

OIC In Indices

Environmental Performance Index

Statistical Outlook Report
An Outlook on OIC Member Countries



ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
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Abbreviations

CIESIN	<i>Center for International Earth Science Information Network</i>
CO	<i>Carbon Monoxide</i>
CO ₂	<i>Carbon Dioxide</i>
EEZ	<i>Exclusive Economic Zone</i>
EPI	<i>Environmental Performance Index</i>
F-gases	<i>Fluorinated Gases</i>
GHG	<i>Greenhouse Gas</i>
KBA	<i>Key Biodiversity Area</i>
NO _x	<i>Nitrogen Oxides</i>
OIC	<i>Organisation of Islamic Cooperation</i>
OIC-ECA	<i>OIC Europe and Central Asia Member Countries</i>
OIC-SAPLA	<i>OIC East and South Asia, Pacific, Latin America, and Caribbean Member Countries</i>
OIC-MENA	<i>OIC Middle East and North Africa Member Countries</i>
OIC-SSA	<i>OIC Sub-Saharan Africa Member Countries</i>
PM _{2.5}	<i>Particulate Matter with a Diameter of 2.5 Micrometers or Less</i>
SDG	<i>Sustainable Development Goal</i>
SESRIC	<i>Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries</i>
SO ₂	<i>Sulfur Dioxide</i>
UAE	<i>United Arab Emirates</i>
VOC	<i>Volatile Organic Compound</i>
YCELP	<i>Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy</i>

1. Introduction

Environmental sustainability has become an increasingly important dimension of development, as countries face growing pressures related to climate change, ecosystem degradation, pollution, biodiversity loss, and the sustainable use of natural resources. These challenges directly affect public health, economic resilience, food and water security, and the long-term quality of life of societies. In this context, comparable and policy-relevant environmental indicators are useful for monitoring progress, identifying gaps, and supporting evidence-based decision-making.

For OIC Member Countries, environmental performance is closely linked with broader development priorities, including public health protection, sustainable use of water and land resources, food security, climate resilience, and the transition towards more sustainable patterns of production and consumption. At the same time, differences in income levels, ecological conditions, resource endowments, urbanization patterns, and institutional capacities mean that environmental challenges vary considerably across countries and sub-regions. In this regard, internationally comparable indices such as the EPI can help situate the performance of OIC Member Countries within a broader global context and support more targeted policy dialogue.

This report examines the performance of OIC Member Countries in the Environmental Performance Index (EPI). The EPI also provides a policy-relevant tool for tracking progress towards the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land), as well as the objectives of the 2015 Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. It first presents the methodology and conceptual framework of the index, including its three main policy objectives, issue categories, indicator structure, weighting framework, and score interpretation. It then compares the average EPI

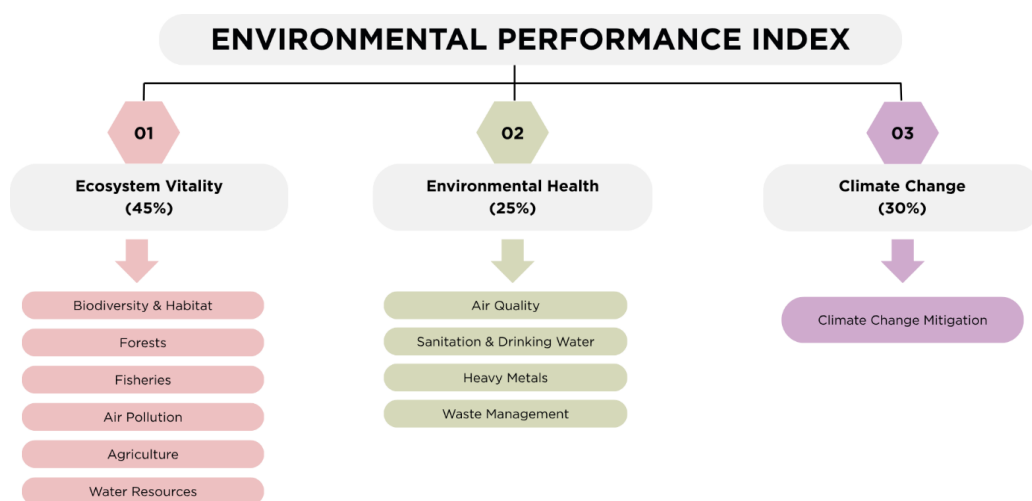
scores of OIC Member Countries with the world average across the overall index and the main policy objectives, before turning to country-level performance in 2024. The analysis aims to provide a concise, evidence-based overview of environmental performance across OIC Member Countries as part of the OIC in Global Indices series.

