



LET'S MEET IN BUSAN !

Dear Partners and Friends,

In less than four weeks, on **27-30 October 2009**, the worldwide community of organisations and individuals that sustains our [Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies](#) will be gathering together in **Busan, Korea**, at the [3rd OECD World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy](#).

Heads of State, civil society leaders, outstanding scientists and heads of international organisations will address the Forum in plenary sessions. 37 parallel sessions will be devoted to discussions with policy makers, parliamentarians, journalists, economists, social scientists and national chief statisticians from all over the world.

This third edition of the Forum is of critical importance for the policy and research agendas on well-being and progress. Today more than ever there is a strong political demand for reliable indicators that go beyond GDP, measuring the various dimensions of well-being to provide a better basis for policy making. Recent prominent expressions of this pressing demand were expressed in the mandate given by French President Nicolas Sarkozy to the *Commission on the Measurement of Economic Performance and Social Progress*, chaired by Joseph Stiglitz (14 January 2008), the Communication of the European Commission on *GDP and Beyond* (8 September 2009), and the G20 commitment to “encourage work on measurement methods so as to better take into account the social and environmental dimensions of economic development” (25 September 2009).

These political statements are giving renewed impetus to the implementation of the [Istanbul Declaration on Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies](#), adopted in 2007, at the 2nd World Forum, by the EC, the OECD, the UN, the UNDP, the OIC and the World Bank – and subsequently endorsed by numerous governmental, non-governmental and academic organisations. Our Global Project will benefit from such a critical momentum for deepening its underlying partnership, consolidating its working streams, expanding its network of networks, and mainstreaming substantive follow-up to the recommendations of the [Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission](#), who's Report will be presented and discussed at the Forum.

The [3rd OECD World Forum](#) will therefore offer a unique opportunity to move forward the objectives of the international agenda. The OECD will present its commitments and plans to better measure well-being and enhance the related policies and other key players – such as the UNDP, the International Association of Economic and Social Councils and INTOSAI – will assemble at special sessions of the Forum to discuss targets and concrete steps to be taken for advancing in measuring and fostering the progress of societies.

Your own individual experience, views and voice could be very influential in discussing on-going projects and giving new orientations to the work of our worldwide community. It is therefore essential that we meet you at the 3rd World Forum.

There are still spaces left, if you wish to attend. So, if you have not registered yet, we urge you to do it as soon as possible, following the instructions on the [registration page](#).

See you all in Busan!

Yours faithfully,
The Global Project Team

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Rising, moving and beyond

By Jon Hall, The Global Project Manager

On the 14th of September, I – alongside hundreds of other people in Paris's Sorbonne - watched French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Nobel laureates Joseph Stiglitz and Amarty Sen, launch their [report of new measures of economic performance and social progress](#). As I watched them supporting the importance of the work we have been promoting, I was struck by how much has changed since four years ago when I came to the OECD to run the then brand new project to Measure the Progress of Societies.

Back in 2005, there was a growing movement of people seeking to go Beyond GDP to measure progress, but – for the most part – this work was not a part of the mainstream and only a few governments were looking seriously at it. Now, it has captured the attention of world leaders and some of the planet's most eminent thinkers. I'm sure everyone working in this area is excited by what is happening, not least because the launch of the Stiglitz-Sen-Fittousi report came just a few days after the release of the European Commission's communication on "[GDP and beyond: Measuring progress in a changing world](#)"

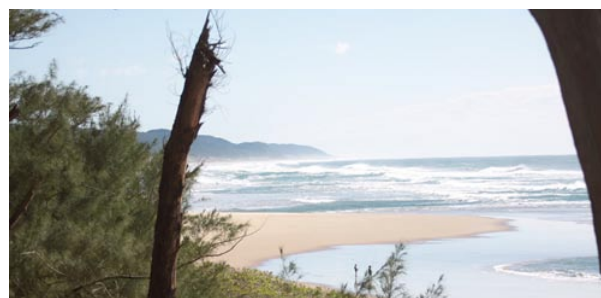
So things are changing fast it seems! But some things don't change – and the Global Project Office has had a busy summer as usual. A lot of effort of course has gone into preparing for the [3rd OECD World Forum in Busan](#), but we have also organised events in Paris, Washington and Florence, run training courses in Italy, Australia and South Africa and made progress on various pieces of research.

The [Data Designed for Decisions](#) conference, held in Paris on the 18-20 June 2009, investigated the selection, visualisation, interpretation and communication of data, and how it can be effectively used to take decision based on evidence, help understand complex issues, make data relevant at a personal level and close the gap between objective measurement and perception.

In July we co-organised in Washington, DC a conference on [Innovative Approaches to Turn Statistics into Knowledge](#). The OECD, along with the US Census Bureau, and the World Bank sponsored this seminar which was about the art of making statistics understandable and appealing to modern audiences. Also in July we organised a workshop in Florence on *Measuring subjective well-being: an opportunity for National Statistical Offices?* as part of the

International Society for Quality of Life Studies Conference.

In early September, we released a draft version of an OECD working paper that sets out a **proposed framework to measure the progress of societies**, <http://www.oecd.org/progress/taxonomy>. This work was undertaken in recognition of the fact that most initiatives that seek to measure the progress of a society include some sort of framework that can guide in the selection of indicators, or aid their interpretation. While different initiatives require different frameworks there is a demand from many of those we work with for guidance in how to develop a framework. The new framework suggests a common starting point that we believe is broad-based and flexible enough to be applied in many situations around the world.



Cape Vidal, South Africa © Jon Hall, 2009

Progress, of course, is all about change. There has been plenty of change within the Global Project too over the past few weeks. In August, Enrico Giovannini, the former OECD's Chief Statistician and Co-Chair of the Global Project board, returned home to Italy to run the Italian statistical office (ISTAT). Next month, I will leave the OECD's Statistical Directorate for a new job with Paris 21 – the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century – where I will focus on building statistical capacity in Asia and the Pacific. Both Enrico and I hope to continue to remain involved in the Measuring Progress movement, no matter which desk we are sitting behind.

I hope to see many of you at the 3rd OECD World Forum in [Busan, Korea](#) on the 27th to 30th of October.

Join us on...!



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You can subscribe to our newsletter using either of the below methods

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2. Under Define your Profile, check the box "Statistical portal" then "Submit"
3. Next in the "Newsletters", section check on "Measuring the Progress of Societies"
- 4.

Or email us directly : progress@oecd.org with your name, organisation and email address.

Website ICT sharing tools:

www.ICT4Progress.org



The purpose of this website is to allow collaboration of ICT projects, by sharing the actual source code, application, tools and design with other developers or interested users from all around the world. This website enables a community of innovative technology experts to benefit from each other's tools, expertise and knowledge and for users to acquire new skills.

KNOWLEDGE BASE

The **Knowledge Base** contains **hundreds** of documents on measures of progress (or sustainability, wellbeing or quality of life - all terms closely linked to progress) and is a community of experts sharing their experiences and defining together best practices. As such, **the Knowledge Base depends on your contributions.**

We encourage you to submit material by registering at: <http://www.measuringprogress.org/knowledgebase>

The Global Project on MEASURING THE PROGRESS OF SOCIETIES

www.oecd.org/progress



[What we are doing](#)

[Why is our work important](#)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

The Global Project on "Measuring the Progress of Societies" is hosted by the OECD and run in collaboration with other international and regional partners, it seeks to become the world wide reference point for those who wish to measure, and assess the progress of their societies.

