



## Australia overtakes USA as top polluter

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### Australia worst for per capita energy consumption

Australia has overtaken the USA and is now classified most at risk out of 185 countries, according to the CO<sub>2</sub> Energy Emissions Index (CEEI), released by UK based, global risks analyst, Maplecroft.

The (CEEI), one of the four main components of Maplecroft's Climate Change Risk Report 2009/10, measures per capita CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuels and ranks Australia, USA, Canada, Netherlands and Saudi Arabia as the top five offenders.

Australians now emit 20.58 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per person annually, whereas American's emit 19.78 tons, almost a 4% difference. Canada meanwhile emits 18.81 tons per person.

In sharp contrast the emerging markets of China and India, considered two of the world's worst overall CO<sub>2</sub> polluters, annually emit 4.5 and 1.16 tons per person respectively.

Brazil and China have been pushing rich countries to cut emissions of greenhouse gases by 40% or more and Brazil is calling for historic emissions to be the basis for greenhouse gas pollution targets. The Brazilian government argues that the onus should be on developed nations to do more.

The CEEI consists of three indicators, total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy use per capita and cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from energy use. The index assesses the risk to business operating in countries that may be subject to future international regulation on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and pressure from public interest groups. It has been designed to take account of current international climate negotiations and probable future climate change regulation.

### Brazil ranked 2nd highest for emissions from land use change

Maplecroft's CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Land Use Change Index (CELCLI) provides insight into changes in forest biomass due to deforestation as well as land use change in a country. The index incorporates measures of net CO<sub>2</sub> emissions or sequestration resulting from an increase or decrease in the volume of forest biomass and changes to land use.

According to the CELCLI, the countries ranked at greatest risk are Peru, Brazil and Venezuela.

However, Brazil's position in this ranking may well improve over the coming years. In 2008, Brazil abandoned years of opposition to deforestation targets and pledged to reduce destruction of the Amazon by 50% in a decade. Official data released in August 2009 reveals that Brazil is making progress towards this goal; in part due to the provision of opportunities for carbon offset through reforestation and forest planting programmes. The Environment Minister, Carlos Minc predicts that deforestation could fall to a 20-year-low in the coming year.

### Australia at extreme risk, but Middle East oil producers top ranking for unsustainable energy use

Australia's poor environmental performance is compounded by its ranking of 33 out of 135 countries in Maplecroft's Unsustainable Energy Index (UEI). The country is rated as extreme risk, with the only other industrialised developed nations ranked worse being Belgium and the Netherlands.

The UEI assesses a countries risk of being unable to obtain energy from low carbon sources and operating, investing and lending in an energy intensive economy. Over the longer term, reliance on unsustainable energy may also impact the economy of some countries, in particular those that are heavily reliant on fossil fuels.

Qatar (1/135), Bahrain (3/135), Iraq (9/135), the United Arab Emirates (10/135) and Saudi Arabia (15/135) all feature in the top fifteen countries at greatest risk. In 2008, oil prices fell sharply from US\$100 per barrel in July to under US\$50 per barrel in December. These price swings bring about much instability. The Institute of International Finance predicts that countries including Saudi Arabia may have to dip into reserves to balance the nation's budgets over the longer term, if the situation continues.

Maplecroft's Climate Change Report 2009/10 consists of the Climate Change Vulnerability Index, the CO<sub>2</sub> the CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions from Land Use Index (CELI) and the Unsustainable Energy Index (UIE). The report is accompanied by interactive GIS maps and has been created for multi-national organisations seeking to quantify and mitigate the risk of climate change on their operations, supply chains and investments.

#### Further information

Maplecroft is the leading source of global risks intelligence. We analyse, index and map over 100 global risks to help companies identify areas of high risk and navigate the complex challenges encompassed by climate change, pandemics, resource security, terrorism and human rights.

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