following the ousting of President Aristide in 2004, critics began to refer to the ousting of Aristide as a United States-led de facto coup. Indeed, this charge was repeatedly uttered by Aristide himself who says he was forced to leave. The United States has denied these charges.

Note: After being ousted from office, Aristide stayed in Jamaica for a short period before going on to South Africa. There, he was to seek temporary asylum until permanent asylum could be arranged.

The U.S. is a member of the board of the Interim Commission for the Reconstruction of Haiti, established in May 2010 by the Haitian Government. The commission is co-chaired by the Haitian Prime Minister and former President Clinton. Both Haitian and international stakeholders sit on the board of directors.

The Obama administration in the United States in recent years has tried to foster a humanitarian element to relations with Haiti, which increased after the January 2010 earthquake in Haiti. Indeed, the U.S. Coast Guard played a key role in the humanitarian efforts in the immediate aftermath of

that tragedy.

Also, on January 15, 2010, the U.S. granted temporary protected status (TPS) for 18 months to Haitians living illegally in the U.S. During that period, they were allowed to live and work in the U.S. upon submission and approval of a TPS application. On May 17, 2011, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced an extension and re-designation of TPS for Haiti. The extension will allow Haitians who have already been granted TPS following the earthquake to re-register and remain in the United States through January 22, 2013. In addition, DHS re-designated Haiti for TPS--meaning that Haitian nationals who have continuously resided in the United States since January 12, 2011, may now also be eligible to apply for TPS and will be allowed to stay in the United States through January 22, 2013. The extension and re-designation of TPS became effective July 23, 2011.

Written by Dr. Denise Youngblood Coleman, Editor in Chief, [www.countrywatch.com](http://www.countrywatch.com); specific references to United States foreign policy towards Haiti made available from the United States Department of State; see Bibliography for full references.

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## National Security

### External Threats

The greatest threats to Haiti's security are internal rather than foreign born. Illegal immigration from Haiti to the Dominican Republic has somewhat strained relations between the two countries, however. Also, Haiti contests the U.S. occupation of Navassa Island.

### Crime

Crime is rampant throughout Haiti. According to the United States (U.S.) State Department, the country has "no 'safe areas'," and "reports of death threats, murders, drug-related shootouts, kidnappings, armed-robberies, break-ins, or carjackings occur almost daily" there. Haiti serves as a significant interim destination for South American cocaine bound for the United States and Europe. In fact, approximately eight percent of all the cocaine that enters the U.S. transits Haiti. Widespread corruption, political instability, and an ineffective law enforcement apparatus have all served to exacerbate criminal activity in Haiti. Money-laundering is also a substantial problem in Haiti.

Well into 2007, Haiti has been plagued by the problem of violent gangs. With an eye on resolving this challenge, a constellation of schemes were considered -- some with an incentive-oriented approach, and others involving more hard-line measures. But the situation continues unabated. Rampant gang violence has been ongoing, and in fact, exacerbated by the rise in extra-judicial violence -- largely the result of the corrupt justice system that commanded little or no public confidence. In fact, while some people have been detained without trial, others, such as gang leaders, have been released after paying bribes to judges. Public outrage over the miscarriage of justice led some to react by carrying out lynchings or mob attacks.

### **Insurgencies**

Since Haiti received its independence from France in 1801, political instability has been the norm rather than the exception. From 1957 until 1986, the two generations of the Duvalier family managed to retain control of Haiti's government. The ruthless Jean-Claude, also known as "Baby Doc," assumed the presidency upon the death of his father, Francois, in 1971. In the aftermath of his forced departure, coups, corruption, and infighting have thwarted the emergence of democracy in Haiti. A U.S.-led multinational force intervened to restore order there in 1994. The international presence was gradually scaled back and ultimately took on a solely advisory role. The political situation in Haiti gradually spiraled out of control again. Roman Catholic priest turned politician Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who had been democratically-elected president of Haiti in 1990 and served an interrupted first term from 1991-1995, resigned three years into his second term in February 2004. After resigning, Aristide fled to the Central African Republic and from exile, he insisted that he had been forced out of office by U.S.-led forces. Meanwhile, a second U.S.-led multinational coalition subsequently entered Haiti to help restore order there at the request of Haiti's interim government. Despite the multinational force's presence, the political situation in Haiti remained highly volatile. Complicating matters has been the fact that the members of the interim government have been linked to ruthless and violent cadres responsible for the deaths of civilians in the early 1990s.

### **Terrorism**

No transnational terrorist organizations have specifically threatened to strike targets in Haiti or Haitian interests abroad. The country does have a longstanding history of widespread political violence, however. Haiti is party to five of the twelve international conventions and protocols pertaining to terrorism.

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## Defense Forces

### Military Data

#### **Military Branches:**

No regular military forces - small Coast Guard; a Ministry of National Defense established in May 2012; the regular Haitian Armed Forces (FAdH) - Army, Navy, and Air Force - have been demobilized but still exist on paper until or unless they are constitutionally abolished

#### **Eligible age to enter service:**

N/A

#### **Mandatory Service Terms:**

N/A

#### **Manpower in general population-fit for military service:**

males age 16-49: 1,666,324

females age 16-49: 2,415,039

#### **Manpower reaching eligible age annually:**

Males: 115,246

females: 115,282

#### **Military Expenditures-Percent of GDP:**

N/A



# **Chapter 3**

## **Economic Overview**

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## Economic Overview

### *Overview*

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, ranking 168th of 187 countries in the 2014 UN Human Development Index. About 80 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, and natural disasters frequently sweep the country. About 70 percent of the population depends on the agricultural sector, which consists mainly of small-scale subsistence farming. Subsistence crops include cassava, rice, sugarcane, yams and corn. In recent years, export of apparel has been boosted through U.S. economic engagement with Haiti, with the apparel sector accounting for two-thirds of Haitian exports. For nearly two decades, internal conflicts and political instability devastated Haiti's economy and inflicted severe hardship on its population. But since 2004, Haiti has made remarkable progress in stabilizing the economy, thanks to the improvement of its political situation and the pursuit of prudent macroeconomic policies supported by the international community. Based on its strong macroeconomic track record, Haiti was approved for an IMF-supported PRGF (Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility) program and the HIPC (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries) decision point in November 2006.

On Jan. 12, 2010, Haiti was struck by an exceptionally powerful earthquake, which caused unprecedented damages and casualties. The epicenter of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake was located near the capital city, Port-au-Prince, where one-third of the country's population and most of the state and economic infrastructure are located. Six months later, the country suffered from an outbreak of cholera. The international community responded with strong support, and total pledges for assistance quickly reached more than US\$1 billion. Nevertheless, the disaster represented a major setback for Haiti, following several years of progress in maintaining macroeconomic stability, resuming growth, and implementing essential reforms. In 2009, Haiti's economy weathered the global crisis well with real GDP growing almost 3 percent, the highest in the Caribbean region. But the country suffered a large contraction in 2010 as a result of the earthquake. The Inter-American Development Bank estimated that the total cost of the disaster was between \$8 billion and \$14 billion, based on a death toll from 200,000 to 250,000. That number was revised in 2011 by Haiti's government to 316,000. Haiti had received debt forgiveness for over \$1 billion through the Highly-Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) initiative in mid-2009. The remainder of its outstanding external debt was cancelled by donor countries in early 2010 but by 2011 it had again risen to about \$400 million. The government relies on formal international economic assistance for fiscal sustainability, with over half of its annual budget coming from outside sources. International donors promised Haiti \$5.3 billion at a March 2010 donor's conference. But reconstruction of better buildings and roads remained a long way off. In late 2011, the World Bank allocated \$255 million for Haiti's

post-earthquake reconstruction, including support for education, agriculture and disaster risk management. Around the same time, the newly-elected President Michel Martelly welcomed hundreds of foreign investors and declared Haiti “open for business” in an ambitious strategy to boost rebuilding the country. As of late 2011, only 43 percent of the \$4.59 billion promised to Haiti had been received and disbursed, according to the United Nations.

By late February 2012, Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille resigned after just four months in office in part over disagreements with President Martelly over earthquake reconstruction contracts. Conille had announced plans to audit \$300 million in contracts awarded by his predecessor after the earthquake. Two years after the quake, more than a half a million people were still living in tent camps in the capital of Port-au-Prince – evidence that reconstruction and recovery were going slower than expected. Still, in August 2012, the IMF noted that Haiti’s real GDP growth rate had returned to positive territory in 2011 and 2012 but that lack of economic capacity still remained a big challenge for the country.

In October 2012, Haiti suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Sandy – in particular the crops throughout the southern third of the country were hard hit. As well, the country's residents were also at risk for cholera and other water-borne diseases. Of all the Caribbean countries, Haiti reported the highest death toll with more than 50 dead in the storm's immediate aftermath.

“The economy took a huge hit,” Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe told Reuters. He also said Sandy's impact was devastating, “even by international standards,” adding that Haiti was planning an appeal for emergency aid.

Also in 2012, the Martelly government created a Commission for Commercial Code Reform, implemented reforms to the justice sector, and inaugurated the Caracol industrial park in Haiti's north coast.

Haiti's outstanding external debt was cancelled by donor countries following the 2010 earthquake, but had climbed to \$1.1 billion as of December 2013.

Preliminary data for the first half of the fiscal year 2014 (i.e. October 2013 - March 2014) suggested that Haiti’s economic activity - as measured by GDP - advanced in line with projections, at a pace of about 3 – 4 percent, according to the IMF. Inflation remained low, and was projected to be in the mid-single digits by the end of the fiscal year (i.e. September 2014).

In April 2014, Reuters reported that a severe drought was making conditions even worse for Haiti’s already poor population, prompting a major emergency operation by the U.N.'s World Food Program.

“They are now in a terrible situation,” said Georg-Friedrich Heymell, the Program's director in Haiti, in a Reuters article. “They cannot survive without support. The food we give them will help



them for the next six weeks.”

About 75 percent of Haitians live on less than \$2 per day and half the population earns less than \$1 per day, according to WFP. In rural areas, nearly 90 percent live below the poverty level and basic social services are practically nonexistent.

In March 2014, a Haitian company made a surprising announcement – that it was manufacturing a low cost Android tablet.

Haiti's outstanding external debt was cancelled by donor countries following the 2010 earthquake, but has since risen to \$1.43 billion as of December 2014. The government relies on formal international economic assistance for fiscal sustainability, with over half of its annual budget coming from outside sources.

By August 2015, it was being reported that the severe drought in Haiti had led to acute water shortages, shriveled harvests and raised food prices, weakening the fragile food supply and worsening hunger among the poor, according to the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP). By February 2016, it was likely that "at least one in five households in Haiti would face significant food consumption gaps with high or above usual acute malnutrition," according to an August 2015 report by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), a service run by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The depreciation of the Haitian gourde was contributing to the rise in the price of staple foods such as rice, maize and beans with prices reportedly up by as much as 60 percent.

### ***Economic Performance***

Since 2004, important progress has been made toward stabilizing the economy, with new policies helping restart economic growth. Real GDP growth accelerated in 2007, underpinned by macroeconomic stability and international economic assistance, before slowing in 2008 reflecting the impact of natural disasters. With a minimal impact from the global economic crisis and a post-hurricane rebound, real GDP growth inched upwards in 2009 before contracting again in 2010 due to the impact of the hurricane in 2010. Meanwhile, inflation increased in 2008 owing to rising world food and fuel prices, but declined again in 2009 with falling world commodity prices. By 2010, it had climbed to again. The overall fiscal balance (excluding grants and externally-financed projects) turned from a surplus in 2007 to a deficit in 2008-2010. This shift was a reflection of revenue losses largely owing to the temporary suspension of fuel price adjustments in response to rising commodity prices.

According to CountryWatch estimated calculations for 2014:

Real GDP growth rate was: 4.2 percent

The fiscal deficit/surplus as percent of GDP (%) was: -4.6 percent

Inflation was measured at: 6.0 percent

*Updated in 2015*

*\*Please note that the figures in our Economic Performance section are estimates or forecasts based on IMF-based data that are formulated using CountryWatch models of analysis.*

*Supplementary Sources: International Monetary Fund, The New York Times, Thomson Reuters Foundation and Reuters*

## Nominal GDP and Components

Nominal GDP and Components					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nominal GDP (LCU billions)	302.854	328.061	364.526	388.809	424.832
Nominal GDP Growth Rate (%)	13.449	8.323	11.115	6.662	9.265
Consumption (LCU billions)	268.965	279.244	308.581	332.795	391.030
Government Expenditure (LCU billions)	66.207	68.737	75.959	81.919	96.253
Gross Capital Formation (LCU billions)	91.034	94.513	104.443	112.638	109.832
Exports of Goods & Services (LCU billions)	40.693	43.516	52.300	58.141	67.141
Imports of Goods & Services (LCU billions)	164.045	157.949	176.757	196.684	239.424

## Population and GDP Per Capita

Population and GDP Per Capita					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Population, total (million)	10.033	10.174	10.317	10.461	10.604
Population growth (%)	1.384	1.405	1.406	1.396	1.367
Nominal GDP per Capita (LCU 1000s)	30,185.79	32,245.04	35,332.56	37,167.48	40,063.37

## Real GDP and Inflation

Real GDP and Inflation					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Real Gross Domestic Product (LCU billions 2005 base)	14.003	14.407	15.019	15.432	15.818
Real GDP Growth Rate (%)	5.524	2.885	4.248	2.750	2.500
GDP Deflator (2005=100.0)	2,162.78	2,277.09	2,427.10	2,519.50	2,685.78
Inflation, GDP Deflator (%)	7.510	5.286	6.588	3.807	6.600

## Government Spending and Taxation

Government Spending and Taxation					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Government Fiscal Budget (billions)	77.352	92.425	102.394	98.574	96.341
Fiscal Budget Growth Rate (percentage)	26.986	19.486	10.786	-3.7307	-2.2653
National Tax Rate Net of Transfers (%)	21.899	23.402	20.902	19.008	19.948
Government Revenues Net of Transfers (LCU billions)	66.321	76.774	76.193	73.906	84.745
Government Surplus(-) Deficit(+) (LCU billions)	-11.0310	-15.6510	-26.2010	-24.6680	-11.5960
Government Surplus(+) Deficit(-) (%GDP)	-3.6423	-4.7708	-7.1877	-6.3445	-2.7295

## Money Supply, Interest Rates and Unemployment

Money Supply, Interest Rates and Unemployment					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Money and Quasi-Money (M2) (LCU billions)	140.517	150.585	161.979	174.515	190.684
Money Supply Growth Rate (%)	6.843	7.165	7.566	7.739	9.265
Lending Interest Rate (%)	11.610	8.934	8.722	10.773	16.605
Unemployment Rate (%)	13.098	14.100	14.051	13.979	12.759

## Foreign Trade and the Exchange Rate

Foreign Trade and the Exchange Rate					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Official Exchange Rate (LCU/\$US)	40.295	41.579	43.134	44.634	48.293
Trade Balance NIPA (\$US billions)	-3.0613	-2.7522	-2.8853	-3.1040	-3.5675
Trade Balance % of GDP	-40.7299	-34.8816	-34.1421	-35.6328	-40.5532
Total Foreign Exchange Reserves (\$US billions)	1.882	2.166	2.518	1.987	2.129

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**Data in US Dollars**

Data in US Dollars					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Nominal GDP (\$US billions)	7.516	7.890	8.451	8.711	8.797
Exports (\$US billions)	1.010	1.047	1.212	1.303	1.390
Imports (\$US billions)	4.071	3.799	4.098	4.407	4.958



## Energy Consumption and Production Standard Units

Energy Consumption and Production Standard Units					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Petroleum Consumption (TBPD)	15.426	14.723	15.000	15.190	15.726
Petroleum Production (TBPD)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Petroleum Net Exports (TBPD)	-15.4258	-14.7229	-15.0000	-15.1903	-15.7258
Natural Gas Consumption (bcf)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Natural Gas Production (bcf)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Natural Gas Net Exports (bcf)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Coal Consumption (1000s st)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Coal Production (1000s st)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Coal Net Exports (1000s st)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Nuclear Production (bil kwh)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

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	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Hydroelectric Production (bil kwh)	0.1190	0.1580	0.1626	0.1547	0.1624
Renewables Production (bil kwh)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

## Energy Consumption and Production QUADS

Energy Consumption and Production QUADS					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Petroleum Consumption (Quads)	0.0329	0.0314	0.0320	0.0324	0.0336
Petroleum Production (Quads)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Petroleum Net Exports (Quads)	-0.0329	-0.0314	-0.0320	-0.0324	-0.0336
Natural Gas Consumption (Quads)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Natural Gas Production (Quads)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Natural Gas Net Exports (Quads)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Coal Consumption (Quads)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Coal Production (Quads)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Coal Net Exports (Quads)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Nuclear Production (Quads)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Hydroelectric Production (Quads)	0.0012	0.0016	0.0016	0.0015	0.0016
Renewables Production (Quads)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

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## World Energy Price Summary

World Energy Price Summary					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Petroleum-WTI (\$/bbl)	95.054	94.159	97.943	93.112	48.709
Natural Gas-Henry Hub (\$/mmbtu)	3.999	2.752	3.729	4.369	2.614
Coal Thermal-Australian (\$/mt)	121.448	96.364	84.562	70.130	57.511

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**CO2 Emissions**

CO2 Emissions					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Petroleum Based (mm mt C)	0.7359	0.7023	0.7156	0.7246	0.7502
Natural Gas Based (mm mt C)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Coal Based (mm mt C)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Total CO2 Emissions (mm mt C)	0.7359	0.7023	0.7156	0.7246	0.7502

## Agriculture Consumption and Production

Agriculture Consumption and Production					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Corn Total Consumption (1000 metric tons)	362.991	206.267	353.561	338.667	329.465
Corn Production (1000 metric tons)	359.333	201.178	334.517	325.654	303.511
Corn Net Exports (1000 metric tons)	-3.6583	-5.0887	-19.0445	-13.0132	-25.9532
Soybeans Total Consumption (1000 metric tons)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Soybeans Production (1000 metric tons)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Soybeans Net Exports (1000 metric tons)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Rice Total Consumption (1000 metric tons)	144.063	147.599	169.300	143.650	136.215
Rice Production (1000 metric tons)	144.160	147.597	169.226	143.594	137.695

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Rice Net Exports (1000 metric tons)	0.0972	-0.0024	-0.0742	-0.0565	1.479
Coffee Total Consumption (metric tons)	24,501.00	25,416.00	17,619.00	17,033.13	16,946.48
Coffee Production (metric tons)	24,114.45	25,135.15	17,626.82	17,214.82	15,595.15
Coffee Net Exports (metric tons)	-386.5545	-280.8490	7.816	181.685	-1351.3271
Cocoa Beans Total Consumption (metric tons)	6,070.00	5,657.00	7,898.00	8,247.99	8,431.37
Cocoa Beans Production (metric tons)	9,666.15	10,379.98	10,608.68	10,301.65	10,437.78
Cocoa Beans Net Exports (metric tons)	3,596.15	4,722.98	2,710.68	2,053.66	2,006.41
Wheat Total Consumption (1000 metric tons)	19.800	42.960	85.000	86.511	76.845
Wheat Production (1000 metric tons)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Wheat Net Exports (1000 metric tons)	-19.8000	-42.9600	-85.0000	-86.5112	-76.8448

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## World Agriculture Pricing Summary

World Agriculture Pricing Summary					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Corn Pricing Summary (\$/metric ton)	291.684	298.417	259.389	192.881	169.750
Soybeans Pricing Summary (\$/metric ton)	540.667	591.417	538.417	491.771	390.417
Rice Pricing Summary (\$/metric ton)	458.558	525.071	473.989	425.148	386.033
Coffee Pricing Summary (\$/kilogram)	5.976	4.111	3.076	4.424	3.526
Cocoa Beans Pricing Summary (\$/kilogram)	2.980	2.392	2.439	3.062	3.135
Wheat Pricing Summary (\$/metric ton)	316.264	313.242	312.248	284.895	203.177



## Metals Consumption and Production

Metals Consumption and Production					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Copper Consumption (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Copper Production (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Copper Net Exports (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Zinc Consumption (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Zinc Production (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Zinc Exports (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Lead Consumption (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Lead Production (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Lead Exports (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Tin Consumption (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Tin Production (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Tin Exports (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000

	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
Nickel Consumption (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Nickel Production (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Nickel Exports (1000 mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Gold Consumption (kg)	31.281	32.253	33.313	35.547	33.284
Gold Production (kg)	15.680	16.167	16.698	17.818	17.196
Gold Exports (kg)	-15.6009	-16.0858	-16.6144	-17.7289	-16.0877
Silver Consumption (mt)	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000
Silver Production (mt)	84.186	88.333	89.761	92.891	85.370
Silver Exports (mt)	84.186	88.333	89.761	92.891	85.370

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## World Metals Pricing Summary

World Metals Pricing Summary					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Copper (\$/mt)	8,828.19	7,962.35	7,332.10	6,863.40	5,510.46
Zinc (\$/mt)	2,193.90	1,950.41	1,910.26	2,160.97	1,931.68
Tin (\$/mt)	26,053.68	21,125.99	22,282.80	21,898.87	16,066.63
Lead (\$/mt)	2,400.81	2,064.64	2,139.79	2,095.46	1,787.82
Nickel (\$/mt)	22,910.36	17,547.55	15,031.80	16,893.38	11,862.64
Gold (\$/oz)	1,569.21	1,669.52	1,411.46	1,265.58	1,160.66
Silver (\$/oz)	35.224	31.137	23.850	19.071	15.721

## Economic Performance Index

### Economic Performance Index

The Economic Performance rankings are calculated by CountryWatch's editorial team, and are based on criteria including sustained economic growth, monetary stability, current account deficits, budget surplus, unemployment and structural imbalances. Scores are assessed from 0 to 100 using this aforementioned criteria as well as CountryWatch's proprietary economic research data and models.

	Bank stability risk	Monetary/ Currency stability	Government Finances	Empl./ Unempl.	Econ.GNP growth or decline/ forecast
	0 - 100	0 - 100	0 - 100	0 - 100	%
<b>North Americas</b>					
Canada	92	69	35	38	3.14%
United States	94	76	4	29	3.01%
<b>Western Europe</b>					
Austria	90	27	30	63	1.33%
Belgium	88	27	19	23	1.15%
Cyprus	81	91	16	80	-0.69%
Denmark	97	70	45	78	1.20%
Finland	89	27	41	33	1.25%

France	87	27	18	27	1.52%
Germany	86	27	22	21	1.25%
Greece	79	27	5	24	-2.00%
Iceland	90	17	2	34	-3.04%
Italy	85	27	37	24	0.84%
Ireland	92	27	11	10	-1.55%
Luxembourg	99	27	28	66	2.08%
Malta	77	27	41	51	0.54%
Netherlands	91	27	26	74	1.30%
Norway	98	44	10	76	1.08%
Portugal	77	27	13	20	0.29%
Spain	83	27	9	3	-0.41%
Sweden	94	72	54	32	1.23%
Switzerland	97	86	55	77	1.53%
United Kingdom	85	12	9	37	1.34%
<b>Central and Eastern Europe</b>					
Albania	44	60	33	6	2.30%
Armenia	45	59	49	30	1.80%

Azerbaijan	56	4	84	99	2.68%
Belarus	59	21	83	98	2.41%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	34	68	69	N/A	0.50%
Bulgaria	58	75	88	49	0.20%
Croatia	69	68	94	9	0.18%
Czech Republic	80	89	29	70	1.67%
Estonia	72	90	66	92	0.80%
Georgia	36	60	53	56	2.00%
Hungary	70	66	26	54	-0.16%
Latvia	67	100	65	44	-3.97%
Lithuania	65	91	87	79	-1.65%
Macedonia (FYR)	53	69	56	2	2.03%
Moldova	23	36	81	67	2.50%
Poland	74	74	38	12	2.72%
Romania	62	56	70	62	0.75%
Russia	73	18	90	8	4.00%
Serbia	48	49	52	5	1.97%

Montenegro	39	27	73	1	-1.70%
Slovak Republic	80	62	30	14	4.06%
Slovenia	81	27	36	65	1.12%
Ukraine	41	11	57	N/A	3.68%
Africa					
Algeria	57	18	96	7	4.55%
Angola	49	1	97	N/A	7.05%
Benin	19	91	20	N/A	3.22%
Botswana	68	58	76	N/A	6.33%
Burkina Faso	16	91	13	N/A	4.41%
Burundi	2	91	6	N/A	3.85%
Cameroon	26	91	91	N/A	2.58%
Cape Verde	52	87	4	N/A	4.96%
Central African Republic	9	91	32	N/A	3.18%
Chad	22	91	89	N/A	4.42%
Congo	52	87	87	N/A	12.13%
Côte d'Ivoire	25	91	82	28	2.98%
Dem. Republic					

Congo	4	91	47	N/A	5.44%
Djibouti	31	76	50	N/A	4.47%
Egypt	37	20	24	69	5.01%
Equatorial Guinea	82	91	85	N/A	0.94%
Eritrea	1	3	1	18	1.81%
Ethiopia	6	45	8	N/A	6.96%
Gabon	64	91	96	N/A	5.36%
Gambia	8	48	86	N/A	4.82%
Ghana	9	11	69	N/A	4.50%
Guinea	10	7	91	N/A	3.03%
Guinea-Bissau	5	91	46	N/A	3.47%
Kenya	20	41	59	N/A	4.11%
Lesotho	13	40	12	N/A	2.98%
Liberia	12	73	74	N/A	5.92%
Libya	73	2	94	N/A	5.22%
Madagascar	4	22	24	N/A	-1.02%
Malawi	7	25	55	N/A	5.96%
Mali	20	91	82	N/A	5.12%



Mauritania	15	13	93	N/A	4.58%
Mauritius	65	52	56	55	4.10%
Morocco	37	72	48	26	3.23%
Mozambique	12	23	71	N/A	6.45%
Namibia	40	39	62	N/A	1.70%
Niger	10	91	21	N/A	4.41%
Nigeria	30	6	61	N/A	6.98%
Rwanda	21	40	68	N/A	5.39%
Sao Tome & Principe	1	61	100	N/A	3.40%
Senegal	24	91	63	N/A	3.44%
Seychelles	60	67	97	N/A	4.01%
Sierra Leone	5	10	39	N/A	4.77%
Somalia	2	38	59	N/A	3.19%
South Africa	61	37	70	N/A	2.59%
Sudan	16	5	73	N/A	5.52%
Swaziland	32	44	79	N/A	1.09%
Tanzania	15	45	32	N/A	6.17%
Togo	8	91	92	N/A	2.56%

Tunisia	50	61	44	39	4.00%
Uganda	11	17	54	N/A	5.59%
Zambia	29	20	49	N/A	5.84%
Zimbabwe	0	8	16	N/A	2.24%
<b>South and Central America</b>					
Argentina	66	3	80	36	3.50%
Belize	47	76	80	N/A	1.00%
Bolivia	32	51	61	81	3.99%
Brazil	71	47	78	11	5.50%
Chile	78	25	92	73	4.72%
Columbia	47	52	34	47	2.25%
Costa Rica	60	42	39	57	3.45%
Ecuador	43	76	75	64	2.51%
El Salvador	35	76	67	N/A	1.04%
Guatemala	46	59	58	N/A	2.52%
Honduras	27	47	58	N/A	2.00%
Mexico	69	42	52	61	4.07%
Nicaragua	23	49	42	N/A	1.75%

Panama	66	76	72	45	5.00%
Paraguay	35	46	66	16	5.27%
Peru	59	66	75	22	6.33%
Suriname	58	26	81	59	4.02%
Uruguay	70	26	27	N/A	5.71%
Venezuela	55	1	28	13	-2.63%
<b>Caribbean</b>					
Antigua & Barbuda	72	76	15	N/A	-2.01%
Bahamas	74	76	45	87	-0.50%
Barbados	67	76	33	15	-0.50%
Bermuda	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Cuba	45	76	18	95	0.25%
Dominica	53	76	65	N/A	1.40%
Dominican Republic	54	39	43	4	3.50%
Grenada	63	76	48	N/A	0.80%
Guyana	28	56	17	N/A	4.36%
Haiti	11	27	89	N/A	-8.50%
Jamaica	42	9	85	19	-0.28%

St Lucia	55	76	67	N/A	1.14%
St Vincent & Grenadines	49	76	95	N/A	0.50%
Trinidad & Tobago	82	37	77	72	2.13%
<b>Middle East</b>					
Bahrain	84	76	62	91	3.48%
Iran	51	19	40	58	3.01%
Iraq	48	9	8	N/A	7.27%
Israel	87	62	12	48	3.20%
Jordan	41	51	3	N/A	4.10%
Kuwait	96	4	99	N/A	3.10%
Lebanon	63	54	2	N/A	6.00%
Oman	76	16	88	N/A	4.71%
Qatar	99	16	83	N/A	18.54%
Saudi Arabia	76	8	98	N/A	3.70%
Syria	61	24	40	N/A	5.00%
Turkey	75	23	27	60	5.20%
United Arab Emirates	96	24	98	94	1.29%

Yemen	28	2	78	N/A	7.78%
<b>Asia</b>					
Afghanistan	17	70	74	N/A	8.64%
Bangladesh	13	43	25	N/A	5.38%
Bhutan	24	55	5	N/A	6.85%
Brunei	78	19	99	75	0.48%
Cambodia	18	67	42	N/A	4.77%
China	54	90	19	68	11.03%
Hong Kong	89	76	14	82	5.02%
India	31	38	34	35	8.78%
Indonesia	42	46	37	31	6.00%
Japan	88	89	6	71	1.90%
Kazakhstan	62	13	76	42	2.40%
Korea North	18	65	23	N/A	1.50%
Korea South	83	63	22	85	4.44%
Kyrgyz Republic	24	15	84	88	4.61%
Laos	17	54	7	N/A	7.22%
Macao	91	76	14	82	3.00%

Malaysia	68	65	44	90	4.72%
Maldives	44	55	17	N/A	3.45%
Mongolia	33	5	77	93	7.22%
Myanmar	3	41	72	N/A	5.26%
Nepal	3	14	25	N/A	2.97%
Pakistan	19	15	31	41	3.00%
Papua New Guinea	75	50	11	N/A	7.96%
Philippines	30	48	53	43	3.63%
Singapore	93	75	63	40	5.68%
Sri Lanka	38	22	10	N/A	5.50%
Taiwan	84	88	35	89	6.50%
Tajikistan	6	6	60	97	4.00%
Thailand	56	64	90	96	5.46%
Turkmenistan	51	53	68	N/A	12.00%
Uzbekistan	40	10	60	100	8.00%
Vietnam	25	12	20	N/A	6.04%
<b>Pacific</b>					
Australia	96	63	31	46	2.96%

Fiji	46	53	3	N/A	2.06%
Marshall Islands	27	76	46	N/A	1.08%
Micronesia (Fed. States)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Caledonia	96	73	51	52	2.00%
New Zealand	98	73	51	52	2.00%
Samoa	34	88	64	N/A	-2.77%
Solomon Islands	14	71	1	N/A	3.36%
Tonga	26	57	38	N/A	0.60%
Vanuatu	33	58	47	N/A	3.80%

Source:

CountryWatch Inc. [www.countrywatch.com](http://www.countrywatch.com)

Updated:

This material was produced in 2010; it is subject to updating in 2012.

