

# Country Profile

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Region: Sub-Saharan Africa



2020 EPI Country Rank (out of 180)

**95**

2020 EPI Score [0=worst, 100=best]

**43.1**

GDP [PPP 2011\$ billions]

**701.7**

GDP *per capita* [\$]

**12,145**

Population [millions]

**57.8**

Urbanization [%]

**67.35**

## Country Scorecard

### Issue Categories

### Rank [/180]

#### Environmental Health

115

Air Quality

131

Sanitation & Drinking Water

133

Heavy Metals

65

Waste Management

41

#### Ecosystem Vitality

62

Biodiversity & Habitat

80

Ecosystem Services

158

Fisheries

116

Climate Change

48

Pollution Emissions

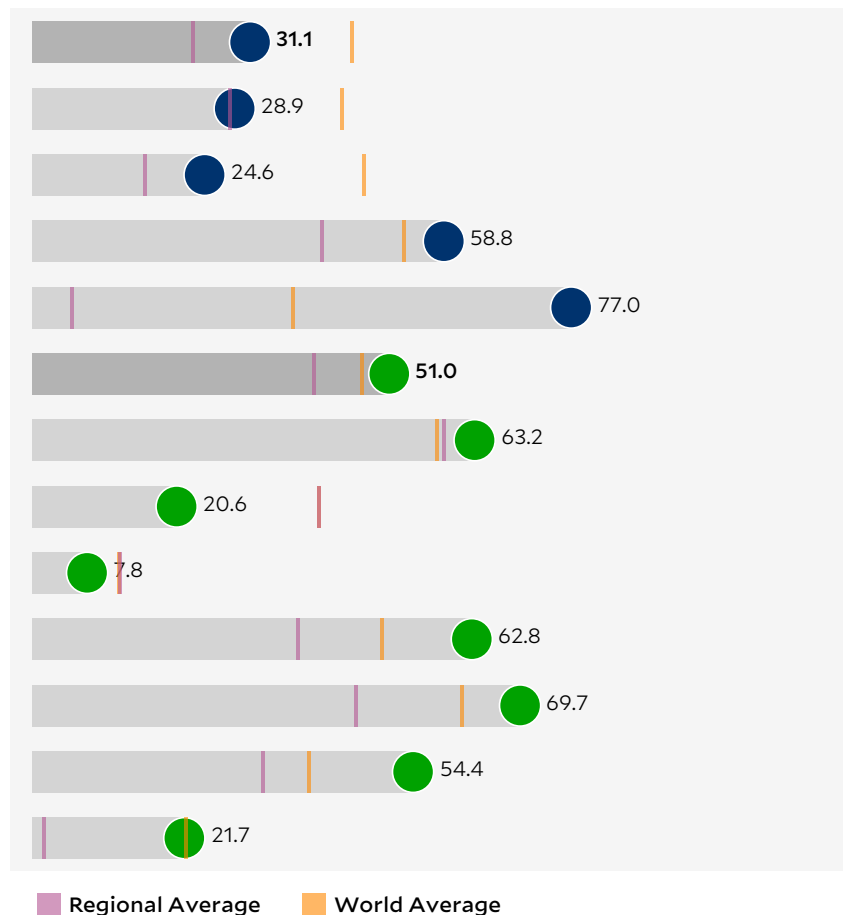
73

Agriculture

36

Water Resources

54



Region: Sub-Saharan Africa

	Rank	EPI Score	10-Year Change	Regional Rank	Regional Average
<b>Environmental Performance Index</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>43.1</b>	<b>+8.5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>33.2</b>
<b>Environmental Health</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>31.1</b>	<b>+7.1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22.7</b>
<b>Air Quality</b>	131	28.9	+7.7	17	28.0
Household solid fuels	98	36.2	+10.0	4	16.1
PM <sub>2.5</sub> exposure	148	22.7	+7.1	35	35.9
Ozone exposure	109	38.5	-4.0	14	36.4
<b>Sanitation &amp; Drinking Water</b>	133	24.6	+7.0	7	15.9
Unsafe sanitation	132	26.7	+7.7	7	16.7
Unsafe drinking water	133	23.2	+6.5	7	15.4
<b>Heavy Metals / Lead exposure</b>	65	58.8	+8.2	4	41.4
<b>Waste Management / Controlled solid waste</b>	41	77	-	2	5.7
<b>Ecosystem Vitality</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>+9.4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>40.2</b>
<b>Biodiversity &amp; Habitat</b>	80	63.2	+22.8	23	58.6
Terrestrial biomes (nat'l)	133	41.9	+4.5	34	69.0
Terrestrial biomes (global)	133	45.2	+6.1	36	71.3
Marine protected areas	1	100	+97.2	1	14.5
Protected Areas Representativeness Index	108	24.4	+10.2	32	30.4
Species Habitat Index	25	95.1	-2.8	8	84.3
Species Protection Index	87	79.4	+5.2	25	75.7
Biodiversity Habitat Index	59	58.7	-0.3	17	55.6
<b>Ecosystem Services</b>	158	20.6	+2.0	40	40.8
Tree cover loss	149	17.1	+1.3	37	36.7
Grassland loss	76	58.3	+12.5	15	55.2
Wetland loss	96	45.8	+3.1	32	63.0
<b>Fisheries</b>	116	7.8	-5.9	26	12.3
Fish Stock Status	69	7.8	-10.1	19	13.7
Marine Trophic Index	0	0	-	40	13.3
Fish caught by trawling	32	7.7	-1.2	3	5.9
<b>Climate Change</b>	48	62.8	+10.9	4	37.8
CO <sub>2</sub> growth rate	40	58.3	+17.0	2	24.8
CH <sub>4</sub> growth rate	75	73.3	+5.9	13	54.5
F-gas growth rate	103	86.3	-2.9	18	89.8
