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Environmental Regulation and Development: A Cross-country Empirical Analysis

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ABSTRACT *This paper develops comparative indices of environmental policy and performance for 31 countries, using a quantified analysis of reports prepared for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). In cross-country regressions, we find a very strong, positive association between our indicators and the level of economic development, particularly when the latter is adjusted for purchasing power parity. Our results suggest a characteristic progression in the development process, from protection of natural resources to regulation of water pollution and, finally, air pollution control. They also highlight the importance of institutional development, with significant roles for degree of private property protection, effectiveness of the legal/judicial system and efficiency of public administration. Controlling for these variables, "Green" sector indices should be positively correlated with: (1) rural population density; and (2) agricultural and forest production share of national output. "Brown" sector indices should be positively correlated with: (1) particular focus on public health, indexed by life expectancy; (2) urban share of total population; (3) urban population density; and (4) manufacturing share of national output. Our analysis of overall regulatory performance reveals strong cross-country associations with income per capita, security of property rights, and general development of the legal and regulatory system. Surprisingly, however, we find only insignificant or perverse associations with degree of popular representation and freedom of information. For both the Green and Brown indices, performance is again strongly associated with income per capita, freedom of property and (in small samples) measures of regulatory efficiency. The two specifically rural sector variables (population density; proportion of GDP in agriculture and forestry) are only weakly associated with the Green index. The fit is much better for the Brown index: degree of urbanization, population density and manufacturing share in GDP all have the expected signs and relatively high significance. Life expectancy as a proxy for public health priority has no independent effect. In summary, our findings suggest that a detailed, quantified analysis of the UNCED reports can yield comparable and plausible indices of environmental policy performance across countries. Cross-country variations in our environmental index are explained well by variations in income per capita, degree of urbanization and industrialization, security of property rights and general administrative efficiency.*

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1. Introduction

Since the Stockholm Conference on Environment and Development in 1972, many countries have taken steps to mitigate environmental damage. General environmental legislation is already common, although detailed rules and regulations are still far from universal. In many developing countries, it is clear that enforcement of environmental laws has been hampered by inadequate staffing and funding. Anecdotes abound, but more systematic comparative analysis of countries' environmental performance would undoubtedly help clarify the major policy issues and options. Unfortunately, comparable data on regulatory measures are available only for developed countries, and even these data are frequently scanty.

At present, therefore, comparative analysis must begin with basic data construction. One promising source is the set of environmental reports presented to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, 1990) by 145 countries. The reports are reasonably comparable because the UN imposed a standard reporting format.

Using a multidimensional survey of 31 national UNCED reports, we have developed a set of comparative indices for the status of environmental policy and performance. This paper describes our methodology, the indices and some results from a statistical analysis of their relationship to other more conventional measures of socio-economic development. In the following section, we begin with a description of the UNCED reports. Section 3 explains our indexing method, while Section 4 sets out some preliminary hypotheses about the relationships linking environmental policy and performance to socio-economic development. Section 5 reports and discusses some statistical tests of the hypotheses; and Section 6 concludes the paper.

2. The UNCED Reports

As part of the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, Rio de Janeiro, June 1992), all UN member governments were asked to prepare national environmental reports. Detailed preparation guidelines were laid down at the First Preparatory Committee meeting in Nairobi in August, 1990.[1] The UNCED secretariat suggested that the reports be prepared by working groups representing government, business and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The guidelines recommended that the reports provide information on: (i) the drafting process; (ii) problem areas; (iii) past and present capacity building initiatives; (iv) recommendations and priorities for environment and development; (v) financial arrangements and funding requirements; (vi) environmentally sound technologies; (vii) international cooperation; and (viii) expectations about UNCED.

The resulting reports are similar in form as well as coverage, and permit cross-country comparisons. Undoubtedly, the participation of NGOs has helped ensure that the UNCED reports are not mere government handouts. To a striking degree, they seem to reflect real environmental conditions and issues. While we recognize that self-reporting always carries the risk of misrepresentation, we should also note that almost all currently available environmental information is self-reported by firms and governments. The UNCED reports differ principally in the absence of any formal sanction for misreporting.