Mission Statement: The [Global Project on Measuring the Progress of Societies](#) exists to foster the development of sets of key economic, social and environmental indicators to provide a comprehensive picture of how the well-being of a society is evolving. It also seeks to encourage the use of indicator sets to inform and promote evidence-based decision-making, within and across the public, private and citizen sectors. The project is open to all sectors of society, building both on good practice and innovative research work.

[Who is involved in the Global Project](#)

The project's network comprises a growing number of: [Partners](#) - [Associates](#) - [Sponsors](#), [Technical Advisors](#) - [Correspondents](#) - [Other](#)

- [Overview of Research](#)
- [Training Courses](#)
- [Taxonomy \(Framework\)](#)
- [International Survey](#)
- [Knowledge Base](#)
- [Information into Knowledge](#)
- [Future Events](#)

[3rd OECD World Forum Korea 27-30 October 2009](#)

If you would like to attend, then go and **REGISTER** now please on this webpage, by following the instructions. You will also find here logistical information including transport and hotels in Busan, Korea. We strongly encourage you to register as soon as possible to secure your place. www.oecdworldforum2009.org

Global Project Co-chairs: Mr. Pedro Conceicao (UNDP) and Mr. Paul Schreyer (OECD)

Global Project Manager: Mr. Jon Hall

Contact us: Progress@oecd.org

Ecological Footprint Accounting: Its research question, its flaws and ways forward

By the Global Footprint Network

Introduction

Ecological Footprint accounts address, through empirical analysis and with ever more accuracy, one particular research question: *How much of the planet's regenerative capacity is demanded to support human activities?*

For life, human and non-human, it is the biosphere's regenerative capacity that is ultimately limiting. Also, access to non-renewable resources may be limited by regenerative capacity due to limited waste absorptive capacity (for instance for CO₂) or energy requirements to concentrate ores.

In a time of increasing ecological constraints, our research question could be the most critical one for the twenty-first century, one that humanity cannot afford to ignore. Failing to live within the budget of nature will eventually lead to ecological bankruptcy and collapse. There may thus be no single research endeavor more important than building an accurate understanding of humanity's demand on the biosphere. This requires an open, transparent, and scientific process applied in consistent and reproducible ways.

Criticism is welcome - the development of the Footprint is ongoing

As originators of the method and stewards of the most widely used Ecological Footprints accounts in use today, [Global Footprint Network](http://www.footprintnetwork.org) is the first to acknowledge that Footprint accounts can and must be improved. As a scientific organisation aiming to implement policy relevant tools and analyses, Global Footprint Network depends on input and suggestions from others regarding calculation methods and potential improvements.

There are numerous valid critiques of the Ecological Footprint method, many of which form the basis for an active research agenda (Kitzes et al, [2007-2009](#)) as described below.

There is incremental criticism on imperfections of the method, as well as fundamental criticism about the usefulness of the Footprint approach. Valid fundamental criticism falls into two domains:

1) **Usefulness of the research question:** *"There can be doubts whether the Footprint's research question is relevant to sustainability."* We believe the Footprint's research question is central to sustainability. It is as central as it is for farmers to know the size of their farm. Whether their farmland

extends over 5,000 or 500 hectares makes a significant difference to the opportunities that are available to the farmer. We contend that the same logic applies for a region. How can sustainability be meaningful without understanding what ecological assets are available, and what ecological constraints are affecting a particular region?

2) **Quality of current results:** *"Assuming that the research question is relevant, there can be doubts whether the Footprint approach answers the research question answered too poorly to be useful."* Certainly, the accuracy and detail of the results can still be enhanced. Therefore, Global Footprint Network, together with more than 100 partner organizations from across the world, builds on 15 years of methodological development and continues to refine the tool. We constructed our method to be conservative. In other words, our results are, most likely an underestimate of overshoot. This if anything, only strengthens the argument for a significant and rapid reduction of resource throughput through the human economy in order to secure human wellbeing. Such reductions are far distant from what most policies implemented today are aiming to achieve. Therefore, it is unlikely that humanity, or any nation, would be better off with no Footprint results, in spite of the Footprint approach's current limitations.



If the foundations of the Footprint method are accepted, then a third domain of criticism becomes relevant: *How can the method be improved?* Most criticism is relevant to this question, and this is the area on which Global Footprint Network's current development of the method is focused. (Note that the Global Footprint Network website summarizes many criticisms at www.footprintnetwork.org/faq.)

What are Ecological Footprint accounts, and how are they being improved?

Sustainable development implies a commitment giving all people the opportunity to lead fulfilling lives within the means of our one planet Earth. This concept continues to receive a great deal of attention in the public and political arenas. Yet when it comes to actual environmental strategies and policies, are decision

makers asking the right questions to lead us towards this goal?

When people catch more fish than can be regenerated, fisheries eventually collapse; when we harvest more timber than forests can regrow, we advance deforestation; when we emit more CO₂ than the biosphere can absorb, CO₂ accumulates in the atmosphere and contributes to global warming. We term this overuse of renewable resources “ecological overshoot.” To achieve sustainable development, it is critical to have information about humanity’s demand, both global and local, on the material flows of the biosphere and what the biosphere is actually able to provide.

This is the research question answered by Ecological Footprint accounting. Footprint accounts measure the actual amount of biological resources produced and wastes absorbed by the planet in a given year, and compares this with how many resources humans extract and how much waste we generate. This accounting can be done at any scale, from the resource demand of a single activity or a single individual, to that of a city, country, or the entire world. Global Footprint Network’s most recent national and global accounts (2008) show that, in 2005, the most recent year for which data are available, humanity continued to be in [overshoot](#), demanding approximately 30% more than what the biosphere provided in that year.

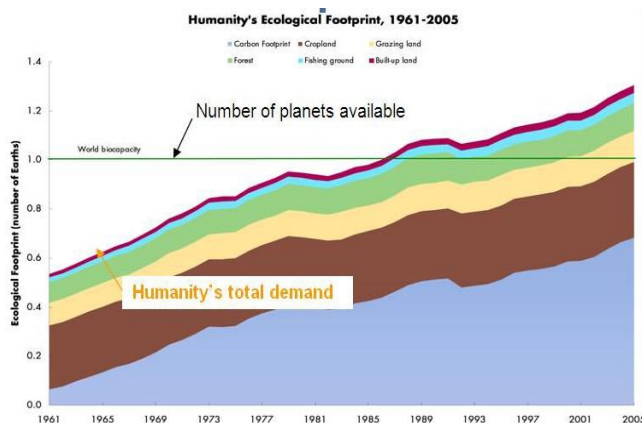


Figure 1: This graph shows the ratio between human demand and the Earth’s biocapacity, and the components of the human demand, from 1961 to 2005. Source Global Footprint Network, National Footprint Accounts edition 2008.

More on this calculation [methodology](#) is available through Global Footprint Network, including the *Ecological Footprint Atlas* with the complete 2008 data and results, [a method paper](#), and a [guidebook](#) to the National Footprint Accounts. In addition to these scientific publications, a summary of the results for the general public is presented in the [Living Planet Report 2008](#), written by the World Wildlife Fund, Global

Footprint Network, and the Zoological Society of London.

As with all scientific processes, the Ecological Footprint accounts methodology is continuously being updated and improved in response to new scientific information. We have several processes underway at Global Footprint Network to ensure that our calculations remain up-to-date and transparent for users.

First, we engage in ongoing internal and community reviews of our methodology through the activities of our [National Accounts Review Committee](#). This committee, composed of representatives from Global Footprint Network partner organizations, is responsible for suggesting methodological changes to the core National Footprint Accounts and considering any changes suggested from external academics and reviewers. All changes to the calculation methodology are open for public comment before implementation, in accordance with the Committee’s charter, and external parties are encouraged to submit recommended changes to the accounts directly to Global Footprint Network for consideration by the Committee. There is also a complementary committee on standards which oversees standards development for Footprint accounting at all levels. More on this is available at [www.footprintstandards.org](#).