2. Methodology

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) was developed by the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy (YCELP) in collaboration with the Center for International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) at Columbia University.

Building on earlier environmental sustainability metrics, the EPI has evolved into a comprehensive global benchmarking tool for assessing environmental performance across countries (Block et al., 2024). In its 2024 edition, the EPI comprises 58 performance indicators across 11 issue categories, which are grouped into three policy objectives: Ecosystem Vitality, Environmental Health, and Climate Change.

Methodologically, the EPI adopts a composite index approach, aggregating multiple environmental indicators into a unified score. It measures how close countries are to established environmental policy targets across key sustainability dimensions. The framework is structured around policy-relevant objectives, enabling cross-country comparability and policy tracking. The 2024 edition also introduces refined greenhouse gas metrics that track proximity to net-zero targets, pilot indicators on countries' allocated shares of the remaining global carbon budget, and new biodiversity and habitat protection metrics linked to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its 30x30 conservation goal.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of the EPI

Source: Block et al. (2024), 2024 Environmental Performance Index: Technical Appendix.

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is structured around three main policy objectives, each representing a distinct dimension of environmental sustainability as shown in Figure 1. These policy objectives are further disaggregated into issue categories that capture specific thematic areas of environmental performance.

➤ **Ecosystem Vitality (45%)**

This policy objective assesses countries' performance in protecting ecosystems and maintaining ecological sustainability. It comprises the following issue categories:

- **Biodiversity & Habitat:** Assesses the protection of species and ecosystems, including the conservation of critical habitats and the effectiveness of protected areas.
- **Forests:** Measures forest cover dynamics and the preservation of intact forest landscapes, reflecting pressures such as deforestation and land-use change.

- **Fisheries:** Evaluates the sustainability of marine resources, focusing on fish stock health and the impact of fishing practices on ecosystems.
 - **Air Pollution (Ecosystem impacts):** Captures pollution pressures affecting ecosystems, particularly emissions that contribute to acidification and ecological degradation.
 - **Agriculture:** Examines the environmental sustainability of agricultural practices, including nutrient management and chemical use.
 - **Water Resources:** Assesses water management performance, including wastewater treatment and the sustainable use of freshwater resources.
- **Environmental Health (25%)**

This policy objective assesses the extent to which environmental conditions affect human health. The issue categories include:

- **Air Quality:** Evaluates human exposure to harmful air pollutants, reflecting both ambient and household air pollution risks.
 - **Sanitation & Drinking Water:** Assesses access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, which are critical determinants of public health.
 - **Heavy Metals:** Focuses on exposure to toxic substances, particularly lead, and their impacts on human health.
 - **Waste Management:** Measures how effectively countries manage solid waste, including collection, treatment, and recovery systems.
- **Climate Change (30%)**

This policy objective assesses countries' performance in climate change mitigation. It consists of a single-issue category:

- **Climate Change Mitigation:** Evaluates trends in greenhouse gas emissions, considering both current performance and future projections in relation to climate targets.

The Environmental Performance Index (EPI) is constructed using a standardized composite index methodology in which heterogeneous environmental data are transformed, normalized, and aggregated into a single comparable score. Raw indicator values are first transformed using appropriate statistical techniques, including logarithmic scaling where necessary, to ensure consistency and reduce distributional biases. All indicators are then normalized onto a common 0–100 scale, where higher scores indicate better performance relative to established policy targets. The normalized indicators are aggregated through a hierarchical structure using predefined weights, progressing from indicators to issue categories, and subsequently to policy objectives, which are ultimately combined into the overall index score. This approach ensures comparability across countries while maintaining alignment with policy relevance and environmental priorities.

The EPI does not publish official OIC or OIC subregional aggregate scores. In this report, OIC, OIC subregional, and world reference values are calculated by SESRIC staff using simple arithmetic averages of available country scores, where each country contributes equally. These values are presented for comparative analytical purposes and should not be interpreted as official EPI aggregates.