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# **Chapter 4**

## **Investment Overview**



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## Foreign Investment Climate

### Background

Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere with 80% of the population living under the poverty line and 54% in abject poverty. Two-thirds of all Haitians depend on the agricultural sector, mainly small-scale subsistence farming, and remain vulnerable to damage from frequent natural disasters, exacerbated by the country's widespread deforestation. While the economy has recovered in recent years, registering positive growth since 2005, four tropical storms in 2008 severely damaged the transportation infrastructure and agricultural sector. The 2010 earthquake devastated the capital city and has propelled Haiti from being in a dire state to catastrophic prospects for the future. See Political Conditions for details.

### Foreign Investment Assessment

#### Openness to Foreign Investment

Haiti's openness to foreign investment is codified in its laws. Haiti has no economic or industrial strategies with discriminatory effects on foreign investors. Import and export policies are non-discriminatory with regard to nationality.

The GOH has made several commitments to the world trade organization in the financial services sector. These include:

- allowing foreign participation in deposit taking, lending, guarantees and commitments; in financial leasing; in underwriting services, including participation in the issuance and placement of securities;
- and in advising and auxiliary services for each of the above services.

The tax code includes a withholding tax provision that discriminates against foreign investors. Foreign companies are subject to an additional levy of 30 percent on profits as a final tax on deemed distributions to foreign shareholders, whereas local firms are subject to only a 15 percent withholding tax on distributions. The government has committed itself to removing that provision, although this requires further administrative action.

The Haitian banking system is open to the entry and operation of foreign banks. At present, there

are two foreign banks operating in Haiti: Citibank and Scotiabank.

Haiti offers several customs, tariff and other advantages under the industrial investment code. Specific benefits are a function of the firm's location and the market for which it produces. Before its mandate lapsed in 1998, the Presidential Commission on Economic Growth and Modernization prepared a new investment code for GOH consideration. This has not been enacted.

Investments related to electricity, water and telecommunications, which are state-controlled activities, require government concession and approval. Prospecting, exploration and exploitation of mineral and energy resources require concessions and permits from the office of mining and energy, as natural resources in general are considered to be the property of the state.

### Transparency of Regulatory System

Haitian law is deficient in a number of areas, including:

- operation of the judicial system;
- organization and operation of the executive branch;
- publication of laws, regulations and official notices;
- establishment of companies;
- land tenure and real property law and procedures;
- bank and credit operations;
- insurance and pension regulation;
- accounting standards;
- civil status documentation;
- customs law and administration;
- international trade and investment promotion;
- foreign investment regime;
- and regulation of market concentration and competition.

Although these deficiencies hinder business activities, they are not specifically aimed at foreign firms and appear to have an equally negative effect on foreign and local companies.

Tax, labor, and health and safety laws and policies are theoretically universally applicable, but are not universally applied or observed, and seldom enforced. Many in the private sector provide services (such as health care) for their workers that are not provided by dysfunctional state agencies.

Bureaucratic procedures are not uniform and frequently involve excessive red tape.

### **Labor Force**

Total: 3.6 million estimated

By occupation: agriculture 66%, industry 9%, services 25%

### **Agriculture and Industry**

Agriculture products: coffee, mangoes, sugarcane, rice, corn, sorghum, wood

Industries: sugar refining, flour milling, textiles, cement, light assembly industries based on imported parts

### **Import Commodities and Partners**

Commodities: food, manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment, fuels, raw materials

Partners: US 54.8%, Dominican Republic 6%, Colombia 2.9%

### **Export Commodities and Partners**

Commodities: manufactures, coffee, oils, cocoa, mangoes

Partners: US 83.6%, Dominican Republic 6.4%, Canada 3.6%

### **Telephone System**

Telephones- main lines in use: 130,000

Telephones- mobile cellular: 140,000

*General Assessment:* domestic facilities barely adequate; international facilities slightly better

*Domestic:* coaxial cable and microwave radio relay trunk service

*International:* country code - 509; satellite earth station - 1 Intelsat (Atlantic Ocean)

### **Internet**

Internet Hosts: N/A

Internet users: 80,000

### **Roads, Airports, Ports and Harbors**

Highways: 4,160 km

Ports and harbors: Cap-Haitien, Gonaives, Jacmel, Jeremie, Les Cayes, Miragoane, Port-au-Prince, Port-de-Paix, Saint-Marc

Airports: 13; w/paved runways: 4

### **Legal System and Considerations**

Haiti's legal system is based on Roman civil law system. The country accepts compulsory ICJ jurisdiction.

#### Dispute Settlement

Allegations persist that corrupt GOH officials have used their offices to obtain a favorable resolution or for personal profit. The GOH recognizes the structural weaknesses of its judicial and police systems and, with help from the international community and the USG, is working to establish a credible, effective judiciary and police force. With the cooperation of the Haitian private sector, the GOH has expressed its commitment to comprehensive reform of its commercial, investment and financial codes.

The protection and guarantees that Haitian law extends to investors are severely compromised by weak enforcement mechanisms, a poor judicial system and an antiquated legal system. Business litigants are often frustrated in their efforts to obtain relief. In addition, commercial litigation entails certain risks. Bonds to release assets frozen incident to litigation are unavailable, and judges sometimes inflict their biases against commercial litigants through the application of "public order" policy concepts. The embassy has received reports from litigants that endemic corruption allows parties to disputes to purchase favorable outcomes.

Working through the Haitian courts is a lengthy process and cases often go on for year, and for this reason many disputes are settled out of court. USG and GOH efforts currently focus on improving Haiti's legal system by training of judges and other judicial personnel.

Government contacts report that all of these pieces of legislation will have to begin the entire legislative process all over again once the parliament is reconstituted.

### **Corruption Perception Ranking**

See full list, as reported by Transparency International, from the least to most corrupt countries, Haiti is typically ranked as one of the most corrupt nations in the world (according to this index).

### **Cultural Considerations**

Haitians consider the handshake the customary form of greeting. In business and social meetings one should take care to not exclude anyone from the greeting. Also worth noting is that Haitian

hospitality means generosity. One should never refuse a gift even if the giver is in a poor economic state. A refusal of a gift may be regarded as insulting, and it may convey some degree of arrogance.

**For more information see:**

United States' State Department Commercial Guide

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## Foreign Investment Index

### Foreign Investment Index

**The Foreign Investment Index** is a proprietary index measuring attractiveness to international investment flows. The Foreign Investment Index is calculated using an established methodology by CountryWatch's Editor-in-Chief and is based on a given country's economic stability (sustained economic growth, monetary stability, current account deficits, budget surplus), economic risk (risk of non-servicing of payments for goods or services, loans and trade-related finance, risk of sovereign default), business and investment climate (property rights, labor force and laws, regulatory transparency, openness to foreign investment, market conditions, and stability of government). Scores are assigned from 0-10 using the aforementioned criteria. A score of 0 marks the lowest level of foreign investment viability, while a score of 10 marks the highest level of foreign investment viability, according to this proprietary index.

Country	Assessment
Afghanistan	2
Albania	4.5
Algeria	6
Andorra	9

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Angola	4.5-5
Antigua	8.5
Argentina	5
Armenia	5
Australia	9.5
Austria	9-9.5
Azerbaijan	5
Bahamas	9
Bahrain	7.5
Bangladesh	4.5
Barbados	9
Belarus	4
Belgium	9
Belize	7.5
Benin	5.5
Bhutan	4.5
Bolivia	4.5
Bosnia-Herzegovina	5

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Botswana	7.5-8
Brazil	8
Brunei	7
Bulgaria	5.5
Burkina Faso	4
Burma (Myanmar)	4.5
Burundi	4
Cambodia	4.5
Cameroon	5
Canada	9.5
Cape Verde	6
Central African Republic	3
Chad	4
Chile	9
China	7.5
China: Hong Kong	8.5
China: Taiwan	8.5
Colombia	7

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Comoros	4
Congo DRC	4
Congo RC	5
Costa Rica	8
Cote d'Ivoire	4.5
Croatia	7
Cuba	4.5
Cyprus	7
Czech Republic	8.5
Denmark	9.5
Djibouti	4.5
Dominica	6
Dominican Republic	6.5
East Timor	4.5
Ecuador	5.5
Egypt	4.5-5
El Salvador	6
Equatorial Guinea	4.5

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Eritrea	3.5
Estonia	8
Ethiopia	4.5
Fiji	5
Finland	9
Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	5
France	9-9.5
Gabon	5.5
Gambia	5
Georgia	5
Germany	9-9.5
Ghana	5.5
Greece	5
Grenada	7.5
Guatemala	5.5
Guinea	3.5
Guinea-Bissau	3.5
Guyana	4.5

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Haiti	4
Holy See (Vatican)	n/a
Hong Kong (China)	8.5
Honduras	5.5
Hungary	8
Iceland	8-8.5
India	8
Indonesia	5.5
Iran	4
Iraq	3
Ireland	8
Israel	8.5
Italy	8
Jamaica	5.5
Japan	9.5
Jordan	6
Kazakhstan	6
Kenya	5

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Kiribati	5.5
Korea, North	1
Korea, South	9
Kosovo	4.5
Kuwait	8.5
Kyrgyzstan	4.5
Laos	4
Latvia	7
Lebanon	5
Lesotho	5.5
Liberia	3.5
Libya	3
Liechtenstein	9
Lithuania	7.5
Luxembourg	9-9.5
Madagascar	4.5
Malawi	4.5
Malaysia	8.5

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Maldives	6.5
Mali	5
Malta	9
Marshall Islands	5
Mauritania	4.5
Mauritius	7.5-8
Mexico	6.5-7
Micronesia	5
Moldova	4.5-5
Monaco	9
Mongolia	5
Montenegro	5.5
Morocco	7.5
Mozambique	5
Namibia	7.5
Nauru	4.5
Nepal	4
Netherlands	9-9.5

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New Zealand	9.5
Nicaragua	5
Niger	4.5
Nigeria	4.5
Norway	9-9.5
Oman	8
Pakistan	4
Palau	4.5-5
Panama	7
Papua New Guinea	5
Paraguay	6
Peru	6
Philippines	6
Poland	8
Portugal	7.5-8
Qatar	9
Romania	6-6.5
Russia	6

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Rwanda	4
Saint Kitts and Nevis	8
Saint Lucia	8
Saint Vincent and Grenadines	7
Samoa	7
San Marino	8.5
Sao Tome and Principe	4.5-5
Saudi Arabia	7
Senegal	6
Serbia	6
Seychelles	5
Sierra Leone	4
Singapore	9.5
Slovak Republic (Slovakia)	8.5
Slovenia	8.5-9
Solomon Islands	5
Somalia	2
South Africa	8

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Spain	7.5-8
Sri Lanka	5.5
Sudan	4
Suriname	5
Swaziland	4.5
Sweden	9.5
Switzerland	9.5
Syria	2.5
Tajikistan	4
Taiwan (China)	8.5
Tanzania	5
Thailand	7.5-8
Togo	4.5-5
Tonga	5.5-6
Trinidad and Tobago	8-8.5
Tunisia	6
Turkey	6.5-7
Turkmenistan	4

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Tuvalu	7
Uganda	5
Ukraine	4.5-5
United Arab Emirates	8.5
United Kingdom	9
United States	9
Uruguay	6.5-7
Uzbekistan	4
Vanuatu	6
Venezuela	5
Vietnam	5.5
Yemen	3
Zambia	4.5-5
Zimbabwe	3.5

Editor's Note:

As of 2015, the global economic crisis (emerging in 2008) had affected many countries across the world, resulting in changes to their rankings. Among those countries affected were top tier economies, such as the [United Kingdom](#), [Iceland](#), [Switzerland](#) and [Austria](#). However, in all these cases, their rankings have moved back upward in the last couple of years as anxieties have eased. Other top tier countries, such as [Spain](#), [Portugal](#), [Ireland](#), and [Italy](#), suffered some



effects due to debt woes and the concomitant effect on the euro zone. Greece, another euro zone nation, was also downgraded due to its sovereign debt crisis; however, Greece's position on the precipice of default incurred a sharper downgrade than the other four euro zone countries mentioned above. Cyprus' exposure to Greek bank yielded a downgrade in its case. Slovenia and [Latvia](#) have been slightly downgraded due to a mix of economic and political concerns but could easily be upgraded in a future assessment, should these concerns abate. Meanwhile, the crisis in eastern [Ukraine](#) fueled downgrades in that country and neighboring [Russia](#).

Despite the "trifecta of tragedy" in [Japan](#) in 2011 -- the earthquake, the ensuing tsunami, and the resulting nuclear crisis -- and the appreciable destabilization of the economic and political terrain therein, this country has only slightly been downgraded. Japan's challenges have been assessed to be transient, the government remains accountable, and there is little risk of default. Both [India](#) and China retain their rankings; [India](#) holds a slightly higher ranking than [China](#) due to its record of democratic representation and accountability.

There were shifts in opposite directions for [Mali](#) and [Nigeria](#) versus the [Central African Republic](#), [Burkina Faso](#), and [Burundi](#). [Mali](#) was slightly upgraded due to its efforts to return to constitutional order following the 2012 coup and to neutralize the threat of separatists and Islamists. Likewise, a new government in [Nigeria](#) generated a slight upgrade as the country attempts to confront corruption, crime, and terrorism. But the [Central African Republic](#) was downgraded due to the takeover of the government by Seleka rebels and the continued decline into lawlessness in that country. Likewise, the attempts by the leaders of [Burundi](#) and [Burkina Faso](#) to hold onto power by by-passing the constitution raised eyebrows and resulted in downgrades.

Political unrest in [Libya](#) and [Algeria](#) have contributed to a decision to marginally downgrade these countries as well. [Syria](#) incurred a sharper downgrade due to the devolution into de facto civil war and the dire security threat posed by Islamist terrorists. [Iraq](#) saw a similar downgrade as a result of the takeover of wide swaths of territory and the threat of genocide at the hands of Islamist terrorists. [Yemen](#), likewise, has been downgraded due to political instability at the hands of secessionists, terrorists, Houthi rebels, and the intervention of external parties. Conversely, [Egypt](#) and [Tunisia](#) saw slight upgrades as their political environments stabilize.

At the low end of the spectrum, devolving security conditions and/or economic crisis have resulted in countries like [Pakistan](#), [Afghanistan](#), [Somalia](#), and [Zimbabwe](#) maintaining their low ratings.

The [United States](#) continues to retain its previous slight downgrade due to the enduring threat of default surrounding the debt ceiling in that country, matched by a conflict-ridden political climate. In the case of [Mexico](#), there is limited concern about default, but increasing alarm over the security situation in that country and the government's ability to contain it. In [Argentina](#), a default to bond holders resulted in a downgrade to that country. Finally, a small but significant upgrade was attributed to [Cuba](#) due to its recent pro-business reforms and its normalization of ties with the

United States.

Source:

CountryWatch Inc. [www.countrywatch.com](http://www.countrywatch.com)

Updated:

2015

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## Corruption Perceptions Index

Corruption Perceptions Index

**Transparency International: [Corruption Perceptions Index](#)**

Editor's Note:

Transparency International's [Corruption Perceptions Index](#) is a composite index which ranks countries in terms of the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials. This index indicates the views of national and international business people and analysts about the levels of corruption in each country. The highest (and best) level of transparency is indicated by the number, 10. The lower (and worse) levels of transparency are indicated by lower numbers.

Rank	Country/Territory	CPI 2009 Score	Surveys Used	Confidence Range
1	New Zealand	9.4	6	9.1 - 9.5
2	Denmark	9.3	6	9.1 - 9.5
3	Singapore	9.2	9	9.0 - 9.4
3	Sweden	9.2	6	9.0 - 9.3

5	Switzerland	9.0	6	8.9 - 9.1
6	Finland	8.9	6	8.4 - 9.4
6	Netherlands	8.9	6	8.7 - 9.0
8	Australia	8.7	8	8.3 - 9.0
8	Canada	8.7	6	8.5 - 9.0
8	Iceland	8.7	4	7.5 - 9.4
11	Norway	8.6	6	8.2 - 9.1
12	Hong Kong	8.2	8	7.9 - 8.5
12	Luxembourg	8.2	6	7.6 - 8.8
14	Germany	8.0	6	7.7 - 8.3
14	Ireland	8.0	6	7.8 - 8.4
16	Austria	7.9	6	7.4 - 8.3
17	Japan	7.7	8	7.4 - 8.0
17	United Kingdom	7.7	6	7.3 - 8.2
19	United States	7.5	8	6.9 - 8.0
20	Barbados	7.4	4	6.6 - 8.2
21	Belgium	7.1	6	6.9 - 7.3
22	Qatar	7.0	6	5.8 - 8.1

22	Saint Lucia	7.0	3	6.7 - 7.5
24	France	6.9	6	6.5 - 7.3
25	Chile	6.7	7	6.5 - 6.9
25	Uruguay	6.7	5	6.4 - 7.1
27	Cyprus	6.6	4	6.1 - 7.1
27	Estonia	6.6	8	6.1 - 6.9
27	Slovenia	6.6	8	6.3 - 6.9
30	United Arab Emirates	6.5	5	5.5 - 7.5
31	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	6.4	3	4.9 - 7.5
32	Israel	6.1	6	5.4 - 6.7
32	Spain	6.1	6	5.5 - 6.6
34	Dominica	5.9	3	4.9 - 6.7
35	Portugal	5.8	6	5.5 - 6.2
35	Puerto Rico	5.8	4	5.2 - 6.3
37	Botswana	5.6	6	5.1 - 6.3
37	Taiwan	5.6	9	5.4 - 5.9
39	Brunei Darussalam	5.5	4	4.7 - 6.4
39	Oman	5.5	5	4.4 - 6.5

39	Korea (South)	5.5	9	5.3 - 5.7
42	Mauritius	5.4	6	5.0 - 5.9
43	Costa Rica	5.3	5	4.7 - 5.9
43	Macau	5.3	3	3.3 - 6.9
45	Malta	5.2	4	4.0 - 6.2
46	Bahrain	5.1	5	4.2 - 5.8
46	Cape Verde	5.1	3	3.3 - 7.0
46	Hungary	5.1	8	4.6 - 5.7
49	Bhutan	5.0	4	4.3 - 5.6
49	Jordan	5.0	7	3.9 - 6.1
49	Poland	5.0	8	4.5 - 5.5
52	Czech Republic	4.9	8	4.3 - 5.6
52	Lithuania	4.9	8	4.4 - 5.4
54	Seychelles	4.8	3	3.0 - 6.7
55	South Africa	4.7	8	4.3 - 4.9
56	Latvia	4.5	6	4.1 - 4.9
56	Malaysia	4.5	9	4.0 - 5.1
56	Namibia	4.5	6	3.9 - 5.1

56	Samoa	4.5	3	3.3 - 5.3
56	Slovakia	4.5	8	4.1 - 4.9
61	Cuba	4.4	3	3.5 - 5.1
61	Turkey	4.4	7	3.9 - 4.9
63	Italy	4.3	6	3.8 - 4.9
63	Saudi Arabia	4.3	5	3.1 - 5.3
65	Tunisia	4.2	6	3.0 - 5.5
66	Croatia	4.1	8	3.7 - 4.5
66	Georgia	4.1	7	3.4 - 4.7
66	Kuwait	4.1	5	3.2 - 5.1
69	Ghana	3.9	7	3.2 - 4.6
69	Montenegro	3.9	5	3.5 - 4.4
71	Bulgaria	3.8	8	3.2 - 4.5
71	FYR Macedonia	3.8	6	3.4 - 4.2
71	Greece	3.8	6	3.2 - 4.3
71	Romania	3.8	8	3.2 - 4.3
75	Brazil	3.7	7	3.3 - 4.3
75	Colombia	3.7	7	3.1 - 4.3

75	Peru	3.7	7	3.4 - 4.1
75	Suriname	3.7	3	3.0 - 4.7
79	Burkina Faso	3.6	7	2.8 - 4.4
79	China	3.6	9	3.0 - 4.2
79	Swaziland	3.6	3	3.0 - 4.7
79	Trinidad and Tobago	3.6	4	3.0 - 4.3
83	Serbia	3.5	6	3.3 - 3.9
84	El Salvador	3.4	5	3.0 - 3.8
84	Guatemala	3.4	5	3.0 - 3.9
84	India	3.4	10	3.2 - 3.6
84	Panama	3.4	5	3.1 - 3.7
84	Thailand	3.4	9	3.0 - 3.8
89	Lesotho	3.3	6	2.8 - 3.8
89	Malawi	3.3	7	2.7 - 3.9
89	Mexico	3.3	7	3.2 - 3.5
89	Moldova	3.3	6	2.7 - 4.0
89	Morocco	3.3	6	2.8 - 3.9
89	Rwanda	3.3	4	2.9 - 3.7

95	Albania	3.2	6	3.0 - 3.3
95	Vanuatu	3.2	3	2.3 - 4.7
97	Liberia	3.1	3	1.9 - 3.8
97	Sri Lanka	3.1	7	2.8 - 3.4
99	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3.0	7	2.6 - 3.4
99	Dominican Republic	3.0	5	2.9 - 3.2
99	Jamaica	3.0	5	2.8 - 3.3
99	Madagascar	3.0	7	2.8 - 3.2
99	Senegal	3.0	7	2.5 - 3.6
99	Tonga	3.0	3	2.6 - 3.3
99	Zambia	3.0	7	2.8 - 3.2
106	Argentina	2.9	7	2.6 - 3.1
106	Benin	2.9	6	2.3 - 3.4
106	Gabon	2.9	3	2.6 - 3.1
106	Gambia	2.9	5	1.6 - 4.0
106	Niger	2.9	5	2.7 - 3.0
111	Algeria	2.8	6	2.5 - 3.1
111	Djibouti	2.8	4	2.3 - 3.2



111	Egypt	2.8	6	2.6 - 3.1
111	Indonesia	2.8	9	2.4 - 3.2
111	Kiribati	2.8	3	2.3 - 3.3
111	Mali	2.8	6	2.4 - 3.2
111	Sao Tome and Principe	2.8	3	2.4 - 3.3
111	Solomon Islands	2.8	3	2.3 - 3.3
111	Togo	2.8	5	1.9 - 3.9
120	Armenia	2.7	7	2.6 - 2.8
120	Bolivia	2.7	6	2.4 - 3.1
120	Ethiopia	2.7	7	2.4 - 2.9
120	Kazakhstan	2.7	7	2.1 - 3.3
120	Mongolia	2.7	7	2.4 - 3.0
120	Vietnam	2.7	9	2.4 - 3.1
126	Eritrea	2.6	4	1.6 - 3.8
126	Guyana	2.6	4	2.5 - 2.7
126	Syria	2.6	5	2.2 - 2.9
126	Tanzania	2.6	7	2.4 - 2.9
130	Honduras	2.5	6	2.2 - 2.8

130	Lebanon	2.5	3	1.9 - 3.1
130	Libya	2.5	6	2.2 - 2.8
130	Maldives	2.5	4	1.8 - 3.2
130	Mauritania	2.5	7	2.0 - 3.3
130	Mozambique	2.5	7	2.3 - 2.8
130	Nicaragua	2.5	6	2.3 - 2.7
130	Nigeria	2.5	7	2.2 - 2.7
130	Uganda	2.5	7	2.1 - 2.8
139	Bangladesh	2.4	7	2.0 - 2.8
139	Belarus	2.4	4	2.0 - 2.8
139	Pakistan	2.4	7	2.1 - 2.7
139	Philippines	2.4	9	2.1 - 2.7
143	Azerbaijan	2.3	7	2.0 - 2.6
143	Comoros	2.3	3	1.6 - 3.3
143	Nepal	2.3	6	2.0 - 2.6
146	Cameroon	2.2	7	1.9 - 2.6
146	Ecuador	2.2	5	2.0 - 2.5
146	Kenya	2.2	7	1.9 - 2.5

146	Russia	2.2	8	1.9 - 2.4
146	Sierra Leone	2.2	5	1.9 - 2.4
146	Timor-Leste	2.2	5	1.8 - 2.6
146	Ukraine	2.2	8	2.0 - 2.6
146	Zimbabwe	2.2	7	1.7 - 2.8
154	Côte d'Ivoire	2.1	7	1.8 - 2.4
154	Papua New Guinea	2.1	5	1.7 - 2.5
154	Paraguay	2.1	5	1.7 - 2.5
154	Yemen	2.1	4	1.6 - 2.5
158	Cambodia	2.0	8	1.8 - 2.2
158	Central African Republic	2.0	4	1.9 - 2.2
158	Laos	2.0	4	1.6 - 2.6
158	Tajikistan	2.0	8	1.6 - 2.5
162	Angola	1.9	5	1.8 - 1.9
162	Congo Brazzaville	1.9	5	1.6 - 2.1
162	Democratic Republic of Congo	1.9	5	1.7 - 2.1
162	Guinea-Bissau	1.9	3	1.8 - 2.0
162	Kyrgyzstan	1.9	7	1.8 - 2.1

162	Venezuela	1.9	7	1.8 - 2.0
168	Burundi	1.8	6	1.6 - 2.0
168	Equatorial Guinea	1.8	3	1.6 - 1.9
168	Guinea	1.8	5	1.7 - 1.8
168	Haiti	1.8	3	1.4 - 2.3
168	Iran	1.8	3	1.7 - 1.9
168	Turkmenistan	1.8	4	1.7 - 1.9
174	Uzbekistan	1.7	6	1.5 - 1.8
175	Chad	1.6	6	1.5 - 1.7
176	Iraq	1.5	3	1.2 - 1.8
176	Sudan	1.5	5	1.4 - 1.7
178	Myanmar	1.4	3	0.9 - 1.8
179	Afghanistan	1.3	4	1.0 - 1.5
180	Somalia	1.1	3	0.9 - 1.4

### Methodology:

As noted above, the highest (and best) level of transparency with the least perceived corruption is indicated by the number, 10. The lower (and worse) levels of transparency are indicated by lower numbers.