N <sub>2</sub> O growth rate	25	83.4	-4.5	7	53.0
Black Carbon growth rate	102	49.1	+10.1	16	42.4
CO <sub>2</sub> from land cover	64	58.4	-	9	37.3
Greenhouse gas intensity growth rate	81	50.2	+11.6	24	54.2
Greenhouse gas emissions <i>per capita</i>	148	22	+4.2	46	75.6
<b>Pollution Emissions</b>	73	69.7	-0.2	5	46.1
SO <sub>2</sub> growth rate	85	68.6	-4.6	8	50.2
NO <sub>x</sub> growth rate	67	70.7	+4.0	5	42.0
<b>Agriculture / Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index</b>	36	54.4	-4.0	1	32.9
<b>Water Resources / Wastewater treatment</b>	54	21.7	-	1	1.5

Note: three largest increases in green and three largest decreases in red. "-" indicates no change.

# Country Profile

## SOUTH AFRICA

### Peer Comparisons: EPI Scores for this country and peers based on similar characteristics

EPI Performance	
Peru	44.0
Turkmenistan	43.9
Bahamas	43.5
Egypt	43.3
El Salvador	43.1
Grenada	43.1
Saint Lucia	43.1
South Africa	43.1
Turkey	42.6
Morocco	42.3

GDP per capita	
Albania	49.0
Paraguay	46.4
Lebanon	45.4
Bosnia and Herzegovina	45.4
Peru	44.0
Saint Lucia	43.1
South Africa	43.1
Sri Lanka	39.0
Indonesia	37.8
Mongolia	32.2

Issue Performance	
North Macedonia	55.4
Belarus	53.0
Mexico	52.6
Brazil	51.2
Ukraine	49.5
Malaysia	47.9
Algeria	44.8
South Africa	43.1
Philippines	38.4
Indonesia	37.8

Regulatory Quality	
Jordan	53.4
Mexico	52.6
Armenia	52.3
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	48.4
Thailand	45.4
Kazakhstan	44.7
Dominica	44.6
Bahamas	43.5
South Africa	43.1
Rwanda	33.8

Voice & Accountability	
Israel	65.8
Poland	60.9
Argentina	52.2
Antigua and Barbuda	48.5
Jamaica	48.2
Trinidad and Tobago	47.5
Panama	47.3
Tonga	45.1
South Africa	43.1
Ghana	27.6

Political Stability	
Gabon	45.8
Uzbekistan	44.3
Bolivia	44.3
Peru	44.0
South Africa	43.1
Morocco	42.3
Malawi	38.3
China	37.3
Eswatini	33.8
Angola	29.7

Sub-Saharan Africa	
Gabon	45.8
Mauritius	45.1
South Africa	43.1
Botswana	40.4
Namibia	40.2
Burkina Faso	38.3
Malawi	38.3
Equatorial Guinea	38.1
São Tomé and Príncipe	37.6
Zimbabwe	37.0

G-20	
Mexico	52.6
Argentina	52.2
Brazil	51.2
Russia	50.5
Saudi Arabia	44.0
South Africa	43.1
Turkey	42.6
Indonesia	37.8
China	37.3
India	27.6

Ease of Doing Business Index	
Greece	69.1
Albania	49.0
Panama	47.3
Tunisia	46.7
South Africa	43.1
Botswana	40.4
Bhutan	39.3
Qatar	37.1
Zambia	34.7
India	27.6

**Note:** 'Issue Performance' based on *k*-nearest neighbors analysis of EPI issue categories.

**Sources:** GDP *per capita*, Worldwide Governance Indicators, and Ease of Doing Business Index from World Bank DataBank. Urbanization rate from UN, Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division.