



# ECOLOGICAL THREAT REPORT 2023 BRIEFING

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# ECOLOGICAL THREAT REPORT 2023 BRIEFING

## Analysing Ecological Threats, Resilience & Peace

This is the fourth edition of the Ecological Threat Report (ETR), which analyses ecological threats in 221 independent states and territories. The research takes a multi-faceted approach by analysing ecological threats at the national, subnational, and city level, while also assessing the threats against societal resilience and levels of peace. Comparing ecological threats against societal resilience enables IEP to identify the global regions, countries, and subnational areas most at risk of an ecological disaster, both now and into the future.

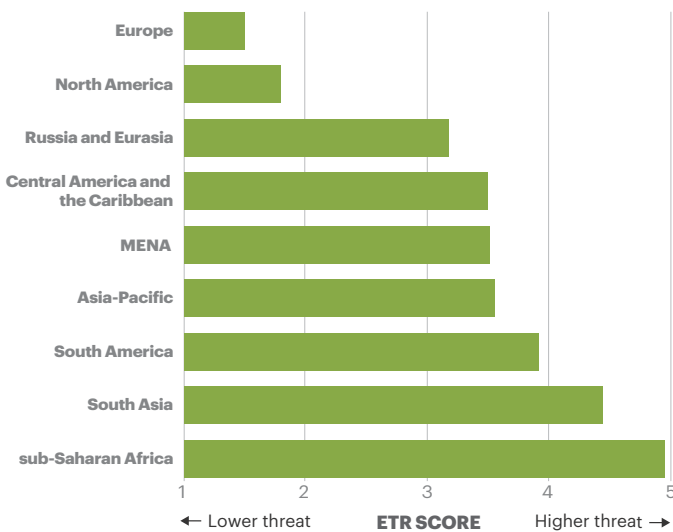
## 2023 Key Findings

- Ecological threats, such as rapid population growth, water risk and food insecurity will be compounded by climate change, causing mass displacement of people and conflict.
- A 25% rise in food insecurity increases the risk of conflict by 36%
- Similarly, a 25% increase in the number of people without access to clean drinking increases the likelihood of conflict by 18%
- 1 billion people are living in 42 countries that currently face severe food insecurity
- 1 in 4 people globally do not have regular access to safe drinking water
- By 2050, 2.8 billion people will reside in countries facing severe ecological threats, compared to 1.8 billion today
- More than 60% of the world's megacities are growing rapidly and are in countries with high levels of violence or conflict. These cities lack the financial resources to cater for their population growth.

**1** FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2023 REPORT, SECTION 1: RESULTS AND TRENDS

## Average ETR score by region, 2023

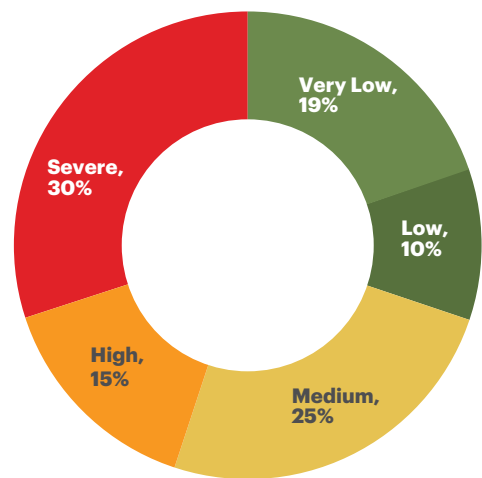
Sub-Saharan African and South Asian countries have the highest average ETR score.



Source: IEP Calculations

## Global ETR threat distribution, 2023

45 per cent of the countries in the ETR are facing at least one severe or high ecological threat.



Source: IEP Calculations

**1** FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2023 REPORT, SECTION 1: RESULTS AND TRENDS

### KEY FINDINGS

#### DEMOGRAPHIC PRESSURE

# 2.2 billion

By 2050, sub-Saharan Africa's population is predicted to rise to 2.2 billion, an increase of over 60 per cent, which will dramatically increase pressure on existing food and water supplies.

#### CONFLICT & CLIMATE

# 2.8 billion

IEP estimates that by 2050, 2.8 billion people will reside in countries facing severe ecological threats, compared to 1.8 billion in 2023. Most of the increase will be in sub-Saharan Africa.

# 45%

Forty-five per cent of the countries covered in the ETR face either high or severe threat level.



