



Countries in HPI rank	Life Exp	Exp Well-being	Footprint	HPI
2050 target	87.0	8.0	1.7	89.0
1 Costa Rica	79.3	7.3	2.5	64.0
2 Vietnam	75.2	5.8	1.4	60.4
3 Colombia	73.7	6.4	1.8	59.8
4 Belize	76.1	6.5	2.1	59.3
5 El Salvador	72.2	6.7	2.0	58.9
6 Jamaica	73.1	6.2	1.7	58.5
7 Panama	76.1	7.3	3.0	57.8
8 Nicaragua	74.0	5.7	1.6	57.1
9 Venezuela	74.4	7.5	3.0	56.9
10 Guatemala	71.2	6.3	1.8	56.9
11 Bangladesh	68.9	5.0	0.7	56.3
12 Cuba	79.1	5.4	1.9	56.2
13 Honduras	73.1	5.9	1.7	56.0
14 Indonesia	69.4	5.5	1.1	55.5
15 Israel	81.6	7.4	4.0	55.2
147 Mali	51.4	3.8	1.9	26.0
148 Central African Republic	48.4	3.6	1.4	25.3
149 Qatar	78.4	6.6	11.7	25.2
150 Chad	49.6	3.7	1.9	24.7
151 Botswana	53.2	3.6	2.8	22.6

Colour keys:

Life expectancy

- 75+ years
- 60 - 75 years
- < 60 years

Exp well-being

- > 6.2
- 4.8 - 6.2
- < 4.8

Ecological Footprint

- < 1.78
- 1.78 - 3.56
- 3.56 - 7.12
- > 7.12

HPI

- All three components good
- Two components good, one middling
- One component good, and two middling
- Three components middling
- Any with one component poor
- Two components poor, or "deep red" footprint

Countries in HPI rank	Life Exp	Exp Well-being	Footprint	HPI
Costa Rica	79.3	7.3	2.5	64.0
Rank (out of 151)	28th	13th	77th*	1st

Costa Rica

- For the second time, Costa Rica tops the Happy Planet Index. It has the second highest life expectancy in the Americas, experienced well-being higher than many richer nations, and a per capita Ecological Footprint one third the size of the USA's.
- Costa Rica's experienced well-being score is lower than Denmark's, the country with the highest level of experienced well-being, but higher than that of the USA, which has an average score of 7.2.
- Costa Rica's life expectancy is 4.1 years lower than that of Japan, the country with highest life expectancy, but higher than the USA's, which is 78.5 years.
- Costa Rica has embraced sustainability in its national policies: it produces 99% of its energy from renewable sources, has reversed deforestation in the country, and has committed to becoming carbon neutral by 2021. But Costa Rica's Ecological Footprint is still larger than it would need to be for it to live within its fair share of planetary resources.
- Costa Rica's GDP per capita is \$11,569, around a quarter of the USA's.

Countries in HPI rank	Life Exp	Exp Well-being	Footprint	HPI
United Kingdom	80.2	7.0	4.7	47.9
Rank (out of 151)	20th	19th	121st*	41st

United Kingdom

- The UK's HPI score reflects a high life expectancy, high levels of experienced well-being, and a very high Ecological Footprint.
- Average experienced well-being in the UK is lower than in the United States (7.2), but higher than that of Germany (6.7).
- The UK's life expectancy is 1.7 years higher than the USA's, but lower than that of Japan (83.4 years).
- If everyone had the same Ecological Footprint as the average citizen of the UK, the world's Footprint would be 1.7 times larger. This means we would need to reduce our Footprints by a factor of 2.5 in order to stay within sustainable environmental limits.
- The UK's GDP per capita is \$35,686, just over three quarters of the USA's.

Countries in HPI rank	Life Exp	Exp Well-being	Footprint	HPI
Nigeria	51.9	4.8	1.4	33.6
Rank (out of 151)	139th	98th	42nd*	125th

Nigeria

- Nigeria has the biggest population of sub-Saharan Africa, and like other countries in the region, its HPI score reflects a low life expectancy, low levels of experienced well-being, and a low Ecological Footprint.
- Nigeria's experienced well-being score is low. Although it is higher than the average in sub-Saharan Africa (4.3) it is lower than the world average, which is 5.3.
- Nigeria's life expectancy is very low. It is considerably lower than both the world average (69.9 years) the average in sub-Saharan Africa (54.8 years).
- If everyone had the same Ecological Footprint as the average citizen of Nigeria, the world's Footprint would be 50% lower.
- Nigeria's GDP per capita is \$2,399, around a twentieth of the USA's.

The Happy Planet Index: 2012 Report

The Happy Planet Index (HPI) is the leading global measure of sustainable well-being. It integrates environmental limits into the measurement of development and puts current and future well-being centre stage. It does this by using global data on life expectancy, experienced well-being and Ecological Footprint.

How is the HPI calculated?

The HPI blends subjective and objective data to build a picture of progress within a country. The Index uses global data on **life expectancy**, **experienced well-being** and **Ecological Footprint** to rank countries. It asks the question: "how much well-being is achieved per unit of resource consumption?"

$$\text{Happy Planet Index} = \frac{\text{Experienced well-being} \times \text{Life expectancy}}{\text{Ecological Footprint}}$$

- Well-being.** If you want to know how well someone's life is going, your best bet is to ask them directly. In this year's HPI, experienced well-being is assessed using a question called the 'Ladder of Life' from the Gallup World Poll. This asks respondents to imagine a ladder, where 0 represents the worst possible life and 10 the best possible life, and report the step of the ladder they feel they currently stand on.¹ Evidence indicates that this is an effective measure of overall well-being.
- Life expectancy.** Alongside experienced well-being, the HPI includes a universally important measure of health - life expectancy. We used life expectancy data from the 2011 UNDP Human Development Report.
- Ecological Footprint.** A society that achieves high well-being now, but consumes so much that the same resources are not available for future generations can hardly be considered successful. The HPI uses the Ecological Footprint promoted by the environmental NGO WWF as a measure of resource consumption.² It is a per capita measure of the amount of land required to sustain a country's consumption patterns, measured in terms of global hectares (g ha) which represent a hectare of land with average productive biocapacity.

The Happy Planet Charter

We need new measures of human progress.

The Happy Planet Index offers us an excellent example of how such measures work in practice. It shows that while the challenges faced by rich resource-intensive nations and those with high levels of poverty and deprivation may be very different, the end goal is the same: long and happy lives that don't cost the earth.

We must balance the prominence currently given to GDP with those measures that take seriously the challenges we face in the 21st century: creating economies that deliver sustainable well-being for all.

By signing this charter we:

- Call on governments to adopt new measures of human progress that put the goal of delivering sustainable well-being for all at the heart of societal and economic decision-making
- Resolve to build the political will needed across society to fully establish these better measures of human progress by working with partner organisations
- Call on the United Nations to develop an indicator as part of the post-2015 framework that, like the Happy Planet Index, measures progress towards the key goal for a better future: sustainable well-being for all.



* For Ecological Footprint, being ranked top means having the smallest Footprint.

¹ See Appendix 1 in our full report for explanation of why this measure of experienced well-being was used in this report. See <http://www.gallup.com/poll/122453/understanding-gallup-uses-cantril-scale.aspx> for information on how Gallup have used this indicator. ² See www.footprintnetwork.org.