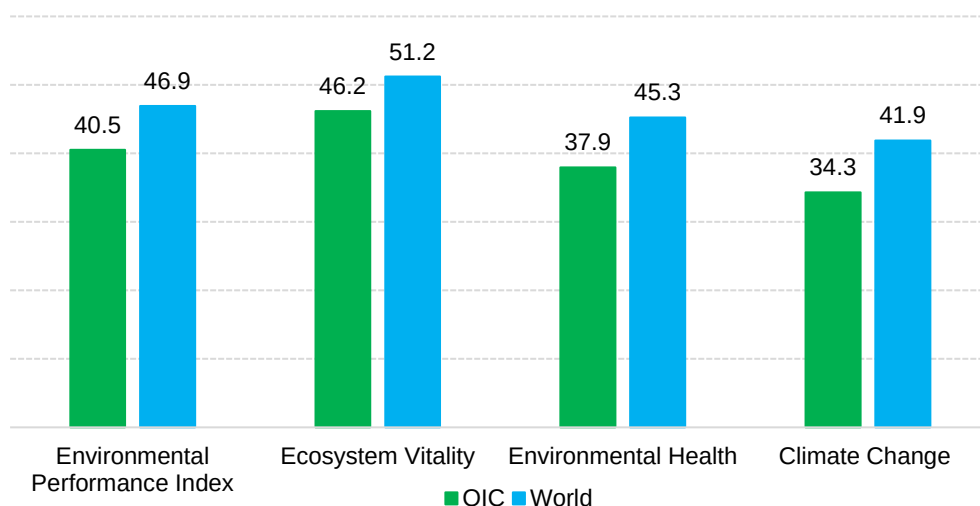
EPI scores range from 0 to 100, with higher values indicating better environmental performance relative to internationally defined policy targets. The index provides a comprehensive assessment across multiple environmental dimensions, allowing countries' performance to be evaluated both overall and by specific thematic areas (Block et al., 2024).

3. Regional Trends

Regional comparisons provide an important starting point for understanding the relative environmental performance of OIC Member Countries within the 2024 EPI framework. Since the index covers different dimensions of environmental sustainability, including climate change, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality, aggregate comparisons help identify whether performance gaps are broad-based or concentrated in specific policy objectives. In this section, OIC averages are compared with world averages across the overall index and the three main policy objectives to provide an overview of relative performance patterns.

Figure 2 compares the average EPI scores of OIC Member Countries and the world across the overall index and the three main policy objectives in 2024. The comparison provides a compact overview of where OIC Member Countries stand relative to the broader international benchmark and helps identify the policy areas where performance gaps are more visible.

The average EPI score of OIC Member Countries stands at 40.5 in 2024, compared with the world average of 46.9. This gap of around 6.4 points indicates that OIC Member Countries, as a group, remain below the global benchmark in overall environmental performance. Since the EPI combines a wide range of environmental dimensions into a single composite score, this gap should be interpreted as a broad indication of relative performance rather than as evidence of weakness in one specific area.

Figure 2: EPI and Policy Objective Average Scores: OIC vs. World, 2024

Source: Block et al. (2024), 2024 Environmental Performance Index; SESRIC staff calculations.

Note: OIC and world averages are SESRIC staff calculations based on simple arithmetic averages of available country scores and do not represent official EPI aggregates.

Across policy objectives, the smallest gap is observed in Ecosystem Vitality. The OIC average score in this dimension is 46.2, compared with the world average of 51.2. This suggests that OIC Member Countries are relatively closer to the world benchmark in areas related to biodiversity and habitat, forests, fisheries, agriculture, air pollution affecting ecosystems, and water resources. However, the remaining difference also indicates that further progress is still needed in protecting ecosystems and improving the sustainability of natural resource use.

The gap is more pronounced in Environmental Health, where the OIC average score is 37.9 compared with the world average of 45.3. This dimension captures issues that directly affect human health, including air quality, sanitation and drinking water, heavy metals, and waste management. The relatively lower OIC score points to the importance of continued investment in environmental public health systems, particularly in pollution control, safe water and sanitation, and waste management infrastructure.