According to Transparency International, the [Corruption Perceptions Index](#) (CPI) table shows a

country's ranking and score, the number of surveys used to determine the score, and the confidence range of the scoring.

The rank shows how one country compares to others included in the index. The CPI score indicates the perceived level of public-sector corruption in a country/territory.

The CPI is based on 13 independent surveys. However, not all surveys include all countries. The surveys used column indicates how many surveys were relied upon to determine the score for that country.

The confidence range indicates the reliability of the CPI scores and tells us that allowing for a margin of error, we can be 90% confident that the true score for this country lies within this range.

Note:

Kosovo, which separated from the Yugoslav successor state of [Serbia](#), is not listed above. No calculation is available for [Kosovo](#) at this time, however, a future corruption index by Transparency International may include the world's newest country in its tally. Taiwan has been listed above despite its contested status; while Taiwan claims sovereign status, [China](#) claims ultimate jurisdiction over Taiwan. Hong Kong, which is also under the rubric of Chinese sovereignty, is listed above. Note as well that Puerto Rico, which is a [United States](#) domain, is also included in the list above. These inclusions likely have to do with the size and fairly autonomous status of their economies.

Source:

Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index; available at URL: <http://www.transparency.org>

Updated:

Uploaded in 2011 using most recent ranking available; reviewed in 2015.

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## **Competitiveness Ranking**

### Competitiveness Ranking

Editor's Note:

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The Global Competitiveness Report's competitiveness ranking is based on the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), which was developed for the World Economic Forum. The GCI is based on a number of competitiveness considerations, and provides a comprehensive picture of the competitiveness landscape in countries around the world. The competitiveness considerations are: institutions, infrastructure, macroeconomic environment, health and primary education, higher education and training, goods market efficiency, labour market efficiency, financial market development, technological readiness, market size, business sophistication, and innovation. The rankings are calculated from both publicly available data and the Executive Opinion Survey.

Country/Economy	GCI 2010 Rank	GCI 2010 Score	GCI 2009 Rank	Change 2009-2010
Switzerland	1	5.63	1	0
Sweden	2	5.56	4	2
Singapore	3	5.48	3	0
United States	4	5.43	2	-2
Germany	5	5.39	7	2
Japan	6	5.37	8	2
Finland	7	5.37	6	-1
Netherlands	8	5.33	10	2
Denmark	9	5.32	5	-4
Canada	10	5.30	9	-1
Hong Kong SAR	11	5.30	11	0
United Kingdom	12	5.25	13	1

Taiwan, China	13	5.21	12	-1
Norway	14	5.14	14	0
France	15	5.13	16	1
Australia	16	5.11	15	-1
Qatar	17	5.10	22	5
Austria	18	5.09	17	-1
Belgium	19	5.07	18	-1
Luxembourg	20	5.05	21	1
Saudi Arabia	21	4.95	28	7
Korea, Rep.	22	4.93	19	-3
New Zealand	23	4.92	20	-3
Israel	24	4.91	27	3
United Arab Emirates	25	4.89	23	-2
Malaysia	26	4.88	24	-2
China	27	4.84	29	2
Brunei Darussalam	28	4.75	32	4
Ireland	29	4.74	25	-4
Chile	30	4.69	30	0

Iceland	31	4.68	26	-5
Tunisia	32	4.65	40	8
Estonia	33	4.61	35	2
Oman	34	4.61	41	7
Kuwait	35	4.59	39	4
Czech Republic	36	4.57	31	-5
Bahrain	37	4.54	38	1
Thailand	38	4.51	36	-2
Poland	39	4.51	46	7
Cyprus	40	4.50	34	-6
Puerto Rico	41	4.49	42	1
Spain	42	4.49	33	-9
Barbados	43	4.45	44	1
Indonesia	44	4.43	54	10
Slovenia	45	4.42	37	-8
Portugal	46	4.38	43	-3
Lithuania	47	4.38	53	6
Italy	48	4.37	48	0



Montenegro	49	4.36	62	13
Malta	50	4.34	52	2
India	51	4.33	49	-2
Hungary	52	4.33	58	6
Panama	53	4.33	59	6
South Africa	54	4.32	45	-9
Mauritius	55	4.32	57	2
Costa Rica	56	4.31	55	-1
Azerbaijan	57	4.29	51	-6
Brazil	58	4.28	56	-2
Vietnam	59	4.27	75	16
Slovak Republic	60	4.25	47	-13
Turkey	61	4.25	61	0
Sri Lanka	62	4.25	79	17
Russian Federation	63	4.24	63	0
Uruguay	64	4.23	65	1
Jordan	65	4.21	50	-15
Mexico	66	4.19	60	-6

Romania	67	4.16	64	-3
Colombia	68	4.14	69	1
Iran	69	4.14	n/a	n/a
Latvia	70	4.14	68	-2
Bulgaria	71	4.13	76	5
Kazakhstan	72	4.12	67	-5
Peru	73	4.11	78	5
Namibia	74	4.09	74	0
Morocco	75	4.08	73	-2
Botswana	76	4.05	66	-10
Croatia	77	4.04	72	-5
Guatemala	78	4.04	80	2
Macedonia, FYR	79	4.02	84	5
Rwanda	80	4.00	n/a	n/a
Egypt	81	4.00	70	-11
El Salvador	82	3.99	77	-5
Greece	83	3.99	71	-12
Trinidad and Tobago	84	3.97	86	2

Philippines	85	3.96	87	2
Algeria	86	3.96	83	-3
Argentina	87	3.95	85	-2
Albania	88	3.94	96	8
Ukraine	89	3.90	82	-7
Gambia, The	90	3.90	81	-9
Honduras	91	3.89	89	-2
Lebanon	92	3.89	n/a	n/a
Georgia	93	3.86	90	-3
Moldova	94	3.86	n/a	n/a
Jamaica	95	3.85	91	-4
Serbia	96	3.84	93	-3
Syria	97	3.79	94	-3
Armenia	98	3.76	97	-1
Mongolia	99	3.75	117	18
Libya	100	3.74	88	-12
Dominican Republic	101	3.72	95	-6
Bosnia and Herzegovina	102	3.70	109	7

Benin	103	3.69	103	0
Senegal	104	3.67	92	-12
Ecuador	105	3.65	105	0
Kenya	106	3.65	98	-8
Bangladesh	107	3.64	106	-1
Bolivia	108	3.64	120	12
Cambodia	109	3.63	110	1
Guyana	110	3.62	104	-6
Cameroon	111	3.58	111	0
Nicaragua	112	3.57	115	3
Tanzania	113	3.56	100	-13
Ghana	114	3.56	114	0
Zambia	115	3.55	112	-3
Tajikistan	116	3.53	122	6
Cape Verde	117	3.51	n/a	n/a
Uganda	118	3.51	108	-10
Ethiopia	119	3.51	118	-1
Paraguay	120	3.49	124	4

Kyrgyz Republic	121	3.49	123	2
Venezuela	122	3.48	113	-9
Pakistan	123	3.48	101	-22
Madagascar	124	3.46	121	-3
Malawi	125	3.45	119	-6
Swaziland	126	3.40	n/a	n/a
Nigeria	127	3.38	99	-28
Lesotho	128	3.36	107	-21
Côte d'Ivoire	129	3.35	116	-13
Nepal	130	3.34	125	-5
Mozambique	131	3.32	129	-2
Mali	132	3.28	130	-2
Timor-Leste	133	3.23	126	-7
Burkina Faso	134	3.20	128	-6
Mauritania	135	3.14	127	-8
Zimbabwe	136	3.03	132	-4
Burundi	137	2.96	133	-4
Angola	138	2.93	n/a	n/a

Chad	139	2.73	131	-8
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### Methodology:

The competitiveness rankings are calculated from both publicly available data and the Executive Opinion Survey, a comprehensive annual survey conducted by the World Economic Forum together with its network of Partner Institutes (leading research institutes and business organizations) in the countries covered by the Report.

Highlights according to WEF --

- The [United States](#) falls two places to fourth position, overtaken by [Sweden](#) and [Singapore](#) in the rankings of the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report 2010-2011
- The People's Republic of [China](#) continues to move up the rankings, with marked improvements in several other Asian countries
- [Germany](#) moves up two places to fifth place, leading the Eurozone countries
- [Switzerland](#) tops the rankings

### Source:

World Economic Forum; available at URL: <http://www.weforum.org>

### Updated:

2011 using most recent ranking available; reviewed in 2015.

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## **Taxation**

### Corporate tax

Corporate income tax is applied at a rate of 30 percent on taxable income.

### Capital gains

There is a 10 percent capital gains tax that applies in cases of property sales.

### Health insurance

Health insurance contributions are applied at rates of three percent on gross salaries.

### Social security

Social security contributions are applied at rates of six percent on gross salaries.

### Indirect tax

A value added tax (VAT) of 10 percent is applied to most transactions.

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## **Stock Market**

There is no stock market in Haiti at this time.

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### **Partner Links**

Partner Links





# **Chapter 5**

## **Social Overview**

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## People

### **Cultural Demography**

Haiti is one of the world's most densely populated countries. The population of about 8.8 million is youthful. According to an estimate by the Pan American Health Organization, about 15 percent of Haitians are children under five years of age, and another 25 percent are between age six and 14. The working-age population, 15 to 64 years old, represented 56 percent of Haitians, while the 65-and-over age group comprised a mere four percent.

Ethnically, about 95 percent of the Haitians are of African descent; the rest of the population is mostly of mixed African-European ancestry, along with a tiny fraction who are of European stock. In recent years, a small community of Arab immigrants has also developed in Haiti. Haitians of mixed African-European ancestry have generally formed the country's elite.

French is one of two official languages, but it is spoken by only about 10 percent of the people. All Haitians speak Creole, the country's other official language. Creole, French-based in origin, is one of the New World's hybrid linguistic formulations. English is increasingly spoken by the young and by business people. Culturally, Haiti blends African and French influences.

The state religion is Roman Catholicism, and most of the people profess it. However, a great many of them simultaneously practice voodoo, rooted in African spiritual beliefs. As in many cultures—examples come to mind in both Africa and Latin America, such as Cubans who practice both Catholicism and Santeria—religious syncretism is commonplace, so that Haitians tend to see no conflict in the same individual maintaining voodoo practices while adhering to a Christian faith. Particularly in recent years, Protestant missionaries active throughout the country have converted a small but growing percentage of Haitians to the denominations they represent.

### **Health and Welfare**

Unfortunately, Haiti holds the dubious title of poorest nation in the Western hemisphere with a poverty rate of over 80 percent. Bearing out the inadequacy of Haiti's health and welfare conditions, and of its economic and environmental infrastructure, the country has a high infant

mortality rate, approximately 63.83 deaths per 1,000 live births, and low life expectancy, variously estimated from 55 to 58 years of age.

About six percent of GDP is spent on health expenditures. Access to water is regarded as less than optimal and there are additional challenges in rural areas. Access to sanitation is poor and presents a serious challenge in this country, which is home to some of the worst living conditions in the Americas.

Haiti's educational status, like its health indicators, reflects the dire struggle with poverty that most of its people face. Although school attendance is compulsory for six elementary years, the actual enrollment rate for children between age six and age 11 is only about 73 percent. Of this group of enrollees, only about 63 percent typically complete primary school. Further, only 20 percent of all children will even begin secondary education. Public education is free but not widely available, and private and parochial schools provide perhaps 75 percent of all educational programs offered. Simply put, although Haitians place a high value on education, many families cannot afford the school fees they need to pay in order to educate their children. As a result, Haiti's adult literacy rate is 52.9 percent, according to recent estimates; the United Nations Development Programme also recently estimated it at 47.8 percent.

Traditionally, the preponderance of Haitians were subsistence or very small-scale market farmers. Haiti is the most steeply and consistently mountainous area in the Caribbean. The highest point in the Caribbean is actually in the neighboring Dominican Republic, with which Haiti shares the island of Hispaniola, but the Dominican Republic also has extensive areas of relatively level, easily cultivable land, which Haiti lacks. Haiti's precipitous terrain, and the widespread need to cut trees for fuelwood, resulted in severe stress on the land and destructive erosion as long ago as the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Since then, this pattern of environmental degradation has only intensified.

Although Haitians are still largely rural dwellers (70 percent of the people live in rural areas), the precarious viability of agriculture has induced a trend of urban migration. Those who settle in the capital, Port-au-Prince, and the handful of other cities find limited opportunity-at best, menial work for paltry wages, and an unemployment rate of 70 to 80 percent. Most urban residents survive by occasional odd jobs or by hawking snacks or other tiny items. Because of these bleak living conditions, many Haitians have immigrated to other parts of the world, particularly to the United States and secondarily Canada, as well as to other parts of the Caribbean. This large-scale exodus has created what Haitians refer to as the "Tenth Department," being the official designation for the country's nine geographic jurisdictions. The expression refers to the fact that literally one out of every six Haitians lives abroad.

## **Human Development**

One notable quality-of-life indicator that reflects on Haiti is the Human Development Index (HDI), compiled annually since 1990 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The HDI is a composite of several indicators, which measure a country's achievements in three main areas of human development: longevity, knowledge and education, as well as economic standard of living. In a ranking of 169 countries, the HDI places Haiti in the low human development category, at 145th place.

Note: Although the concept of human development is complicated and cannot be properly captured by values and indices, the HDI, which is calculated and updated annually, offers a wide-ranging assessment of human development in certain countries, not based solely upon traditional economic and financial indicators.

Written by Dr. Denise Youngblood Coleman, Editor in Chief, [www.countrywatch.com](http://www.countrywatch.com); see Bibliography for references.

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## Human Development Index

Human Development Index

### Human Development Index (Ranked Numerically)

The [Human Development Index](#) (HDI) is used to measure quality of life in countries across the world. The HDI has been compiled since 1990 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on a regular basis. The HDI is a composite of several indicators, which measure a country's achievements in three main arenas of human development: longevity, education, and economic standard of living. Although the concept of human development is complicated and cannot be properly captured by values and indices, the HDI offers a wide-ranging assessment of human development in certain countries, not based solely upon traditional economic and financial indicators. For more information about the methodology used to calculate the HDI, please see the "Source Materials" in the appendices of this review.

Very High Human Development	High Human Development	Medium Human Development	Low Human Development
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1. Norway	43. Bahamas	86. Fiji	128. Kenya
2. Australia	44. Lithuania	87. Turkmenistan	129. Bangladesh
3. New Zealand	45. Chile	88. Dominican Republic	130. Ghana
4. United States	46. Argentina	89. China	131. Cameroon
5. Ireland	47. Kuwait	90. El Salvador	132. Myanmar (Burma)
6. Liechtenstein	48. Latvia	91. Sri Lanka	133. Yemen
7. Netherlands	49. Montenegro	92. Thailand	134. Benin
8. Canada	50. Romania	93. Gabon	135. Madagascar
9. Sweden	51. Croatia	94. Suriname	136. Mauritania
10. Germany	52. Uruguay	95. Bolivia	137. Papua New Guinea
11. Japan	53. Libya	96. Paraguay	138. Nepal
12. South Korea	54. Panama	97. Philippines	139. Togo
13. Switzerland	55. Saudi Arabia	98. Botswana	140. Comoros
14. France	56. Mexico	99. Moldova	141. Lesotho
15. Israel	57. Malaysia	100. Mongolia	142. Nigeria
16. Finland	58. Bulgaria	101. Egypt	143. Uganda

17. Iceland	59. Trinidad and Tobago	102. Uzbekistan	144. Senegal
18. Belgium	60. Serbia	103. Micronesia	145. Haiti
19. Denmark	61. Belarus	104. Guyana	146. Angola
20. Spain	62. Costa Rica	105. Namibia	147. Djibouti
21. Hong King	63. Peru	106. Honduras	148. Tanzania
22. Greece	64. Albania	107. Maldives	149. Cote d'Ivoire
23. Italy	65. Russian Federation	108. Indonesia	150. Zambia
24. Luxembourg	66. Kazakhstan	109. Kyrgyzstan	151. Gambia
25. Austria	67. Azerbaijan	110. South Africa	152. Rwanda
26. United Kingdom	68. Bosnia and Herzegovina	111. Syria	153. Malawi
27. Singapore	69. Ukraine	112. Tajikistan	154. Sudan
28. Czech Republic	70. Iran	113. Vietnam	155. Afghanistan
29. Slovenia	71. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	114. Morocco	156. Guinea
30. Andorra	72. Mauritius	115. Nicaragua	157. Ethiopia
31. Slovakia	73. Brazil	116. Guatemala	158. Sierra Leone
32. United Arab		117. Equatorial	159. Central African

Emirates	74. Georgia	Guinea	Republic
33. Malta	75. Venezuela	118. Cape Verde	160. Mali
34. Estonia	76. Armenia	119. India	161. Burkina Faso
35. Cyprus	77. Ecuador	120. East Timor	162. Liberia
36. Hungary	78. Belize	121. Swaziland	163. Chad
37. Brunei	79. Colombia	122. Laos	164. Guinea-Bissau
38. Qatar	80. Jamaica	123. Solomon Islands	165. Mozambique
39. Bahrain	81. Tunisia	124. Cambodia	166. Burundi
40. Portugal	82. Jordan	125. Pakistan	167. Niger
41. Poland	83. Turkey	126. Congo RC	168. Congo DRC
42. Barbados	84. Algeria	127. Sao Tome and Principe	169. Zimbabwe
	85. Tonga		

Methodology:

For more information about the methodology used to calculate the HDI, please see the "Source Materials" in the appendices of this Country Review.

Reference:

As published in United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 2010.

Source:

United Nations Development Programme's [Human Development Index](http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/) available at URL: <http://hdr.undp.org/en/statistics/>

Updated:

Uploaded in 2011 using ranking available; reviewed in 2015

## **Life Satisfaction Index**

Life Satisfaction Index

### **Life Satisfaction Index**

Created by Adrian G. White, an Analytic Social Psychologist at the University of Leicester, the "Satisfaction with Life Index" measures subjective life satisfaction across various countries. The data was taken from a metastudy (see below for source) and associates the notion of subjective happiness or life satisfaction with qualitative parameters such as health, wealth, and access to basic education. This assessment serves as an alternative to other measures of happiness that tend to rely on traditional and quantitative measures of policy on quality of life, such as GNP and GDP. The methodology involved the responses of 80,000 people across the globe.

Rank	Country	Score
1	Denmark	273.4
2	Switzerland	273.33
3	Austria	260
4	Iceland	260



5	The Bahamas	256.67
6	Finland	256.67
7	Sweden	256.67
8	Iran	253.33
9	Brunei	253.33
10	Canada	253.33
11	Ireland	253.33
12	Luxembourg	253.33
13	Costa Rica	250
14	Malta	250
15	Netherlands	250
16	Antiguaand Barbuda	246.67
17	Malaysia	246.67
18	New Zealand	246.67
19	Norway	246.67
20	Seychelles	246.67
21	Saint Kitts and Nevis	246.67
22	United Arab Emirates	246.67

23	United States	246.67
24	Vanuatu	246.67
25	Venezuela	246.67
26	Australia	243.33
27	Barbados	243.33
28	Belgium	243.33
29	Dominica	243.33
30	Oman	243.33
31	Saudi Arabia	243.33
32	Suriname	243.33
33	Bahrain	240
34	Colombia	240
35	Germany	240
36	Guyana	240
37	Honduras	240
38	Kuwait	240
39	Panama	240
40	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	240

41	United Kingdom	236.67
42	Dominican Republic	233.33
43	Guatemala	233.33
44	Jamaica	233.33
45	Qatar	233.33
46	Spain	233.33
47	Saint Lucia	233.33
48	Belize	230
49	Cyprus	230
50	Italy	230
51	Mexico	230
52	Samoa	230
53	Singapore	230
54	Solomon Islands	230
55	Trinidad and Tobago	230
56	Argentina	226.67
57	Fiji	223.33
58	Israel	223.33

59	Mongolia	223.33
60	São Tomé and Príncipe	223.33
61	El Salvador	220
62	France	220
63	Hong Kong	220
64	Indonesia	220
65	Kyrgyzstan	220
66	Maldives	220
67	Slovenia	220
68	Taiwan	220
69	East Timor	220
70	Tonga	220
71	Chile	216.67
72	Grenada	216.67
73	Mauritius	216.67
74	Namibia	216.67
75	Paraguay	216.67
76	Thailand	216.67

77	Czech Republic	213.33
78	Philippines	213.33
79	Tunisia	213.33
80	Uzbekistan	213.33
81	Brazil	210
82	China	210
83	Cuba	210
84	Greece	210
85	Nicaragua	210
86	Papua New Guinea	210
87	Uruguay	210
88	Gabon	206.67
89	Ghana	206.67
90	Japan	206.67
91	Yemen	206.67
92	Portugal	203.33
93	Sri Lanka	203.33
94	Tajikistan	203.33

95	Vietnam	203.33
96	Bhutan	200
97	Comoros	196.67
98	Croatia	196.67
99	Poland	196.67
100	Cape Verde	193.33
101	Kazakhstan	193.33
102	South Korea	193.33
103	Madagascar	193.33
104	Bangladesh	190
105	Republic of the Congo	190
106	The Gambia	190
107	Hungary	190
108	Libya	190
109	South Africa	190
110	Cambodia	186.67
111	Ecuador	186.67
112	Kenya	186.67

113	Lebanon	186.67
114	Morocco	186.67
115	Peru	186.67
116	Senegal	186.67
117	Bolivia	183.33
118	Haiti	183.33
119	Nepal	183.33
120	Nigeria	183.33
121	Tanzania	183.33
122	Benin	180
123	Botswana	180
124	Guinea-Bissau	180
125	India	180
126	Laos	180
127	Mozambique	180
128	Palestinian Authority	180
129	Slovakia	180
130	Myanmar	176.67

131	Mali	176.67
132	Mauritania	176.67
133	Turkey	176.67
134	Algeria	173.33
135	Equatorial Guinea	173.33
136	Romania	173.33
137	Bosnia and Herzegovina	170
138	Cameroon	170
139	Estonia	170
140	Guinea	170
141	Jordan	170
142	Syria	170
143	Sierra Leone	166.67
144	Azerbaijan	163.33
145	Central African Republic	163.33
146	Republic of Macedonia	163.33
147	Togo	163.33
148	Zambia	163.33



149	Angola	160
150	Djibouti	160
151	Egypt	160
152	Burkina Faso	156.67
153	Ethiopia	156.67
154	Latvia	156.67
155	Lithuania	156.67
156	Uganda	156.67
157	Albania	153.33
158	Malawi	153.33
159	Chad	150
160	Côte d'Ivoire	150
161	Niger	150
162	Eritrea	146.67
163	Rwanda	146.67
164	Bulgaria	143.33
165	Lesotho	143.33
166	Pakistan	143.33

167	Russia	143.33
168	Swaziland	140
169	Georgia	136.67
170	Belarus	133.33
171	Turkmenistan	133.33
172	Armenia	123.33
173	Sudan	120
174	Ukraine	120
175	Moldova	116.67
176	Democratic Republic of the Congo	110
177	Zimbabwe	110
178	Burundi	100

### Commentary:

European countries, such as [Denmark](#), [Iceland](#), [Finland](#), [Sweden](#), [Switzerland](#), [Austria](#) resided at the top of the ranking with highest levels of self-reported life satisfaction. Conversely, European countries such as [Latvia](#), [Lithuania](#), [Moldova](#), [Belarus](#) and [Ukraine](#) ranked low on the index. African countries such as Democratic Republic of Congo, [Zimbabwe](#) and [Burundi](#) found themselves at the very bottom of the ranking, and indeed, very few African countries could be found in the top 100. [Japan](#) was at the mid-way point in the ranking, however, other Asian countries such as [Brunei](#) and [Malaysia](#) were in the top tier, while [Pakistan](#) was close to the bottom with a low level of self-identified life satisfaction. As a region, the Middle East presented a mixed bag with Saudi Arabians reporting healthy levels of life satisfaction and Egyptians near the bottom of the ranking. As a region, Caribbean countries were ranked highly, consistently demonstrating

high levels of life satisfaction. The findings showed that health was the most crucial determining factor in life satisfaction, followed by prosperity and education.

Source:

White, A. (2007). A Global Projection of Subjective Well-being: A Challenge To Positive Psychology? *Psychtalk* 56, 17-20. The data was extracted from a meta-analysis by Marks, Abdallah, Simms & Thompson (2006).

Uploaded:

Based on study noted above in "Source" ; reviewed in 2015

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## Happy Planet Index

### Happy Planet Index

The Happy Planet Index (HPI) is used to measure human well-being in conjunction with environmental impact. The HPI has been compiled since 2006 by the New Economics Foundation. The index is a composite of several indicators including subjective life satisfaction, life expectancy at birth, and ecological footprint per capita.

As noted by NEFA, the HPI "reveals the ecological efficiency with which human well-being is delivered." Indeed, the index combines environmental impact with human well-being to measure the environmental efficiency with which, country by country, people live long and happy lives. The countries ranked highest by the HPI are not necessarily the ones with the happiest people overall, but the ones that allow their citizens to live long and fulfilling lives, without negatively impacting this opportunity for either future generations or citizens of other countries. Accordingly, a country like the [United States](#) will rank low on this list due to its large per capital ecological footprint, which uses more than its fair share of resources, and will likely cause planetary damage.

It should be noted that the HPI was designed to be a counterpoint to other well-established indices of countries' development, such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which measures overall national wealth and economic development, but often obfuscates the realities of countries with stark variances between the rich and the poor. Moreover, the objective of most of the world's people is not to be wealthy but to be happy. The HPI also differs from the [Human Development](#)

[Index](#) (HDI), which measures quality of life but not ecology, since it [HPI] also includes sustainability as a key indicator.

