

Changing Perceptions in a Changing Climate

○ Global Climate Perceptions

○ 150,000 Interviews

○ Regional Analysis

○ 142 Countries





Quantifying Peace and its Benefits

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Changing Perceptions in a Changing Climate



The Institute for Economics and Peace has found that some of the most significant emitters of carbon dioxide are countries where their citizens are least concerned with climate change as a very serious threat. They are also some of the most populous countries in the world.

The analysis was enabled by data from the Lloyd's Register Foundation World Risk Poll, the first global study of worry and risk ever mounted at this scale. Conducted by Gallup as part of its World Poll, it's based on interviews with over 150,000 people in 142 countries, including places where little or no official data exists.

Of the 142 countries covered in the survey 68 countries, or 48 per cent, had more than 50 per cent of people think that climate change posed a very serious threat to the country in the next 20 years, while eight countries recorded 75 per cent or greater.

Of the ten most populated countries in the world, the Risk Poll data has found that only two of those countries reported more than half of the population saying that they thought climate change will pose a very serious threat to people in their country in the next two decades.

These countries are Brazil, the seventh most populated country in the world, and Mexico, the tenth most populated.

The Risk Poll found that Chile, Spain and Portugal were the countries reporting the highest level of concern over climate change, recording 87.3 per cent, 84.8 per cent and 82.2 per cent respectively. Of the twenty countries most concerned about climate change, twelve had either Spanish or Portuguese as their official national language.

South America and Central American and the Caribbean was the two regions showing the highest level of concern about climate change. All ten South American countries had more than 60 per cent of the population saying they thought climate change was a very serious threat. Central America and the Caribbean also had all its nine countries recording better than the global average.

The region with the lowest level of concern was the Middle East and North Africa, where none of the 16 countries in the region recorded better than the global average.

A number of countries that were suffering conflict or were in a post conflict state showed a low level of concern about climate change. These countries included Iraq, Afghanistan, Yemen, Libya, Myanmar and Cambodia.

Men were slightly more concerned about climate change than women, 1.9 per cent on average, and in some countries the difference was substantial. In Peru 17 per cent more men saw climate change as a serious threat, while in United Kingdom 14 per cent more women saw climate change as a threat.

In South America, men recorded a higher level of concern than women in eight of the ten countries. In Europe, women recorded higher of concern than men in 27 of the continent's 36 countries.

Chinese women showed a lower level of concern about climate change than Chinese men.

The most populated country in the world, China, has a very low level of concern, with only 23.3 per cent of respondents saying they thought climate change poses a very serious threat to the people in their country in the next two decades. This is one of the lowest results of all the countries polled.

This was largely in line with Chinese responses when asked about environmental risk, industrial risk and nuclear risk, which was generally low.

None of the four greatest carbon emitting countries in the world, China, United States, India and Russia, had more than 50 per cent of respondents saying climate change was a very serious threat to their country in the next two decades.

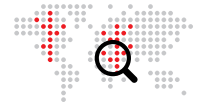
Of the 142 countries polled, only six countries ranked lower than China in climate change concern. These countries included Ethiopia, the second most populous country in Africa, and Saudi Arabia, one of the fifteen most significant carbon emitters per capita in the world.

Amongst the fifteen greatest emitters per capita were the Middle Eastern countries Oman, UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait and the largest carbon emitter per capita, Qatar.

UAE, Bahrain and Kuwait had 26.4 per cent, 32 per cent and 35.1 per cent respectively of respondents saying that climate change posed a very serious threat to their country in the next two decades. This was a relatively low level of concern. Oman and Qatar were not included in the Lloyd's Register Foundation 2019 World Risk Poll.

There were three countries that ranked in both the top fifteen of raw carbon emissions as well as per capita emissions, namely Canada, United States and Australia. The percentage of respondents in those countries that saw climate change as a very serious threat was 56.4 per cent, 49.2 per cent and 52.2 per cent respectively, putting all of those countries mid-table in respect to climate change concern.