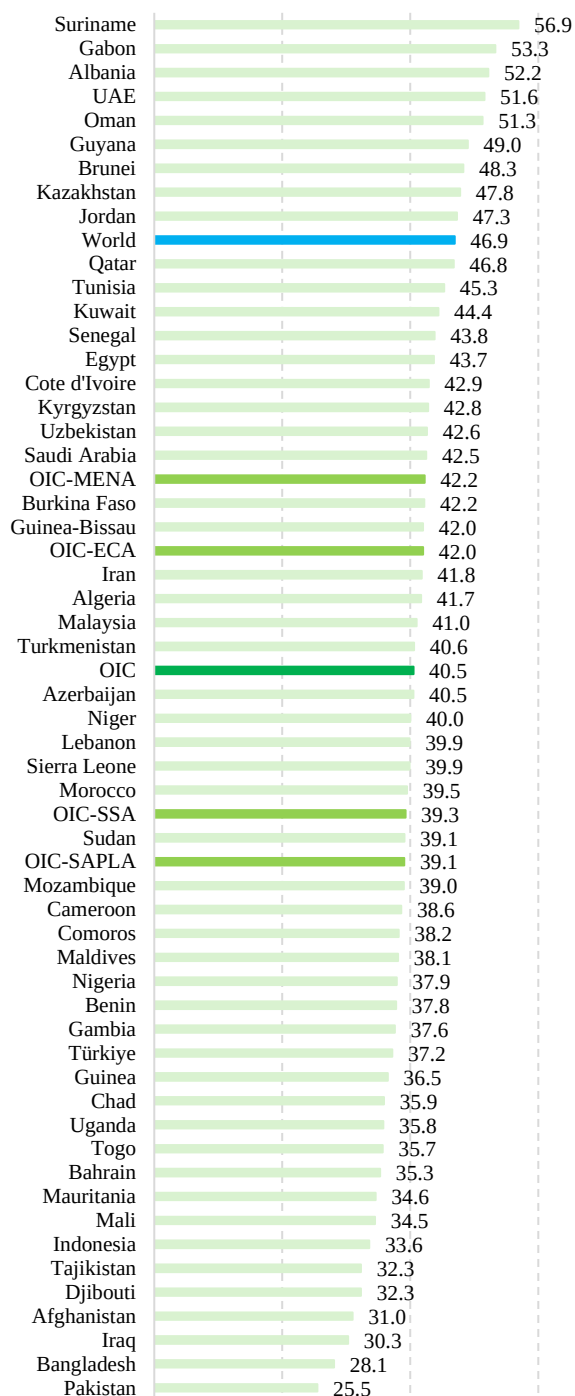
In Climate Change, the OIC average score is 34.3, below the world average of 41.9. This indicates comparatively weaker performance in climate change mitigation as measured by the EPI framework. Since the Climate Change policy objective is based on greenhouse gas emissions trends, emissions intensity, per capita emissions, projected emissions, and carbon budget-related indicators, the result suggests that many OIC Member Countries face continued challenges in aligning growth, energy systems, and emissions pathways with climate-related targets.

Overall, Figure 2 indicates that OIC Member Countries perform below the world average across all three EPI policy objectives, although the size of the gap differs by dimension. The results suggest that policy priorities should not be limited to one area of environmental performance. Rather, progress will require a balanced approach that combines stronger climate change mitigation, improved environmental health outcomes, and continued protection of ecosystems and natural resources.

4. Country-Level Performance

While aggregate comparisons provide a useful overview, country-level results are essential for understanding the diversity of environmental performance within the OIC group. OIC Member Countries differ considerably in terms of geography, income levels, energy structures, urbanization patterns, institutional capacity, and exposure to environmental pressures. Therefore, the country-level analysis helps identify leading performers, countries positioned around the OIC and world averages, and Member Countries where further improvements may be needed.

Figure 3 presents the distribution of EPI scores across OIC Member Countries in 2024, together with the OIC average, selected OIC subregional reference values, and the world average. The figure illustrates the extent of variation within the OIC group and helps identify countries performing above the global benchmark, those

Figure 3: EPI by OIC Member Country, 2024

Source: Block et al. (2024), 2024 Environmental Performance Index; SESRIC staff calculations.

clustered around the OIC average, and those that remain at lower levels of environmental performance.