Rank	Country	HPI
1	Costa Rica	76.1
2	Dominican Republic	71.8
3	Jamaica	70.1
4	Guatemala	68.4
5	Vietnam	66.5
6	Colombia	66.1
7	Cuba	65.7
8	El Salvador	61.5
9	Brazil	61.0
10	Honduras	61.0
11	Nicaragua	60.5
12	Egypt	60.3
13	Saudi Arabia	59.7
14	Philippines	59.0
15	Argentina	59.0

16	Indonesia	58.9
17	Bhutan	58.5
18	Panama	57.4
19	Laos	57.3
20	China	57.1
21	Morocco	56.8
22	Sri Lanka	56.5
23	Mexico	55.6
24	Pakistan	55.6
25	Ecuador	55.5
26	Jordan	54.6
27	Belize	54.5
28	Peru	54.4
29	Tunisia	54.3
30	Trinidad and Tobago	54.2
31	Bangladesh	54.1
32	Moldova	54.1
33	Malaysia	54.0

34	Tajikistan	53.5
35	India	53.0
36	Venezuela	52.5
37	Nepal	51.9
38	Syria	51.3
39	Burma	51.2
40	Algeria	51.2
41	Thailand	50.9
42	Haiti	50.8
43	Netherlands	50.6
44	Malta	50.4
45	Uzbekistan	50.1
46	Chile	49.7
47	Bolivia	49.3
48	Armenia	48.3
49	Singapore	48.2
50	Yemen	48.1
51	Germany	48.1

52	Switzerland	48.1
53	Sweden	48.0
54	Albania	47.9
55	Paraguay	47.8
56	Palestinian Authority	47.7
57	Austria	47.7
58	Serbia	47.6
59	Finland	47.2
60	Croatia	47.2
61	Kyrgyzstan	47.1
62	Cyprus	46.2
63	Guyana	45.6
64	Belgium	45.4
65	Bosnia and Herzegovina	45.0
66	Slovenia	44.5
67	Israel	44.5
68	South Korea	44.4
69	Italy	44.0

70	Romania	43.9
71	France	43.9
72	Georgia	43.6
73	Slovakia	43.5
74	United Kingdom	43.3
75	Japan	43.3
76	Spain	43.2
77	Poland	42.8
78	Ireland	42.6
79	Iraq	42.6
80	Cambodia	42.3
81	Iran	42.1
82	Bulgaria	42.0
83	Turkey	41.7
84	Hong Kong	41.6
85	Azerbaijan	41.2
86	Lithuania	40.9
87	Djibouti	40.4



88	Norway	40.4
89	Canada	39.4
90	Hungary	38.9
91	Kazakhstan	38.5
92	Czech Republic	38.3
93	Mauritania	38.2
94	Iceland	38.1
95	Ukraine	38.1
96	Senegal	38.0
97	Greece	37.6
98	Portugal	37.5
99	Uruguay	37.2
100	Ghana	37.1
101	Latvia	36.7
102	Australia	36.6
103	New Zealand	36.2
104	Belarus	35.7
105	Denmark	35.5

106	Mongolia	35.0
107	Malawi	34.5
108	Russia	34.5
109	Chad	34.3
110	Lebanon	33.6
111	Macedonia	32.7
112	Republic of the Congo	32.4
113	Madagascar	31.5
114	United States	30.7
115	Nigeria	30.3
116	Guinea	30.3
117	Uganda	30.2
118	South Africa	29.7
119	Rwanda	29.6
120	Democratic Republic of the Congo	29.0
121	Sudan	28.5
122	Luxembourg	28.5
123	United Arab Emirates	28.2

124	Ethiopia	28.1
125	Kenya	27.8
126	Cameroon	27.2
127	Zambia	27.2
128	Kuwait	27.0
129	Niger	26.9
130	Angola	26.8
131	Estonia	26.4
132	Mali	25.8
133	Mozambique	24.6
134	Benin	24.6
135	Togo	23.3
136	Sierra Leone	23.1
137	Central African Republic	22.9
138	Burkina Faso	22.4
139	Burundi	21.8
140	Namibia	21.1
141	Botswana	20.9

142	Tanzania	17.8
143	Zimbabwe	16.6

**Source:** This material is derived from the *Happy Planet Index* issued by the New Economics Foundation (NEF).

**Methodology:** The methodology for the calculations can be found at URL: <http://www.happyplanetindex.org/>

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## Status of Women

### Overview

Chronic unrest and persistent violence in Haiti continually undermines women's ability to attain political and economic security and rights in the social strata.

Haitian women have the highest mortality rate in the western hemisphere as well as the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS. More women than men are infected with HIV/AIDS, in part due to rape and sexual assault.

A January 2000 report estimated that 90 percent of Haitian women experience some form of gender-based violence in their lifetime. Haitian women do not receive equal protections under the law and are thus vulnerable to either being ignored or re-victimized if they do report crimes. There are currently no state run shelters for female victims of violence in the nation.

In 2004, the nation was hit by a series of tropical storms, depressions and hurricanes. These incidences had extremely devastating effects on an already damaged or non-existent infrastructure. Many Haitians in the worst affected areas have been reduced to fighting for basic staples such as food, water, clothing and shelter. In Haitian society, women are the least likely to be armed and thus the least likely to be able to attain their basic needs.

**Gender Related Development Index (GDI) Rank:**

Not Ranked

**Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) Rank:**

Not Ranked

**Female Population:**

4.3 million

**Female Life Expectancy at birth:**

58 years

**Total Fertility Rate:**

4.7

**Maternal Mortality Ratio (2000):**

680

**Total Number of Women Living with HIV/AIDS:**

50,000-150,000

**Ever Married Women, Ages 15-19 (%):**

19%

**Mean Age at Time of Marriage:**

22

**Contraceptive Use Among Married Women, Any Method (%):**

28%

**Female Adult Literacy Rate:**

50%

**Combined Female Gross enrollment ratio for Primary, Secondary and Tertiary schools:**

N/A

**Female-Headed Households (%):**

43%

**Economically Active Females (%):**

55.6%

**Female Contributing Family Workers (%):**

N/A

**Female Estimated Earned Income:**

\$1,250

**Seats in Parliament held by women (%):**

*Lower or Single House: 3.6%*

*Upper House or Senate: 25.9%*

**Year Women Received the Right to Vote:**

1950

**Year Women Received the Right to Stand for Election:**

1957

\*The Gender Development Index (GDI) is a composite index which measures the average achievement in a country. While very similar to the Human Development Index in its use of the same variables, the GDI adjusts the average achievement of each country in terms of life expectancy, enrollment in schools, income, and literacy in accordance to the disparities between males and females.

\*The Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM) is a composite index measuring gender inequality in

three of the basic dimensions of empowerment; economic participation and decision-making, political participation and decision-making, and power over economic resources.

\*Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is defined as the average number of babies born to women during their reproductive years. A TFR of 2.1 is considered the replacement rate; once a TFR of a population reaches 2.1 the population will remain stable assuming no immigration or emigration takes place. When the TFR is greater than 2.1 a population will increase and when it is less than 2.1 a population will eventually decrease, although due to the age structure of a population it will take years before a low TFR is translated into lower population.

\*Maternal Mortality Rate is the number of deaths to women per 100,000 live births that resulted from conditions related to pregnancy and or delivery related complications.

\*Economically Active Females are the share of the female population, ages 15 and above, whom supply, or are able to supply, labor for the production of goods and services.

\*Female Contributing Family Workers are those females who work without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative living in the same household.

\*Estimated Earned Income is measured according to Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) in US dollars.

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## **Global Gender Gap Index**

### Global Gender Gap Index

#### Editor's Note:

The Global Gender Gap Index by the World Economic Forum ranks most of the world's countries in terms of the division of resources and opportunities among males and females. Specifically, the ranking assesses the gender inequality gap in these four arenas:

1. Economic participation and opportunity (salaries and high skilled employment participation levels)
2. Educational attainment (access to basic and higher level education)
3. Political empowerment (representation in decision-making structures)
4. Health and survival (life expectancy and sex ratio)

	2010 rank	2010 score	2010 rank among 2009 countries	2009 rank	2009 score	2008 rank	2008 score	2007 rank
Country								
Iceland	1	0.8496	1	1	0.8276	4	0.7999	4
Norway	2	0.8404	2	3	0.8227	1	0.8239	2
Finland	3	0.8260	3	2	0.8252	2	0.8195	3
Sweden	4	0.8024	4	4	0.8139	3	0.8139	1
New Zealand	5	0.7808	5	5	0.7880	5	0.7859	5
Ireland	6	0.7773	6	8	0.7597	8	0.7518	9
Denmark	7	0.7719	7	7	0.7628	7	0.7538	8
Lesotho	8	0.7678	8	10	0.7495	16	0.7320	26
Philippines	9	0.7654	9	9	0.7579	6	0.7568	6
Switzerland	10	0.7562	10	13	0.7426	14	0.7360	40
Spain	11	0.7554	11	17	0.7345	17	0.7281	10
South Africa	12	0.7535	12	6	0.7709	22	0.7232	20
Germany	13	0.7530	13	12	0.7449	11	0.7394	7



Belgium	14	0.7509	14	33	0.7165	28	0.7163	19
United Kingdom	15	0.7460	15	15	0.7402	13	0.7366	11
Sri Lanka	16	0.7458	16	16	0.7402	12	0.7371	15
Netherlands	17	0.7444	17	11	0.7490	9	0.7399	12
Latvia	18	0.7429	18	14	0.7416	10	0.7397	13
United States	19	0.7411	19	31	0.7173	27	0.7179	31
Canada	20	0.7372	20	25	0.7196	31	0.7136	18
Trinidad and Tobago	21	0.7353	21	19	0.7298	19	0.7245	46
Mozambique	22	0.7329	22	26	0.7195	18	0.7266	43
Australia	23	0.7271	23	20	0.7282	21	0.7241	17
Cuba	24	0.7253	24	29	0.7176	25	0.7195	22
Namibia	25	0.7238	25	32	0.7167	30	0.7141	29
Luxembourg	26	0.7231	26	63	0.6889	66	0.6802	58
Mongolia	27	0.7194	27	22	0.7221	40	0.7049	62
Costa Rica	28	0.7194	28	27	0.7180	32	0.7111	28
Argentina	29	0.7187	29	24	0.7211	24	0.7209	33
Nicaragua	30	0.7176	30	49	0.7002	71	0.6747	90

Barbados	31	0.7176	31	21	0.7236	26	0.7188	n/a
Portugal	32	0.7171	32	46	0.7013	39	0.7051	37
Uganda	33	0.7169	33	40	0.7067	43	0.6981	50
Moldova	34	0.7160	34	36	0.7104	20	0.7244	21
Lithuania	35	0.7132	35	30	0.7175	23	0.7222	14
Bahamas	36	0.7128	36	28	0.7179	n/a	n/a	n/a
Austria	37	0.7091	37	42	0.7031	29	0.7153	27
Guyana	38	0.7090	38	35	0.7108	n/a	n/a	n/a
Panama	39	0.7072	39	43	0.7024	34	0.7095	38
Ecuador	40	0.7072	40	23	0.7220	35	0.7091	44
Kazakhstan	41	0.7055	41	47	0.7013	45	0.6976	32
Slovenia	42	0.7047	42	52	0.6982	51	0.6937	49
Poland	43	0.7037	43	50	0.6998	49	0.6951	60
Jamaica	44	0.7037	44	48	0.7013	44	0.6980	39
Russian Federation	45	0.7036	45	51	0.6987	42	0.6994	45
France	46	0.7025	46	18	0.7331	15	0.7341	51
Estonia	47	0.7018	47	37	0.7094	37	0.7076	30
Chile	48	0.7013	48	64	0.6884	65	0.6818	86

Macedonia, FYR	49	0.6996	49	53	0.6950	53	0.6914	35
Bulgaria	50	0.6983	50	38	0.7072	36	0.7077	25
Kyrgyz Republic	51	0.6973	51	41	0.7058	41	0.7045	70
Israel	52	0.6957	52	45	0.7019	56	0.6900	36
Croatia	53	0.6939	53	54	0.6944	46	0.6967	16
Honduras	54	0.6927	54	62	0.6893	47	0.6960	68
Colombia	55	0.6927	55	56	0.6939	50	0.6944	24
Singapore	56	0.6914	56	84	0.6664	84	0.6625	77
Thailand	57	0.6910	57	59	0.6907	52	0.6917	52
Greece	58	0.6908	58	85	0.6662	75	0.6727	72
Uruguay	59	0.6897	59	57	0.6936	54	0.6907	78
Peru	60	0.6895	60	44	0.7024	48	0.6959	75
China	61	0.6881	61	60	0.6907	57	0.6878	73
Botswana	62	0.6876	62	39	0.7071	63	0.6839	53
Ukraine	63	0.6869	63	61	0.6896	62	0.6856	57
Venezuela	64	0.6863	64	69	0.6839	59	0.6875	55
Czech Republic	65	0.6850	65	74	0.6789	69	0.6770	64

Tanzania	66	0.6829	66	73	0.6797	38	0.7068	34
Romania	67	0.6826	67	70	0.6805	70	0.6763	47
Malawi	68	0.6824	68	76	0.6738	81	0.6664	87
Paraguay	69	0.6804	69	66	0.6868	100	0.6379	69
Ghana	70	0.6782	70	80	0.6704	77	0.6679	63
Slovak Republic	71	0.6778	71	68	0.6845	64	0.6824	54
Vietnam	72	0.6776	72	71	0.6802	68	0.6778	42
Dominican Republic	73	0.6774	73	67	0.6859	72	0.6744	65
Italy	74	0.6765	74	72	0.6798	67	0.6788	84
Gambia, The	75	0.6762	75	75	0.6752	85	0.6622	95
Bolivia	76	0.6751	76	82	0.6693	80	0.6667	80
Brueni Darussalem	77	0.6748	77	94	0.6524	99	0.6392	n/a
Albania	78	0.6726	78	91	0.6601	87	0.6591	66
Hungary	79	0.6720	79	65	0.6879	60	0.6867	61
Madagascar	80	0.6713	80	77	0.6732	74	0.6736	89
Angola	81	0.6712	81	106	0.6353	114	0.6032	110

Bangladesh	82	0.6702	82	93	0.6526	90	0.6531	100
Malta	83	0.6695	83	88	0.6635	83	0.6634	76
Armenia	84	0.6669	84	90	0.6619	78	0.6677	71
Brazil	85	0.6655	85	81	0.6695	73	0.6737	74
Cyprus	86	0.6642	86	79	0.6706	76	0.6694	82
Indonesia	87	0.6615	87	92	0.6580	93	0.6473	81
Georgia	88	0.6598	88	83	0.6680	82	0.6654	67
Tajikistan	89	0.6598	89	86	0.6661	89	0.6541	79
El Salvador	90	0.6596	90	55	0.6939	58	0.6875	48
Mexico	91	0.6577	91	98	0.6503	97	0.6441	93
Zimbabwe	92	0.6574	92	95	0.6518	92	0.6485	88
Belize	93	0.6536	93	87	0.6636	86	0.6610	94
Japan	94	0.6524	94	101	0.6447	98	0.6434	91
Mauritius	95	0.6520	95	96	0.6513	95	0.6466	85
Kenya	96	0.6499	96	97	0.6512	88	0.6547	83
Cambodia	97	0.6482	97	104	0.6410	94	0.6469	98
Malaysia	98	0.6479	98	100	0.6467	96	0.6442	92
Maldives	99	0.6452	99	99	0.6482	91	0.6501	99

Azerbaijan	100	0.6446	100	89	0.6626	61	0.6856	59
Senegal	101	0.6414	101	102	0.6427	n/a	n/a	n/a
Suriname	102	0.6407	102	78	0.6726	79	0.6674	56
United Arab Emirates	103	0.6397	103	112	0.6198	105	0.6220	105
Korea, Rep.	104	0.6342	104	115	0.6146	108	0.6154	97
Kuwait	105	0.6318	105	105	0.6356	101	0.6358	96
Zambia	106	0.6293	106	107	0.6310	106	0.6205	101
Tunisia	107	0.6266	107	109	0.6233	103	0.6295	102
Fiji	108	0.6256	108	103	0.6414	n/a	n/a	n/a
Guatemala	109	0.6238	109	111	0.6209	112	0.6072	106
Bahrain	110	0.6217	110	116	0.6136	121	0.5927	115
Burkina Faso	111	0.6162	111	120	0.6081	115	0.6029	117
India	112	0.6155	112	114	0.6151	113	0.6060	114
Mauritania	113	0.6152	113	119	0.6103	110	0.6117	111
Cameroon	114	0.6110	114	118	0.6108	117	0.6017	116
Nepal	115	0.6084	115	110	0.6213	120	0.5942	125
Lebanon*	116	0.6084	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Qatar	117	0.6059	116	125	0.5907	119	0.5948	109
Nigeria	118	0.6055	117	108	0.6280	102	0.6339	107
Algeria	119	0.6052	118	117	0.6119	111	0.6111	108
Jordan	120	0.6048	119	113	0.6182	104	0.6275	104
Ethiopia	121	0.6019	120	122	0.5948	122	0.5867	113
Oman	122	0.5950	121	123	0.5938	118	<a href="#">0.5960</a>	119
Iran	123	0.5933	122	128	0.5839	116	0.6021	118
Syria	124	0.5926	123	121	0.6072	107	0.6181	103
Egypt	125	0.5899	124	126	0.5862	124	0.5832	120
Turkey	126	0.5876	125	129	0.5828	123	0.5853	121
Morocco	127	0.5767	126	124	0.5926	125	0.5757	122
Benin	128	0.5719	127	131	0.5643	126	0.5582	123
Saudi Arabia	129	0.5713	128	130	0.5651	128	0.5537	124
Côte d'Ivoire*	130	0.5691	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mali	131	0.5680	129	127	0.5860	109	0.6117	112
Pakistan	132	0.5465	130	132	0.5458	127	0.5549	126
Chad	133	0.5330	131	133	0.5417	129	0.5290	127
Yemen	134	0.4603	132	134	0.4609	130	0.4664	128

Belarus	n/a	n/a	n/a	34	0.7141	33	0.7099	23
Uzbekistan	n/a	n/a	n/a	58	0.6913	55	0.6906	41

\*new country 2010

### Commentary:

According to the report's index, Nordic countries, such as [Iceland](#), [Norway](#), [Finland](#), and [Sweden](#) have continued to dominate at the top of the ranking for gender equality. Meanwhile, [France](#) has seen a notable decline in the ranking, largely as a result of decreased number of women holding ministerial portfolios in that country. In the Americas, the [United States](#) has risen in the ranking to top the region, predominantly as a result of a decreasing wage gap, as well as higher number of women holding key positions in the current Obama administration. [Canada](#) has continued to remain as one of the top ranking countries of the Americas, followed by the small Caribbean island nation of Trinidad and Tobago, which has the distinction of being among the top three countries of the Americas in the realm of gender equality. [Lesotho](#) and South African ranked highly in the index, leading not only among African countries but also in global context. Despite [Lesotho](#) still lagging in the area of life expectancy, its high ranking was attributed to high levels of female participation in the labor force and female literacy. The [Philippines](#) and [Sri Lanka](#) were the top ranking countries for gender equality for Asia, ranking highly also in global context. The [Philippines](#) has continued to show strong performance in all strong performance on all four dimensions (detailed above) of the index. Finally, in the Arab world, the [United Arab Emirates](#) held the highest-rank within that region of the world; however, its placement near the bottom of the global list highlights the fact that Arab countries are generally poor performers when it comes to the matter of gender equality in global scope.

### Source:

This data is derived from the latest edition of The Global Gender Gap Report by the World Economic Forum.

Available at URL:



<http://www.weforum.org/en/Communities/Women%20Leaders%20and%20Gender%20Parity/Gende>

Updated:

Based on latest available data as set forth in chart; reviewed in 2014

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## Culture and Arts

Content to come!

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## Etiquette

### Cultural Dos and Taboos

1. The handshake is the customary form of greeting. In business and social meetings make sure you don't exclude anyone from the greeting. Family members and close friends may kiss each other on both cheeks or hug.
2. Dress depends on the situation. Business dress should be smart and fashionable. Certain restaurants and social activities will require formal dress.
3. Table manner reflect a French influence. When dining, the wrists remain above the table.
4. Social events will often begin later in the evening.
5. Good topics of conversation are culture, Haitian history, sports, family and international politics. One may wish to avoid conversing on local politics and economics until a good rapport is established between acquaintances.
6. It is fine to bring gifts if invited to someone's home for dinner.
7. Haitian hospitality means generosity. One should never refuse a gift even if the giver is in a poor economic state. A refusal of a gift may be regarded as insulting, and it may convey some degree of

arrogance.

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## Travel Information

**Please Note: This is a generalized travel guide and it is intended to coalesce several resources, which a traveler might find useful, regardless of a particular destination. As such, it does not include travel warnings for specific "hot spot" destinations.**

**For travel alerts and warnings, please see the United States Department of State's listings available at URL:**

**<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html>**

**Please note that travel to the following countries, based on these warnings, is ill-advised, or should be undertaken with the utmost precaution:**

**Afghanistan, Algeria, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, El Salvador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Honduras, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, North Korea, Pakistan, Palestinian Territories of West Bank and Gaza, Philippines areas of Sulu Archipelago, Mindanao, and southern Sulu Sea, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, Venezuela, and Yemen.**

### **International Travel Guide**

#### **Checklist for Travelers**

**1. Take out travel insurance to cover hospital treatment or medical evacuation. Overseas medical costs are expensive to most international travelers, where one's domestic, nationalized or even**

private health insurance plans will not provide coverage outside one's home country. Learn about "reciprocal insurance plans" that some international health care companies might offer.

2. Make sure that one's travel insurance is appropriate. If one intends to indulge in adventurous activities, such as parasailing, one should be sure that one is fully insured in such cases. Many traditional insurance policies do not provide coverage in cases of extreme circumstances.
3. Take time to learn about one's destination country and culture. Read and learn about the place one is traveling. Also check political, economic and socio-cultural developments at the destination by reading country-specific travel reports and fact sheets noted below.
4. Get the necessary visas for the country (or countries) one intends to visit - but be aware that a visa does not guarantee entry. A number of useful sites regarding visa and other entry requirements are noted below.
5. Keep in regular contact with friends and relatives back at home by phone or email, and be sure to leave a travel itinerary.
6. Protect one's personal information by making copies of one's passport details, insurance policy, travelers checks and credit card numbers. Taking copies of such documents with you, while leaving another collection copies with someone at home is also good practice for travelers. Taking copies of one's passport photograph is also recommended.
7. Stay healthy by taking all possible precautions against illness. Also, be sure to take extra supplies of prescription drugs along for the trip, while also taking time to pack general pharmaceutical supplies, such as aspirin and other such painkillers, bandages, stomach ailment medication, anti-inflammatory medication and anti-bacterial medication.
8. Do not carry illicit drugs. Understand that the punishment for possession or use of illegal drugs in some countries may be capital punishment. Make sure your prescription drugs are legal in the countries you plan to visit.
9. Know the laws of one's destination country and culture; be sure to understand the repercussions of breaking those laws and regulations. Often the transparency and freedoms of the juridical system at home is not consistent with that of one's destination country. Become aware of these complexities and subtleties before you travel.
10. For longer stays in a country, or where the security situation is volatile, one should register one's self and traveling companions at the local embassy or consulate of one's country of citizenship.
11. Women should take care to be prepared both culturally and practically for traveling in a different country and culture. One should be sure to take sufficient supplies of personal feminine products and prescription drugs. One should also learn about local cultural standards for women, including norms of dressing. Be aware that it is simply inappropriate and unsafe for women to travel alone in some countries, and take the necessary precautions to avoid risk-filled situations.
12. If one is traveling with small children, one should pack extra supplies, make arrangements with the travel carrier for proper seating that would adequately accommodate children, infants or toddlers. Note also that whether one is male or female, traveling with children means that one's hands are thus not free to carry luggage and bags. Be especially aware that this makes one vulnerable to pickpockets, thieves and other sorts of crime.

**13.** Make proper arrangements for accommodations, well in advance of one's arrival at a destination. Some countries have limited accommodation, while others may have culturally distinctive facilities. Learning about these practicalities before one travels will greatly aid the enjoyment of one's trip.

**14.** Travel with different forms of currency and money (cash, traveler's checks and credit cards) in anticipation that venues may not accept one or another form of money. Also, ensuring that one's financial resources are not contained in one location, or by one person (if one is traveling with others) can be a useful measure, in the event that one loses a wallet or purse.

**15.** Find out about transportation in the destination country. In some places, it might be advisable to hire a local driver or taxi guide for safety reasons, while in other countries, enjoying one's travel experience may well be enhanced by renting a vehicle and seeing the local sights and culture independently. Costs may also be prohibitive for either of these choices, so again, prior planning is suggested.

### **Tips for Travelers**

- Check with your embassy, consulate, or appropriate government institution related to travel before traveling.
- Take out travel insurance (valid for US) including air ambulance service.
- Take precautions against malaria, dengue fever (repellents and anti-malarial drugs) as well as gastro-intestinal upsets.
- Leave copies of passports and valuable documents (including credit cards) with contact in your home country. Keep photocopies with you, but separate from the originals.
- Haiti has a high rate of violent crime; be on your guard and do not carry valuables or wear jewelry.
- Restrict travel to daytime; avoid certain routes (consulting hotel staff/car rental operators/hosts).
- Be aware that local emergency services are inadequate.
- Bring sufficient supplies of medicines if needed (e.g. diabetics/heart disease).
- Carry US dollar Travelers checks, one or two credit cards but only small amounts of cash.
- Enter next of kin details into the back of your passport.

- Don't carry illegal drugs; penalties can be severe.

Note: This information is directly quoted from the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Sources: *United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office*

### **Business Culture: Information for Business Travelers**

Haitians are open to working with foreign investors and are particularly well disposed towards North American businessmen. Most businessmen and women speak English fluently. Appointments with Haitian businessmen should be made in advance. Invitations to restaurants are appreciated and business is usually discussed in restaurants as much as in offices.

Sources: *United States Department of State Commercial Guides*

For more information on etiquette in Haiti see our Cultural Etiquette page.