## Top ten megacities in 2050

City	Country	Projected 2050 Population	Country per Capita Income (PPP)
Mumbai	India	42,403,631	8,379
Delhi	India	36,156,789	8,379
Dhaka	Bangladesh	35,193,184	7,395
Kinshasa	Congo, DRC	35,000,361	1,337
Kolkata	India	33,042,208	8,379
Lagos	Nigeria	32,629,709	5,860
Tokyo	Japan	32,621,993	45,573
Karachi	Pakistan	31,696,042	6,437
New York City	United States	24,768,743	76,399
Mexico City	Mexico	24,328,738	21,512

Source: IEP

**4** FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2023 REPORT, SECTION 4: MEGACITIES AND MIGRATION

## Hotspot countries, 2023

The following countries are classified as 'hotspot' countries. This means they face at least one severe ecological threat and are ranked amongst the 30 countries with the worst levels of Positive Peace.

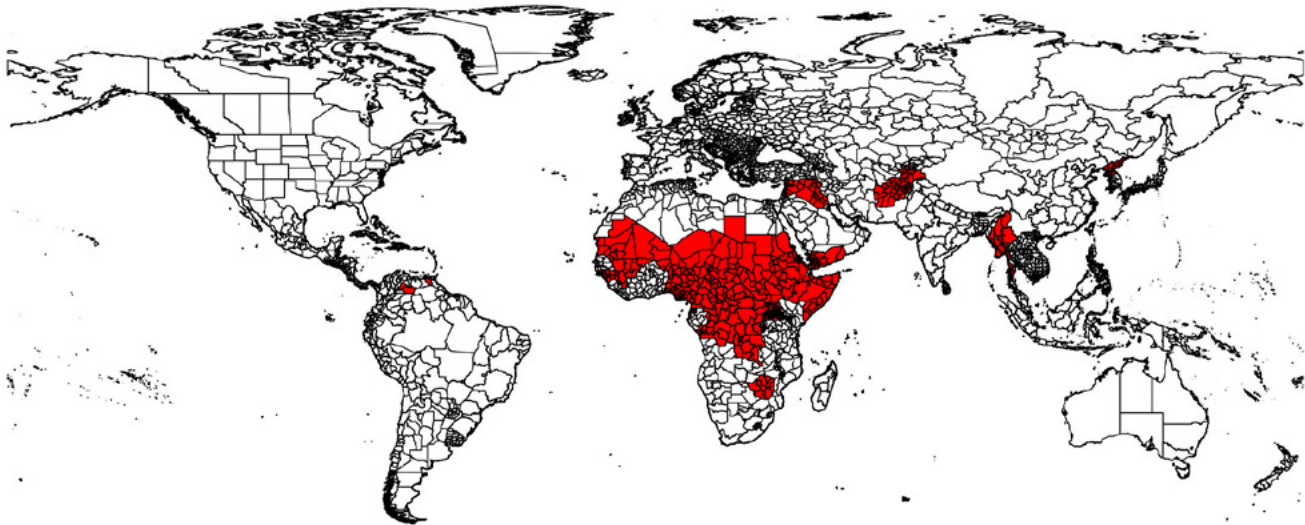
Burundi	Cameroon	Uganda	Nigeria
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Central African Republic	Zimbabwe	North Korea
Guinea	Chad	Haiti	Syria
Niger	Equatorial Guinea	Iraq	Tajikistan
Republic of the Congo	Eritrea	Libya	Venezuela
Somalia	Ethiopia	Mali	Yemen
South Sudan	Guinea-Bissau	Mauritania	
Afghanistan	Sudan	Myanmar	

Source: IEP

**1** FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2023 REPORT, SECTION 1: RESULTS AND TRENDS

## ETR country hotspots, 2023

30 countries have subnational areas that are identified as combining a severe level of ecological threat with extremely low societal resilience as measured by the PPI.



Source: IEP

**1** FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE THE 2023 REPORT, SECTION 1: RESULTS AND TRENDS

### KEY FINDINGS

#### FOOD INSECURITY

**> 65%**

42 countries are facing extreme food insecurity. Surveys from these countries show that more than 65 per cent of the population have been unable to afford food for their family at some point in the past year.

