



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE

THE ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY INDEX

The Access Initiative

LALANATH DE SILVA, DIRECTOR, THE ACCESS INITIATIVE | JESSE WORKER, ASSOCIATE, WRI

THE ACCESS INITIATIVE (TAI)

NETWORK of **200+** civil society organizations in **50+** countries

MISSION: to strengthen public rights to participate in environmental decision-making through evidence-based advocacy



A photograph of Ramesh Agrawal, a man with glasses and a blue and white striped shirt, speaking into a microphone. He is surrounded by other people, some of whom are also speaking into microphones. A microphone with the 'NBS NEWS' logo is visible in the foreground. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and what appears to be a public event setting.

RAMESH AGRAWAL | TAI PARTNER & WINNER OF 2014 GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE FOR ASIA

- Using Right to Information law, uncovered illegal clearances
- Faced threats and corruption at public forums
- Challenged coal company in court and won—once National Green Tribunal was established

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL DEMOCRACY?

INFORMATION → publicly available, accessible, and relevant environmental information

PARTICIPATION → meaningful opportunities for the public to shape decisions that have environmental impacts

JUSTICE → accountability and grievance mechanisms to enforce laws and compensate for harms

THE CHALLENGE

The environmental rights of **transparency, participation, and access to justice** are essential to sustainable development and the public interest.

However, in many countries these rights are either weak or lacking. To bring about change, these rights need to be consistently and reliably measured and publicized in a useful format.



OPPORTUNITY

**Growing Global Awareness
New Regional Instruments
Open Government Partnership
Post-2015 Development Agenda**

WHY EDI?

- **First index to measure environmental democracy**
- **Benchmarks to an International Standard (UNEP Bali Guidelines)**
- **Not perceptions-based or composite—clear, actionable indicators developed by WRI**
- **Makes data easily accessible, engages governments with results**

SCOPE OF LAWS INCLUDED IN 2014

75 Legal Indicators

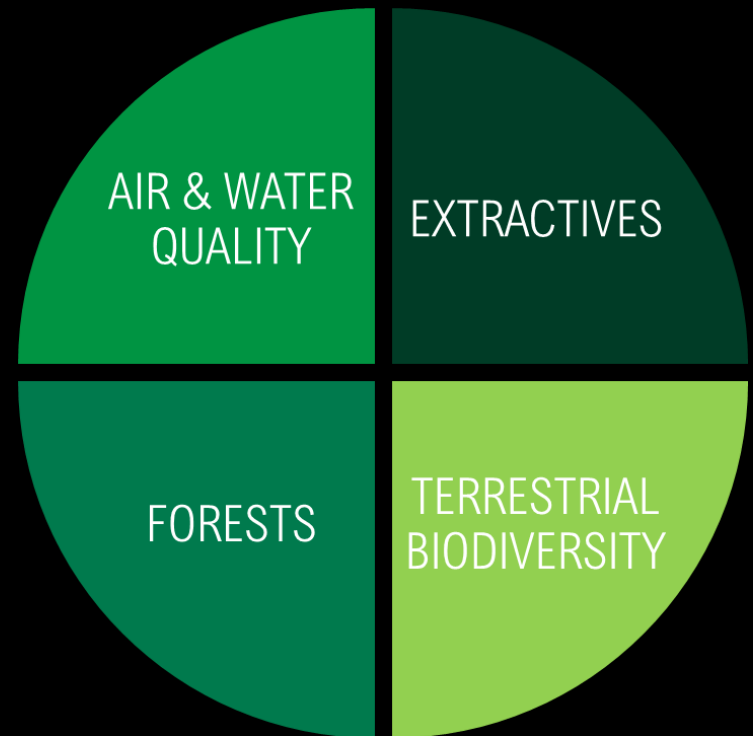
24 Performance Indicators

NATIONAL RULES and LAWS |

Relevant and legally-binding

SECTORS | air and water quality, forests, extractives (mining/oil & gas), terrestrial biodiversity (protected areas)

*Not included: energy, coastal, marine, and fishery laws



GUIDELINE 10: INFORMED PARTICIPATION

States should ensure that **all information relevant for decision-making** related to the environment is made available, in an objective, understandable, timely and effective manner, to the members of the public concerned.

GUIDELINE 10: LEGAL INDICATOR

Indicator: To what extent do the laws concerning: environmental impact assessments, pollution control permits, forest concessions, extractive industries, protected areas and biodiversity, and environmental policy-making, require all information relevant to decision-making processes relating to the environment to be made available to the public concerned, *without the public having to make an official information request?*

Guidance: This indicator differs from previous indicators in that it is testing whether a requirement exists to make relevant information available to the public so that it may make informed contributions to decision-making processes. This is different from simply informing the public about opportunities to participate.

In the best-case scenario, the law provides a minimum list of information which must be made available.