Second, we engage in collaborative research projects with national governments and external consultancies to review our accounting methodology for specific nations. The government of Switzerland, in 2006, was the first government to publish a review, through four of its agencies (available through the Swiss Statistical Offices). [The report](#) is available in English, French, German and Italian, with a more [technical background](#) report available in English only. Switzerland now [features the Footprint](#) among its national sustainability indicators. The European Commission’s Director General for the Environment is highly positive about the Footprint in a recent 350 page report: [“Potential of the Ecological Footprint for monitoring environmental impact from natural resource use”](#).

Other reviews are underway in Japan, United Arab Emirates, Ecuador, Belgium, and France. In addition to [SOEs](#) of the French Ministry of Sustainable Development, two other commissions have been studying the Footprint: the [Stiglitz commission](#) and [CESE](#). In response to the European Union’s *Beyond GDP* conference ([www.beyond-gdp.eu](#)) a strong endorsement of the Footprint was issued by the [European Economic and Social Committee](#), charged with evaluating effective sustainability indicators.

Ecological Footprint Accounting: The research agenda

As described above, current Ecological Footprint accounts show the existence of global overshoot. The accounts are specifically designed to yield conservative estimates of global overshoot wherever data is inconclusive or issues are insufficiently documented.

Here are key aspects Global Footprint Network is planning to improve:

Trade:

The current method utilizes estimated world average Footprint intensities for all traded goods and omits trade in services. By utilizing a global multi-regional input-output model, the National Footprint Accounts will more accurately track energy and resource impacts of traded goods and services.

Equivalence Factors (EQF):

EQFs are central to Ecological Footprint analysis, as they provide the basis for consistent aggregation. The current EQFs are based on global-average agricultural suitability of various biomes. Proposed revisions to EQFs will more accurately capture spatially explicit utilization of ecological resources and allow for more meaningful time trends.

Fisheries:

The fishing grounds Footprint is currently under revision, with the aim of more explicitly incorporating estimates of sustainable yield at the species group and possibly even at the species level. More geographically explicit catch and species range data will also be incorporated.

Carbon:

Refinements are needed for specifying the biosphere's assimilative capacity for CO₂ emissions. Possible improvements include:

- 1) Define an explicit measure of the biocapacity available for carbon uptake, such that exceeding this capacity (in gha terms) results in an increase in atmospheric concentrations of CO₂.
- 2) Account for carbon uptake by multiple biomes, including narrowing our measure of marine carbon sequestration to encompass only biological fixation.
- 3) More explicitly address the overall carbon budget, in order to more accurately gauge the flows between the human economy and the biosphere.

SEEA Compatibility

The alignment of the National Footprint Accounts with the Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) will improved the policy relevance of the National Footprint Accounts and more easily allow for the incorporation of Ecological Footprint analysis in coordination with economic decision-making. This is

particularly relevant for assessments that allocate overall demand to particular consumption categories.

Sensitivity Analysis

A quantitative analysis of our model's sensitivity to inputs and assumptions will help guide future improvements to the source data and the calculation methodology.

Quality Assurance

Ongoing upgrades to our computational capabilities are improving data integrity and error checking.

Conclusion

Global Footprint Network welcomes discussion about how Ecological Footprint accounting can be made more accurate and useful, particularly at the national level, and what it takes to make the Footprint part of any serious collection of national performance indicators for the 21st century.

Contact: info@footprintnetwork.org

Read more on: www.footprintnetwork.org



Mitchell Falls ©Jon Hall 2009

The Happy Planet Index 2.0



The Happy Planet Index 2.0 is the first ever index to combine environmental impact with well-being to measure the environmental efficiency with which country by country, people live long and happy lives. Read more on...

[The Happy Planet Index 2.0: Why good lives don't have to cost the Earth](#)

3rd OECD World Forum on "Statistics, Knowledge and Policy"
Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life
Busan, Korea – 27th to 30th of October 2009



If you would like to attend, then go now and [REGISTER](#) on this webpage, by following the instructions. You will also find here logistical information including transport and hotels in Busan, Korea. We strongly encourage you to register as soon as possible to secure your place.

The 3rd OECD World Forum on **Statistics, Knowledge and Policy** will address some crucial questions that today, in the current economic crisis, have become more important than ever. See the [Preliminary Agenda](#). There will be over 40 sessions that consider how the world is progressing (and how to measure that progress), what does a focus on wellbeing and progress mean for policy making and how can we improve the ways in which evidence on progress promotes change.

Please [click here](#) to view the speaker biographies, shown in the order that they appear in the agenda.

"6 BILLION OTHERS" Yann Arthus-Bertrand launched the project **"6 Billion Others"**, in 2003, following "The Earth from above". The concept is simple: go out and meet the 6 billion inhabitants of this planet, listen to their testimonies and share them with others. We are pleased to announce that "6 Billion Others" will be part of the 3rd OECD World Forum and will present a film focused on the question: **"What does progress mean for us?"**. The participants in the World Forum will have the opportunity to be interviewed during the event and to offer their views on the same questions.

International Exhibition at the 3rd OECD World Forum will focus on issues related to "Charting Progress, Building Visions, Improving Life". It will be held on the 27th to 30th of October in the Exhibition Hall, BEXCO, Busan, Korea , [read more about the Exhibition](#).

Visit the website: <http://www.oecdworldforum2009.org>

Wikiprogress.org Launches Public Beta

30 October 2009, Busan, Korea

Wikiprogress community...

OECD and Partners seek broader quality of life indicators needed to measure the success of societies by opening the debate to all facets of society via wikiprogress.org.

Join in the conversation beginning on 30 October 2009 and lets measure what matters!

Wikiprogress asks...

- is a productive society necessarily a happy one?
- what does "progress" mean to the world`s citizens?
- which environmental, social and economic indicators should be included in the measurement of quality of life?
- why is there a gap between the effects of current measures of well being and the real lives of citizens?

Wikiprogress is...

- a **global platform** which seeks to invite all facets of society in the debate on Progress.
- a **place to share**, discuss and create a collective intelligence as to the measurement of well being and the quality of life of society's citizens.
- the **only site of its kind** providing a unique statistical wiki whereby data can be uploaded, shared and discussed via an embedded tool which allows for dynamic and innovative graphs, maps and storytelling features.
- freely available** on the internet @ www.wikiprogress.org and in need of **your contributions** in its beta stage and beyond.

The screenshot shows the Wikiprogress.org website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'home', 'about', 'links', 'help', and 'contact'. The main header features the 'wikiprogress for healthy societies' logo and a search bar. Below the header, there are several sections: a sidebar on the left with options to 'find an article', 'edit an article', and 'write a new article'; a central content area titled 'wikiprogress is...' with a list of bullet points describing the platform's purpose and features; and a right sidebar containing a 'calendar' for September and a 'did you know that...' section with a quote about women's political empowerment.

Your Wikiprogress...

Be a part of the **movement for healthier societies**, by going, after the launch on the 30th of October to www.wikiprogress.org to join, upload articles, comment on the site, add your ideas and contact us. The platform has been created, now we will need you to share your ideas and contribute to the global movement for progress. The statistical part of the wiki is expected in late 2009.