Table 1. Evaluation format

Sector/ activity	Air	Water	Land	Living resources
Agriculture				
Industry				
Energy				
Transport				
Urban				

3. Quantifying Environmental Performance

For this exercise, we have randomly selected 31 UNCED reports from the total of 145 (see Table 2a later). These 31 countries range from highly industrialized to extremely poor, they are drawn from every world region, and they range in size and diversity from China to Jamaica.

Our survey considers the state of policy and performance in four environmental dimensions: air, water, land and living resources. We analyse the apparent state of policy as it affects the interactions between these four environmental dimensions and five activity categories: agriculture, industry, energy, transport and the urban sector. Although many overlaps undoubtedly exist, we attempt to draw a separate assessment for the interaction of each activity category with each environmental dimension.

Our survey assessment uses 25 questions to categorize the state of: (i) environmental awareness; (ii) scope of policies adopted; (iii) scope of legislation enacted; (iv) control mechanisms in place; and (v) the degree of success in implementation.[2] The status in each category is graded "high, medium, low", with assigned values of 2, 1 and 0, respectively. For each UNCED country report, all 25 questions are answered for each element of the matrix in Table 1. With 20 elements in the matrix, 500 assessment scores are developed for each country.

We compute four composite indices by adding scores within each environmental dimension. We also calculate a total score to provide a composite index of the state of environmental policy and performance. Finally, we have used our scoring system to establish separate indices for three particularly interesting policy dimensions: the extent of environmental awareness; enactment of policies; and success in implementation. We use all three sets of indices for the cross-country analysis reported in Section 5.

Using the four dimensional indices and a composite index, we summarize our results as country rankings in Table 2a. Actual values are displayed in Table 2b. Table 2a also ranks countries on the basis of per capita GNP (PCGNP) and per capita GDP estimates compiled by the UN International Comparisons Programme (ICPGDP). The ICPGDP computation explicitly adjusts the standard income data to take account of purchasing power parity. Where countries in our sample are not covered in the most recent International Comparisons Programme Study (Phase V, 1985), we have adopted a World Bank estimate. The 1985 figures have been extrapolated to 1990 using World Bank estimates of real per capita GDP growth.

Table 3 presents summary statistics for the four dimensional performance indices, whose possible maximum values are all 250. The results suggest fairly similar distributions with the exception of air, which has a significantly lower mean and greater variance. Our statistical results suggest that air pollution gets relatively low priority in poor countries but increases more rapidly in importance with income. By contrast, low income countries such as Tanzania, Mozambique, Bhutan and Bangladesh seem to

Table 2a. Sample country rankings: income and environmental performance indices

Country	PCGNP	ICPGDP	Air	Water	Land	Living resources	Total
Switzerland	1	1	2	2	2	1	2
Finland	2	3	4	3	3	4	4
Germany	3	2	1	1	1	2	1
Netherlands	4	4	3	4	4	3	3
Ireland	5	5	5	5	4	5	5
Korea	6	8	7	7	8	7	7
Trinidad	7	6	10	11	11	12	11
Brazil	8	10	12	16	16	15	15
South Africa	9	9	8	9	9	10	9
Bulgaria	10	7	6	6	6	6	6
Jamaica	11	16	11	8	7	8	8
Tunisia	12	13	9	10	10	11	10
Thailand	13	11	15	24	18	23	19
Jordan	14	12	17	14	15	22	16
Paraguay	15	14	24	20	20	17	21
Papua New Guinea	16	21	28	27	29	30	29
Philippines	17	17	18	24	20	18	20
Egypt	18	15	21	12	24	27	22
Zambia	19	26	22	23	20	20	23
Ghana	20	20	18	19	18	18	17
Pakistan	21	19	13	14	13	13	13
China	22	18	15	16	12	9	12
Kenya	23	24	23	16	16	16	18
India	24	23	13	13	14	14	14
Nigeria	25	22	26	21	25	24	24
Bangladesh	26	25	25	29	27	29	26
Malawi	27	27	18	22	23	21	27
Bhutan	28	30	30	31	30	28	30
Ethiopia	29	31	31	30	31	31	31
Tanzania	30	29	29	28	28	26	28
Mozambique	31	28	27	26	26	25	25

focus first on the natural resources which are critical to their livelihood—soils, forests and water.