The subregional reference values shown in Figure 3 indicate moderate variation across OIC sub-regions. OIC-MENA records the highest subregional average at 42.2, followed closely by OIC-ECA at 42.0. Both sub-regions stand above the overall OIC average of 40.5, although they remain below the world average of 46.9. OIC-SSA records an average score of 39.3, while OIC-SAPLA stands at 39.1. These results suggest that environmental performance gaps are observed across all OIC sub-regions, while the size and nature of these gaps may differ according to regional characteristics, including income levels,

energy structures, environmental health conditions, ecosystem pressures, and climate-related mitigation challenges.

The component-level results in Annex Table 2 show that similar sub-regional EPI averages reflect different performance profiles. OIC-SSA records the strongest Ecosystem Vitality score among OIC sub-regions (48.2), but this is offset by weaker Environmental Health (31.8) and Climate Change (32.4) scores. By contrast, OIC-MENA's leading average is supported by relatively stronger Environmental Health performance (43.7), while OIC-ECA remains close to MENA due to a comparatively balanced profile across Ecosystem Vitality (45.2), Environmental Health (41.1), and Climate Change (38.1).

At the upper end of the distribution, several OIC Member Countries record scores above the world average of 46.9. Suriname (56.9), Gabon (53.3), Albania (52.2), the United Arab Emirates (51.6), and Oman (51.3) have the highest EPI scores within the OIC group. These countries also exceed the OIC average of 40.5 by a clear margin, indicating comparatively stronger overall environmental performance across the mix of indicators included in the index.

A second group of countries is positioned close to or above the world average. Guyana (49.0), Brunei (48.3), Kazakhstan (47.8), Jordan (47.3), Qatar (46.8), Tunisia (45.3), and Kuwait (44.4) fall within this relatively stronger middle-to-upper segment. Their scores suggest that a number of OIC Member Countries have reached performance levels that are broadly comparable with the world average, even if further progress remains possible in specific policy objectives or issue categories.

Around the OIC average, countries such as Senegal (43.8), Egypt (43.7), Côte d'Ivoire (42.9), Kyrgyzstan (42.8), Uzbekistan (42.6), Saudi Arabia (42.5), Burkina Faso (42.2), Guinea-Bissau (42.0), Iran (41.8), Algeria (41.7), Malaysia (41.0), Turkmenistan (40.6), and Azerbaijan (40.5) form a broad middle group. This concentration around the OIC average points to a relatively wide group of Member Countries where targeted

improvements in selected environmental dimensions could support movement toward the world benchmark.

At the lower end of the distribution, several Member Countries record scores below the OIC average. These include Bahrain (35.3), Mauritania (34.6), Mali (34.5), Indonesia (33.6), Djibouti and Tajikistan (both at 32.3), Afghanistan (31.0), Iraq (30.3), Bangladesh (28.1), and Pakistan (25.5). These scores point to more substantial environmental performance gaps, although the specific policy challenges may differ across countries depending on whether weaknesses are concentrated in climate change mitigation, environmental health, ecosystem vitality, or a combination of these dimensions.

Overall, Figure 3 shows that environmental performance among OIC Member Countries is highly heterogeneous. Some countries exceed the world average and can provide useful examples in selected areas, while others remain below the OIC average and may require more targeted policy support. The distribution suggests that country-level analysis should go beyond the overall EPI score and make use of the disaggregated policy objectives and issue categories to identify the most relevant priorities for each Member Country.

5. Conclusion

The analysis indicates that OIC Member Countries, on average, perform below the world benchmark in the 2024 Environmental Performance Index. The OIC average score stands at 40.5, compared with the world average of 46.9. Similar gaps are observed across the main policy objectives, with the OIC average remaining below the world average in Ecosystem Vitality, Environmental Health, and Climate Change. These results suggest that environmental performance gaps are not limited to a single dimension, but are visible across several areas covered by the index.