Measuring the Progress of Communities: Applying the Gross National Happiness Measuring

By Mike Pennock, Vancouver Island Health Authority, Canada

A coalition of government, education, health and community organizations in the Greater Victoria region of British Columbia Canada has responded to the call for new community-based measures of progress. In June 2007, the OECD, the European Commission, the World Bank, the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference issued a joint proclamation that focused on the fundamental importance of developing new and expanded measurements of progress. The proclamation affirmed the commitment of all of the sponsors to "... measuring and fostering progress of societies in all their dimensions and to supporting initiatives at the country level. We urge statistical offices, public and private organizations, and academic experts to work alongside representatives of their communities to produce high-quality facts-based information that can be used by all of society to form a shared view of societal well-being and its evolution over time. We invite both public and private organisations to contribute to this ambitious effort to foster the world's progress and we welcome initiatives at the local, regional, national and international level (Istanbul Declaration. Measuring the Progress of Societies. OECD.org)."

Most definitions of well-being have emphasized the notion of living a happy and satisfying life and these have become the primary themes in the measurement of the concept in recent years- self-reported happiness and life-satisfaction (Diener, E., Lucas, R., Schimmack). These are also the concepts that are used in the Capital Region Wellbeing Survey. The Greater Victoria region is a group of eleven municipalities on the southern tip of Vancouver Island in British Columbia Canada. It includes the provincial capital city of Victoria. The survey was implemented under the leadership of the Victoria Foundation in partnership with the United Way of Greater Victoria, University of Victoria, City of Victoria, Community Council, Capital Regional District, Vancouver Island Health Authority, and the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport.

The contributors to happiness and well-being that were employed in the survey were based on a framework that was developed by a group of international scholars from eastern and western countries who came together to help the nation of Bhutan to develop a measurement framework for their developmental philosophy of Gross National Happiness. Annual conferences were held for the past four years in Bhutan, Thailand and Canada to review the research literature for the purpose of identifying the primary contributors to happiness and wellbeing in different cultures and countries. The next meeting will occur in the fall of 2009 in Brazil.

These contributors are listed below-

- Physical and mental health
- Time Balance
- Social and Community Vitality
- Cultural Vitality
- Material Standards
- Quality of Governance
- Environmental Vitality

The survey instrument that was used in the survey is being developed through an international collaboration and which represents an abbreviated international version of the survey that is being used in Bhutan. The survey was mailed out to a random sample of Greater Victoria residents in October and November 2009. A total of 2400 returns were received by early January. The scores on happiness and the various contributors were calculated as a percentage of the maximum score that was possible on each dimension. Each score, therefore, is out of 100. The results are presented in tabular form below-

Dimension	Definition	Score Out of 100
Wellbeing	Self-reported happiness and life-satisfaction	76
Social and Community Vitality		77
Social Support	The availability of support in times of crisis	83
Family and Friends	Satisfaction with relationship with family and friends	79
Interpersonal Trust	Trust of colleagues, neighbours, businesses, strangers and feelings of safety	69
Material Wellbeing		73
Freedom from Deprivation	Material deprivations related to food, housing, clothing, medicines	92
Financial Satisfaction	Satisfaction with financial circumstances and security	53
Cultural Vitality		71
Inclusion	Freedom from discrimination and feelings of exclusion due to ethnicity, race, religion or values	76
Access and Participation	Satisfaction with ability to participate in cultural, arts and recreational events	65
Health Status	Self-reported physical, mental and cognitive health status	70
Governance	Satisfaction with electoral process, government, courts, access to information, rights and freedoms	67
Quality of Environment	Satisfaction with access to the natural environment and quality of environment	63
Time Balance	Self-reported stress, time pressures and enjoyment of typical activities	46

Residents of Greater Victoria ranked high in life-satisfaction and happiness. Canada ranks high on these measures, behind leading nations like Denmark and

Switzerland, and Greater Victoria reflected these national results.

The relatively high rates of happiness and life-satisfaction were due to strong performances on four of the contributors- social and community vitality, material wellbeing, cultural vitality and health status. The contributor with the worst scores was time balance, reflecting high levels of stress, time demands, and concerns about maintaining a balanced lifestyle among many respondents. The results also pointed to important concerns about the quality of the natural environment.

There were also some interesting results among the sub-components on some of the contributors-

- In the Material Wellbeing dimension, very high scores “Freedom from Deprivation” were offset by lower scores on people’s sense of satisfaction with their financial situation.
- Within the Cultural Vitality dimension, respondents reported relatively high levels of satisfaction with the extent to which they felt a part of the community despite differences in ethnicity, race, religion or values. They were somewhat less likely to report that they were satisfied with their ability to participate in arts, cultural and recreational events in their community.
- Within the Social and Community Vitality dimension, very strong scores were registered on social support, and satisfaction with family and friends while somewhat lower scores were reported for interpersonal trust.

At a general level, the following factors emerged as the most important contributors to life-satisfaction and happiness among the survey respondents. They are listed in order of importance.

- Spending time on enjoyable activities.
- Low levels of life stress.
- Good health (no conditions which restrict daily activities).
- Having opportunities to participate in community events (arts, culture, recreation and sports)
- Strong sense of belonging to the community and social supports.
- Having opportunities to develop skills and abilities.
- Having satisfactory relationships with family and friends.
- Having control over decisions that affect everyday life.

- Having enough income to “more than meet” everyday needs.
- Having opportunities to enjoy the natural environment.

Not surprisingly, the reverse of these conditions contributed to lower levels of life-satisfaction/happiness. In addition, one other factor appeared to contribute to lower levels- being made to frequently do things that are inconsistent with values.

The initial results were released by the Victoria Foundation and received considerable media coverage. A public meeting was held in Victoria City Hall at which the results were presented and a world café process was used to identify key initiatives in improving levels of happiness in the individual participants, the organizations in which they operated and the communities in which they lived. The results of these discussions are now being utilised by the partners and other groups in their planning and priority-setting exercises. An attractive and simply worded booklet is in production to further disseminate the results.

Revisions are being made to the survey instrument, based on the results of the Greater Victoria experience. These revisions are being made in collaboration with Dr. John Helliwell and Dr. Christopher Barrington-Leigh of the University of British Columbia, and Dr. Fred Grouzet of the University of Victoria. There is also an ongoing collaboration with Dr. Susan Andrews of the Visao Futuro in Brazil, where a similar survey is under development for use in the fall of 2009.

Future activities include:

1. The development of the survey in a web-based format to support its annual administration in Greater Victoria to monitor changes in level of wellbeing within the community, using a longitudinal sample.
2. The development of a web-based survey toolkit to support the implementation of the survey in other communities.
3. The development of a web-site service in which individuals can take the survey, develop an individual plan for increasing their levels of wellbeing and support a journal of activities for monitoring their sense of wellbeing.
4. Promotion of the survey to organizations for use with employees.
5. Development of a youth version of the survey.
6. The posting of the generic survey as part of a larger toolkit on the website of the Centre for Bhutan Studies in Thimpu Bhutan to support its use in other countries.

Read more: <http://www.viha.ca/>

Switzerland moves on!

By Diane-Louise Lassonde, Fondation du Devenir, Genève

At the initiative of civil society, Switzerland has launched the first stage of its reflection on guidelines for measuring and improving quality of life "beyond GDP". On June 4 and 5 2009, the "Information Technology Commission" of the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (SATW-ICT) and the Fondation du Devenir (FfD), an associate Partner of the Global Project on "Measuring the Progress of Societies" for over a year, brought together fifty people from different backgrounds, ages and Cantons for 24 hours of intense brainstorming at the castle of Münchenwiler (near Bern). The atmosphere of this historic building, which dates from the eleventh century and is the former priory of Cluny, gave energy to the discussions relating to the quality of life in Switzerland by the year 2029 and how to measure progress from now until then. Although the conclusions remain to be validated by the group, some basic ideas emerged from the meeting.