### **Online Resources Regarding Entry Requirements and Visas**

Foreign Entry Requirements for Americans from the United States Department of State  
[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1765.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html)

Visa Services for Non-Americans from the United States Department of State  
[http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa\\_1750.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/visa_1750.html)

Visa Bulletins from the United States Department of State  
[http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin\\_1360.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/frvi/bulletin/bulletin_1360.html)

Visa Waivers from the United States Department of State  
[http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without\\_1990.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/without/without_1990.html) - new

Passport and Visa Information from the Government of the United Kingdom  
<http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/>

Visa Information from the Government of Australia

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/visas/index.html>

Passport Information from the Government of Australia

<https://www.passports.gov.au/Web/index.aspx>

Passport Information from the Government of Canada

[http://www.voyage.gc.ca/preparation\\_information/passport\\_passeport-eng.asp](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/preparation_information/passport_passeport-eng.asp)

Visa Information from the Government of Canada

[http://www.voyage.gc.ca/preparation\\_information/visas-eng.asp](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/preparation_information/visas-eng.asp)

Online Visa Processing by Immigration Experts by VisaPro

<http://www.visapro.com>

Sources: United States Department of State, United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Government of Australia: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Canada Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Useful Online Resources for Travelers

Country-Specific Travel Information from United States

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/cis/cis\\_1765.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1765.html)

Travel Advice by Country from Government of United Kingdom

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/travel-advice-by-country/>

General Travel Advice from Government of Australia

<http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/General>

Travel Bulletins from the Government of Australia

<http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/TravelBulletins/>

Travel Tips from Government of Australia

<http://www.smartraveller.gov.au/tips/index.html>

Travel Checklist by Government of Canada

[http://www.voyage.gc.ca/preparation\\_information/checklist\\_sommaire-eng.asp](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/preparation_information/checklist_sommaire-eng.asp)

Travel Checklist from Government of United Kingdom

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/staying-safe/checklist>

Your trip abroad from United States Department of State

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures\\_1225.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/brochures/brochures_1225.html)

A safe trip abroad from United States Department of State

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety\\_1747.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/safety/safety_1747.html)

Tips for expatriates abroad from United States Department of State

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/residing/residing\\_1235.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/residing/residing_1235.html)

Tips for students from United States Department of State

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/studying/studying\\_1238.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/living/studying/studying_1238.html) <http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/broc>

Medical information for travelers from United States Department of State

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health\\_1185.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/health/health_1185.html)

US Customs Travel information

<http://www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/travel/>

Sources: United States Department of State; United States Customs Department, United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Government of Australia; Government of Canada: Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade

Other Practical Online Resources for Travelers

Foreign Language Phrases for Travelers

<http://www.travlang.com/languages/>

<http://www.omniglot.com/language/phrases/index.htm>

World Weather Forecasts

<http://www.intellicast.com/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/>

<http://www.worldweather.org/>

Worldwide Time Zones, Map, World Clock

<http://www.timeanddate.com/>

<http://www.worldtimezone.com/>

International Airport Codes

<http://www.world-airport-codes.com/>

International Dialing Codes

<http://www.kropla.com/dialcode.htm>

<http://www.countrycallingcodes.com/>

International Phone Guide

<http://www.kropla.com/phones.htm>

International Mobile Phone Guide

<http://www.kropla.com/mobilephones.htm>

International Internet Café Search Engine

<http://cybercaptive.com/>

Global Internet Roaming

<http://www.kropla.com/roaming.htm>

World Electric Power Guide

<http://www.kropla.com/electric.htm>

<http://www.kropla.com/electric2.htm>

World Television Standards and Codes

<http://www.kropla.com/tv.htm>

International Currency Exchange Rates

<http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

Banking and Financial Institutions Across the World

<http://www.123world.com/banks/index.html>

International Credit Card or Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Locator

<http://visa.via.infonow.net/locator/global/>

<http://www.mastercard.com/us/personal/en/cardholderservices/atmlocations/index.html>

International Chambers of Commerce

<http://www.123world.com/chambers/index.html>

World Tourism Websites

<http://123world.com/tourism/>

Diplomatic and Consular Information



United States Diplomatic Posts Around the World

<http://www.usembassy.gov/>

United Kingdom Diplomatic Posts Around the World

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/embassies-and-posts/find-an-embassy-overseas/>

Australia's Diplomatic Posts Around the World

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/missions/>

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/embassies.html>

Canada's Embassies and High Commissions

<http://www.international.gc.ca/ciw-cdm/embassies-ambassades.aspx>

Resources for Finding Embassies and other Diplomatic Posts Across the World

<http://www.escapeartist.com/embassy1/embassy1.htm>

Safety and Security

Travel Warnings by Country from Government of Australia

<http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/>

Travel Warnings and Alerts from United States Department of State

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/tw/tw\\_1764.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/tw/tw_1764.html)

[http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis\\_pa\\_tw/pa/pa\\_1766.html](http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/pa/pa_1766.html)

Travel Reports and Warnings by Government of Canada

[http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries\\_pays/menu-eng.asp](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/menu-eng.asp)

[http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries\\_pays/updates\\_mise-a-jour-eng.asp](http://www.voyage.gc.ca/countries_pays/updates_mise-a-jour-eng.asp)

Travel Warnings from Government of United Kingdom

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/travel-advice-by-country/>

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/travel-advice-by-country/?action=noTravelAll#noTravelAll>

Sources: United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the United States Department of State, the Government of Canada: Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Government of Australia: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Other Safety and Security Online Resources for Travelers

United States Department of State Information on Terrorism

<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/>

Government of the United Kingdom Resource on the Risk of Terrorism

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1044011304926>

Government of Canada Terrorism Guide

<http://www.international.gc.ca/crime/terrorism-terrorisme.aspx?lang=eng>

Information on Terrorism by Government of Australia

<http://www.dfat.gov.au/icat/index.html>

FAA Resource on Aviation Safety

<http://www.faasafety.gov/>

In-Flight Safety Information for Air Travel (by British Airways crew trainer, Anna Warman)

<http://www.warman.demon.co.uk/anna/inflight.html>

Hot Spots: Travel Safety and Risk Information

<http://www.airsecurity.com/hotspots/HotSpots.asp>

Information on Human Rights

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/hr/>

Sources: The United States Department of State, the United States Customs Department, the Government of Canada, the Government of United Kingdom, the Government of Australia, the Federal Aviation Authority, Anna Warman's In-flight Website, Hot Spots Travel and Risk Information

## **Diseases/Health Data**

**Please Note: Most of the entry below constitutes a generalized health advisory, which a traveler might find useful, regardless of a particular destination.**

**As a supplement, however, reader will also find below a list of countries flagged with current health notices and alerts issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).**

**Please note that travel to the following countries, based on these 3 levels of warnings, is ill-advised, or should be undertaken with the utmost precaution:**

**Level 3 (highest level of concern; avoid non-essential travel) --**

**Guinea - Ebola**

**Liberia - Ebola**

**Nepal - Earthquake zone**

**Sierra Leone - Ebola**

**Level 2 (intermediate level of concern; use utmost caution during travel) --**

**Cameroon - Polio**

**Somalia - Polio**

**Vanuatu - Tropical Cyclone zone**

**Throughout Middle East and Arabia Peninsula - MERS ((Middle East Respiratory Syndrome)**

**Level 1 (standard level of concern; use practical caution during travel) -**

**Australia - Ross River disease**

**Bosnia-Herzegovina - Measles**

**Brazil - Dengue Fever**

**Brazil - Malaria**

**Brazil - Zika**

**China - H7N9 Avian flu**

**Cuba - Cholera**

**Egypt - H5N1 Bird flu**

**Ethiopia - Measles**

**Germany - Measles**

**Japan - Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD)**

**Kyrgyzstan - Measles**

**Malaysia -Dengue Fever**  
**Mexico - Chikungunya**  
**Mexico - Hepatitis A**  
**Nigeria - Meningitis**  
**Philippines - Measles**  
**Scotland - Mumps**  
**Singapore - Hand, foot, and mouth disease (HFMD)**  
**South Korea - MERS ((Middle East Respiratory Syndrome)**  
**Throughout Caribbean - Chikungunya**  
**Throughout Central America - Chikungunya**  
**Throughout South America - Chikungunya**  
**Throughout Pacific Islands - Chikungunya**

**For specific information related to these health notices and alerts please see the CDC's listing available at URL:**

**<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>**

### **Health Information for Travelers to Haiti**

The preventive measures you need to take while traveling in the Caribbean depend on the areas you visit and the length of time you stay. You should observe the precautions listed in this document in most areas of this region.

Travelers' diarrhea, the number one illness in travelers, can be caused by viruses, bacteria, or parasites, which can contaminate food or water. Infections may cause diarrhea and vomiting (*E. coli*, *Salmonella*, cholera, and parasites), fever (typhoid fever and toxoplasmosis), or liver damage (hepatitis). Make sure your food and drinking water are safe. (See below.)

Malaria is a preventable infection that can be fatal if left untreated. Prevent infection by taking prescription antimalarial drugs and protecting yourself against mosquito bites (see below). Risk for malaria is high all year in all areas of Haiti and in rural areas of the Dominican Republic, especially areas bordering Haiti. You are not at risk if you travel only to other Caribbean islands. Travelers to Haiti and rural Dominican Republic should take chloroquine to prevent malaria. For more information about detailed locations, see *Malaria in the Caribbean* (<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/regionalmalaria/caribbean.htm>).

A certificate of yellow fever vaccination may be required for entry into certain areas of these countries if you are arriving from a tropical South American or sub-Saharan African country. For detailed information, see *Comprehensive Yellow Fever Vaccination Requirements* (<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/yelfever.htm>).

Dengue, filariasis, and leishmaniasis are diseases carried by insects that also occur in this region. Protecting yourself against insect bites (see below) will help to prevent these diseases.

Schistosomiasis, a parasitic infection, is found in fresh water in parts of Antigua, the Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, and St. Lucia. Do not swim in fresh water (except in well-chlorinated swimming pools) in these countries. (For more information, please see the Swimming Precautions on the Making Travel Safe page at URL <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/safety.htm>.)

### **CDC Recommends the Following Vaccines (as Appropriate for Age):**

See your doctor at least 4-6 weeks before your trip to allow time for shots to take effect.

- Hepatitis A or immune globulin (IG) should be considered if travel to areas of questionable sanitation is anticipated.
- Hepatitis B, if you might be exposed to blood (for example, health-care workers) or travelers who have sexual contact with the local population, stay longer than 6 months in Haiti or the Dominican Republic, or might be exposed through medical treatment.
- Rabies, if you might be exposed to wild or domestic animals through your work or recreation.
- Typhoid, particularly if you are visiting developing countries in this region.
- Yellow fever, for travelers going outside urban areas in Trinidad and Tobago.
- As needed, booster doses for tetanus-diphtheria and measles. Hepatitis B vaccine is now recommended for all infants and for children ages 11-12 years who did not receive the series as infants.

### **All travelers should take the following precautions, no matter the destination:**

- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Because motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of injury among travelers, walk and drive defensively. Avoid travel at night if possible and always use seat belts.
- Always use latex condoms to reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.
- Don't eat or drink dairy products unless you know they have been pasteurized.
- Don't share needles with anyone.
- Eat only thoroughly cooked food or fruits and vegetables you have peeled yourself. Remember: boil it, cook it, peel it, or forget it.
- Never eat undercooked ground beef and poultry, raw eggs, and unpasteurized dairy products. Raw shellfish is particularly dangerous to persons who have liver disease or compromised immune systems.

### **Travelers visiting undeveloped areas should take the following precautions:**

### **To Stay Healthy, Do:**

- Drink only bottled or boiled water, or carbonated (bubbly) drinks in cans or bottles. Avoid tap water, fountain drinks, and ice cubes. If this is not possible, make water safer by BOTH filtering through an "absolute 1-micron or less" filter AND adding iodine tablets to the filtered water. "Absolute 1-micron filters" are found in camping/outdoor supply stores.
- If you visit an area where there is risk for malaria, take your malaria prevention medication before, during, and after travel, as directed. (See your doctor for a prescription.)
- Protect yourself from insects by remaining in well-screened areas, using repellents (applied sparingly at >4-hour intervals) and permethrin-impregnated mosquito nets, and wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants from dusk through dawn.
- To prevent fungal and parasitic infections, keep feet clean and dry, and do not go barefoot.

### **To Avoid Getting Sick:**

- Don't eat food purchased from street vendors.
- Don't drink beverages with ice.
- Don't handle animals (especially monkeys, dogs, and cats), to avoid bites and serious diseases (including rabies and plague). (For more information, please see the Animal-Associated Hazards on the Making Travel Safe page.)
- Don't swim in fresh water. Salt water is usually safer. (For more information, please see the Swimming Precautions on the Making Travel Safe page.)

### **What You Need To Bring with You:**

- Long-sleeved shirt and long pants to wear whenever possible to prevent illnesses carried by insects (e.g., malaria, dengue, and leishmaniasis).
- Insect repellent containing DEET (diethylmethyltoluamide), in 30%-35% strength for adults and 6%-10% for children. If you are not staying in air-conditioned or well-screened housing, you should purchase a bed net impregnated with the insecticide permethrin. (Bed nets can be purchased in camping or military supply stores.)
- Over-the-counter antidiarrheal medicine to take if you have diarrhea.
- Iodine tablets and portable water filters to purify water if bottled water is not available. See above for more detailed information about water filters.
- Sunblock, sunglasses, hat.
- Prescription medications: make sure you have enough to last during your trip, as well as a copy of the prescription(s).

### **After You Return Home:**

If you have visited an area where there is risk for malaria, continue taking your malaria medication

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weekly for 4 weeks after you leave the area.

If you become ill-even as long as a year after your return-tell your doctor where you have traveled.

**For More Information:**

Ask your doctor or check the CDC web sites for information about how to protect yourself against diseases that occur in the Caribbean, such as:

**For information about diseases-**

Carried by Insects  
Dengue, Malaria

Carried in Food or Water  
Escherichia coli, diarrhea, Hepatitis A, Schistosomiasis, Typhoid Fever

Person-to-Person Contact  
Hepatitis B, HIV/AIDS

For more information about these and other diseases, please check the Diseases (<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/diseases.htm>) section and the Health Topics A - Z (<http://www.cdc.gov/health/diseases.htm>).

*Note:*

*Haiti is located in the Caribbean health region.*

*Sources:*

*The Center for Disease Control Destinations Website:*  
<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/destinat.htm>





# **Chapter 6**

## **Environmental Overview**

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## Environmental Issues

### General Overview:

Haiti is one of the most densely populated countries, as well as one of the poorest nation states, in the Western Hemisphere. Its environmental challenges are directly attributable to its population pressures, in conjunction with its level of economic destitution, which places desperate demands on lands, forests and other resources for agriculture and fuel.

Environmental challenges have so adversely affected the landscape that little remains of Haiti 's once luxuriant forest cover, since most of it has been cut down for fuel or to facilitate farming. The degree to which unremitting deforestation has taken place, in order to make way for these aforementioned activities has led to destructive soil erosion and even desertification. With soil erosion and desertification far advanced, Haiti is, therefore, an ecological disaster.

### Current Issues:

- extensive deforestation (much of the remaining forested land is being cleared for agriculture and use as fuel)
- devastating soil erosion
- inadequate supplies of potable water
- widespread water-born diseases
- decimated fisheries

### Total Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Mtc):

2.0

### Country Rank (GHG output):

136th

**Natural Hazards:**

- severe storms
- hurricanes

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## **Environmental Policy**

**Regulation and Jurisdiction:**

The regulation and protection of the environment in Haiti is under the jurisdiction of the following:

- Ministry of the Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development

**Major Non-Governmental Organizations:**

- Pan American Development Foundation's Agro-forestry Extension Project

**International Environmental Accords:**

*Party to:*

- Biodiversity
- Climate Change
- Desertification
- Law of the Sea
- Marine Dumping
- Marine Life Conservation
- Ozone Layer Protection

*Signed but not ratified:*

- Hazardous Wastes
- Nuclear Test Ban

*Kyoto Protocol Status (year ratified):*

2005

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## Greenhouse Gas Ranking

Greenhouse Gas Ranking

## GHG Emissions Rankings

Country Rank	Country
1	United States
2	China
4	Russia
5	Japan
6	India

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7	Germany
8	United Kingdom
9	Canada
10	Korea, South
11	Italy
12	Mexico
13	France
14	South Africa
15	Iran
16	Indonesia
17	Australia
18	Spain
19	Brazil
20	Saudi Arabia
21	Ukraine
22	Poland
23	Taiwan
24	Turkey

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25	Thailand
26	Netherlands
27	Kazakhstan
28	Malaysia
29	Egypt
30	Venezuela
31	Argentina
32	Uzbekistan
33	Czech Republic
34	Belgium
35	Pakistan
36	Romania
37	Greece
38	United Arab Emirates
39	Algeria
40	Nigeria
41	Austria
42	Iraq

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43	Finland
44	Philippines
45	Vietnam
46	Korea, North
47	Israel
48	Portugal
49	Colombia
50	Belarus
51	Kuwait
52	Hungary
53	Chile
54	Denmark
55	Serbia & Montenegro
56	Sweden
57	Syria
58	Libya
59	Bulgaria
60	Singapore

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61	Switzerland
62	Ireland
63	Turkmenistan
64	Slovakia
65	Bangladesh
66	Morocco
67	New Zealand
68	Oman
69	Qatar
70	Azerbaijan
71	Norway
72	Peru
73	Cuba
74	Ecuador
75	Trinidad & Tobago
76	Croatia
77	Tunisia
78	Dominican Republic



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79	Lebanon
80	Estonia
81	Yemen
82	Jordan
83	Slovenia
84	Bahrain
85	Angola
86	Bosnia & Herzegovina
87	Lithuania
88	Sri Lanka
89	Zimbabwe
90	Bolivia
91	Jamaica
92	Guatemala
93	Luxembourg
94	Myanmar
95	Sudan
96	Kenya

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97	Macedonia
98	Mongolia
99	Ghana
100	Cyprus
101	Moldova
102	Latvia
103	El Salvador
104	Brunei
105	Honduras
106	Cameroon
107	Panama
108	Costa Rica
109	Cote d'Ivoire
110	Kyrgyzstan
111	Tajikistan
112	Ethiopia
113	Senegal
114	Uruguay

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115	Gabon
116	Albania
117	Nicaragua
118	Botswana
119	Paraguay
120	Tanzania
121	Georgia
122	Armenia
123	Congo, RC
124	Mauritius
125	Nepal
126	Mauritius
127	Nepal
128	Mauritania
129	Malta
130	Papua New Guinea
131	Zambia
132	Suriname

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133	Iceland
134	Togo
135	Benin
136	Uganda
137	Bahamas
138	Haiti
139	Congo, DRC
140	Guyana
141	Mozambique
142	Guinea
143	Equatorial Guinea
144	Laos
145	Barbados
146	Niger
147	Fiji
148	Burkina Faso
149	Malawi
150	Swaziland

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151	Belize
152	Afghanistan
153	Sierra Leone
154	Eritrea
155	Rwanda
156	Mali
157	Seychelles
158	Cambodia
159	Liberia
160	Bhutan
161	Maldives
162	Antigua & Barbuda
163	Djibouti
164	Saint Lucia
165	Gambia
166	Guinea-Bissau
167	Central African Republic
168	Palau

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169	Burundi
170	Grenada
171	Lesotho
172	Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
173	Solomon Islands
174	Samoa
175	Cape Verde
176	Nauru
177	Dominica
178	Saint Kitts & Nevis
179	Chad
180	Tonga
181	Sao Tome & Principe
182	Comoros
183	Vanuatu
185	Kiribati
Not Ranked	Andorra
Not Ranked	East Timor

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Not Ranked	Holy See
Not Ranked	Hong Kong
Not Ranked	Liechtenstein
Not Ranked	Marshall Islands
Not Ranked	Micronesia
Not Ranked	Monaco
Not Ranked	San Marino
Not Ranked	Somalia
Not Ranked	Tuvalu

\* European Union is ranked 3rd  
 Cook Islands are ranked 184th  
 Niue is ranked 186th

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## Global Environmental Snapshot

### **Introduction**

The countries of the world face many environmental challenges in common. Nevertheless, the nature and intensity of problem vary from region to region, as do various countries' respective capacities, in terms of affluence and infrastructure, to remediate threats to environmental quality.

Consciousness of perils affecting the global environment came to the fore in the last third or so of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has continued to intensify well into the new millennium. According to the United Nations Environment Programme, considerable environmental progress has been made at the level of institutional developments, international cooperation accords, and public participation.

Approximately two-dozen international environmental protection accords with global implications have been promulgated since the late 1970s under auspices of the United Nations and other international organizations, together with many additional regional agreements. Attempts to address and rectify environmental problems take the form of legal frameworks, economic instruments, environmentally sound technologies and cleaner production processes as well as conservation efforts. Environmental impact assessments have increasingly been applied across the globe.

Environmental degradation affects the quality, or aesthetics, of human life, but it also displays potential to undermine conditions necessary for the sustainability of human life. Attitudes toward the importance of environmental protection measures reflect ambivalence derived from this bifurcation. On one hand, steps such as cleaning up pollution, dedicating parkland, and suchlike, are seen as embellishments undertaken by wealthy societies already assured they can successfully perform those functions deemed, ostensibly, more essential-for instance, public health and education, employment and economic development. On the other hand, in poorer countries, activities causing environmental damage-for instance the land degradation effects of unregulated logging, slash-and-burn agriculture, overgrazing, and mining-can seem justified insofar as such activities provide incomes and livelihoods.

Rapid rates of resource depletion are associated with poverty and high population growth, themselves correlated, whereas consumption per capita is much higher in the most developed countries, despite these nations' recent progress in energy efficiency and conservation. It is impossible to sequester the global environmental challenge from related economic, social and political challenges.

First-tier industrialized countries have recently achieved measurable decreases in environmental pollution and the rate of resource depletion, a success not matched in middle income and developing countries. It is believed that the discrepancy is due to the fact that industrialized countries have more developed infrastructures to accommodate changes in environmental policy, to apply environmental technologies, and to invest in public education. The advanced industrialized countries incur relatively lower costs in alleviating environmental problems, in comparison to developing countries, since in the former even extensive environmental programs represent a rather minuscule percentage of total expenditures. Conversely, budget constraints, lagged provision of basic services to the population, and other factors such as debt service and militarization may preclude institution of minimal environmental protection measures in the poorest countries.

A synopsis for the current situation facing each region of the world follows:

### **Regional Synopsis: Africa**

The African continent, the world's second-largest landmass, encompasses many of the world's

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least developed countries. By global standards, urbanization is comparatively low but rising at a rapid rate. More heavily industrialized areas at the northern and southern ends of the continent experience the major share of industrial pollution. In other regions the most serious environmental problems typically stem from inefficient subsistence farming methods and other forms of land degradation, which have affected an increasingly extensive area under pressure of a widely impoverished, fast-growing population. Africa's distribution of natural resources is very uneven. It is the continent at greatest risk of desertification, especially in the Sahel region at the edge of the Sahara but also in other dry-range areas. Yet at the same time, Africa also harbors some of the earth's richest and most diverse biological zones.

### Key Points:

Up to half a billion hectares of African land are moderately to severely degraded, an occurrence reflecting short-fallow shifting cultivation and overgrazing as well as a climatic pattern of recurrent droughts.

Soil degradation is severe along the expanse directly south of the Sahara, from the west to the east coasts. Parts of southern Africa, central-eastern Africa, and the neighboring island of Madagascar suffer from serious soil degradation as well.

Africa contains about 17 percent of the world's forest cover, concentrated in the tropical belt of the continent. Many of the forests, however, are severely depleted, with an estimated 70 percent showing some degree of degradation.

Population growth has resulted in continuing loss of arable land, as inefficient subsistence farming techniques affect increasingly extensive areas. Efforts to implement settled, sustainable agriculture have met with some recent success, but much further progress in this direction is needed. Especially in previously uninhabited forestlands, concern over deforestation is intensifying.

By contrast, the African savanna remains the richest grassland in the world, supporting a substantial concentration of animal and plant life. Wildlife parks are sub-Saharan Africa's greatest tourist attraction, and with proper management-giving local people a stake in conservation and controlling the pace of development-could greatly enhance African economies.

Significant numbers of mammal species in parts of northern, southern and eastern Africa are currently threatened, while the biological diversity in Mauritania and Madagascar is even further compromised with over 20 percent of the mammal species in these two countries currently under threat.

With marine catch trends increasing from 500,000 metric tons in the 1950s to over 3,000,000 metric tons by 2000, there was increasing concern about the reduction in fisheries and marine life,

should this trend continue unabated.

Water resource vulnerability is a major concern in northeastern Africa, and a moderate concern across the rest of the continent. An exception is central Africa, which has plentiful water supplies.

Many Africans lack adequate access to resources, not just (if at all) because the resources are unevenly distributed geographically, but also through institutional failures such as faulty land tenure systems or political upheaval. The quality of Africa's natural resources, despite their spotty distribution, is in fact extraordinarily rich. The infrastructure needed to protect and benefit from this natural legacy, however, is largely lacking.

### **Regional Synopsis: Asia and the Pacific**

Asia-earth's largest landmass-and the many large and nearly innumerable small islands lying off its Pacific shore display extraordinarily contrasting landscapes, levels of development, and degrees of environmental stress. In the classification used here, the world's smallest continent, Australia, is also included in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific region is home to 9 of the world's 14 largest urban areas, and as energy use for utilities, industry and transport increases in developing economies, urban centers are subject to worsening air quality. Intense population density in places such as Bangladesh or Hong Kong is the quintessential image many people have of Asia, yet vast desert areas such as the Gobi and the world's highest mountain range, the Himalayas, span the continent as well. Forested areas in Southeast Asia and the islands of Indonesia and the Philippines were historically prized for their tropical hardwood, but in many places this resource is now severely depleted. Low-lying small island states are extremely vulnerable to the effects of global warming, both rising sea levels and an anticipated increase in cyclones.

#### **Key Points:**

Asian timber reserves are forecast to be depleted in the next 40 years. Loss of natural forest is irreversible in some areas, but plantation programs to restore tree cover may ameliorate a portion of the resulting land degradation.

Increased usage of fossil fuels in China and other parts of southern Asia is projected to result in a marked increase in emissions, especially in regard to carbon dioxide. The increased usage of energy has led to a marked upsurge in air pollution across the region.

Acidification is an emerging problem regionally, with sulfur dioxide emissions expected to triple by 2010 if the current growth rate is sustained. China, Thailand, India, and Korea seem to be

suffering from particularly high rates of acid deposition. By contrast, Asia's most highly developed economy, Japan, has effected substantial improvements in its environmental indicators.

Water pollution in the Pacific is an urgent concern since up to 70 percent of the water discharged into the region's waters receives no treatment. Additionally, the disposal of solid wastes, in like manner, poses a major threat in a region with many areas of high population density.

The Asia-Pacific region is the largest expanse of the world's land that is adversely affected by soil degradation.

The region around Australia reportedly suffers the largest degree of ozone depletion.

The microstates of the Pacific suffer land loss due to global warming, and the consequent rise in the levels of ocean waters. A high-emissions scenario and anthropogenic climate impact at the upper end of the currently predicted range would probably force complete evacuation of the lowest-elevation islands sometime in this century.

The species-rich reefs surrounding Southeast Asia are highly vulnerable to the deleterious effects of coastal development, land-based pollution, over-fishing and exploitative fishing methods, as well as marine pollution from oil spills and other activities.

With marine catch trends increasing from 5,000,000 metric tons in the 1950s to over 20,000,000 metric tons by 2000, there was increasing concern about the reduction in fisheries and marine life, should this trend continue unabated.

Significant numbers of mammal species in parts of China and south-east Asia are currently threatened, while the biological diversity in India, Japan, Australia, the Philippines, Indonesia and parts of Malaysia is even further compromised with over 20 percent of the mammal species in these countries currently under threat.

Water resource vulnerability is a serious concern in areas surrounding the Indian subcontinent.

### **Regional Synopsis: Central Asia**

The Central Asian republics, formerly in the Soviet Union, experience a range of environmental problems as the result of poorly executed agricultural, industrial, and nuclear programs during the Soviet era. Relatively low population densities are the norm, especially since upon the breakup of the U.S.S.R. many ethnic Russians migrated back to European Russia. In this largely semi-arid region, drought, water shortages, and soil salinization pose major challenges.

### Key Points:

The use of agricultural pesticides, such as DDT and other chemicals, has contributed to the contamination of soil and groundwater throughout the region.

Land and soil degradation, and in particular, increased salinization, is mostly attributable to faulty irrigation practices.

Significant desertification is also a problem in the region.

Air pollution is prevalent, mostly due to use of low octane automobile fuel.