4. The Political Economy of Environmental Management: Some Preliminary Hypotheses

Environmental degradation affects national welfare by damaging human health, economic activities and ecosystems. Because environmental problems represent a classic externality, some government regulation is generally warranted. From an economist's perspective, desirable regulation should weigh two factors: the benefits associated with reduced environmental damage, and the opportunity cost of mitigation. In reality, the extent and focus of government intervention will also reflect national political and institutional considerations.

4.1 Benefits

The demand for environmental quality should increase with income per capita, and we would expect this to be strongly reflected in the country scores. In addition, demo-

Table 2b. Sample country data: income and environmental performance indices

Country	PCGNP ($1990)	ICPGDP (I$1990)	Air	Water	Land	Living resources	Environment
Switzerland	32,680	21,690	231	240	238	238	947
Finland	26,040	15,620	214	229	231	220	894
Germany	22,320	16,920	236	242	241	232	951
Netherlands	17,320	14,600	219	226	229	226	900
Ireland	9,550	9,130	203	223	229	216	871
Korea	5,400	7,190	150	170	189	177	686
Trinidad	3,610	8,510	118	149	159	138	564
Brazil	2,680	4,780	113	127	130	123	15
South Africa	2,530	5,500	136	165	173	145	619
Bulgaria	2,250	7,900	168	198	199	185	750
Jamaica	1,500	3,030	114	168	193	158	633
Tunisia	1,440	3,979	128	158	161	142	589
Thailand	1,420	4,610	98	113	129	109	449
Jordan	1,240	4,530	95	131	138	110	474
Paraguay	1,110	3,120	84	117	123	119	443
Papua New Guniea	860	1,500	54	91	100	84	329
Philippines	730	2,320	93	113	123	118	447
Egypt	600	3,100	92	134	118	97	441
Zambia	420	810	87	115	123	114	439
Ghana	390	1,720	93	124	129	118	464
Pakistan	380	1,770	105	131	144	128	508
China	370	1,950	98	127	151	153	529
Kenya	370	1,120	85	127	130	121	463
India	350	1,150	105	132	143	127	507
Nigeria	290	1,420	75	106	114	105	400
Bangladesh	210	1,050	77	89	109	91	366
Malawi	200	670	93	116	122	111	352
Bhutan	190	510	39	54	70	93	256
Ethiopia	120	310	20	56	67	75	218
Tanzania	110	540	50	90	103	98	341
Mozambique	80	620	56	98	112	102	378

graphic and sectoral differences may play an important role. For example, economies with high rural population densities and heavy dependence on agriculture and forest extraction should be particularly concerned with agricultural water supply, soil erosion and deforestation. In our evaluation format (Table 1), the relevant scoring cells are located at the intersection of agriculture with water, land and living resources.[3] If environmental policy reflects basic economic considerations in resource-dependent economies, we would expect country scores in these dimensions to be positively correlated (*ceteris paribus*) with rural population density and the share of agricultural and forest production in national output.

By contrast, urbanized and industrialized economies should exhibit more concern with the potential health impacts of air and water pollution on densely populated areas. The relevant cells in this context are located at the intersections of the air and water columns with industry, energy, transport and urban. We would expect country scores in these dimensions to be correlated with the urban share of national population, urban population density and the share of manufacturing in national output.

Table 3. Indices of environmental policy—summary measures for 31 countries

Resource	Mean	SD	Maximum	Minimum
Air	113.84	56.61	236.0	20.0
Water	140.61	50.91	242.0	54.0
Land	149.03	48.26	241.0	67.0
Living Resources	137.84	46.70	238.0	75.0

4.2 Opportunity Costs

Governments must make resource allocation decisions with constrained budgets, so we would expect the benefits of environmental improvement to be weighed against opportunity costs. In particular, environmental management has to share a limited social welfare budget with public health, education and other needs. Therefore, the poorer the country, the more limited environmental management resources are likely to be. This should be another source of positive correlation between income per capita and country scores.