In the Swiss context, five pillars establish qualitative progress:

1. sustainability, stability and security of living;
2. strong social cohesion and integration of all, taking into account diversity in all its forms;
3. better access to shared public goods and services essential for quality of life and well-being of the people (health, food, information, art and culture, education and training);
4. a better balance between personal life, work and social commitment;
5. personal development through creativity and spirituality, as preferred by each individual.

Priorities and the role of Swiss values

To take this project forward, several main lines of action are to be encouraged:

1. social and technological innovation in a spirit of solutions of common interest;
2. taking care of people and promoting human capital by providing appropriate responses to individual needs throughout the cycle of life;
3. enhancing the existential experience and personal skills in the approach to all matters dealing with the individual and the community;
4. creating conditions for a participative governance of goods, services and public spaces;
5. reassessing public policies with an emphasis on the community life at the local level;
6. setting strict standards to protect the public interest in all areas by integrating incentives that reward good practice rather than focus on enforcement and penalties.

The great linguistic, cultural and political diversity of Switzerland, its decentralized political system, a well-established culture of consensus, good management of the natural capital of the country and the excellent level of human capital, coupled with a tradition of openness to the international, give Switzerland advantages in initiating a qualitative approach to the progress grounded in the values of respect, civic awareness and personal ethics.

Measuring the progress of the Swiss society

In the near term, it is important first to enhance whatever data exists and to give free access to the data via Information and Communications Technology (ICT). It is also important to generate new systematic and reliable data on different scales in order to measure and/or assess the social utility of a good or a service (the welfare, the cohesion and the know-how will contribute to monitor qualitative progress). In the medium term, new approaches are essential to analyses of the life cycle, the intergenerational transfers and the metabolism of resources and to establish balance sheets by sector. In the long term, a new era will likely emerge with the development of "living stat", i.e. freely-compiled statistics by Internet surfers and citizens, to complement the data produced by official sources. This was recognised as the way forward, although the issue of data quality assurance needs to be carefully addressed!

Read more: <http://www.fdd.org/site/tiki-index.php>

Global Peace Index



The [Global Peace Index](#) is a ground-breaking milestone in the study of peace.

The Global Social Change Research Project

By Gene Shackman, Ya Lin Liu, Xun Wang

The basic goal of the Global Social Change Research Project is to help in improving living conditions throughout the world. We do that by providing clear and easy to use information that can be used by policy makers to help in determining what decisions to make, by researchers studying those decisions and their outcomes, and by the general public to increase awareness or understanding of critical social issues.

The project achieves this goal through 1) providing reports about global social conditions and the progress of society, including economic growth, demographic, technological, political and social trends, 2) providing data sets, compiled or created from data available on the web, which conveniently combine many different variables not usually included in the same data sets, and which can be used by others to examine the world conditions and social progress, and 3) serving as a portal to sources of information.

Reports

The reports produced by the project present clear and easy to follow descriptions of global economic, demographic, technological, political and social conditions and trends. There are two types of reports. One set, the “Basic Guide to the World” series provides very brief overviews, graphs and tables and are designed to be basic introductions. One recent report, “Basic Guide to the World: Quality of Life Throughout the World”, takes a comprehensive approach, examining political, social, demographic and economic trends in a single report, and shows that, in general, quality of life improved in most regions and in most aspects of life. However, there were exceptions, including infant mortality rate, which got worse in the Commonwealth of Independent States; economic wellbeing, which declined very slightly in Sub-Saharan Africa; and freedom, which declined in sub-Saharan Africa over the last several decades.

The second set of reports present more detailed information about conditions and trends, and may be more useful to those interested in further pursuing each topic. Each report focuses on specific topics. The demographic report focuses on trends in population, fertility, infant mortality rate, aging, urbanization, education and ethno-linguistic fractionalization. The political report looks at trends in freedom and conflict

of the past several decades, and in changes in political governance, freedom, armed conflict, refugees and terrorism. Many other reports similarly focus on specific topics.

All of the reports produced by the project include links to other sources of information so readers can follow up or further study on their own. Planned future reports include further examination of relationships among the various aspects of society, and their relationships over time. We also plan to examine change in smaller regions or in individual nations, where longitudinal data may cover longer time periods.

Data sets

The second part of the project is to provide data sets that can be used for research. These data sets generally combine data from multiple sources and may also present data over time. For example, one data set includes basic demographics, as well as economic and freedom data, over time where available. Another purpose of the data sets is to provide data that can be freely used by anyone. The US Government has a wide variety of data, on many different topics, and all of these data are public domain. So the data sets we created from these sources are also public domain, and free to use by anyone, without the need to ask for permission. These data are, however, often not in easy to use format, for example, in html tables, or in databases with different numbers of countries, or only as text embedded in descriptive pages. Our project includes compilations of these data into combined data sets. The data sets cover a variety of topics including demographics, economics, literacy, health, energy consumption and production, religion, perceptions of wellbeing, and many other variables. Many of these public domain data are comparable to proprietary data. For example, we created human rights ratings, based on information from the US Department of State, and these ratings correlate 0.77 with freedom ratings from the Freedom House. Similarly, literacy rate from the World Factbook correlates 0.96 with literacy rate from UNESCO.

Resources

Finally, our project website provides links to other websites, which contain research reports, theory, data, contemporary descriptions or histories of countries, and other information related to changes in society. We also link to other organizations relating to change, including international development agencies, and other major

NGOs and smaller independent organizations working toward social change. Our project also links to journals about various topics relating to political, social, economic and demographic change. Recently, we added one page listing information about critical world topics, including the world economic crisis, global warming, world hunger, terrorism and sustainable development, and another page, just started, listing links to sites about the progress of society.

The project

The Global Social Change Research Project was developed more than ten years ago, starting out as a website of links to other sites. We prepared the first report, a review of theory and process of change, in 2001 and all the other reports during the following years. One basic idea of our project is to provide free information, so almost all of the websites listed on our project are free to view. Almost all of the data are also free to use, although many require permission. For the most part, we look for websites that have information that is not too technical, so that just about anyone in the general public can read or make use of the information. Finally, one other purpose of the project is to promote collaborative research, so we would be interested in hearing from people who may want to work with us on our reports or other research studies. Also, we welcome suggestions on links to add or any other comments on the project or website.

Read more: <http://gsociology.icaap.org>

Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) application of progress measurement Key National Indicators (KNI) -A Methodological Approach

By Rolf Elm-Larsen, Director of Rigsrevisionen (National Audit Office of Denmark)

Introduction

This article illustrates how and why SAIs can apply KNIs when carrying out an audit task for the public sector in accordance with international auditing standards. First the article analyses what purpose or function KNIs have in public sector audits and in which situations it's correct to use KNIs for an SAI during an audit. Second, the article demonstrates how SAIs use KNIs in performance audits and which problems already exist in connection with their use. Third, the article describes

how it is possible to put KNIs can improve accountability and so add value for society. Finally, the article presents a case study on how the authors own organisation, the Danish SAI – Rigsrevisionen worked with KNIs in a performance audit on the area of immigration policy.

Audit

According to The Lima Declaration of Guidelines on Auditing Precepts (1977), SAI audits are an indispensable part of the regulatory system. Audits reveal deviations from accepted standards which make it possible to take corrective action. The most important objective of a public sector audit is to make those who are accountable accept responsibility. For this reason audits are not an objective themselves, but a means to improve political decision making.

This article analyses various questions concerning KNIs and the three main tasks for SAIs:

- Financial audits
- Compliance audits
- Performance audits

Key National Indicators and financial audits

Financial audits are regulated by international auditing standards that focus on auditing the financial statement. KNIs are generally not a part of the financial statement because they are usually statistical information which, by definition, is outside the financial statement. However some financial auditors argue that an audit of KNIs could be classified as an *Assurance Engagement other than Audits or Reviews of historical Financial Information* and for that reason could be classed in the same category as information in a financial statement (ISSAE 3000).

