

Climate Tools: Integrating Population Into Climate Programs

Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group, July 2012

Roger-Mark De Souza
Population Action International
www.populationaction.org

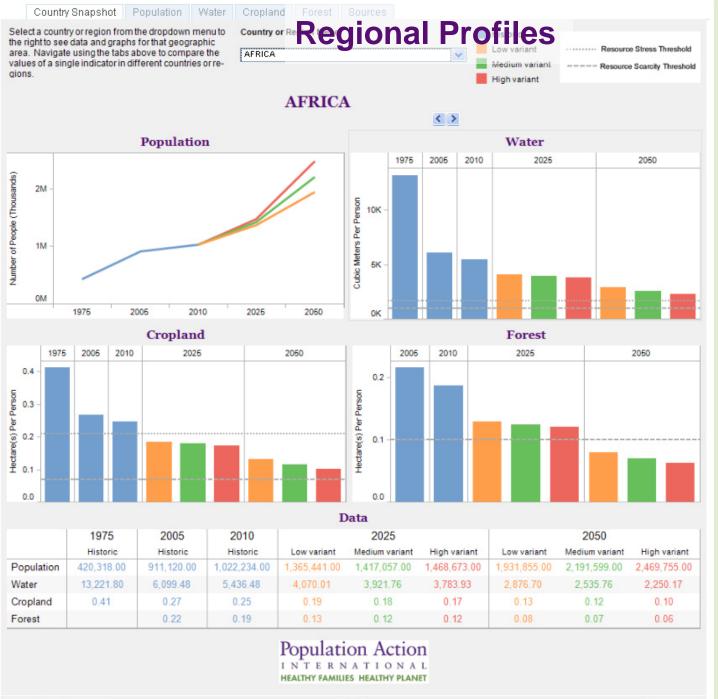


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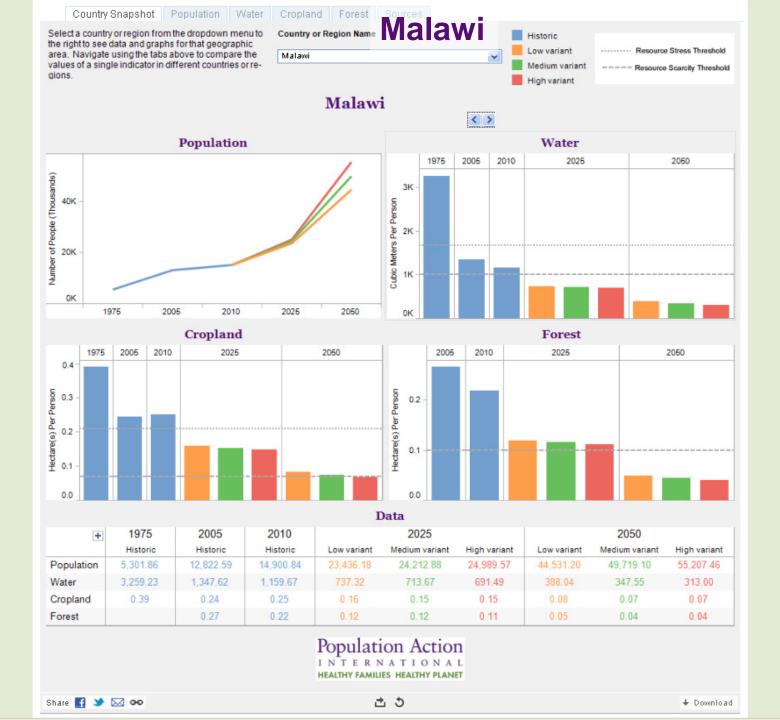
People in the Balance