Regional Analysis



ASIA PACIFIC

Three of the ten countries showing the least level of climate change concern were from the Asia Pacific region, namely Myanmar, who was the fourth least concerned country, China the seventh least concerned and Cambodia, tenth. Also in the bottom 25 was Laos at 12th and Indonesia at 22nd.

Singapore had the highest level of concern out of all the Asian Pacific countries, with 72.9 per cent of respondents saying that climate change will pose a very serious threat in the next two decades. There were only ten other countries with a higher level of concern overall. The next most concerned Asian Pacific country was Vietnam, at 61.8 per cent and then Taiwan at 59.8 per cent. Of all the global cohorts recorded, men from Myanmar showed the second lowest level of concern, at 18.5 per cent.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

People from Central America and the Caribbean generally showed a high level of concern about climate change, with all nine countries in the region having more than 50 per cent of respondents saying they saw climate change as a very serious threat. Costa Rica had the highest level of concern of all countries in the region, with 81.8 per cent of respondents saying they saw climate change as a very serious threat. Only four countries showed a higher level of concern globally, and Costa Rican men showed the second highest level of concern of any global male cohort, after Chilean men. The second highest level of concern overall in Central America or the Caribbean was in Mexico, with 70.1 per cent of respondents saying they saw climate change as a very serious threat. Of countries in the region, Nicaragua showed the lowest level of concern, at 52 per cent.

EUROPE

Of the 36 countries in Europe, 23 scored better than the global national average of 50 per cent of respondents who saw climate change as a very serious threat. Four of the ten most concerned countries globally were European. These four countries were two pairs of countries with geographical and social proximity. These couplings were Spain and Portugal, who were second and third overall, and Greece and Cyprus, who were fourth and seventh.

The Scandinavian countries showed some of the lowest level of concern in Europe, with Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland being four of the six European countries reporting least concern. The other two countries are former Soviet Republics Estonia and Lithuania, which are in close geographical proximity to Scandinavia. Generally European women showed a higher level of concern about climate change than men, and Spanish women exhibited the highest level of concern about climate change of any cohort recorded, with 87.4 per cent of respondents saying they think that climate change will pose a very serious threat in the next two decades. Almost ten per cent fewer Spanish men responded similarly. The greatest gender disparity was in the Scandinavian countries of Norway, Sweden and Finland where women scored higher than men by the 21, 18 and 13 per cent respectively.

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

The lowest level of concern of any region in the world was exhibited in the Middle East and North Africa. Of the twenty countries least concerned with climate change, ten were from MENA including Yemen, with only 12.7 per cent of respondents saying they saw climate change as a very serious threat. Egypt recorded 17.6 per cent, followed by Saudi Arabia and Libya at 22.3 per cent and 24.4 per cent respectively.

Morocco expressed the highest level of concern in the region, but at 46.3 per cent this still puts the nation in the bottom half of most concerned countries. With some exceptions, men from MENA were generally more concerned about climate change than women and, of all global cohorts, Yemeni women were the least concerned about climate change, with only 9.5 per cent saying they were very concerned about climate change. The second least concerned cohort was Egyptian men, at 16.3 per cent.

NORTH AMERICA

Canada has a higher level of concern about climate change than its regional partner United States of America, with 56.4 per cent and 49.2 per cent respectively saying climate change will pose a very serious threat to their country in the next twenty years. Both countries placed in the middle on the global rankings. Both Canadian women and women from the United States showed a higher level of concern than their male counterparts.

RUSSIA AND EURASIA

Most countries in Russia and Eurasia were mid-ranking, except for four countries in close geographical proximity, which showed relatively low concern. The country with the lowest level of concern in the region was Uzbekistan, where only 22.4 per cent of respondents said climate change posed a very serious threat, followed by Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Armenia at 31.4 per cent, 33.1 per cent and 37.2 per cent respectively. The highest level of concern in Russia and Eurasia was shown by Georgia, where 56.9 per cent of respondents said climate change was a very serious threat.