Industrial pollution of the Caspian Sea and the Aral Sea, as a result of industrial effluents as well as mining and metal production, presents a challenge to the countries bordering these bodies of water.

One of the most severe environmental problems in the region is attributable to the several billion tons of hazardous materials stored in landfills across Central Asia.

Uzbekistan's particular problem involves the contraction of the Aral Sea, which has decreased in size by a third, as a consequence of river diversions and poor irrigation practices. The effect has been the near-total biological destruction of that body of water.

Kazakhstan, as a consequence of being the heartland of the former Soviet Union's nuclear program, has incurred a high of cancerous malignancies, biogenetic abnormalities and radioactive contamination.

While part of the Soviet Union, the republics in the region experienced very high levels of greenhouse gas emissions, as a consequence of rapid industrialization using cheap but dirty energy sources, especially coal.

By contrast, however, there have recently been substantial reductions in the level of greenhouse gas emissions, especially those attributable to coal burning, with further decreases anticipated over the next decade. These changes are partially due to the use of cleaner energy technologies, such as natural gas, augmented by governmental commitment to improving environmental standards.

### **Regional Synopsis: Europe**

Western Europe underwent dramatic transformation of its landscape, virtually eliminating large-scale natural areas, during an era of rapid industrialization, which intensified upon its recovery from World War II. In Eastern Europe and European Russia, intensive land development has been less

prevalent, so that some native forests and other natural areas remain. Air and water pollution from use of dirty fuels and industrial effluents, however, are more serious environmental problems in Eastern than in Western Europe, though recent trends show improvement in many indicators. Acid rain has inflicted heavy environmental damage across much of Europe, particularly on forests. Europe and North America are the only regions in which water usage for industry exceeds that for agriculture, although in Mediterranean nations agriculture is the largest water consumer.

Key Points:

Europe contributes 36 percent of the world's chlorofluorocarbon emissions, 30 percent of carbon dioxide emissions, and 25 percent of sulfur dioxide emissions.

Sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions are the cause of 30 to 50 percent of Central and Eastern Europe's deforestation.

Acid rain has been an environmental concern for decades and continues to be a challenge in parts of Western Europe.

Overexploitation of up to 60 percent of Europe's groundwater presents a problem in industrial and urban areas.

With marine catch trends increasing from 5,000,000 metric tons in the 1950s to over 20,000,000 metric tons by 2000, there was increasing concern about the reduction in fisheries and marine life, should this trend continue unabated.

Significant numbers of mammal species in parts of western Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia are currently threatened, while the biological diversity on the Iberian Peninsula is even further compromised with over 40 percent of the mammal species in this region currently under threat. As a result, there has been a 10 percent increase in protected areas of Europe.

A major environmental issue for Europe involves the depletion of various already endangered or threatened species, and most significantly, the decline of fish stocks. Some estimates suggest that up to 50 percent of the continent's fish species may be considered endangered species. Coastal fisheries have been over-harvested, resulting in catch limits or moratoriums on many commercially important fish species.

Fortunately, in the last few years, these policies have started to yield measurable results with decreasing trends in marine fish catch.

Recently, most European countries have adopted cleaner production technologies, and alternative methods of waste disposal, including recycling.

The countries of Eastern Europe have made air quality a major environmental priority. This is exemplified by the Russian Federation's addition to the 1995 "Berlin Mandate" (transnational legislation based on resolutions of the Rio Earth Summit) compelling nations to promote "carbon sinks" to absorb greenhouse gases.

On a relative basis, when compared with the degree of industrial emissions emitted by many Eastern European countries until the late 1980s, there has been some marked increase in air quality in the region, as obsolete plants are closed and a transition to cleaner fuels and more efficient energy use takes place.

### **Regional Synopsis: The Middle and Near East**

Quite possibly, the Middle East will exemplify the adage that, as the 20<sup>th</sup> century was a century fixated on oil, the 21<sup>st</sup> century will be devoted to critical decisions about water. Many (though far from all) nations in the Middle East rank among those countries with the largest oil and gas reserves, but water resources are relatively scarce throughout this predominantly dry region. Effects of global warming may cause moderately high elevation areas that now typically receive winter "snowpack" to experience mainly rain instead, which would further constrain dry-season water availability. The antiquities and religious shrines of the region render it a great magnet for tourism, which entails considerable economic growth potential but also intensifies stresses on the environment.

#### **Key Points:**

Water resource vulnerability is a serious concern across the entire region. The increased usage of, and further demand for water, has exacerbated long-standing water scarcity in the region. For instance, river diversions and industrial salt works have caused the Dead Sea to shrink by one-third from its original surface area, with further declines expected.

The oil industry in the region contributes to water pollution in the Persian Gulf, as a result of oil spills, which have averaged 1.2 million barrels of oil spilt per year (some sources suggest that this figure is understated). The consequences are severe because even after oil spills have been cleaned up, environmental damage to the food webs and ecosystems of marine life will persist for a prolonged period.

The region's coastal zone is considered one of the most fragile and endangered ecosystems of the world. Land reclamation, shoreline construction, discharge of industrial effluents, and tourism (such as diving in the Red Sea) contribute to widespread coastal damage.

Significant numbers of mammal species in parts of the Middle East are currently threatened.

Since the 1980s, 11 percent of the region's natural forest has been depleted.

### **Regional Synopsis: Latin America and the Caribbean**

The Latin American and Caribbean region is characterized by exceedingly diverse landforms that have generally seen high rates of population growth and economic development in recent decades. The percentage of inhabitants residing in urban areas is quite high at 73.4 percent; the region includes the megacities of Mexico City, Sao Paulo, and Rio de Janeiro. The region also includes the world's second-highest mountain range, the Andes; significant expanses of desert and grassland; the coral reefs of the Caribbean Sea; and the world's largest contiguous tropical forest in the Amazon basin. Threats to the latter from subsistence and commercial farming, mineral exploitation and timbering are well publicized. Nevertheless, of eight countries worldwide that still retain at least 70 percent of their original forest cover, six are in Latin America. The region accounts for nearly half (48.3 percent) of the world's greenhouse gas emissions derived from land clearing, but as yet a comparatively minuscule share (4.3 percent) of such gases from industrial sources.

#### **Key Points:**

Although Latin America is one of the most biologically diverse regions of the world, this biodiversity is highly threatened, as exemplified by the projected extinction of up to 100,000 species in the next few decades. Much of this loss will be concentrated in the Amazon area, although the western coastline of South America will also suffer significant depletion of biological diversity. The inventory of rainforest species with potentially useful commercial or medical applications is incomplete, but presumed to include significant numbers of such species that may become extinct before they are discovered and identified.

Up to 50 percent of the region's grazing land has lost its soil fertility as a result of soil erosion, salinization, alkalinization and overgrazing.

The Caribbean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean, and the Pacific Ocean have all been contaminated by agricultural wastes, which are discharged into streams that flow into these major waters. Water pollution derived from phosphorous, nitrates and pesticides adversely affects fish stocks, contributes to oxygen depletion and fosters overgrowth of aquatic vegetation. Marine life will continue to be severely compromised as a result of these conditions.

Due to industrial development in the region, many beaches of eastern Latin America and the Caribbean suffer from tar deposits.



Most cities in the region lack adequate sewage treatment facilities, and rapid migration of the rural poor into the cities is widening the gap between current infrastructure capacity and the much greater level needed to provide satisfactory basic services.

The rainforest region of the Amazon Basin suffers from dangerously high levels of deforestation, which may be a significant contributory factor to global warming or "the greenhouse effect." In the late 1990s and into the new millennium, the rate of deforestation was around 20 million acres of rainforest being destroyed annually.

Deforestation on the steep rainforest slopes of Caribbean islands contributes to soil erosion and landslides, both of which then result in heavy sedimentation of nearby river systems. When these sedimented rivers drain into the sea and coral reefs, they poison the coral tissues, which are vital to the maintenance of the reef ecosystem. The result is marine degradation and nutrient depletion. Jamaica's coral reefs have never quite recovered from the effects of marine degradation.

The Southern Cone of Latin America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay) suffers the effects of greatly increased ultraviolet-B radiation, as a consequence of more intense ozone depletion in the southern hemisphere.

Water resource vulnerability is an increasingly major concern in the northwestern portion of South America.

### **Regional Synopsis: North America**

North American nations, in particular the United States and Canada, rank among the world's most highly developed industrial economies—a fact which has generated significant pollution problems, but also financial resources and skills that have enabled many problems to be corrected. Although efforts to promote energy efficiency, recycling, and suchlike have helped ease strains on the environment in a part of the world where per capita consumption levels are high, sprawling land development patterns and recent preferences many households have demonstrated for larger vehicles have offset these advances.

Meanwhile, a large portion of North America's original forest cover has been lost, though in many cases replaced by productive second-growth woodland. In recent years, attitudes toward best use of the region's remaining natural or scenic areas seem to be shifting toward recreation and preservation and away from resource extraction. With increasing attention on the energy scarcity in the United States, however, there is speculation that this shift may be short-lived. Indeed, the energy shortage on the west coast of the United States and associated calls for energy exploration, indicate a possible retrenchment toward resource extraction. At the same time, however, it has also



served to highlight the need for energy conservation as well as alternative energy sources.

Despite generally successful anti-pollution efforts, various parts of the region continue to suffer significant air, water and land degradation from industrial, vehicular, and agricultural emissions and runoff. Mexico, as a middle-income country, displays environmental problems characteristic of a developing economy, including forest depletion, pollution from inefficient industrial processes and dirty fuels, and lack of sufficient waste-treatment infrastructure.

Key Points:

Because of significantly greater motor vehicle usage in the United States (U.S.) than in the rest of the world, the U.S. contribution of urban air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, especially carbon dioxide, is disproportionately high in relation to its population.

Acid rain is an enduring issue of contention in the northeastern part of the United States, on the border with Canada.

Mexico's urban areas suffer extreme air pollution from carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and other toxic air pollutants. Emissions controls on vehicles are in their infancy, compared to analogous regulations in the U.S.

The cities of Mexico, including those on the U.S. border, also discharge large quantities of untreated or poorly treated sewage, though officials are currently planning infrastructure upgrades.

Deforestation is noteworthy in various regions of the U.S., especially along the northwest coastline. Old growth forests have been largely removed, but in the northeastern and upper midwestern sections of the United States, evidence suggests that the current extent of tree cover probably surpasses the figure for the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Extreme weather conditions in the last few years have resulted in a high level of soil erosion along the north coast of California; in addition, the coastline itself has shifted substantially due to soil erosion and concomitant landslides.

Agricultural pollution-including nitrate contamination of well water, nutrient runoff to waterways, and pesticide exposure-is significant in various areas. Noteworthy among affected places are California's Central Valley, extensive stretches of the Midwest, and land in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

Inland waterways, especially around the Great Lakes, have substantially improved their water quality, due to concentrated efforts at reducing water pollution by governmental, commercial and

community representatives. Strict curbs on industrial effluents and near-universal implementation of sewage treatment are the chief factors responsible for this improvement.

A major environmental issue for Canada and the United States involves the depletion of various already endangered or threatened species, and most significantly, the decline of fish stocks. Coastal fisheries have been over-harvested, resulting in catch limits or moratoriums on many commercially important fish species. In the last few years, these policies have started to yield measurable results with decreasing trends in marine fish catch.

Due to the decay of neighboring ecosystems in Central America and the Caribbean, the sea surrounding Florida has become increasingly sedimented, contributing to marine degradation, nutrient depletion of the ecosystem, depletion of fish stocks, and diseases to coral species in particular.

### **Polar Regions**

#### **Key Points:**

The significant rise in sea level, amounting 10 to 25 centimeters in the last 100 years, is due to the melting of the Arctic ice sheets, and is attributed to global warming.

The Antarctic suffers from a significant ozone hole, first detected in 1976. By 1985, a British scientific team reported a 40 percent decrease in usual regeneration rates of the ozone. Because a sustained increase in the amount of ultraviolet-B radiation would have adverse consequences upon all planetary life, recent environmental measures have been put into effect, aimed at reversing ozone depletion. These measures are projected to garner significant results by 2050.

Due to air and ocean currents, the Arctic is a sink for toxic releases originally discharged thousands of miles away. Arctic wildlife and Canada's Inuit population have higher bodily levels of contaminants such as PCB and dioxin than those found in people and animals in much of the rest of the world.

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## **Global Environmental Concepts**

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## **1. Global Warming and Greenhouse Gases**

### **The Greenhouse Effect:**

In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the French physicist, Jean Fourier, contended that the earth's atmosphere functions in much the same way as the glass of a greenhouse, thus describing what is now understood as the "greenhouse effect." Put simply, the "greenhouse effect" confines some of the sun's energy to the earth, preserving some of the planet's warmth, rather than allowing it to flow back into space. In so doing, all kinds of life forms can flourish on earth. Thus, the "greenhouse effect" is necessary to sustain and preserve life forms and ecosystems on earth.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, a Swedish chemist, Svante Arrhenius, noticed that human activities, such as the burning of coal and other fossil fuels for heat, and the removal of forested lands for urban development, led to higher concentrations of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide and methane, in the atmosphere. This increase in the levels of greenhouse gases was believed to advance the "greenhouse effect" exponentially, and might be related to the trend in global warming.

In the wake of the Industrial Revolution, after industrial development took place on a large scale and the total human population burgeoned simultaneously with industrialization, the resulting increase in greenhouse gas emissions could, many scientists believe, be significant enough to have some bearing on climate. Indeed, many studies in recent years support the idea that there is a linkage between human activities and global warming, although there is less consensus on the extent to which this linkage may be relevant to environmental concerns.

That said, some scientists have argued that temperature fluctuations have existed throughout the evolution of the planet. Indeed, Dr. S. Fred Singer, the president of the Science and Environment Policy Project has noted that 3,000-year-old geological records of ocean sediment reveal changes in the surface temperature of the ocean. Hence, it is possible that climate variability is merely a normal fact of the planet's evolution. Yet even skeptics as to anthropogenic factors concur that any substantial changes in global temperatures would likely have an effect upon the earth's ecosystems, as well as the life forms that inhabit them.

### **The Relationship Between Global Warming and Greenhouse Gases:**

A large number of climatologists believe that the increase in atmospheric concentrations of "greenhouse gas emissions," mostly a consequence of human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, are contributing to global warming. The cause notwithstanding, the planet has reportedly warmed 0.3°C to 0.6°C over the last century. Indeed, each year during the 1990s was one of the very warmest in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the mean surface temperature for 1999 being the fifth warmest on record since 1880.

In early 2000, a panel of atmospheric scientists for the National Research Council concluded in a report that global warming was, indeed, a reality. While the panel, headed by Chairman John Wallace, a professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Washington, stated that it remained unclear whether human activities have contributed to the earth's increasing temperatures, it was apparent that global warming exists.

In 2001, following a request for further study by the incoming Bush administration in the [United States](#), the National Academy of Sciences again confirmed that global warming had been in existence for the last 20 years. The study also projected an increase in temperature between 2.5 degrees and 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit by the year 2100. Furthermore, the study found the leading cause of global warming to be emissions of carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels, and it noted that greenhouse gas accumulations in the earth's atmosphere was a result of human activities.

Within the scientific community, the controversy regarding has centered on the difference between surface air and upper air temperatures. Information collected since 1979 suggests that while the earth's surface temperature has increased by about a degree in the past century, the atmospheric temperature five miles above the earth's surface has indicated very little increase. Nevertheless, the panel stated that this discrepancy in temperature between surface and upper air does not invalidate the conclusion that global warming is taking place. Further, the panel noted that natural events, such as volcanic eruptions, can decrease the temperature in the upper atmosphere.

The major consequences of global warming potentially include the melting of the polar ice caps, which, in turn, contribute to the rise in sea levels. Many islands across the globe have already experienced a measurable loss of land as a result. Because global warming may increase the rate of evaporation, increased precipitation, in the form of stronger and more frequent storm systems, is another potential outcome. Other consequences of global warming may include the introduction and proliferation of new infectious diseases, loss of arable land (referred to as "desertification"), destructive changes to existing ecosystems, loss of biodiversity and the isolation of species, and concomitant adverse changes in the quality of human life.

### **International Policy Development in Regard to Global Warming:**

Regardless of what the precise nature of the relationship between greenhouse gas emissions and global warming may be, it seems that there is some degree of a connection between the phenomena. Any substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and global warming trends will likely involve systematic changes in industrial operations, the use of advanced energy sources and technologies, as well as global cooperation in implementing and regulating these transformations.

In this regard, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) stipulated the following objectives:

1. To stabilize "greenhouse gas" concentrations within the atmosphere, in such a manner that would preclude hazardous anthropogenic intervention into the existing biosphere and ecosystems of the world. This stabilization process would facilitate the natural adaptation of ecosystems to changes in climate.
2. To ensure and enable sustainable development and food production on a global scale.

\*\*\* See section on "International Environmental Agreements and Associations" for information related to international policies related to limiting greenhouse gases and controlling climate change emanating from historic summits at Kyoto, Copenhagen, Doha, and Paris. \*\*\*

## **2. Air Pollution**

Long before global warming reared its head as a significant issue, those concerned about the environment and public health noted the deleterious effects of human-initiated combustion upon the atmosphere. Killer smogs from coal burning triggered acute health emergencies in London and other places. At a lower level of intensity motor vehicle, power plant, and industrial emissions impaired long-range visibility and probably had some chronic adverse consequences on the respiratory systems of persons breathing such air.

In time, scientists began associating the sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides released from coal burning with significant acid deposition in the atmosphere, eventually falling as "acid rain." This phenomenon has severely degraded forestlands, especially in Europe and a few parts of the [United States](#). It has also impaired some aquatic ecosystems and eaten away the surface of some human artifacts, such as marble monuments. Scrubber technology and conversion to cleaner fuels have enabled the level of industrial production to remain at least constant while significantly reducing acid deposition. Technologies aimed at cleaning the air and curtailing acid rain, soot, and smog may, nonetheless, boomerang as the perils of global warming become increasingly serious. In brief, these particulates act as sort of a sun shade -- comparable to the effect of volcanic eruptions on the upper atmosphere whereby periods of active volcanism correlate with temporarily cooler weather conditions. Thus, while the carbon dioxide releases that are an inevitable byproduct of combustion continue, by scrubbing the atmosphere of pollutants, an industrial society opens itself to greater insolation (penetration of the sun's rays and consequent heating), and consequently, it is likely to experience a correspondingly greater rise in ambient temperatures.

The health benefits of removing the sources of acid rain and smog are indisputable, and no one would recommend a return to previous conditions. Nevertheless, the problematic climatic effects of continually increasing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases pose a major global

environmental challenge, not as yet addressed adequately.

### **3. Ozone Depletion**

The stratospheric ozone layer functions to prevent ultraviolet radiation from reaching the earth. Normally, stratospheric ozone is systematically disintegrated and regenerated through natural photochemical processes. The stratospheric ozone layer, however, has been depleted unnaturally as a result of anthropogenic (man-made) chemicals, most especially chlorine and bromide compounds such as chloroflorocarbons (CFCs), halons, and various industrial chemicals in the form of solvents, refrigerants, foaming agents, aerosol propellants, fire retardants, and fumigants. Ozone depletion is of concern because it permits a greater degree of ultraviolet-B radiation to reach the earth, which then increases the incidences of cancerous malignancies, cataracts, and human immune deficiencies. In addition, even in small doses, ozone depletion affects the ecosystem by disturbing food chains, agriculture, fisheries and other forms of biological diversity.

Transnational policies enacted to respond to the dangers of ozone depletion include the 1985 Vienna Convention on the Protection of the Ozone Layer and the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. The Montreal Protocol was subsequently amended in London in 1990, Copenhagen in 1992 and Vienna in 1995. By 1996, 155 countries had ratified the Montreal Protocol, which sets out a time schedule for the reduction (and eventual elimination) of ozone depleting substances (OPS), and bans exports and imports of ODS from and to non-participant countries.

In general, the Protocol stipulates that developed countries must eliminate halon consumption by 1994 and CFC consumption by 1996, while developing countries must eliminate these substances by 2010. Consumption of methyl bromide, which is used as a fumigant, was to be frozen at the 1995 in developed countries, and fully eliminated in 2010, while developing countries are to freeze consumption by 2002, based on average 1995-1998 consumption levels. Methyl chloroform is to be phased out by 2005. Under the Montreal Protocol, most ODS will be completely eliminated from use by 2010.

### **4. Land Degradation**

In recent decades, land degradation in more arid regions of the world has become a serious concern. The problem, manifest as both "desertification" and "devegetation," is caused primarily by climate variability and human activities, such as "deforestation," excessive cultivation, overgrazing, and other forms of land resource exploitation. It is also exacerbated by inadequate irrigation practices. Although the effects of droughts on drylands have been temporary in the past, today, the productivity and sustainability of these lands have been severely compromised for the long term.

Indeed, in every region of the world, land degradation has become an acute issue.

### **Desertification and Devegetation:**

"Desertification" is a process of land degradation causing the soil to deteriorate, thus losing its nutrients and fertility, and eventually resulting in the loss of vegetation, known as "devegetation." As aforementioned, "desertification" and "devegetation" are caused by human activities, yet human beings are also the greatest casualties. Because these forms of land degradation affect the ability of the soil to produce crops, they concomitantly contribute to poverty. As population increases and demographic concentrations shift, the extent of land subject to stresses by those seeking to wrest subsistence from it has inexorably risen.

In response, the United Nations has formed the Convention to Combat Desertification-aimed at implementing programs to address the underlying causes of desertification, as well as measures to prevent and minimize its effects. Of particular significance is the formulation of policies on transboundary resources, such as areas around lakes and rivers. At a broader level, the Convention has established a Conference of Parties (COP), which includes all ratifying governments, for directing and advancing international action.

To ensure more efficacious use of funding, the Convention intends to reconfigure international aid to utilize a consultative and coordinated approach in the disbursement and expenditure of donor funds. In this way, local communities that are affected by desertification will be active participants in the solution-generation process. In-depth community education projects are envisioned as part of this new international aid program, and private donor financing is encouraged. Meanwhile, as new technologies are developed to deal with the problem of desertification, they need to be distributed for application across the world. Hence, the Convention calls for international cooperation in scientific research in this regard.

Desertification is a problem of sustainable development. It is directly connected to human challenges such as poverty, social and economic well-being and environmental protection as well. Broader environmental issues, such as climate change, biological diversity, and freshwater supplies, are indirectly related, so any effort to resolve this environmental challenge must entail coordinated research efforts and joint action.

### **Deforestation:**

Deforestation is not a recent phenomenon. For centuries, human beings have cut down trees to clear space for land cultivation, or in order to use the wood for fuel. Over the last 200 years, and most especially after World War II, deforestation increased because the logging industry became a



globally profitable endeavor, and so the clearing of forested areas was accelerated for the purposes of industrial development. In the long term, this intensified level of deforestation is considered problematic because the forest is unable to regenerate itself quickly. The deforestation that has occurred in tropical rainforests is seen as an especially serious concern, due to the perceived adverse effects of this process upon the entire global ecosystem.

The most immediate consequence of deforestation is soil degradation. Soil, which is necessary for the growth of vegetation, can be a fragile and vital property. Organically, an extensive evolution process must take place before soil can produce vegetation, yet at the same time, the effects of natural elements, such as wind and rain, can easily and quickly degrade this resource. This phenomenon is known as soil erosion. In addition, natural elements like wind and rain reduce the amount of fertile soil on the ground, making soil scarcity a genuine problem. When fertile topsoil that already exists is removed from the landscape in the process of deforestation, soil scarcity is further exacerbated. Equally significant is the fact that once land has been cleared so that the topsoil can be cultivated for crop production, not only are the nutrient reserves in the soil depleted, thus producing crops of inferior quality, but the soil structure itself becomes stressed and deteriorates further.

Another direct result of deforestation is flooding. When forests are cleared, removing the cover of vegetation, and rainfall occurs, the flow of water increases across the surface of land. When extensive water runoff takes place, the frequency and intensity of flooding increases. Other adverse effects of deforestation include the loss of wildlife and biodiversity within the ecosystem that supports such life forms.

At a broader level, tropical rainforests play a vital role in maintaining the global environmental system. Specifically, destruction of tropical rainforests affects the carbon dioxide cycle. When forests are destroyed by burning (or rotting), carbon dioxide is released into the air, thus contributing to an intensified "greenhouse effect." The increase in greenhouse gas emissions like carbon dioxide is a major contributor to global warming, according to many environmental scientists. Indeed, trees themselves absorb carbon dioxide in the process of photosynthesis, so their loss also reduces the absorption of greenhouse gases.

Tropical rainforest destruction also adversely affects the nitrogen cycle. Nitrogen is a key nutrient for both plants and animals. Plants derive nitrogen from soil, while animals obtain it via nitrogen-enriched vegetation. This element is essential for the formation of amino acids, and thereby for proteins and biochemicals that all living things need for metabolism and growth. In the nitrogen cycle, vegetation acquires these essential proteins and biochemicals, and then cyclically returns them to the atmosphere and global ecosystem. Accordingly, when tropical rainforest ecosystems are compromised, not only is vegetation removed; the atmosphere is also affected and climates are altered. At a more immediate level, the biodiversity within tropical rainforests, including wildlife and insect species and a wealth of plant varieties, is depleted. Loss of rare plants is of particular



concern because certain species as yet unknown and unused could likely yield many practical benefits, for instance as medicines.

As a result of the many challenges associated with deforestation, many environmental groups and agencies have argued for government policies on the sustainable development of forests by governments across the globe. While many countries have instituted national policies and programs aimed at reducing deforestation, and substantial research has been advanced in regard to sustainable and regenerative forestry development, there has been very little progress on an international level. Generally speaking, most tropical rainforests are located in developing and less developed countries, where economic growth is often dependent upon the exploitation of tropical rainforests. Timber resources as well as wildlife hunting tend to be particularly lucrative arenas.

In places such as the Amazon, where deforestation takes place for the construction of energy plants aimed at industrialization and economic development, there is an exacerbated effect on the environment. After forests are cleared in order to construct such projects, massive flooding usually ensues. The remaining trees then rot and decay in the wake of the flooding. As the trees deteriorate, their biochemical makeup becomes more acidic, producing poisonous substances such as hydrogen sulphide and methane gases. Acidified water subsequently corrodes the mechanical equipment and operations of the plants, which are already clogged by rotting wood after the floodwaters rise.

Deforestation generally arises from an economically plausible short-term motivation, but nonetheless poses a serious global concern because the effects go beyond national boundaries. The United Nations has established the World Commission on Forest and Sustainable Development. This body's task is to determine the optimal means of dealing with the issue of deforestation, without unduly affecting normal economic development, while emphasizing the global significance of protecting tropical forest ecosystems.

## **5. Water Resources**

For all terrestrial fauna, including humans, water is the most immediate necessity to sustain life. As the population has increased and altered an ever-greater portion of the landscape from its natural condition, demand on water resources has intensified, especially with the development of industrialization and large-scale irrigation. The supply of freshwater is inherently limited, and moreover distributed unevenly across the earth's landmasses. Moreover, not just demand for freshwater but activities certain to degrade it are becoming more pervasive. By contrast, the oceans form a sort of "last wilderness," still little explored and in large part not seriously affected by human activity. However, coastal environments - the biologically richest part of the marine ecosystem-are experiencing major depletion due to human encroachment and over-exploitation.