GUIDELINE 10:

LEGAL INDICATOR SCORING GUIDE

- 3 All of the laws assessed require all information relevant to decision-making processes relating to the environment to be made available to the public concerned *without having to make an official information request*
- 2 Most of the laws assessed...
- 1 A few of the laws assessed...
- 0 None of the laws assessed...

GUIDELINE 4

States should ensure that their competent public authorities **regularly collect and update relevant environmental information**, including information on environmental performance and compliance by operators of activities potentially affecting the environment. To that end, States should **establish relevant systems** to ensure an adequate flow of information about proposed and existing activities that may significantly affect the environment.

GUIDELINE 4: PRACTICE INDICATOR

Does a national agency in your country ensure that information on daily air emission and waste water discharges by large-scale industries at a facility level are proactively made publicly available either online, through a public register or at a library; if so, is that information comparable to a national standard?

Yes

Limited (only air or water data (but not both) are made available, the data are more than one year old, or the data are available but not at a facility level)

No

HOW EDI RESULTS ARE CREATED

140 environmental lawyers in **70** countries contributed

Clear scoring criteria to limit subjectivity

Multiple reviews and quality control checks

Government feedback to results for each country



THE MAP

RANK COUNTRIES

COMPARE COUNTRIES

ABOUT ▼

BLOG

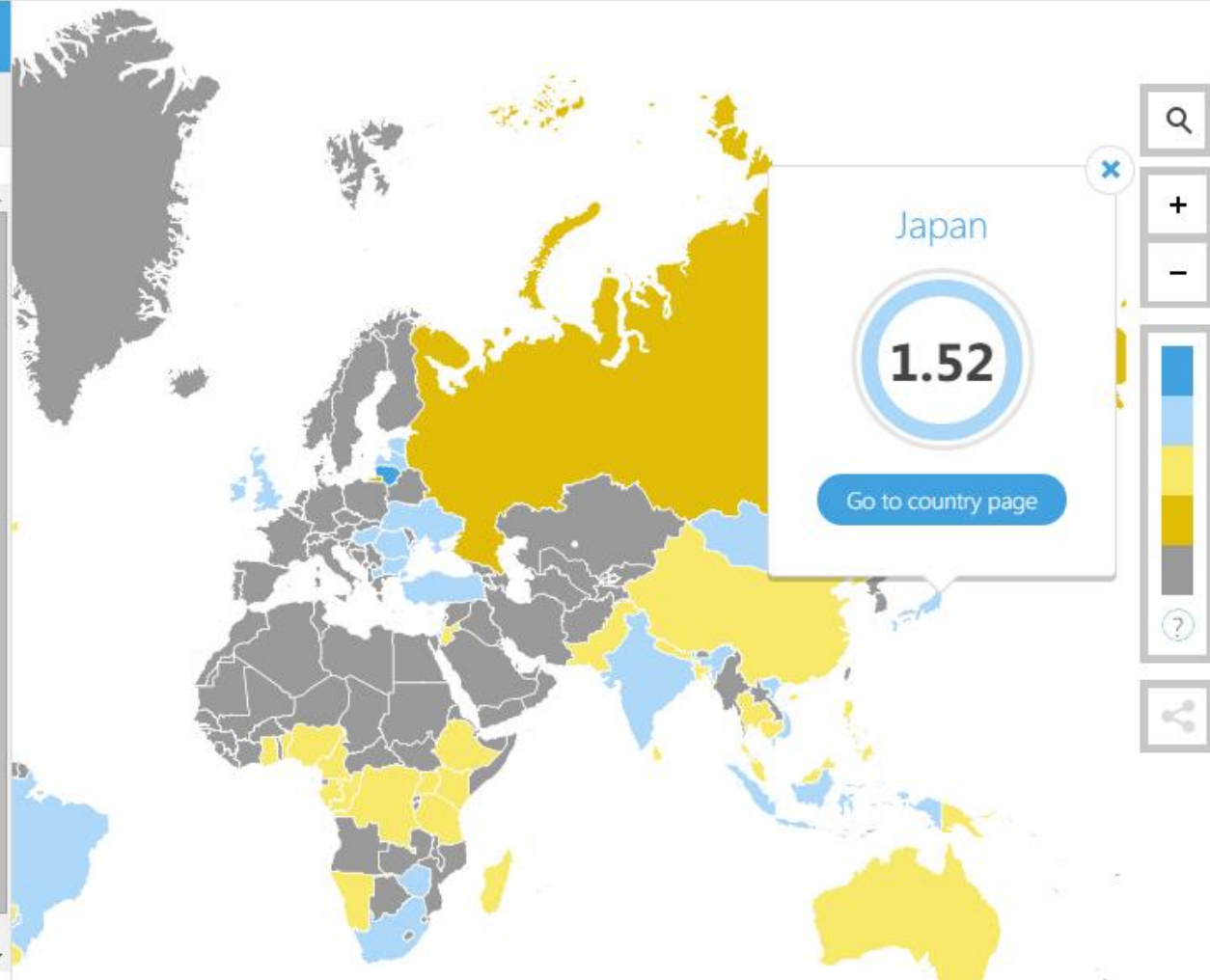
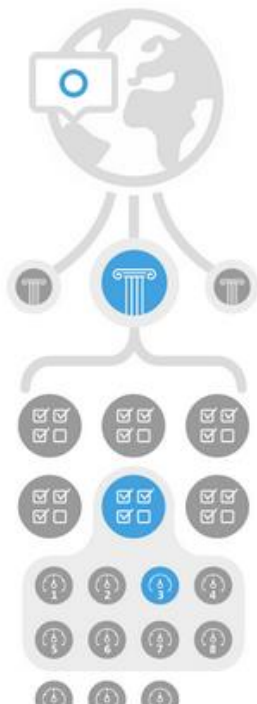
OVERALL