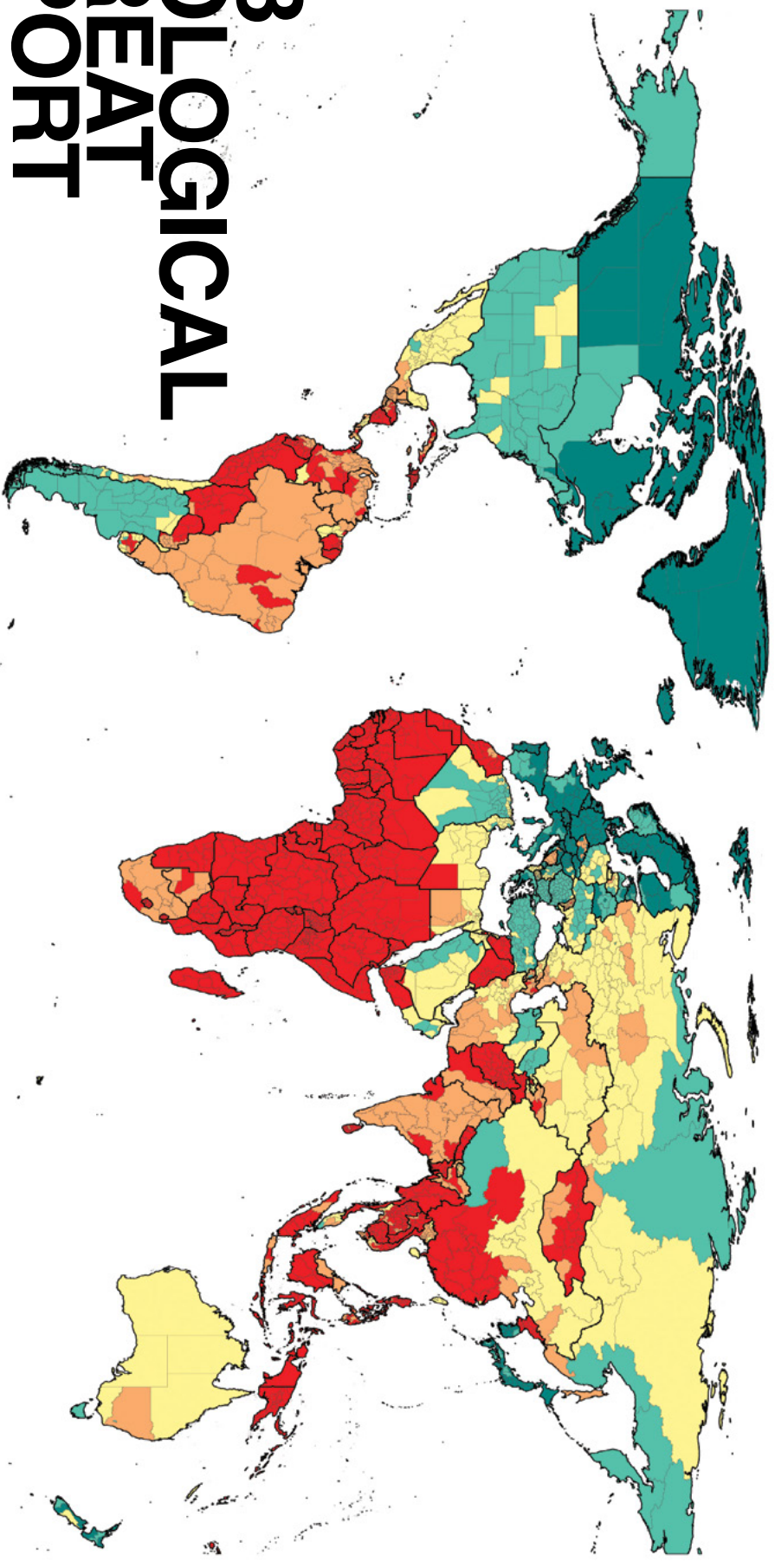
#### WATER RISK



Globally, there are 46 countries where the level of water risk is severe, and a further 31 countries where the level of water risk is high.

**> 80%**

The number of countries using more than 80 per cent of their renewable water supply for irrigation, livestock, industry, and domestic purposes has risen from 17 in 2019 to 25 in 2023.



# 2023 ECOLOGICAL THREAT REPORT

## MEASURING THE IMPACT OF ECOLOGICAL THREATS

### ETR SCORE



### ABOUT

The ETR is developed by the Institute for Economics & Peace, an independent, non-partisan, non-profit think tank dedicated to shifting the world's focus to peace as a positive, achievable and tangible measure of human wellbeing and progress.

IEP is headquartered in Sydney, with offices in New York, Brussels, The Hague, Mexico City and Nairobi. It works with a wide range of partners internationally and collaborates with intergovernmental organisations on measuring and communicating the economic value of peace.



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