**Freshwater:**

In various regions, for instance the Colorado River in the western [United States](#), current withdrawals of river water for irrigation, domestic, and industrial use consume the entire streamflow so that almost no water flows into the sea at the river's mouth. Yet development is ongoing in many such places, implying continually rising demand for water. In some areas reliant on groundwater, aquifers are being depleted at a markedly faster rate than they are being replenished. An example is the San Joaquin Valley in California, where decades of high water withdrawals for agriculture have caused land subsidence of ten meters or more in some spots. Naturally, the uncertainty of future water supplies is particularly acute in arid and semi-arid regions. Speculation that the phenomenon of global warming will alter geographic and seasonal rainfall patterns adds further uncertainty.

Water conservation measures have great potential to alleviate supply shortages. Some city water systems are so old and beset with leaking pipes that they lose as much water as they meter. Broad-scale irrigation could be replaced by drip-type irrigation, actually enhancing the sustainability of agriculture. In many areas where heavy irrigation has been used for decades, the result is deposition of salts and other chemicals in the soil such that the land becomes unproductive for farming and must be abandoned.

Farming is a major source of water pollution. Whereas restrictions on industrial effluents and other "point sources" are relatively easy to implement, comparable measures to reform hydraulic practices at farms and other "nonpoint sources" pose a significantly knottier challenge. Farm-caused water pollution takes the following main forms:

- Nitrate pollution found in wells in intensive farming areas as a consequence of heavy fertilizer use is a threat to human health. The most serious danger is to infants, who by ingesting high-nitrate water can contract methemoglobinemia, sometimes called "blue baby syndrome," a potentially fatal condition.
- Fertilizer runoff into rivers and lakes imparts unwanted nutrients that cause algae growth and eventual loss of oxygen in the body of water, degrading its ability to support fish and other desirable aquatic life.
- Toxic agricultural chemicals - insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides - are detectable in some aquifers and waterways.

In general, it is much easier to get a pollutant into water than to retrieve it out. Gasoline additives, dry cleaning chemicals, other industrial toxins, and in a few areas radionuclides have all been found in water sources intended for human use. The complexity and long time scale of

subterranean hydrological movements essentially assures that pollutants already deposited in aquifers will continue to turn up for decades to come. Sophisticated water treatment processes are available, albeit expensive, to reclaim degraded water and render it fit for human consumption. Yet source protection is unquestionably a more desirable alternative.

In much of the developing world, and even some low-income rural enclaves of the developed world, the population lacks ready access to safe water. Surface water and shallow groundwater supplies are susceptible to contamination from untreated wastewater and failing septic tanks, as well as chemical hazards. The occurrence of waterborne disease is almost certainly greatly underreported.

### **Marine Resources:**

Coastal areas have always been desirable places for human habitation, and population pressure on them continues to increase. Many types of water degradation that affect lakes and rivers also affect coastal zones: industrial effluents, untreated or partially treated sewage, nutrient load from agriculture figure prominently in both cases. Prospects for more extreme storms as a result of global warming, as well as the pervasiveness of poorly planned development in many coastal areas, forebode that catastrophic hurricanes and landslides may increase in frequency in the future. Ongoing rise in sea levels will force remedial measures and in some cases abandonment of currently valuable coastal property.

Fisheries over much of the globe have been overharvested, and immediate conservation measures are required to preserve stocks of many species. Many governments subsidized factory-scale fishing fleets in the 1970s and 1980s, and the resultant catch increase evidently surpassed a sustainable level. It is uncertain how much of the current decline in fish stocks stems from overharvesting and how much from environmental pollution. The deep ocean remains relatively unaffected by human activity, but continental shelves near coastlines are frequently seriously polluted, and these close-to-shore areas are the major biological nurseries for food fish and the smaller organisms they feed on.

## **6. Environmental Toxins**

Toxic chemical pollution exploded on the public consciousness with disclosure of spectacularly polluted industrial areas such as Love Canal near Buffalo, New York. There is no question that pollutants such as organophosphates or radionucleides can be highly deleterious to health, but evidence to date suggests that seriously affected areas are a localized rather than universal problem.

While some explore the possibilities for a lifestyle that fully eschews use of modern industrial

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chemicals, the most prevalent remediative approach is to focus on more judicious use. The most efficient chemical plants are now able to contain nearly all toxic byproducts of their production processes within the premises, minimizing the release of such substances into the environment. Techniques such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) dictate limited rather than broadcast use of pesticides: application only when needed using the safest available chemical, supplemented as much as possible with nontoxic controls.

While heightened public awareness and growing technical sophistication suggest a hopeful outlook on limiting the damage from manmade environmental toxins, one must grant that previous incidents of their misuse and mishandling have already caused environmental damage that will have to be dealt with for many years to come. In the case of the most hazardous radioactive substances, the time scale for successful remediation actually extends beyond that of the recorded history of civilization. Moreover, in this era of high population density and rapid economic growth, quotidian activities such as the transport of chemicals will occasionally, seemingly inevitably result in accidents with adverse environmental consequences.

## **7. "Islandization" and Biodiversity**

With increased awareness regarding the adverse effects of unregulated hunting and habitat depletion upon wildlife species and other aspects of biodiversity, large-scale efforts across the globe have been initiated to reduce and even reverse this trend.

In every region of the world, many species of wildlife and areas of biodiversity have been saved from extinction. Nationally, many countries have adopted policies aimed at preservation and conservation of species, and one of the most tangible measures has been the proliferation of protected habitats. Such habitats exist in the form of wildlife reserves, marine life reserves, and other such areas where biodiversity can be protected from external encroachment and exploitation.

Despite these advances in wildlife and biodiversity protection, further and perhaps more intractable challenges linger. Designated reserves, while intended to prevent further species decline, exist as closed territories, fragmented from other such enclaves and disconnected from the larger ecosystem. This environmental scenario is referred to as "islandization." Habitat reserves often serve as oversized zoos or game farms, with landscapes and wildlife that have effectively been "tamed" to suit. Meanwhile, the larger surrounding ecosystem continues to be seriously degraded and transformed, while within the islandized habitat, species that are the focus of conservation efforts may not have sufficient range and may not be able to maintain healthy genetic variability.

As a consequence, many conservationists and preservationists have demanded that substantially larger portions of land be withheld as habitat reserves, and a network of biological corridors to connect continental reserves be established. While such efforts to combat islandization have

considerable support in the [United States](#), how precisely such a program would be instituted, especially across national boundaries, remains a matter of debate. International conservationists and preservationists say without a network of reserves a massive loss of biodiversity will result.

The concept of islandization illustrates why conservation and preservation of wildlife and biodiversity must consider and adopt new, broader strategies. In the past, conservation and preservation efforts have been aimed at specific species, such as the spotted owl and grizzly bear in North America, the Bengal tiger in Southeast Asia, the panda in [China](#), elephants in Africa. Instead, the new approach is to simultaneously protect many and varied species that inhabit the same ecosystem. This method, referred to as "bio-regional conservation," may more efficaciously generate longer-term and more far-reaching results precisely because it is aimed at preserving entire ecosystems, and all the living things within.

### **More About Biodiversity Issues:**

This section is directly taken from the United Nations Environmental Program: "[Biodiversity Assessment](#)"

The Global Biodiversity Assessment, completed by 1500 scientists under the auspices of United Nations Environmental Program in 1995, updated what is known (or unknown) about global biological diversity at the ecosystem, species and genetic levels. The assessment was uncertain of the total number of species on Earth within an order of magnitude. Of its working figure of 13 million species, only 13 percent are scientifically described. Ecological community diversity is also poorly known, as is its relationship to biological diversity, and genetic diversity has been studied for only a small number of species. The effects of human activities on biodiversity have increased so greatly that the rate of species extinctions is rising to hundreds or thousands of times the background level. These losses are driven by increasing demands on species and their habitats, and by the failure of current market systems to value biodiversity adequately. The Assessment calls for urgent action to reverse these trends.

There has been a new recognition of the importance of protecting marine and aquatic biodiversity. The first quantitative estimates of species losses due to growing coral reef destruction predict that almost 200,000 species, or one in five presently contributing to coral reef biodiversity, could die out in the next 40 years if human pressures on reefs continue to increase.

Since Rio, many countries have improved their understanding of the status and importance of their biodiversity, particularly through biodiversity country studies such as those prepared under the auspices of UNEP/GEF. The [United Kingdom](#) identified 1250 species needing monitoring, of which 400 require action plans to ensure their survival. Protective measures for biodiversity, such as legislation to protect species, can prove effective. In the USA, almost 40 percent of the plants

and animals protected under the Endangered Species Act are now stable or improving as a direct result of recovery efforts. Some African countries have joined efforts to protect threatened species through the 1994 Lusaka Agreement, and more highly migratory species are being protected by specialized cooperative agreements among range states under the Bonn Agreement.

There is an emerging realization that a major part of conservation of biological diversity must take place outside of protected areas and involve local communities. The extensive agricultural areas occupied by small farmers contain much biodiversity that is important for sustainable food production. Indigenous agricultural practices have been and continue to be important elements in the maintenance of biodiversity, but these are being displaced and lost. There is a new focus on the interrelationship between agrobiodiversity conservation and sustainable use and development practices in smallholder agriculture, with emphasis on use of farmers' knowledge and skills as a source of information for sustainable farming.

Perhaps even more important than the loss of biodiversity is the transformation of global biogeochemical cycles, the reduction in the total world biomass, and the decrease in the biological productivity of the planet. While quantitative measurements are not available, the eventual economic and social consequences may be so significant that the issue requires further attention.

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Online resources used generally in the Environmental Overview:

Environmental Protection Agency Global Warming Site. URL: <http://www.epa.gov/globalwarming>

Food and Agriculture Organization of United Nations: Forestry. URL: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/site/sofo/en/>

Global Warming Information Page. URL: <http://globalwarming.org>

United Nations Environmental Program. URL: [http://www.unep.org/GEO/GEO\\_Products/Assessment\\_Reports/](http://www.unep.org/GEO/GEO_Products/Assessment_Reports/)

United Nations Global Environmental Outlook. URL: <http://www.unep.org/geo/geo4/media/>

Note on Edition Dates:

The edition dates for textual resources are noted above because they were used to formulate the original content. We also have used online resources (cited above) to update coverage as needed.

## Information Resources

For more information about environmental concepts, CountryWatch recommends the following resources:

The United Nations Environmental Program Network (with country profiles)

[<http://www.unep.net/>](http://www.unep.net/)

The United Nations Environment Program on Climate Change

[<http://climatechange.unep.net/>](http://climatechange.unep.net/)

The United Nations Environmental Program on Waters and Oceans

[<http://www.unep.ch/earthw/Pdepwat.htm>](http://www.unep.ch/earthw/Pdepwat.htm)

The United Nations Environmental Program on Forestry: "Forests in Flux"

[<http://www.unep-wcmc.org/forest/flux/homepage.htm>](http://www.unep-wcmc.org/forest/flux/homepage.htm)

FAO "State of the World's Forests"

[<http://www.fao.org/forestry/FO/SOFO/SOFO99/sofo99-e.stm>](http://www.fao.org/forestry/FO/SOFO/SOFO99/sofo99-e.stm)

World Resources Institute.

[<http://www.wri.org/>](http://www.wri.org/)

Harvard University Center for Health and the Global Environment

[<http://www.med.harvard.edu/chge/the-review.html>](http://www.med.harvard.edu/chge/the-review.html)

The University of Wisconsin Center for Sustainability and the Global Environment

<http://sage.aos.wisc.edu/>



## International Environmental Agreements and Associations

### **International Policy Development in Regard to Global Warming:**

#### **Introduction**

Regardless of what the precise nature of the relationship between greenhouse gas emissions and global warming may be, it seems that there is some degree of a connection between the phenomena. Any substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and global warming trends will likely involve systematic changes in industrial operations, the use of advanced energy sources and technologies, as well as global cooperation in implementing and regulating these transformations.

In this regard, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) stipulated the following objectives:

1. To stabilize "greenhouse gas" concentrations within the atmosphere, in such a manner that would preclude hazardous anthropogenic intervention into the existing biosphere and ecosystems of the world. This stabilization process would facilitate the natural adaptation of ecosystems to changes in climate.
2. To ensure and enable sustainable development and food production on a global scale.

Following are two discussions regarding international policies on the environment, followed by listings of international accords.

#### ***Special Entry: The Kyoto Protocol***

The UNFCCC was adopted at the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, and entered into force in 1994. Over 175 parties were official participants.

Meanwhile, however, many of the larger, more industrialized nations failed to reach the emissions' reduction targets, and many UNFCCC members agreed that the voluntary approach to reducing emissions had not been successful. As such, UNFCCC members reached a consensus that legally binding limits were necessitated, and agreed to discuss such a legal paradigm at a meeting in [Kyoto, Japan](#) in 1997. At that meeting, the UNFCCC forged the Kyoto Protocol. This concord is the first legally binding international agreement that places limits on emissions from industrialized countries. The major greenhouse gas emissions addressed in the Kyoto Protocol include carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulfur hexafluoride, and methane.

The provisions of the Kyoto Protocol stipulate that economically advanced nations must reduce their combined emissions of greenhouse gases, by approximately five percent from their 1990 levels, before the 2008-2010 deadline. Countries with the highest carbon dioxide emissions, such as the [United States](#) (U.S.), many of the European Union (EU) countries, and [Japan](#), are to reduce emissions by a scale of 6 to 8 percent. All economically advanced nations must show "demonstrable progress" by 2005. In contrast, no binding limits or timetable have been set on developing countries. Presumably, this distinction is due to the fact that most developing countries - - with the obvious exceptions of [India](#) and [China](#) -- simply do not emit as many greenhouse gases as do more industrially advanced countries. Meanwhile, these countries are entrenched in the process of economic development.

Regardless of the aforementioned reasoning, there has been strong opposition against the asymmetrical treatment assigned to emissions limits among developed and developing countries. Although this distinction might be regarded as unfair in principle, associations such as the Alliance of Small Island States have been vocal in expressing how global warming -- a result of greenhouse gas emissions - has contributed to the rise in sea level, and thus deleteriously affected their very existence as island nation states. For this reason, some parties have suggested that economically advanced nations, upon returning to their 1990 levels, should be required to further reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by a deadline of 2005. In response, interested parties have observed that even if such reductions were undertaken by economically advanced nations, they would not be enough to completely control global warming. Indeed, a reduction in the rate of fossil fuel usage by developing nations would also be necessary to have substantial ameliorative effect on global warming. Indeed, a reduction in the rate of fossil fuel usage by developing nations would also be necessary to have substantial ameliorative effect on global warming.

As such, the Protocol established a "Clean Development Mechanism" which permits developed countries to invest in projects aimed at reducing emissions within developing countries in return for credit for the reductions. Ostensibly, the objective of this mechanism is to curtail emissions in developing countries without unduly penalizing them for their economic development. Under this model, the countries with more potential emissions credits could sell them to other signatories of the Kyoto Protocol, whose emissions are forecast to significantly rise in the next few years. Should this trading of emissions credits take place, it is estimated that the Kyoto Protocol's emissions targets could still be met.

In 1999, the International Energy Outlook projected that Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and Newly Independent States, as well as parts of Asia, are all expected to show a marked decrease in their level of energy-related carbon emissions in 2010. Nations with the highest emissions, specifically, the U.S., the EU and [Japan](#), are anticipated to reduce their emissions by up to 8 percent by 2012. By 2000, however, the emissions targets were not on schedule for achievement. Indeed, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates forecast that by 2010, there will be

a 34 percent increase in carbon emissions from the 1990 levels, in the absence of major shifts in policy, economic growth, energy prices, and consumer trends. Despite this assessment in the U.S., international support for the Kyoto Protocol remained strong, especially among European countries and island states, who view the pact as one step in the direction away from reliance on fossil fuels and other sources of greenhouse gases.

In 2001, U.S. President, George W. Bush, rejected his country's participation in the Kyoto Protocol, saying that the costs imposed on the global economic system, and especially, on the US, overshadowed the benefits of the Protocol. He also cited the unfair burden on developed nations to reduce emissions, as another primary reasons for withdrawal from the international pact, as well as insufficient evidence regarding the science of global warming. Faced with impassioned international disapproval for his position, the U.S. president stated that his administration remained interested in dealing with the matter of global warming, but would endorse alternative measures to combat the problem, such as voluntary initiatives limiting emissions. Critics of Bush's position, however, have noted that it was the failure of voluntary initiatives to reduce emissions following the Rio Summit that led to the establishment of the Kyoto Protocol in the first place.

In the wake of the Bush administration's decision, many participant countries resigned themselves to the reality that the goals of the Kyoto Protocol might not be achieved without U.S. involvement. Nevertheless, in Bonn, [Germany](#), in July 2001, the remaining participant countries struck a political compromise on some of the key issues and sticking points, and planned to move forward with the Protocol, irrespective of the absence of the U.S. The key compromise points included the provision for countries to offset their targets with carbon sinks (these are areas of forest and farmland which can absorb carbon through the process of photosynthesis). Another compromise point within the broader Bonn Agreement was the reduction of emissions cuts of six gases from over 5 percent to a more achievable 2 percent. A third key change was the provision of funding for less wealthy countries to adopt more progressive technologies.

In late October and early November 2001, the UNFCCC's 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties met in Marrakesh, [Morocco](#), to finalize the measures needed to make the Kyoto Protocol operational. Although the UNFCCC projected that ratification of the Protocol would make it legally binding within a year, many critics noted that the process had fallen short of implementing significant changes in policy that would be necessary to actually stop or even slow climate change. They also maintained that the absence of U.S. participation effectively rendered the Protocol into being a political exercise without any substance, either in terms of transnational policy or in terms of environmental concerns.

The adoption of the compromises ensconced within the Bonn Agreement had been intended to make the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol more palatable to the U.S. In this regard, it failed to achieve its objective as the Bush administration continued to eschew participation in the

international accord. Still, however, the Bonn Agreement did manage to render a number of other positive outcomes. Specifically, in 2002, key countries, such as [Russia](#), [Japan](#) and [Canada](#) agreed to ratify the protocol, bringing the number of signatories to 178. The decision by key countries to ratify the protocol was regarded as "the kiss of life" by observers.

By 2005, on the eve of a climate change conference in London, British Prime Minister Tony Blair was hoping to deal with the problems of climate change beyond the provisions set forth in the Kyoto Protocol. Acknowledging that the Kyoto Protocol could not work in its current form, Blair wanted to open the discussion for a new climate change plan.

Blair said that although most of the world had signed on to Kyoto, the protocol could not meet any of its practical goals of cutting greenhouse gas emissions without the participation of the United States, the world's largest polluter. He also noted that any new agreement would have to include India and China -- significant producers of greenhouse gas emissions, but exempt from Kyoto because they have been classified as developing countries. Still, he said that progress on dealing with climate change had been stymied by "a reluctance to face up to reality and the practical action needed to tackle problem."

Blair also touted the "huge opportunities" in technology and pointed toward the possibilities offered by wind, solar and nuclear power, along with fuel cell technology, eco-friendly biofuels, and carbon capture and storage which could generate low carbon power. Blair also asserted that his government was committed to achieving its domestic goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 20 percent by 2010.

In the United States, President George W. Bush has said that global warming remained a debatable issue and despite conclusions reached by his own Environmental Protection Agency, he has not agreed with the conclusion that global warming and climate change are linked with human activities. Bush has also refused to ratify Kyoto on the basis of its economic costs.

Australia, an ally of the United States, has taken a similarly dim view of the Kyoto Protocol. Ahead of the November 2005 climate change meeting in Canada in which new goals for the protocol were to be discussed, Australia's Environment Minister, Ian Campbell, said that negotiating new greenhouse gas emission levels for the Kyoto Protocol would be a waste of time. Campbell said, "There is a consensus that the caps, targets and timetables approach is flawed. If we spend the next five years arguing about that, we'll be fiddling and negotiating while Rome burns." Campbell, like the Bush administration, has also advocated a system of voluntary action in which industry takes up new technologies rather than as a result of compelling the reduction of emissions. But the Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF) has called on its government to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, to establish a system of emissions trading, and to set binding limits on emissions. Interestingly, although it did not sign on to Kyoto, Australia was expected to meet its emissions target by 2012 (an 8 percent increase in 1990 levels in keeping with the country's

reliance on coal). But this success has nothing to do with new technologies and is due to state-based regulations on land clearing.

Note: The Kyoto Protocol calls for developed nations to cut greenhouse emissions by 5.2 percent of 1990 levels by 2012.

***Special Entry: Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen (2009) --***

In December 2009, the United Nations Climate Change Summit opened in the Danish capital of Copenhagen. The summit was scheduled to last from Dec. 7-18, 2009. Delegates from more than 190 countries were in attendance, and approximately 100 world leaders, including British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and [United States](#) President Barack Obama, were expected to participate. At issue was the matter of new reductions targets on greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

Despite earlier fears that little concurrence would come from the conference, effectively pushing significant actions forward to a 2010 conference in [Mexico](#) City, negotiators were now reporting that the talks were productive and several key countries, such as [South Africa](#), had pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The two main issues that could still lead to cleavages were questions of agreement between the industrialized countries and the developing countries of the world, as well as the overall effectiveness of proposals in seriously addressing the perils of climate change.

On Dec. 9, 2009, four countries -- the [United Kingdom](#), [Australia](#), [Mexico](#) and [Norway](#) -- presented a document outlining ideas for raising and managing billions of dollars, which would be intended to help vulnerable countries dealing with the perils of climate change. Described as a "green fund," the concept could potentially help small island states at risk because of the rise in sea level. [Bangladesh](#) identified itself as a potential recipient of an assistance fund, noting that as a country plagued by devastating floods, it was particularly hard-hit by climate change. The "green fund" would fall under the rubric of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, for which developed countries have been committed to quantifying their emission reduction targets, and also to providing financial and technical support to developing countries.

The [United Kingdom](#), [Australia](#), [Mexico](#) and [Norway](#) also called for the creation of a new legal treaty that would replace the Kyoto Protocol. This new treaty, which could go into force in 2012, would focus largely on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. But [Australia](#) went even further in saying that the successor treaty to the Kyoto Protocol, should be one with provisions covering all countries. Such a move would be a departure from the structure of the Kyoto Protocol, which contained emissions targets for industrialized countries due to the prevailing view that developed countries had a particular historic responsibility to be accountable for climate change. More recently, it has become apparent that substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions demanded by scientists would only come to pass with the participation also of significant

developing nation states, such as [China](#) and [India](#). Indeed, one of the most pressing critiques of the Kyoto Protocol was that it was a "paper tiger" that failed to address the impact of the actions of emerging economies like [China](#) and [India](#), with its focus on the developed economies.

Now, in 2009, [China](#) -- as the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter -- was responding this dubious distinction by vocalizing its criticism of the current scenario and foregrounding its new commitments. Ahead of the Copenhagen summit, [China](#) had announced it would reduce the intensity of its carbon emissions per unit of its GDP in 2020 by 40 to 45 percent against 2005 levels. With that new commitment at hand, [China](#) was now accusing the [United States](#) and the European Union of shirking their own responsibilities by setting weak targets for greenhouse gas emissions cuts. Senior Chinese negotiator, Su Wei, characterized the goals of the world's second largest greenhouse gas emitter -- the [United States](#) -- as "not notable," and the European Union's target as "not enough." Su Wei also took issue with [Japan](#) for setting implausible preconditions.

On Dec. 11, 2009, [China](#) demanded that developed and wealthy countries in Copenhagen should help deliver a real agreement on climate change by delivering on their promises to reduce carbon emissions and provide financial support for developing countries to adapt to global warming. In so doing, China's Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei said his country was hoping that a "balanced outcome" would emerge from the discussions at the summit. Echoing the position of the Australian government, He Yafei spoke of a draft agreement as follows: "The final document we're going to adopt needs to be taking into account the needs and aspirations of all countries, particularly the most vulnerable ones."

China's Vice Foreign Minister emphasized the fact that climate change was "a matter of survival" for developing countries, and accordingly, such countries need wealthier and more developed countries to accentuate not only their pledges of emissions reduction targets, but also their financial commitments under the aforementioned United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. To that end, scientists and leaders of small island states in the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, have highlighted the existential threat posed by global warming and the concomitant rise in sea level.

China aside, attention was also on [India](#) -- another major player in the developing world and a country with an industrializing economy that was impacting the environment. At issue was the Indian government's decision to set a carbon intensity target, which would slow emissions growth by up to 25 percent by the 2020 deadline. This strong position was resisted by some elements in [India](#), who argued that their country should not be taking such a strong position when developed wealthy countries were yet to show accountability for their previous commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The matter grew so heated that the members of the opposition stormed out of the parliament in protest as Indian Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh defended the policy. But the political pressure at home in [India](#) was leaving the Indian delegation in Copenhagen in a state of chaos as well. In fact, India's top environmental negotiator refused to travel to



Copenhagen in protest of the government's newly-announced stance.

China and [India](#) were joined by [Brazil](#) and [South Africa](#) in the crafting of a draft document calling for a new global climate treaty to be completed by June 2010. Of concern has been the realization that there was insufficient time to find concurrence on a full legal treaty, which would leave countries only with a politically-binding text by the time the summit at Copenhagen closed. But Guyana's leader, President Bharrat Jagdeo, warned that the summit in [Denmark](#) would be classified as a failure unless a binding document was agreed upon instead of just political consensus. He urged his cohorts to act with purpose saying, "Never before have science, economics, geo-strategic self-interest and politics intersected in such a way on an issue that impacts everyone on the planet."

Likewise, [Tuvalu](#) demanded that legally binding agreements emerge from Copenhagen. Its proposal was supported by many of the vulnerable countries, from small island states and sub-Saharan Africa, all of whom warned of the catastrophic impact of climate change on their citizens. [Tuvalu](#) also called for more aggressive action, such as an amendment to the 1992 agreement, which would focus on sharp greenhouse gas emissions and the accepted rise in temperatures, due to the impact the rise in seas. The delegation from [Kiribati](#) joined the call by drawing attention to the fact that one village had to be abandoned due to waist-high water, and more such effects were likely to follow. Kiribati's Foreign Secretary, Tessie Lambourne, warned that the people of [Kiribati](#) could well be faced with no homeland in the future saying, "Nobody in this room would want to leave their homeland." But despite such impassioned pleas and irrespective of warnings from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that the rise in sea level from melting polar ice caps would deleteriously affect low-lying atolls such as such as [Tuvalu](#) and [Kiribati](#) in the Pacific, and the [Maldives](#) in the Indian Ocean, the oil-giant [Saudi Arabia](#) was able to block this move.

Meanwhile, within the developed countries, yet another power struggle was brewing. The European Union warned it would only agree to raise its target of 20 percent greenhouse gas emissions reductions to 30 percent if the [United States](#) demonstrated that it would do more to reduce its own emissions. It was unknown if such pressure would yield results. [United States](#) President Barack Obama offered a "provisional" 2020 target of 17 percent reductions, noting that he could not offer greater concessions at Copenhagen due to resistance within the [United States](#) Congress, which was already trying to pass a highly controversial "cap and trade" emissions legislation. However, should that emissions trading bill fail in the Senate, the [United States](#) Environment Protection Agency's declaration that greenhouse gases pose a danger to human health and the environment was expected to facilitate further regulations and limits on power plants and factories at the national level. These moves could potentially strengthen the Obama administration's offering at Copenhagen. As well, President Obama also signaled that he would be willing to consider the inclusion of international forestry credits.

Such moves indicated willingness by the Obama administration to play a more constructive role on

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the international environmental scene than its predecessor, the Bush administration. Indeed, ahead of his arrival at the Copenhagen summit, President Barack Obama's top environmental advisors promised to work on a substantial climate change agreement. To that end, [United States](#) Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson said at a press conference, "We are seeking robust engagement with all of our partners around the world." But would this pro-engagement assertion yield actual results?