SOUTH AMERICA

Of all of the world's regions, South America expressed the highest level of concern about climate change. All of the region's eleven countries were in the top twenty countries most concerned about climate change, except for Venezuela, which was the 28th. Chile was the country reporting the most concern in the region, and was also the most concerned country of all the 142 nations polled, with 87.3 per cent respondents saying they thought climate change was a very serious threat. Chilean men were the most concerned of all the male cohorts, with Chilean women second only to Spanish women in their level of climate change concern.

SOUTH ASIA

Countries in South Asia uniformly showed a low level of climate change concern, with each of the six countries in the region ranking in the bottom third of global concern. Sri Lanka expressed the highest level of concern, with 39 per cent of respondents saying climate change was a very serious threat. The lowest level of concern in the region was from Bangladesh, at 28.7 per cent. Of all South Asian cohorts, Afghan men showed the highest level of concern, with 46.7 per cent of respondents saying climate change posed a very serious threat. This is in great contrast to the responses of Afghan women, at 28.2 per cent.

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Sub-Saharan African countries showed little regional coherence, with the 34 countries from the region spread across the response

range. The country from SSA with the highest level of concern was Lesotho, with 77.9 per cent of respondents seeing climate change a very serious threat. Just below Lesotho was Malawi with 74.6 per cent. This placed them as the sixth and ninth most concerned countries respectively globally. On the other end of the table, Ethiopia, at 17.5%, was the country least concerned about climate change in the region, and showed the second lowest level of concern of the 142 countries polled, after Yemen. Generally, SSA countries had a middling level of concern, with 23 of the 34 countries in the region reporting between 40 per cent and 60 per cent of respondents saying that climate change was a very serious threat.



142 Countries: Climate Change

Country	Lloyd's Register Foundation World Risk Poll: per cent of people who see climate change as a very serious threat	Total Carbon Emissions Per MtCO2	Carbon Emissions Per Capita tCO2	Population
Afghanistan	37.30%	10.7	0.3	38,928,346
Albania	52.50%	5.6	1.9	2,877,797
Algeria	25.40%	171.7	4	43,851,044
Argentina	72.20%	178.9	4	45,195,774
Armenia	37.20%	6	2	2,963,243
Australia	52.20%	411	16.3	25,499,884
Austria	62.70%	68.5	7.6	9,006,398
Azerbaijan	31.40%	39.8	4	10,139,177
Bahrain	32%	34.4	20.9	1,701,575
Bangladesh	28.70%	102.2	0.6	164,689,383
Belarus	42.60%	62.5	6.6	9,449,323
Belgium	57.70%	99.7	8.6	11,589,623
Benin	41.30%	8	0.7	12,123,200
Bolivia	69.30%	22.6	2	11,673,021
Bosnia Herzegovina	54.20%	27	8.1	3,280,819
Botswana	49.80%	6.3	2.7	2,351,627
Brazil	72.20%	465.7	2.2	212,559,417
Bulgaria	42.30%	42	6	6,948,445
Burkina Faso	53.90%	4.3	0.2	20,903,273
Cambodia	25.10%	16	1	16,718,965
Cameroon	41.90%	7.6	0.3	26,545,863
Canada	56.40%	576.7	15.4	37,742,154