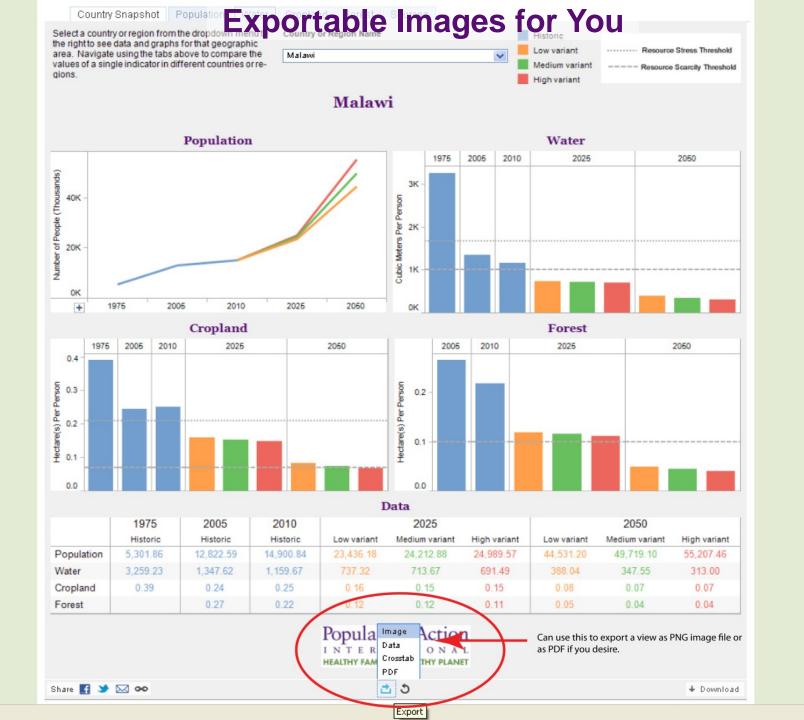


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User's Guide









An Update—People in the Balance: Population and Natural Resources

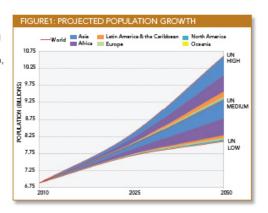
The updated People in the Balance database illustrates how population growth exerts pressure on available natural resources, especially in countries experiencing rapid growth. The database provides information about the availability of three critical resources—freshwater, cropland and forests. It also includes data for population growth, which has important implications for resource availability. In examining the data, PAI hopes that the user will note that investing in family planning programs, particularly in countries with rapid population growth, together with the sustainable use of these three critical natural resources, would ensure the well-being of future generations. The user can go to www.populationaction.org/data-and-maps/people-in-the-balance/ to view country- and region-specific charts and tables using data from the update. The data in its entirety, and the methodology and sources, are also available for download as a .CSV or MS Excel file.

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POPULATION TRENDS

World population reached 7 billion in October 2011 and continues to grow. UN population projections for the year 2025 range from 7.6 billion to 8.3 billion, growing to anywhere between 8.1 billion and 10.6 billion by 2050. The scope of these projections suggests the extent to which we, as human beings, can influence our demographic future through the decisions we make today. More people and higher incomes worldwide are multiplying our collective impact on the environment. It is likely that the rest of this century will witness even greater pressures on natural resources. Current demographic trends, however, offer some hope.

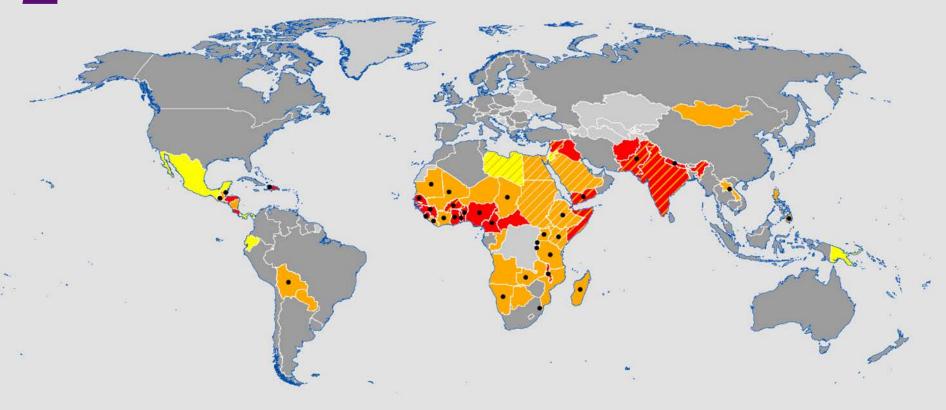
Over the past 60 years the average number of children born to each woman has fallen from five to less than three as people increasingly want to have children later in life and want families that are smaller than their parents! Nonetheless, this fertility preference varies among regions. For example, the projections note that the population of Eastern Europe will decline by 21 percent by 2050, whereas the population of Central and Western Africa will more than triple during the same period².

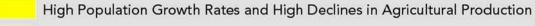


Policymakers have a choice—and a window to take action. If they do nothing, the world's population will grow to more than 10 billion by mid-century. If they take action by investing in family planning services, they can help ensure that the world's population peaks in this century with slightly more than 8 billion people.

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2 Hotspots Mapping

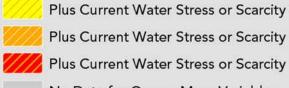


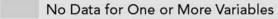


High Population Growth Rates and Low Resilience to Climate Change

Countries Experiencing All Three Variables

High Percentage of Women with Unmet Need for Family Planning

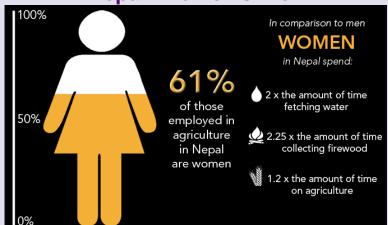




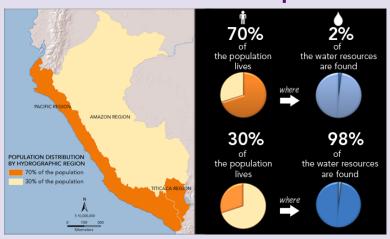


Use Those Stories for Advocacy

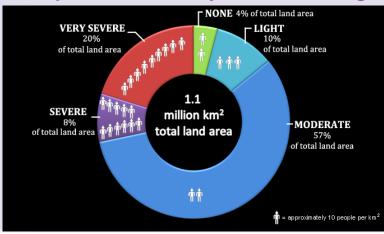
Nepal: Women's Work



Peru: Water Relative to Population



Ethiopia: Population Density and Land Degradation



CCLearn: Population Dynamics and Climate Change