At the same time, the country-level distribution shows considerable variation among OIC Member Countries. Suriname, Gabon, Albania, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman record the highest EPI scores within the OIC group, exceeding the world average and indicating comparatively stronger performance. A broader group of countries, including Guyana, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Jordan, Qatar, and Tunisia, are positioned around the OIC and world averages. At the lower end of the distribution, countries such as Indonesia, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Bangladesh, and Pakistan record comparatively lower scores, pointing to continued environmental performance gaps.

Overall, the findings suggest that improving environmental performance across OIC Member Countries requires differentiated and context-specific policy approaches. Strengthening climate change mitigation, improving environmental health outcomes, protecting ecosystems, and enhancing waste, water, and pollution management systems remain important priorities. Continued monitoring through comparable global indices can support evidence-based policy dialogue and help identify areas where targeted investment, institutional capacity development, and cooperation among OIC Member Countries can contribute to more sustainable environmental outcomes. In this regard, the next EPI edition in 2026 can serve as a useful monitoring milestone for assessing whether progress is being made across the main

dimensions of environmental performance. At the same time, SESRIC's support to environmental and SDG-related data collection through its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme, together with relevant OIC cooperation mechanisms in the fields of environment and water, can help Member Countries strengthen data systems, exchange experiences, and develop more coordinated responses to shared environmental challenges.

Annex Table 1: Overall Structure of the EPI

Issue Category	Indicator	Weight
Ecosystem Vitality (45%)		
Biodiversity & Habitat	Marine KBA Protection	3.0%
	Marine Habitat Protection	3.0%
	Marine Protection Stringency	0.5%
	Protected Areas Representativeness Index	3.0%
	Species Protection Index	4.0%
	Terrestrial Biome Protection (national weights)	2.5%
	Terrestrial KBA Protection	2.5%
	Protected Area Effectiveness	0.5%
	Protected Human Land	0.5%
	Red List Index	3.0%
	Species Habitat Index	2.0%
	Bioclimatic Ecosystem Resilience	0.5%
Forests	Primary Forest Loss	1.5%
	Intact Forest Landscape Loss	1.5%
	Tree cover loss weighted by permanency	1.3%
	Net change in tree cover	0.5%
	Forest Landscape Integrity	0.3%
Fisheries	Fish Stock Status	0.3%
	Fish Catch Discarded	0.4%
	Bottom Trawling in EEZ	0.5%
	Bottom Trawling in Global Ocean	0.7%
	Regional Marine Trophic Index	0.1%
Air Pollution	Ozone exposure KBAs	0.5%
	Ozone exposure croplands	0.5%
	Adjusted emissions growth rate for nitrous oxides	2.5%

Issue Category	Indicator	Weight
	Adjusted emissions growth rate for sulfur dioxide	2.5%
Agriculture	Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index	1.2%
	Phosphorus Surplus	0.1%
	Pesticide Pollution Risk	0.5%
	Relative Crop Yield	1.2%
Water Resources	Wastewater generated	0.5%
	Wastewater collected	1.5%
	Wastewater treated	1.5%
	Wastewater reused	0.5%
Environmental Health (25%)		
Air Quality	Anthropogenic PM2.5 exposure	6.5%
	Household solid fuels	6.5%
	Ozone exposure	1.5%
	NOx exposure	1.0%
	SO2 exposure	0.5%
	CO exposure	0.5%
	VOC exposure	0.5%
Sanitation & Drinking Water	Unsafe sanitation	2.0%
	Unsafe drinking water	3.0%
Heavy Metals	Lead exposure	2.0%
Waste Management	Waste Generated Per Capita	0.4%
	Controlled Solid Waste	0.2%
	Waste Recovery Rate	0.4%
Climate Change (30%)		
Climate Change Mitigation	Adjusted emissions growth rate for carbon dioxide	7.5%
	Adjusted emissions growth rate for carbon dioxide (country-specific targets)	0.5%

Issue Category	Indicator	Weight
	Adjusted emissions growth rate for methane	3.0%
	Adjusted emissions growth rate for F-gases	2.0%
	Adjusted emissions growth rate for nitrous oxide	1.0%
	Adjusted emissions growth rate for black carbon	1.5%
	Net carbon fluxes due to land cover change	1.0%
	GHG growth rate adjusted by emissions intensity	6.0%
	GHG growth rate adjusted by per capita emissions	6.0%
	Projected emissions in 2050	1.0%
	Projected cumulative emissions to 2050 relative to carbon budget	0.5%

Source: Compiled by SESRIC based on Block et al. (2024), 2024 Environmental Performance Index: Technical Appendix.