4.3 Political Economy

Political and institutional factors may also contribute significantly to cross-country variation in environmental policy and performance. Attention to environmental problems should reflect the political power of affected interest groups, the quality of their information about environmental damage and the effectiveness of legal and regulatory institutions. Many environmental problems pit broad public interests against the profitable pursuit of manufacturing and extraction. Thus, we might expect our environmental performance indices to be correlated with measures of degree of popular representation, freedom of information and education. Performance should also be superior where legal and regulatory systems are relatively efficient. Finally, environmental objectives may be promoted more strongly in economies where secure property rights lead to longer planning horizons.

4.4 Predicted Relationships

Within this simple framework, we can make some predictions about the probable strength and direction of empirical relationships across our sample countries. We consider cross-country variations in three sets of indices: (1) overall policy and performance, along with separate scores for air, water, land and living resources; (2) a "Green" index (interaction of agriculture with water, land and living resources); and (3) a "Brown" index (interaction of industry, energy, transport and urban with air and water). We have also decomposed the Green and Brown indices into three subindices: awareness of environmental problems; enactment of regulations; and success in implementation. However, as Table 4 indicates, the subindices are so highly correlated with the composite indices that more detailed analysis seems unnecessary.

To summarize briefly, the following predictions are consistent with our hypotheses:

- Overall environmental performance should be positively correlated with:
  (1) income per capita;
  (2) degree of popular representation;

Table 4. Correlation matrix: component scores

	Composite	Awareness	Enactment	Success
Green subindices				
Composite	1			
Awareness	0.906	1		
Enactment	0.982	0.858	1	
Success	0.968	0.866	0.910	1
Brown subindices				
Composite	1			
Awareness	0.953	1		
Enactment	0.989	0.926	1	
Success	0.984	0.934	0.951	1

(3) freedom of information;
(4) security of property rights;
(5) development of the legal and regulatory system.

Controlling for these variables:

- Green indices should be positively correlated with:
  (1) rural population density;
  (2) agricultural and forest production share of national output.
- Brown indices should be positively correlated with:
  (1) particular focus on public health, indexed by life expectancy;[4]
  (2) urban share of total population;
  (3) urban population density;
  (4) manufacturing share of national output.

5. Results

5.1 Income and Environmental Performance

The correlation between income and composite environmental rankings is clear in Table 2a. Comparisons of bivariate regressions on the two income measures, recorded in Tables 5a and 5b, reveal significantly tighter fits for ICPGDP. The income elasticity of environmental policy performance is positive and highly significant in all environmental dimensions. Air seems to have a much higher income elasticity than the others. The scatter of the composite environmental index (Env) against ICPGDP (Figure 1) indicates that the relationship is continuous over the entire range of incomes.

5.2 Political Economy and Institutional Variables

For the reasons previously noted, effective environmental management may be seriously handicapped by: lack of political, civil and economic liberty; lack of an independent judicial system; and an inefficient or corrupt bureaucracy. To test these ideas, we have fitted regressions with several sets of institutional indicators previously used in the literature. In each case, limited availability of the indicators has forced us to run regressions on subsamples of countries.

Table 5a. Impact of PCGNP on environmental indicators[a]

Dependent variable	Intercept	ln PCGNP	Adjusted R^2
ln Air	2.70	0.27	0.71
	(11.93)	(8.70)	
ln Water	3.55	0.19	0.72
	(22.84)	(8.80)	
ln Land	3.79	0.17	0.72
	(27.70)	(8.75)	
ln Living	3.73	0.16	0.74
	(29.60)	(9.26)	
ln Env	4.89	0.19	0.76
	(34.80)	(9.78)	

[a] *t*-statistics in parentheses.