Key National Indicators and compliance audits

Compliance audits verify that SAIs are fulfilling their responsibility to monitor the activities of public sector entities, ensuring that they are in accordance with the relevant laws, regulations and authorities that govern the entities in question. This means that SAIs could answer the following two questions in relation to KNIs:

- Does the national administration define KNIs in accordance with the legislation?
- Does the administration have an obligation *ex officio* to establish a set of indicators in relation to all relevant legislation?

Key National Indicators and performance audits

Performance auditing is an independent examination of the efficiency and effectiveness of government undertakings, programs or organisations, with due regard to economy, and with an aim of bringing improvements. Performance auditing is based on the decisions made, or goals established, by the legislature, and it may be carried out through anywhere in the public sector. When an SAI is carrying out a performance audit of KNIs the auditor could raise the following pertinent questions:

- In which context does it give meaning to the use of KNIs?
- Which indicators already exist and which are missing?
- How valuable are the indicators in describing the problem under investigation?
- Does the administration have the relevant key indicators for the program?
- If they don't have the relevant indicators then which factors are barriers for producing the relevant indicators?

KNIs and SAIs

In public sector audits the fundamental question an auditor should ask is: *will a successful audit contribute to improving the administration and make it possible to take corrective action?*

This leads to the following fundamental questions that an SAI should apply in relation to KNIs:

- Does the government have KNIs for all material programs?
- Has the government defined KNIs so the measurement is valid, reliable and relevant?
- Does the government use KNIs as a corrective mechanism for improving the implementation of the program?

Some preliminary conclusions

In many cases for SAI's, KNIs are a precondition for fulfilling a public sector audit. Of course KNIs don't fit into the normal conceptual framework of financial audits because a KNI is not a part of the financial statement. However KNIs are highly important for SAIs when they are carrying out performance audits, especially when an SAI is evaluating the effectiveness of the government's policies and activities on social and economic development. In this context, compliance audits verify that the definition of KNIs is in accordance with the intention that the political decision makers have laid down in the legislation. Using these audit

activities an SAI is, therefore, contributing to making the government accountable through the use of KNIs.

For more details on how to undertake such an audit see **Box 1.**

Box 1.

In the context of the accountability framework during an audit of key national indicators the public sector auditor could raise the following questions:

- a. What are the objectives of the legislative power regarding abstract concepts such as "progress" and "well-being"?
- b. Has the government set up a system of KNIs which accurately reflects the objectives of the legislation?
- c. Are the KNIs in accordance with the politically defined objectives, or does the government interpret the objectives consistently when defining the KNIs?
- d. Does the system of KNIs really measure what they are intended to measure; are the indicators valid?
- e. Do repeat measurements give the same results; are the indicators reliable?
- f. Are they using an evidence-based model of the relationship between input, output and outcome?
- g. Does the system of KNIs also include measurements of unintended consequences and economic externalities?

By seeking answers to these questions during an audit of KNIs the SAI will contribute to the accountability system.

A Case Study

The Danish SAI – Rigsrevisionen - published a report in 2008 which was sent to the Parliament's Public Accounts Committee on the integration of immigrants and their descendents. The law on integration stipulated several objectives but they were not being systematically measured by government. Through using KNIs, the SAI's report evaluated the extent to which the law on integration has reached the objectives stipulated. It answered the following three questions:

- Are immigrants and their descendants participating in social life in Denmark?
- Are immigrants and their descendants economically independent, and not dependent on social welfare?

- Have immigrants and their descendants got an understanding of Danish national values?

The following observations were made concerning the question of whether immigrants and their descendants are economically independent, and not dependent on social welfare:

- There is no national indicator for the percentage of immigrants that 'should' be economically independent
- The Minister of Integration in Denmark has access to all databases concerning the labour market and tax

An audit carried out by Rigsrevisionen indicated that only 50% of immigrants were economically independent on how to set up indicators to measure the efficiency of their activity in this area.

Over all conclusions

KNIs are a useful tool for an SAI in performance audits, especially when evaluating efficiency and the impact of government programs. SAIs have to insist on the fact that governments are responsible for producing relevant and valid KNIs for public sector programs. Governments could in some cases try to avoid presenting KNIs, or try to manipulate KNIs in their favour, because it gives the government an opportunity to present the story in a good light. And so when a government is producing and presenting a KNI and the SAI is auditing and using the KNI in the evaluation of the government's program, it is promoting accountability and good governance.

INTOSAI Working Group on Key National Indicators

By Poroskova Yulia, Member of the Secretariat of the INTOSAI Working Group on Key National Indicators KNI, Russian Federation

The INTOSAI Working Group on Key National Indicators (KNI) was established according to the decision of the XIX Congress of INTOSAI (November 2007, Mexico City) in the framework of Strategic Goal 3 of the INTOSAI Strategic Plan 2005-2010.

The Working Group includes 20 full members and 5 observers. The first meeting of INTOSAI Working Group KNI was held in May 20-21st, 2008 in Moscow. It was attended by representatives of 20 national SAIs (16 Working Group members and 4 observers) and two

international organizations (OECD and World Bank). Terms of Reference, Rules of Procedure, and Working plan for 2008 have been discussed and approved, and Working plan for 2009 has been proposed.

According to the Terms of Reference mission of the Working Group on KNI is defined as follows:

Support the coordinated efforts of the SAIs and INTOSAI in supporting development and use of KNI in economic, social and environmental fields at the national and supranational levels.

A bilingual (English and Russian) web-site of the INTOSAI Working Group on KNI (<http://intosai4kni.org>) has been developed and put into operation and now is available for all members of the Working Group. It is a tool of on-line communication on all issues of planning, information exchange and holding of events.

During the time from the First Meeting in Moscow the membership of the Group has increased. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure that have been approved at the First Meeting, applications from SAIs of Austria, Israel, and Indonesia with the request of accepting them to the Working Group on KNI were received. Kyrgyz Republic has joined the Group on the rights of an observer.

The Second Meeting of the Working Group was held in April 21-23, 2009 in Beijing. The meeting included the Seminar «Conceptual approaches to the development and use of Key National Indicators System». It was attended by 16 national SAIs (15 Working Group members and 1 observer) and one international organization (OECD). The Working plan for 2009 was approved at the Meeting.

As a part of the Terms of Reference implementation some SAIs coordinate a number of related sub-projects until 2010:

- SAI of the USA has taken the charge of the Glossary on the KNI;
- SAI of Hungary has expressed interest in being the coordinator of the pilot project in the field of Key National Indicators describing the processes of knowledge-based economy and society;
- SAI of Latvia has taken the initiative in the part of preparing the review of international experience in developing and use of KNI;
- SAI of Russia has prepared and held a meeting of the Council of SAI Heads of the CIS member-states in Moscow, in the course of which a decision of

launching a regional KNI project was made. In the framework of this subproject the Expert Group was established. Two meetings of the Expert Group were already held in 2008 and 2009. All documents are placed at the subproject website (<http://cisi4kni.org>).

The important part of the Working Group activity is the cooperation with the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development. In the beginning of the current year the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the OECD and the INTOSAI in the area of measurement the progress of societies was signed.

INTOSAI will participate and organize the parallel discussion “Key National Indicators in the system of external audit” at the [OECD 3rd World Forum, in Bussan \(Korea\), in October 2009](#).