Note: Weights are rounded and may not add up exactly to the total due to rounding.

Annex Table 2: EPI Scores of OIC Member Countries, 2024

Country / Group	Environmental Performance Index	Ecosystem Vitality	Environmental Health	Climate Change
Suriname	56.9	64.6	59.0	43.6
Gabon	53.3	65.4	32.3	52.8
Albania	52.2	51.9	44.1	59.4
United Arab Emirates	51.6	62.4	51.3	35.6
Oman	51.3	64.5	50.1	32.6
Guyana	49.0	57.2	56.0	30.6
Brunei	48.3	48.3	71.0	29.2
Kazakhstan	47.8	49.7	51.0	42.3
Jordan	47.3	49.3	47.2	44.6
World	46.9	51.2	45.3	41.9
Qatar	46.8	56.4	51.3	28.0
Tunisia	45.3	47.3	46.6	41.4
Kuwait	44.4	53.7	50.4	24.9
Senegal	43.8	52.0	43.1	32.0
Egypt	43.7	51.5	33.5	40.4
Côte d'Ivoire	42.9	49.9	33.7	40.9
Kyrgyzstan	42.8	44.4	37.1	45.4
Uzbekistan	42.6	48.4	38.2	37.5
Saudi Arabia	42.5	50.0	40.5	33.2
OIC-MENA	42.2	46.3	43.7	35.0
Burkina Faso	42.2	58.6	33.3	24.9
Guinea-Bissau	42.0	45.6	35.6	41.8
OIC-ECA	42.0	45.2	41.1	38.1
Iran	41.8	46.3	41.8	35.1
Algeria	41.7	41.8	48.2	36.2
Malaysia	41.0	38.9	45.8	39.9
Turkmenistan	40.6	40.6	54.0	29.6
OIC	40.5	46.2	37.9	34.3
Azerbaijan	40.5	44.7	40.4	34.7
Niger	40.0	59.0	30.6	19.4
Lebanon	39.9	37.5	46.5	38.0
Sierra Leone	39.9	39.4	33.3	46.8
Morocco	39.5	40.0	44.1	34.9

Country / Group	Environmental Performance Index	Ecosystem Vitality	Environmental Health	Climate Change
OIC-SSA	39.3	48.2	31.8	32.4
Sudan	39.1	43.4	34.7	36.2
OIC-SAPLA	39.1	42.3	39.1	34.1
Mozambique	39.0	48.8	25.2	35.7
Cameroon	38.6	49.3	19.7	39.4
Comoros	38.2	45.1	41.4	25.2
Maldives	38.1	39.3	48.0	27.9
Nigeria	37.9	44.2	20.3	43.9
Benin	37.8	56.1	26.0	22.9
Gambia	37.6	36.4	40.2	37.2
Türkiye	37.2	34.7	41.9	37.0
Guinea	36.5	48.2	32.6	22.2
Chad	35.9	51.1	26.5	21.0
Uganda	35.8	45.6	18.5	35.7
Togo	35.7	47.1	25.5	28.5
Bahrain	35.3	36.9	41.6	27.9
Mauritania	34.6	34.5	46.5	24.8
Mali	34.5	44.7	37.7	16.5
Indonesia	33.6	38.9	25.8	32.1
Tajikistan	32.3	47.3	21.9	18.5
Djibouti	32.3	24.4	29.2	47.9
Afghanistan	31.0	31.9	18.2	40.2
Iraq	30.3	32.7	32.9	24.6
Bangladesh	28.1	31.9	15.2	33.0
Pakistan	25.5	29.5	13.1	30.0

Source: Block et al. (2024), 2024 Environmental Performance Index; SESRIC staff calculations.

Note: OIC, OIC subregional, and world averages are SESRIC staff calculations based on simple arithmetic averages of available country scores and do not represent official EPI aggregates.

Note: The analysis covers 52 of the 57 OIC Member States included in the 2024 EPI dataset. Libya, Palestine, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen are not covered, as they are not included in the EPI's 180-country sample.

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