By Dec. 12, 2009, details related to a draft document prepared by Michael Zammit Cutajar, the head of the Ad-hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action, were released at the Copenhagen climate conference. Included in the document were calls for countries to make major reductions in carbon emissions over the course of the next decade. According to the Washington Post, industrialized countries were called on to make cuts of between 25 percent and 40 percent below 1990 levels -- reductions that were far more draconian than the [United States](#) was likely to accept. As discussed above, President Obama had offered a provisional reduction target of 17 percent. The wide gap between the released draft and the United States' actual stated position suggested there was much more negotiating in the offing if a binding agreement could be forged, despite the Obama administration's claims that it was seeking greater engagement on this issue.

In other developments, the aforementioned call for financial support of developing countries to deal with the perils of climate change was partly answered by the European Union on Dec. 11, 2009. The European bloc pledged an amount of 2.4 billion euros (US\$3.5 billion) annually from 2010 to 2012. Environment Minister Andreas Carlgren of [Sweden](#) -- the country that holds the rotating presidency of the European Union at the time of the summit -- put his weight behind the notion of a "legally binding deal." Meanwhile, Yvo de Boer, a top United Nations climate change official, focused less on the essence of the agreement and more on tangible action and effects saying, "Copenhagen will only be a success if it delivers significant and immediate action that begins the day the conference ends."

The division between developed and developing countries in Copenhagen reached new heights on Dec. 14, 2009, when some of the poor and less developed countries launched a boycott at the summit. The move, which was spurred by African countries but backed by [China](#) and [India](#), appeared to be geared toward redirecting attention and primary responsibility to the wealthier and more industrialized countries. The impasse was resolved after the wealthier and more industrialized countries offered assurances that they did not intend on shirking from their commitments to reducing greenhouse gases. As a result, the participating countries ceased the boycott.

Outside the actual summit, thousands of protestors had gathered to demand crucial global warming, leading to clashes between police and demonstrators elsewhere in the Danish capital city. There were reports of scattered violence across Copenhagen and more than 1,000 people were arrested.



Nevertheless, by the second week of the climate change summit, hopes of forging a strong deal were eroding as developed and developing nations remained deadlocked on sharing cuts in greenhouse gases, and particularly on the matters of financing and temperature goals. In a bid to shore up support for a new climate change, [United States](#) President Barack Obama joined other world leaders in Copenhagen. On Dec. 14, 2009, there was a standoff brewing between the [United States](#) and [China](#). At issue was China's refusal to accept international monitoring of its expressed targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The [United States](#) argued that China's opposition to verification could be a deal-breaker.

By the close of the summit, the difficult process eventually resulted in some consensus being cultivated. A draft text called for \$100 billion a year by 2020 to assist poor nations cope with climate change, while aiming to limit global warming to two degrees Celsius compared with pre-industrial levels. The deal also included specific targets for developed countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and called for reductions by developing countries as a share of their economies. Also included in the agreement was a mechanism to verify compliance. The details of the agreement were supported by President Barack Obama, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

This draft would stand as an interim agreement, with a legally-binding international pact unlikely to materialize until 2010. In this way, the summit in Copenhagen failed to achieve its central objective, which was to negotiate a successor to the Kyoto Protocol on greenhouse gas emissions.

#### Editor's Note

In the background of these developments was the growing global consciousness related to global warming and climate change. Indeed, as the Copenhagen summit was ongoing, it was clear there was enormous concurrence on the significance of the stakes with an editorial on the matter of climate change being published in 56 newspapers in 45 countries. That editorial warned that without global action, climate change would "ravage our planet." Meanwhile, a global survey taken by Globescan showed that concern over global warming had exponentially increased from 1998 -- when only 20 percent of respondents believed it to be a serious problem -- to 64 percent in 2009. Such survey data, however, was generated ahead of the accusations by climate change skeptics that some climate scientists may have overstated the case for global warming, based on emails derived in an illicit manner from a British University.

#### ***Special Entry: Climate change talks in Doha in [Qatar](#) extend life of Kyoto Protocol (2012)***

December 2012 saw climate talks ensue in the Qatari city of Doha as representatives from countries across the world gathered to discuss the fate of the Kyoto Protocol, which seeks to minimize greenhouse gas emissions. The summit yielded results with decisions made (1) to extend

the Kyoto Protocol until 2020, and (2) for wealthier countries to compensate poorer countries for the losses and damage incurred as a result of climate change.

In regards to the second matter, Malia Talakai of [Nauru](#), a leading negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States, explained the necessity of the compensation package as follows: "We are trying to say that if you pollute you must help us."

This measure was being dubbed the "Loss and Damage" mechanism, and was being linked with [United States](#) President Barack Obama's request for \$60 billion from Congress to deal with the devastation caused by Hurricane Sandy months before. The sight of a hurricane bearing down on the northern Atlantic seaboard, along with the reality of the scope of reconstruction, appeared to have illustrated the economic costs of climate change -- not so much as a distant environmental issue -- but as a danger to the quotidian lives of people. Still, there was blame to be placed on the [United States](#) and European countries -- some of world's largest emitters -- for failing to do more to reduce emissions.

To that latter end, there was in fact little progress made on the central issue of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Had those emissions been reduced, there would have been less of a need to financially deal with the devastation caused by climate change. One interpretation was that the global community was accepting the fact that industrialization was contributing to global warming, which had deleterious effects on the polar ice caps and concomitantly on the rise of sea level, with devastating effects for small island nations. Thus, wealthier countries were willing to pay around \$10 billion a year through 2020, effectively in "damages," to the poor countries that could be viewed as the "collateral damage" of industrial progress. But damages today could potentially be destruction tomorrow, leaving in place the existential challenges and burdens to be born by some of the world's smallest and least wealthy island countries.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the representative for the small island nation states at the Doha summit responded with ire, characterizing the lack of progress on reducing emissions as follows: "We see the package before us as deeply deficient in mitigation (carbon cuts) and finance. It's likely to lock us on the trajectory to a 3,4,5C rise in global temperatures, even though we agreed to keep the global average temperature rise of 1.5C to ensure survival of all islands. There is no new finance (for adapting to climate change and getting clean energy) -- only promises that something might materialize in the future. Those who are obstructive need to talk not about how their people will live, but whether our people will live."

Indeed, in most small island countries not just in the Pacific, but also the Caribbean and Indian Ocean, ecological concerns and the climate crisis have been dominant themes with dire life and death consequences looming in the background for their people. Small island nations in these region are already at risk from the rise of sea-level, tropical cyclones, floods. But their very livelihoods of fishing and subsistence farming were also at risk as a result of ecological and

environmental changes. Increasingly high storm surges can wipe out entire villages and contaminate water supplies. Accordingly, the very existence of island nations, such as [Kiribati](#) and [Tuvalu](#), are at severe risk of being obliterated from the map. Yet even with the existential threat of being wiped off the map in the offing, the international community has been either slow or restrictive in its efforts to deal with global warming, climate change, economic and ecological damage, as well as the emerging global challenge of environmental refugees.

A 2012 report from the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the Pacific Regional Environment Program underlined the concerns of small island nations and their people as it concluded that the livelihoods of approximately 10 million people in Pacific island communities were increasingly vulnerable to climate change. In fact, low-lying islands in that region would likely confront losses of up to 18 percent of gross domestic product due to climate change, according to the report. The report covers 21 countries and territories, including [Fiji](#), [Kiribati](#), [Samoa](#) and [Tonga](#), and recommended environmental legislation intended to deal with the climate crisis facing the small island countries particularly. As noted by David Sheppard, the director general of the Pacific Regional Environment Program that co-sponsored this study: "The findings... emphasize the need more than ever to raise the bar through collective actions that address the region's environmental needs at all levels."

Regardless of the failures of the summit in [Qatar](#) (discussed above), the meeting did facilitate a process starting in 2015, which would bind both wealthy and poor countries together in the mission of forging a new binding treaty that would replace the Kyoto Protocol and tackle the central causes of climate change.

For more information on the threats faced in small island nations by climate change and the measures being undertaken to lobby for international action, please see the Alliance for Small Island States available online at the URL: <http://aosis.org/>

### ***Special Report***

#### ***COP 21 summit in Paris ends with historic agreement to tackle climate change; rare international consensus formed on environmental crisis facing the planet (2015) --***

In mid-December 2015, the highly-anticipated United Nations climate conference of parties (COP) in Paris, [France](#), ended with a historic agreement. In fact, it would very likely be understood as the most significant international agreement signed by all the recognized countries of the world since the Cold War. Accordingly, the Paris Agreement was being distinguished as the first multilateral pact that would compel all countries across the world to cut its carbon emissions -- one of the major causes of increasing greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to global warming, and its deleterious effects ranging from the dangerous rise in sea level to catastrophic climate

change.

The accord, which was dubbed to be the "Paris Agreement," was the work of rigorous diplomacy and fervent environmental advocacy, and it aimed to address the climate change crisis facing the planet. As many as 195 countries were represented in the negotiations that led to the landmark climate deal. Indeed, it was only after weeks of passionate debate that international concurrence was reached in addressing the environmental challenges confronting the world, with particular attention to moving beyond fossil fuels and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The success of the COP 21 summit in Paris and the emergence of the landmark Paris Agreement was, to some extent, attributed to the efforts of France's Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius who presided over the negotiations. The French foreign minister's experience and credentials as a seasoned diplomat and respected statesman paid dividends. He skillfully guided the delegates from almost 200 countries and interest groups along the negotiations process, with ostensibly productive results and a reasonably robust deal to show for it.

On Dec. 12, 2015, French Foreign Minister Fabius officially adopted the agreement, declaring: "I now invite the COP to adopt the decision entitled Paris Agreement outlined in the document. Looking out to the room I see that the reaction is positive, I see no objections. The Paris agreement is adopted." Once Foreign Minister Fabius' gavel was struck, symbolically inaugurating the Paris Agreement into force, the COP delegate rushed to their feet with loud and bouyant cheers as well as thunderous applause.

In general, the Paris Agreement was being hailed as a victory for enviromental activists and a triumph for international diplomats, while at the same time being understood as simply an initial -- and imperfect -- move in the direction of a sustainable future. China's chief negotiator, Xie Zhenhua, issued this message, saying that while the accord was not ideal, it should "not prevent us from marching historical steps forward."

United States President Barack Obama lauded the deal as both "ambitious" and "historic," and the work of strenuous multilateral negotiations as he declared, "Together, we've shown what's possible when the world stands as one." The [United States](#) leader acknowledged that the accord was not "perfect," but he reminded the critics that it was "the best chance to save the one planet we have. "

Former [United States](#) Vice President Al Gore, one of the world's most well known environmental advocates, issued a lengthy statement on the accomplishments ensconced in the Paris Agreement. He highlighted the fact that the Paris Agreement was a first step towards a future with a reduced carbon footprint on Planet Earth as he said, "The components of this agreement -- including a strong review mechanism to enhance existing commitments and a long-term goal to eliminate global-warming pollution this century -- are essential to unlocking the necessary investments in our future. No agreement is perfect, and this one must be strengthened over time, but groups across

every sector of society will now begin to reduce dangerous carbon pollution through the framework of this agreement."

The central provisions of the Paris Agreement included the following items:

- Greenhouse gas emissions should peak as quickly as possible, with a move towards balancing energy sources, and ultimately the decrease of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century
- Global temperature increase would be limited to 1.5 degrees Centigrade above pre-industrial levels and would be held "well below" the two degrees Centigrade threshold
- Progress on these goals would be reviewed every five years beginning in 2020 with new greenhouse gas reduction targets issued every five years
- \$100 billion would be expended each year in climate finance for developing countries to move forward with green technologies, with further climate financing to be advanced in the years beyond

It should be noted that there both legally binding and voluntary elements contained within the Paris Agreement. Specifically, the submission of an emissions reduction target and the regular review of that goal would be legally mandatory for all countries. Stated differently, there would be a system in place by which experts would be able to track the carbon-cutting progress of each country. At the same time, the specific targets to be set by countries would be determined at the discretion of the countries, and would not be binding. While there was some criticism over this non-binding element, the fact of the matter was that the imposition of emissions targets was believed to be a major factor in the failure of climate change talks in Copenhagen, [Denmark](#), in 2009.

In 2015, the talks faced challenges as several countries, such as [China](#) and [India](#), objected to conditions that would stymie economic and development. In order to avoid that kind of landmine, a system Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) was developed and formed the basis of the accord. As such, the Paris Agreement would, in fact, facilitate economic growth and development, as well as technological progress, but with the goal of long-term ecological sustainability based on low carbon sources. In fact, the agreement heralded as "the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era." As noted by Nick Mabey, the head of the climate diplomacy organization E3G, said, "Paris means governments will go further and faster to tackle climate change than ever before. The transition to a low carbon economy is now unstoppable, ensuring the end of the fossil fuel age."

A particular sticking point in the agreement was the \$100 billion earmarked for climate financing for developing countries to transition from traditional fossil fuels to green energy technologies and a low carbon future. In 2014, a report by the International Energy Agency indicated that the cost of that transition would actually be around \$44 trillion by the mid-century -- an amount that would render the \$100 billion being promised to be a drop in the proverbial bucket. However, the general expectation was that the Republican-controlled Senate in the [United States](#), which would have to

ratify the deal in that country, was not interested in contributing significant funds for the cause of climate change.

A key strength of the Paris Agreement was the ubiquitous application of measures to all countries. Of note was the frequently utilized concept of "flexibility" with regard to the Paris Agreement. Specifically, the varying capacities of the various countries in meeting their obligations would be anticipated and accorded flexibility. This aspect presented something of a departure from the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which drew a sharp distinction between developed and developing countries, and mandated a different set of obligations for those categories of countries. Thus, under Kyoto, [China](#) and [India](#) were not held to the same standards as the [United States](#) and European countries. In the Paris Agreement, there would be commitments from all countries across the globe.

Another notable strength of the Paris Agreement was the fact that the countries of the world were finally able to reach consensus on the vital necessity to limit global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Centigrade. Ahead of the global consensus on the deal, and as controversy continued to surface over the targeted global temperature limits, the leaders of island countries were sounding the alarm about the melting of the Polar ice caps and the associated rise in sea level. Prime Minister Enele Sopoaga of [Tuvalu](#) issued this dismal reminder: "Tuvalu's future ... is already bleak and any further temperature increase will spell the total demise of [Tuvalu](#). No leader in this room carries such a level of worry and responsibility. Just imagine you are in my shoes, what would you do?" It was thus something of a victory for environmental advocates that the countries of the world could find consensus on the lower number -- 1.5 degrees rather than 2 degrees.

A significant weak point with regard to the Paris deal was a "loss and damage" provision, which anticipates that even with all the new undertakings intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and move to a low carbon future, there would nonetheless be unavoidable climate change consequences. Those consequences ranged from the loss of arable land for farmers as well as soil erosion and contamination of potable water by sea water, to the decimation of territory in coastal zones and on small islands, due to the rise in sea level, with entire small island countries being rendered entirely uninhabitable. The reality was that peoples' homes across the world would be destroyed along with their way of life.

With that latter catastrophic effect being a clear and present danger for small island countries, the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) demanded that the developed world acknowledge its responsibility for this irreversible damage.. Despite the fact that greenhouse gas emissions and the ensuing plague of global warming was, indeed, the consequence of development in the West (the [United States](#) and Europe) and the large power house countries, such as [Russia](#), [China](#) and [India](#), there was no appetite by those countries to sign on to unlimited liability. Under the Paris Agreement, there was a call for research on insurance mechanisms that would address loss and damage issues, with recommendations to come in the future.



The call for research was being regarded as an evasion of sorts and constituted the weakest aspect of the Paris Agreement. Not surprisingly, a coalition of small island nations demanded a "Marshall Plan" for the Pacific. Borrowing the term "Marshall Plan" from the post-World War II reconstruction effort, the coalition of Pacific island nation, which included [Kiribati](#), [Tuvalu](#), [Fiji](#), and the [Marshall Islands](#), called for an initiative that would include investment in renewable energy and shoreline protection, cultural preservation, economic assistance for economies in transition, and a plan for migration and resettlement for these countries as they confront the catastrophic effects of the melting of the Polar ice caps and the concomitant rise in sea level. The precise contours of the initiative remained unknown, unspecified, and a mere exercise in theory at the time of writing. Yet such an initiative would, at some point, have to be addressed, given the realities of climate change and the slow motion calamity unfolding each day for low-lying island nations across the world.

As noted by Vice President Greg Stone of Conservation International, who also functions as an adviser to the government of [Kiribati](#), "Imagine living in a place where you know it's going to go away someday, but you don't know what day that wave's going to come over and wash your home away." He added, "It's a disaster we know is going to happen." Meanwhile, the intervening years promised to be filled with hardship for small island nations, such as [Kiribati](#). Stone explained, "For every inch of sea-level rise, these islands lose 10 feet of their freshwater table to saltwater intrusion," Stone explained. "So it's not just about the day the water finally goes over the island; it's also about the day that there's just not enough water left and everyone has to move off the island." Presaging the future for island nations that could face submersion, Stone said, "If you look ahead 50 years, a country like [Kiribati](#) could become the first aqueous nation. possibility of migration. That is, they own this big patch of ocean, and they administer it from elsewhere."

Foreign Minister Minister Tony Debrum of the [Marshall Islands](#) emerged as the champion advocating on behalf of small island nation states and a loose coalition of concerned countries from the Pacific to the Caribbean, but with support from the [United States](#). He addressed the comprehensive concerns of small island nations regarding the weaknesses of the deal, while simultaneously making clear that the Paris Agreement signified hope for the countries most at risk. In a formal statement, Debrum declared: "We have made history today. Emissions targets are still way off track, but this agreement has the tools to ramp up ambition, and brings a spirit of hope that we can rise to this challenge. I can go back home to my people and say we now have a pathway to survival." Debrum highlighted the imperatives of Pacific island nations, saying, "Our High Ambition Coalition was the lightning rod we needed to lift our sights and expectations for a strong agreement here in Paris. We were joined by countries representing more than half the world. We said loud and clear that a bare-bones, minimalist agreement would not fly. We instead demanded an agreement to mark a turning point in history, and the beginning of our journey to the post-carbon era."

Debrum of the [Marshall Islands](#) espoused the quintessential synopsis of the accord and its effects for those most likely to be affected by climate change as he noted, “Climate change won’t stop overnight, and my country is not out of the firing line just yet, but today we all feel a little safer.”

Editor's Entry on [Environmental Policy](#):

The low-lying Pacific island nations of the world, including [Kiribati](#), [Tuvalu](#), the [Marshall Islands](#), [Fiji](#), among others, are vulnerable to the threats posed by global warming and climate change, derived from carbon emissions, and resulting in the rise in sea level. Other island nations in the Caribbean, as well as poor countries with coastal zones, were also at particular risk of suffering the deleterious effects of climate change.

Political policy in these countries are often connected to ecological issues, which have over time morphed into an existential crisis of sorts. Indeed, ecological concerns and the climate crisis have also been dominant themes with life and death consequences for the people of island nations in the Pacific. Indeed, the very livelihoods of fishing and subsistence farming remain at risk as a result of ecological and environmental changes. Yet even so, these countries are threatened by increasingly high storm surges, which could wipe out entire villages and contaminate water supplies. Moreover, because these are low lying island nations, the sustained rise in sea level can potentially lead to the terrain of these countries being uninhabitable at best, and submerged at worst. Stated in plain terms, these countries are at severe risk of being obliterated from the map and their plight illuminates the emerging global challenge of environmental refugees. In these manifold senses, climate change is the existential crisis of the contemporary era.

Since the time of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, there have been efforts aimed at extending the life of that agreement, with an eye on minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, and thus minimizing the effects of climate change. Those endeavors have largely ended in failure, as exemplified by the unsuccessful Copenhagen talks in 2009 and the fruitless Doha talks in 2012 respectively. The success of the COP 21 talks in [France](#), with the adoption of the landmark Paris Agreement in 2015, was regarded as the first glimmer of hope. Not only did the Paris Agreement signify the triumph of international diplomacy and global consensus, but it also marked the start of the end of the fossil fuel era, with the path forward toward a low carbon future reliant on greener technologies. Most crucially, the Paris Agreement stood as the first significant response in recent times to the central challenge of climate change and its quotidian effects on the lives of real human beings across the world.

## **1. Major International Environmental Accords:**



## **General Environmental Concerns**

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, Espoo, 1991.

## **Accords Regarding Atmosphere**

Annex 16, vol. II (Environmental Protection: Aircraft Engine Emissions) to the 1044 Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation, Montreal, 1981

Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP), Geneva, 1979

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), New York, 1992

Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, Vienna, 1985 including the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Depleted the Ozone Layer, Montreal, 1987

## **Accords Regarding Hazardous Substances**

Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movements and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa, Bamako, 1991

Convention on Civil Liability for Damage Caused during Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road, Rail and Inland Navigation Vessels (CRTD), Geneva, 1989

Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention), Basel, 1989

Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents, Helsinki, 1992

Convention to Ban the Importation into Forum Island Countries of Hazardous and Radioactive Wastes and to Control the Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention), Waigani, 1995

European Agreement Concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), Geneva 1957

FAO International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides, Rome, 1985

## **2. Major International Marine Accords:**

### **Global Conventions**

Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention 1972), London, 1972

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by Protocol of 1978 relation thereto (MARPOL 73/78), London, 1973 and 1978

International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage 1969 (1969 CLC), Brussels, 1969, 1976, and 1984

International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1971 (1971 Fund Convention), Brussels, 1971

Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by Sea (HNS), London 1996

International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response, and Co-operation (OPRC), London, 1990

International Convention Relation to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties (Intervention Convention), Brussels, 1969

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Montego Bay, 1982

### **Regional Conventions**

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Convention for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land-based Sources (Paris Convention), Paris, 1974

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention), Paris, 1992

Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (1974 Helsinki Convention), Helsinki 1974

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Conventions within the UNEP Regional Seas Programme

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Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena de Indias, 1983

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### **3. Major Conventions Regarding Living Resources:**

#### **Marine Living Resources**

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International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW), Washington, 1946

### **Nature Conservation and Terrestrial Living Resources**

Antarctic Treaty, Washington, D.C., 1959

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Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Bonn, 1979

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Washington, D.C., 1973

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FAO International Undertaking on Plant Genetic Resources, Rome, 1983

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### **Freshwater Resources**

Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, Helsinki, 1992

### **4. Major Conventions Regarding Nuclear Safety:**

Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency (Assistance Convention), Vienna, 1986

Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident (Notification Convention), Vienna, 1986

Convention on Nuclear Safety, Vienna, 1994

Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, Vienna, 1963

## **5. Major Intergovernmental Organizations**

Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

European Union (EU): Environment

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES)

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

International Monetary Fund (IMF)

International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds)

Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Environment Policy Committee (EPOC)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

World Bank

World Food Programme (WFP)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

World Trade Organization (WTO)

## **6. Major Non-Governmental Organizations**

Atmosphere Action Network East Asia (AANE)

Climate Action Network (CAN)

Consumers International (CI)

Earth Council

Earthwatch Institute

Environmental Liaison Centre International (ELCI)

European Environmental Bureau (EEB)

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)

Friends of the Earth International (FoEI)

Greenpeace International

International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

International Solar Energy Society (ISES)

IUCN-The World Conservation Union

Pesticide Action Network (PAN)

Sierra Club

Society for International Development (SID)

Third World Network (TWN)

Water Environment Federation (WEF)

Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

World Federalist Movement (WFM)

World Resources Institute (WRI)

World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF)

### **7. Other Networking Instruments**

Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)

Global Legislators for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE)

Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)

United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS)





# Appendices

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#### **Methodology Note for Demographic Data:**

The demographic numbers for cities and national populations listed in CountryWatch content are derived from the Geoba.se website, which analyzes data from the World Bank. The current demographic numbers displayed on the Countrywatch website are reflective of the latest available estimates.

The demographic information for language, ethnicity and religion listed in CountryWatch content is

derived from a mix of sources including the Altapedia, Central Intelligence Agency Factbook, Infoplease, and State Department Background Notes.

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#### Methodology Notes for Economic Data:

Estimates by CountryWatch.com of GDP in dollars in most countries are made by converting local currency GDP data from the International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook to US dollars by market exchange rates estimated from the International Monetary Fund International Financial Statistics and projected out by the CountryWatch Macroeconomic Forecast. Real GDP was estimated by deflating current dollar values by the US GDP Implicit Price Deflator.

Exceptions to this method were used for:

- Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Nauru
- Cuba
- Palau
- Holy See
- San Marino
- Korea, North
- [Serbia](#) & Montenegro
- Liberia
- Somalia
- Liechtenstein
- Tonga
- Monaco
- Tuvalu

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#### Methodology Notes for the HDI:

Since 1990, the United Nations Development Programme, in concert with organizations across the globe, has produced the [Human Development Index](#) (or HDI). According to the UNDP, the index measures average achievement in basic human development in one simple composite index, and produces from this index a ranking of countries. The HDI is a composite of three basic components of human development: longevity, knowledge and standard of living. Longevity is measured by life expectancy. Knowledge is measured by combination of adult literacy and mean

years of schooling. Standard of living is measured by purchasing power, based on real GDP per capita (in constant US\$) adjusted for differences in international living costs (or, purchasing power parity, PPP). While the index uses these social indicators to measure national performance with regard to human welfare and development, not all countries provide the same level of information for each component needed to compute the index; therefore, as in any composite indicator, the final index is predicated on projections, predictions and weighting schemes. The index is a static measure, and thus, an incomplete measure of human welfare. In fact, the UNDP says itself the concept of human development focuses on the ends rather than the means of development and progress, examining in this manner, the average condition of all people in a given country.

Specifically, the index is calculated by determining the maximum and minimum for each of the three components (as listed above) and then measuring where each country stands in relation to these scales-expressed as a value between 0 and 1. For example, the minimum adult literary rate is zero percent, the maximum is 100 percent, and the reading skills component of knowledge in the HDI for a country where the literacy rate is 75 percent would be 0.75. The scores of all indicators are then averaged into the overall index.

For a more extensive examination of human development, as well as the ranking tables for each participating country, please visit: <http://www.undp.org>

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Note: Some or all these news services have been used to research various sections of this Country Review.

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#### **Individual Works**

**Basic form, using an Internet protocol:**

Author/editor. *Title of Print Version of Work*. Edition statement (if given). Publication information (Place of publication: publisher, date), if given. *Title of Electronic Work*. Medium. Available Protocol (if applicable):Site/Path/File. Access date.

**Examples:**

Youngblood-Coleman, Denise. *Country Review: France*. 2003. Houston, Texas: CountryWatch Publications, 2003. *Country Review:France*. Online. Available URL : [http://www.countrywatch.com/cw\\_country.asp?vCOUNTRY=61](http://www.countrywatch.com/cw_country.asp?vCOUNTRY=61) October, 12, 2003.

Note:

This is the citation format used when the print version is not used in the reference.

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Youngblood-Coleman, Denise. "People." *CountryWatch.com: France*. 2003. Houston, Texas: CountryWatch Publications, 2003. *CountryWatch.com: France*. Online. Available URL : [http://www.countrywatch.com/cw\\_topic.asp?vCOUNTRY=61&SECTION=SOCIAL&TOPIC=CLPEO&TYPE=TEXT](http://www.countrywatch.com/cw_topic.asp?vCOUNTRY=61&SECTION=SOCIAL&TOPIC=CLPEO&TYPE=TEXT). October 12, 2003.

Note:

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***For further source citation information, please email:*** editor@countrywatch.com or education@countrywatch.com.

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