In the course of the first meeting of the OECD Global Project Board, in 2008, Tunisia, preliminary agreements on cooperation in conducting trainings for the representatives of SAIs in the sphere of implementing the Agenda of the OECD Global Project were concluded. Apart from that, materials on the activities of the Working Group were prepared for publication in the International Journal of Government Audit (January 2009), in the Asian Journal of Government Audit on the issue of “Key National Indicators: experience in concern of development” (April 2009) and for the First Meeting of the INTOSAI Committee on Experience Exchange (under Goal 3 of the INTOSAI Strategic Plan) (March 5-6, 2009, Delhi, India).

These are the main results of Working Group activities. The Working Group is working in the following field, that reflects the Terms of Reference Goals: analysis of experience of SAIs in the matters of developing and applying Key National Indicators, Glossary on KNI development, analysis and systemization of methodologies of international organizations, involved in the problem of international assessments and comparisons, developing of bibliography and pilot projects realisation.

The regular report on the activities of the INTOSAI Working Group on Key National Indicators will be presented at the INTOSAI Governing Board in November 17-18, 2009, in Cape Town, RSA.

INTOSAI Pilot project on KNI in the framework of the CIS

By Piskunova Maria, (Member of the Secretariat of the INTOSAI Working Group on Key National Indicators (KNI), Russian Federation

Implementation of public audit in the transition economies poses a number of features. Development of new economic models, establishment of market institutions, new economic legislation, and sharing of responsibilities between the economic entities cannot be prevented from influencing the activities of public audit institution. Its role and functions in each country depends on a complex set of economic and political realities.

This means that the activities of the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) member-states SAIs (Supreme Audit Institutions) are held against the background of serious economical and social reforms, and audit institutions should not only control the changes that take place, but also assist in finding the most effective ways of the CIS member-states economical capability realization. This mission may be accomplished only on the basis of highly professional activities of SAI, which should be organized with consideration of the national peculiarities and international experience. The common task is to establish modern, effective, and authoritative audit institutions in the CIS member-states. Joined efforts are required in particularly in performance audit recommendations based on KNI (Key National Indicators) development.

In modern conditions the performance audit on the level of socio-economic development programs and strategies of countries or separate territories is of special significance for the CIS member-states. The audit of outcomes and their compliance with the strategic goals is directly related to the necessity of assessment. The performance indicators allow the country to cut down unnecessary expenses, to prevent corruption and to redirect the resources to the places where they are really required, and where they provide higher returns. Such approach is especially relevant today due to the fact that the CIS member-states are adopting national strategies of long-term development, and due to the necessity of the most effective use of the resources in the conditions of the financial crisis.

Besides this, the target of developing a common economic area stated in the CIS documents in 2008 was implemented in the adopted CIS Economic Development Strategy for the period till 2020. For the CIS member-states SAIs first of all it implies the preparation and conduct of joint control-and-analytical activities. This work requires common standards, consistent assessment methods and criteria, and, the most important, key indicators that should be identified jointly and should be based on the interests of the CIS member-states and on the stated development goals and targets.

Right at the stage of establishing the public audit in the CIS countries it's important to create the basis and to develop the mechanism of the permanently working system of experience exchange, continuous education, and further training of public audit system employees.

To realize these goals the Expert Group on KNI was established according to the decision of VIII Session of the Council of SAI Heads of the CIS member-states. The Expert Group activity is conducted in the framework of INTOSAI Working Group on KNI Pilot project. It should be noted that the experience of INTOSAI, OECD, World Bank, UNDP and other international organizations is carefully studied during the work of the Expert Group.

In December 2008 the First meeting of the Expert group on KNI was held in Moscow (Russian Federation) with participation of 9 CIS SAIs representatives. The Terms of Reference and Working Plan for 2008 were adopted at the Meeting. At the end of the year 2008 the web-site of the Expert Group (<http://cis4kni.org>) became available to all its members and started to be the instrument of on-line communication on the issues of information exchange, activities planning and events organization.

According to the adopted Terms of Reference the Expert Group sees its mission in facilitating the implementation and monitoring of Key National Indicators of the socio-economic development system at national and international levels, as well as in performance audit development in the CIS member-states.

In the framework of the Expert group activity, due to the preparation of the Draft Methodological recommendations on performance auditing and use of KNI there was made a survey, consisted of three parts: the existence and special features of CIS member-states socio-economical development strategies; specificity of legal basis and performance auditing experience; and

lists of indicators used in the activity of the CIS member-states SAIs.

The collected information allowed to specify the list of main documents on CIS member-states strategic development as well as to determine the role of President, Government and Parliament in the process of strategic development indicators adoption in different countries. As for the performance auditing, the methodologies and other performance audit standards of CIS member-states were identified, and international organizations which experience was used in the process of performance audit standards development were mentioned. As a result of information on KNI analysis, the opportunities and risks of SAIs participation in KNI development and evaluation were identified. On the basis of the received data the structure of Draft Methodological recommendations on performance auditing and use of KNI was developed.

The 2nd Meeting of the Expert group on KNI and the Seminar on the theme: "Opportunities, risks and challenges of the use of KNI in the activity of the CIS member-states SAIs" were held May 20, 2009 in Astana (Republic of Kazakhstan).

The Working plan of the Expert group for the year 2009, that incorporated the 3rd Meeting of the Expert group, scheduled for November 2009 in Moscow (Russian Federation) was discussed and adopted at the Meeting. Also such documents as Draft Glossary of key terms and concepts connected with performance audit and use of KNI and Draft Methodological recommendations on performance auditing and use of KNI were considered at the Meeting. One of the most important results of the Meeting was the discussion over possible approaches to reference model development.

The work that had already been done by the Expert group and that is planned for the years 2009-2010 should allow to achieve the following results:

- To develop a frame logic model of SAIs activity in KNI System for working out and realization of national strategies of socio-economic development;
- To create conditions for network (through the web-site) communications of SAIs representatives and external experts on a theme of performance audit of socio-economic development on the basis of KNI;

- To organize a series of seminars and trainings for SAIs representatives on topical issues of KNI development and use in the framework of performance audit to support SAIs initiatives.

Particular significance of the Expert group activity attaches to the fact that this pilot project focuses on the practical result. Current year it's planned to report to the Council of SAI Heads of the CIS member-states on the results of the Expert group activities, including the Draft Methodological recommendations on performance auditing and use of KNI. Later, when the document would be considered and improved, it seems to be reasonable to present it to the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly as the CIS standard for joint control-and-analytical activities and as a frame model recommended to be used in the CIS member-states.



Review this demo site of **INDIA**, from the [DataPlace platform](#), where national, state and district level data is available with selected education, demographic, and economic indicators. The future full site will extend the facility to village data to provide more localised development profile.

www.indiadevelopmentindicators.org

Liveability audit in regional Queensland, Australia.

By **Lindsay Greer**, Institute for Resource Industries and sustainability and **Delwar Akbar**, Centre for Environmental Management, Australia.

The liveability of a region is an important measure of the progress that is being achieved in not only the provision of built infrastructure assets but also the sometimes less tangible soft infrastructure assets that constitute the life and soul of a region. A liveability audit connects objective and subjective measures of a population's well-being or quality of life with a specific geographic location. Findings from such audits can be used for planning and development for a city or region. This is the first liveability study conducted in the Mackay-Whitsunday-Isaac region of Queensland, Australia. The Mackay-Whitsunday-Isaac (MWI) region is located on the north-east coast of Australia and is characterised by geographic diversity with coastal

urban development's encompassing tourism, sugar cane, horticulture and aquaculture sectors on the eastern perimeter and a substantial coal mining and beef industry in the western hinterland.