TRANSPARENCY

PARTICIPATION

JUSTICE

How the index works



NEXT STEPS

- **Government engagement**
- **DC Launch: May 20, 2015 (additional launches in Europe)**
- **Convening workshops with partners and stakeholders**
- **Expanding partnerships**
- **Revising indicators**

VISION OF SUCCESS



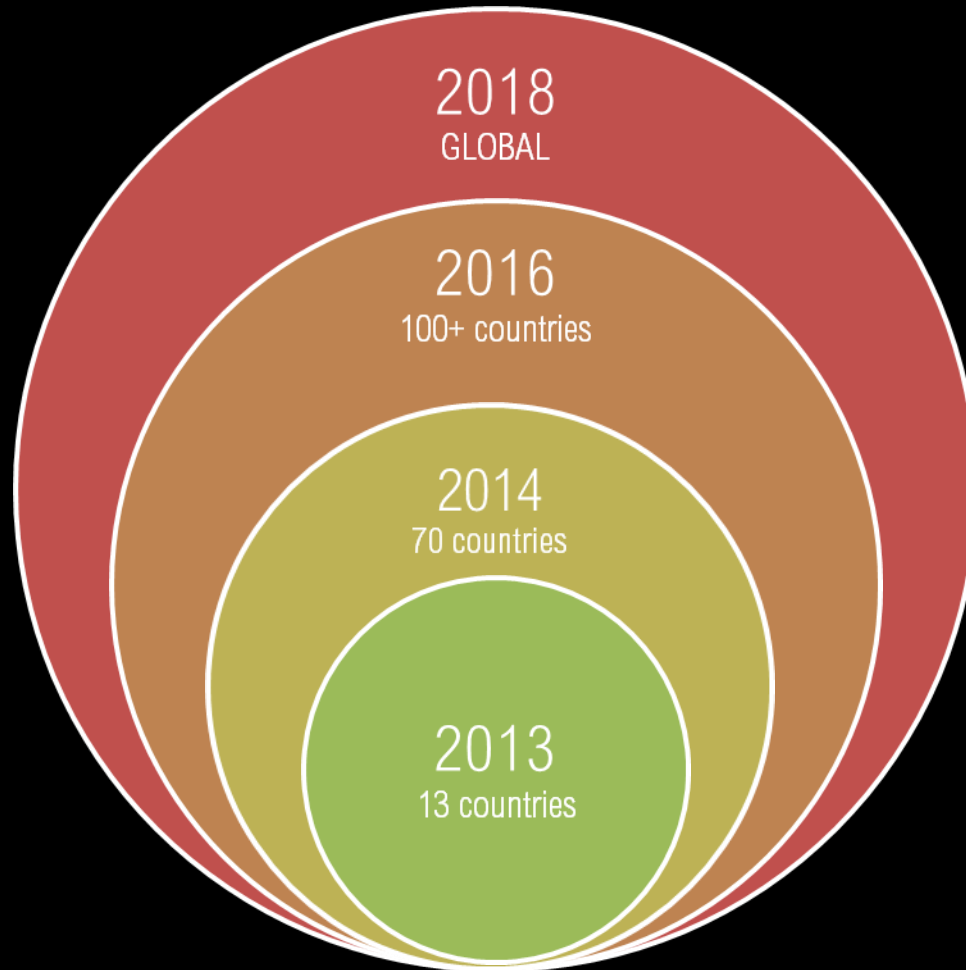
Over **10 countries** strengthen laws, institutions and practices by 2016

Marginalized communities achieve greater voice and power in decision making

EDI used to monitor environmental commitments in **Open Government Partnership**

Actionable EDI indicators used as **Post-2015 metrics** for progress

SCALING UP | 2013 - 2018





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THANK YOU!

LEARN MORE:
www.wri.org/tai

Idesilva@wri.org
jworker@wri.org

10 G Street NE
Suite 800
Washington, DC 20002, USA
+1 (202) 729-7600