Chad	45%	1	0.1	16,425,864
Chile	87.30%	84.3	4.4	19,116,201
China	23.30%	10174.7	7.1	1,439,323,776
Colombia	76.10%	102.2	2	50,882,891
Congo Brazzaville	45.20%	3.5	0.6	2,469,630
Costa Rica	81.80%	8.5	1.7	5,094,118
Croatia	50.70%	17.9	4.3	4,105,267
Cyprus	77.10%	7.3	6.1	1,207,359
Denmark	38.30%	32.1	5.6	5,792,202
Dominican Republic	55.30%	27.4	2.5	10,847,910
Ecuador	74.20%	40.5	2.3	17,643,054
Egypt	17.60%	246.6	2.5	102,334,404
El Salvador	60.80%	6.2	1	6,486,205
Estonia	33.30%	13.9	10.5	1,326,535
Eswatini	69.60%	NO DATA	NO DATA	1,160,164
Ethiopia	17.50%	16.3	0.1	114,963,588
Finland	27.70%	41.7	7.5	5,540,720
France	58.60%	323.7	5	65,273,511
Gabon	50.40%	4.7	2.2	2,225,734
Gambia	49.70%	0.6	0.2	2,416,668
Georgia	56.90%	10.3	2.6	3,989,167
Germany	55%	702	8.4	83,783,942
Ghana	44%	15	0.5	31,072,940
Greece	81.90%	67.2	6.4	10,423,054
Guatemala	60.90%	20.5	1.2	17,915,568
Guinea	51.60%	3.2	0.2	13,132,795
Honduras	64.10%	10.9	1.1	9,904,607
Hong Kong	32.70%	41.5	5.6	7,496,981
Hungary	66.10%	49.1	5.1	9,660,351
India	35.10%	2616.4	1.9	1,380,004,385
Indonesia	32.40%	617.5	2.3	273,523,615
Iran	39.70%	779.5	9.4	83,992,949
Iraq	27%	221.4	5.6	40,222,493
Ireland	62.50%	37.1	7.6	4,937,786
Israel	37.80%	64.2	7.5	8,655,535
Italy	67.30%	337.1	5.6	60,461,826
Ivory Coast	38.60%	13	0.5	27,161,145
Jamaica	55.80%	8	2.7	2,961,167
Japan	57.70%	1106.7	8.7	126,476,461
Jordan	24.90%	26.1	2.6	10,203,134
Kazakhstan	38.60%	313.8	16.9	18,776,707
Kenya	57.80%	17.3	0.3	53,771,296

Kosovo	48.70%	9.7	NO DATA	1,768,632
Kuwait	35.10%	107.5	25.6	4,270,571
Kyrgyzstan	44.10%	11.5	1.8	6,524,195
Laos	26.30%	32.8	4.6	7,275,560
Latvia	42.20%	8.3	4.3	1,886,198
Lebanon	34.80%	28.2	4.1	6,825,445
Lesotho	77.90%	2.2	1	2,142,249
Liberia	52.80%	1.3	0.3	5,057,681
Libya	24.40%	46.4	6.9	6,871,292
Lithuania	27.70%	13.5	4.9	2,722,289
Luxembourg	54%	9.8	15.9	625,978
Madagascar	39.80%	4	0.1	27,691,018
Malawi	74.60%	1.5	0.1	19,129,952
Malaysia	40.30%	250.1	7.8	32,365,999
Mali	51.90%	3.4	0.2	20,250,833
Malta	60.40%	1.6	3.5	441,543
Mauritania	38.10%	4.1	0.9	4,649,658
Mauritius	50.70%	4.7	3.7	1,271,768
Mexico	70.10%	438.5	3.4	128,932,753
Moldova	45.30%	6	1.5	4,033,963
Mongolia	36%	65.5	20.3	3,278,290
Montenegro	42%	2.5	3.9	628,066
Morocco	46.30%	71.9	2	36,910,560
Mozambique	40.30%	8.7	0.3	31,255,435
Myanmar	21.10%	26.2	0.5	54,409,800
Namibia	65.30%	4.2	1.7	2,540,905
Nepal	32.90%	13.9	0.5	29,136,808
Netherlands	40.60%	154.8	9.1	17,134,872
New Zealand	45.70%	36.5	7.6	4,822,233
Nicaragua	52%	5.5	0.8	6,624,554
Niger	36.50%	2.1	0.1	24,206,644
Nigeria	42.60%	140	0.7	206,139,589
North Macedonia	56.70%	8	3.9	2,083,374
Norway	38.50%	42.4	7.9	5,421,241
Pakistan	33.30%	248.8	1.1	220,892,340
Palestine	28%	3.3	0.7	5,101,414
Panama	68.30%	12.5	2.9	4,314,767
Paraguay	72%	8.3	1.2	7,132,538
Peru	70.30%	54.5	1.7	32,971,854
Philippines	57.50%	144.3	1.3	109,581,078
Poland	52.10%	322.6	8.5	37,846,611
Portugal	82.20%	48.6	4.8	10,196,709