The Mackay-Whitsunday-Isaac (MWI) liveability study was undertaken in 2008 as an opportunity to understand the liveability performance of the region and to align investment strategies at the regional level to foster growth in the region. The study represented an opportunity for ordinary citizens and decision makers to debate the implications of the regions liveability performance as well as the socioeconomic costs of liveability.

Liveability can be viewed as part of the growing emphasis by decision makers and the corporate sector on the 'social' aspects of development and the need to pay attention to these impacts not merely as side-effects of economic development but as important drivers to make regional growth sustainable. While 'liveability' has a commonsense ring to it, conceptually it is derived from a set of complex notions including well-being, community development, marketability and the notion of the need for 'triple bottom line' methods of measuring growth and development.

What distinguishes 'liveability' from the concepts of wellbeing and quality of life which apply to populations is that liveability is clearly related to place. It has a very clear geographic element. The concept of liveability in many ways tries to capture the intentions of social wellbeing and quality of life and ground it in a particular location. Within this study the concept of liveability is linked to both social infrastructure which are aligned to various jurisdictions and also to intangible but essential elements which relate to the individual quality of life and well-being of citizens.

The liveability audit involved creation of a composite index of liveability drawn from existing census style objective data and subjective measurements of liveability from a Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) survey in August 2008. The CATI survey sought the perceptions of individuals living within the study region (MWI n=900) and in South East Queensland (SEQ—Brisbane, Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast n=300). This allowed for a representation of views from outside of the study region to be compared with those within.

The liveability construct

The liveability construct constituted for this study was premised on the notion of four capitals; economic, social, environmental and human. The indicators of liveability were selected on the basis of underpinning the key constructs that formed an understanding of a region's sustainability. The matrix approach combined the four dimensions of liveability: economic, environment, human and social capital (Table 1). Each dimension consisted of five sub-dimensions and each sub-dimension contained one or more indicators of liveability.

Table 1 Liveability dimensions

Economic capital	Environment*	Human capital	Social capital
Housing	Natural environment	Education	Community integration
Infrastructure services	Planning and development	Employment	Community network
Transport	Regional image	Demographic	Entertainment
Industry	Recreation infrastructure	Health	Aesthetic value
Income	Climate	Trade services	Personal wellbeing

*Environment includes natural capital and built environment

A liveability composite index was formed from the aggregation of the objective and subjective elements situated within the matrix to generate an overall performance measure of liveability. The composite index provided the current liveability performance of the region in terms of given and/or identified liveability indicators. The index also provided the expectation of liveability performance.

The average rating of liveability for all areas surveyed from highest to lowest dimension is economic (54.89%), environment (54.37%), and human (52.33%) and social (50.83%). The MWI region scores highest in the economic and environment dimensions (56.59%, 55.75%) and the SEQ region scores highest in the economic and human dimensions (51.13%, 50.39%).

Table 2 Performance of four dimensions by survey sub-regions

Region	Current Weighted Average Index (%)				Overall index
	Economic	Environmental	Human	Social	
Whitsunday	55.72	59.87	50.88	50.75	54.31
Mackay	56.03	55.76	50.61	54.99	54.35
Isaac	55.03	51.61	56.50	56.55	54.92
MWI (Ave.)	55.59	55.75	52.66	54.10	54.53
SEQ (Ave.)	51.13	48.88	50.39	48.01	49.60
All regions (Ave.)	54.89	54.37	52.33	50.83	53.11

In summary form the average current liveability of the MWI region was 54.53% and the expectation was 69.76% presenting a liveability gap according to SEQ and MWI respondents of 17.45% across all dimensions (Table 3). This could be interpreted as indicating a need across all dimensions of a 17.45% improvement to meet expectations.

Table 3 Weighted Average Liveability Index Score

Region	Current	Expectation	Liveability gap
Whitsunday	54.31	69.32	-15.01
Mackay	54.35	70.33	-15.98
Isaac	54.92	69.63	-14.71
MWI (Ave.)	54.53	69.76	-15.23
SEQ (Ave.)	49.60	71.36	-21.76
All regions (Ave.)	53.11	70.56	-17.45

Based on the analysis the priority areas for the improvement of liveability across the MWI region in broad dimension terms are the social and human capital areas rather than environmental and economic capital areas. Overall the liveability gap for all respondents for the social capital dimension is 20.31% and the human capital dimension is 18.57% compared to the environment dimension with 16.06% and the economic dimension at 13.88% (Table 4).

While overall the liveability gap is consistently higher from the SEQ respondents, the MWI regions present more significant differentiation between the dimensions of liveability. In each of the MWI areas there is one dimension which stands out; interestingly this is a different dimension for each region. In the Whitsunday region there is a liveability gap of 21.16% within the social dimension, whereas in Mackay the liveability gap is higher with 23.29% within the human capital dimension. In the Isaac region the highest liveability gap is 18.90% in the environment dimension (Table 3).

Table 4 Weighted Average Liveability Gap (%)

Region	Economic	Environmental	Human	Social
Whitsunday	-7.80	-9.85	-14.68	21.16
Mackay	-10.89	-14.76	-23.29	15.59
Isaac	-11.12	-18.90	-13.76	13.71
MWI (Ave.)	-9.94	-14.50	-17.25	16.82
SEQ (Ave.)	-20.87	-21.73	-21.50	23.35
All regions (Ave.)	-13.88	-16.06	-18.57	20.31

Analysis of the individual variables in the liveability index resulted in the identification within each dimension of priority factors (Table 5). The priority factors were those variables that scored either ‘very poor’ or ‘poor’ on a liveability performance scale.

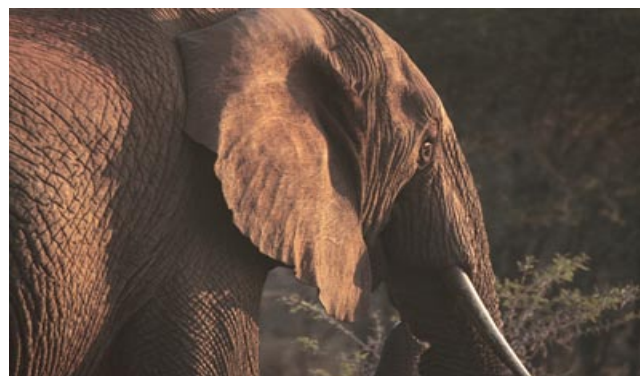
Table 5 Priority factors

Economic capital	Human capital
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the proportion of non-residential development as a proportion of the population Addressing the range and affordability of housing options Increasing the use of public transport Addressing inequities in the distribution of regional growth Improving telecommunication services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the availability of trades people and improving the standard of workmanship Evaluating the number of education facilities Better delivery of specialist services to the region Improvements to allied health services Coordination of better career pathways
Environmental capital	Social capital
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural and urban road infrastructure Balancing industrial development and environmental management Improving the management of the natural environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing the proportion of women with occupation categories ‘professional, management or administrator’ Decreasing the rate of crime against persons and property Re-evaluating the level of entertainment available Empowering communities and strengthening families

Conclusion

In summary, a number of composite liveability measures and rankings are available for the comparison of cities, regions and countries. Depending on the purpose of the study, these composite measures may include substantially different indicators. The use and value of composite liveability indicators in public policy development has not been clearly established and should not be undertaken uncritically. Different or competing liveability rankings may highlight different problem areas and in some cases there are conflicting results. Composite liveability indices do, however, force a recognition of the trade-offs involved in liveability. The different weightings acknowledge that improving one factor of liveability may come at a cost to another factor. Composite indices do provide a benefit by increasing information available in each region and by each dimension. This should be viewed as the beginning of the process of negotiating the shared values and aspirations of the study location and set the dialogue for an enhanced future.

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