Romania	72.80%	75.1	3.9	19,237,691
Russia	40.30%	1678	12	145,934,462
Rwanda	51.60%	1.1	0.1	12,952,218
Saudi Arabia	22.30%	582.1	17	34,813,871
Senegal	44.90%	9.8	0.6	16,743,927
Serbia	52.90%	54.7	6.2	8,737,371
Sierra Leone	48.70%	1	0.1	7,976,983
Singapore	72.90%	38.9	6.7	5,850,342
Slovakia	44.60%	33.3	6.1	5,459,642
Slovenia	49.90%	13.7	6.6	2,078,938
South Africa	59.30%	478.6	8.2	59,308,690
South Korea	53.60%	611.3	11.9	51,269,185
Spain	84.80%	252.7	5.4	46,754,778
Sri Lanka	39%	24.8	1.2	21,413,249
Sweden	39.70%	42.8	4.3	10,099,265
Switzerland	52.50%	37.7	4.4	8,654,622
Taiwan	59.80%	262.6	11	23,816,775
Tajikistan	52.30%	9	1	9,537,645
Tanzania	38.80%	11.6	0.2	59,734,218
Thailand	36.20%	288.3	4.1	69,799,978
Togo	42.10%	3.3	0.4	8,278,724
Tunisia	31.60%	31	2.7	11,818,619
Turkey	52.20%	405.1	4.9	84,339,067
Turkmenistan	33.10%	85.6	14.4	6,031,200
Uganda	54%	5.5	0.1	45,741,007
Ukraine	52.30%	223.2	5.1	43,733,762
United Arab Emirates	26.40%	190.7	19.5	9,890,402
United Kingdom	69.90%	369.9	5.5	67,886,011
United States	49.20%	5285	16	331,002,651
Uruguay	73.40%	6.4	1.8	3,473,730
Uzbekistan	22.40%	110.2	3.3	33,469,203
Venezuela	62.70%	116.7	4.1	28,435,940
Vietnam	61.80%	247.7	2.6	97,338,579
Yemen	12.70%	10.3	0.4	29,825,964
Zambia	64.40%	6.7	0.4	18,383,955
Zimbabwe	59%	10.4	0.7	14,862,924

	Country	Population	CO2 emissions in tens of millions of tons (2019) (1)	Climate change poses a 'Very serious threat' (2)
1	China	1,439,323,776	1017	23.3%
2	India	1,380,004,385	262	35.1%
3	United States	331,002,651	528	49.2%
4	Indonesia	273,523,615	61.7	32.4%
5	Pakistan	220,892,340	24.8	33.3%
6	Brazil	212,559,417	46.5	72.2%
7	Nigeria	206,139,589	14.0	42.6%
8	Bangladesh	164,689,383	10.2	28.7%
9	Russia	145,934,462	168	40.3%
10	Mexico	128,932,753	43.8	70.1%
11	Japan	126,476,461	111	57.7%
12	Ethiopia	114,963,588	1.6	17.5%
13	Philippines	109,581,078	14.4	57.5%
14	Egypt	102,334,404	24.6	17.6%
15	Vietnam	97,338,579	24.7	61.8%
16	Congo Brazaville	89,561,403	0.22	45.2%
17	Turkey	84,339,067	40.5	52.2%
18	Iran	83,992,949	77.9	39.7%
19	Germany	83,783,942	70.1	55.0%
20	Thailand	69,799,978	25%	59%

(1) Global Carbon Project: Carbon Dioxide Analysis Center

(2) Lloyd's Register Foundation World Risk Poll, percentage response 'very serious threat' to the question: 'Do you think that climate change is a very serious threat, a somewhat serious threat, or not a threat at all to the people in this country in the next 20 years? If you do not know, please just say so.'

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