Our first test employs a widely used set of political, civil and economic liberty indicators developed by Gastil.[5] These indicators are available for 29 of our selected 31 countries. Among the aspects that appear most relevant for our study are: freedom of property (*FOP*), freedom of information (*FOI*), freedom of print media (*FPM*), freedom of broadcast media (*FBM*), freedom of peaceful assembly (*FPA*) and the Gastil–Wright classification of types of economic system (*TES*) by degree of commercial freedom. In our regressions, only *FOP* and *FOI* are statistically significant (Table 6). Each of these indicators is coded 1 to 5, with higher scores for lower liberty, so the expected sign of the coefficients is negative for both indicators. Freedom of property has the expected sign, but the other result is quite surprising: controlling for income and property rights, greater freedom of information is associated with lower environmental index values. We have no explanation for this anomaly, and we have dropped *FOI* from our final regressions (Table 9).

As a second test, we employed measures of bureaucratic delay and contract enforceability (or relative degree to which contractual agreements are honoured) from

Table 5b. Impact of ICPGDP on environmental indicators

Dependent variable	Intercept	ln ICPGDP	Adjusted R^2
ln Air	1.29	0.42	0.79
	(4.06)	(10.59)	
ln Water	2.59	0.30	0.78
	(11.53)	(10.30)	
ln Land	2.97	0.25	0.76
	(14.52)	(9.82)	
ln Living	3.03	0.23	0.71
	(13.88)	(8.53)	
ln Env	3.97	0.29	0.79
	(18.72)	(10.79)	

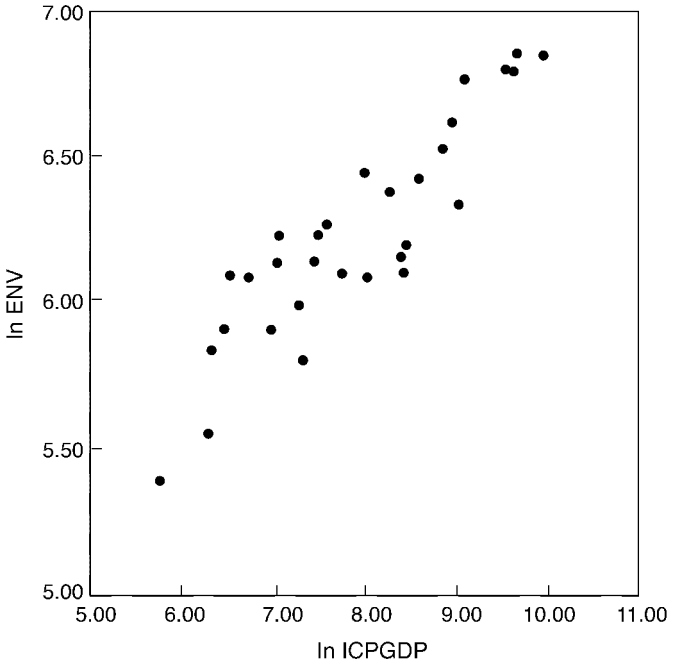

Figure 1. Income and the composite index.

Business Environmental Risk Intelligence, Inc. (BERI).[6] Scores for the BERI indicators are available for only 14 of our 31 countries and are set so that positive relationships with environmental management would be consistent with our prior hypotheses about the effect of judicial and administrative efficiency. The regression coefficients are positive, as expected, but none are statistically significant (Table 7).

Finally, we have tested a set of indicators which directly reflect the efficiency of the legal and judicial system (*LJS*) and the level of red tape in the bureaucracy (*RTB*). These were developed by the Country Assessment Service of Business International, Inc.[7] Unfortunately, the measures are available for only 12 of the 31 countries in our sample. In separate regressions for this subset of countries, both *LJS* and *RTB* emerge

Table 6. Impact of liberty indexes on environmental indicators

Dependent variable	Intercept	ln ICPGDP	ln *FOP*	ln *FOI*	Adjusted R^2
ln Air	1.42	0.41	−0.36	0.27	0.80
	(2.97)	(8.17)	(−2.39)	(2.24)	
ln Water	2.86	0.27	−0.26	0.18	0.82
	(9.54)	(8.44)	(−2.80)	(2.38)	
ln Land	3.17	0.23	−0.18	0.12	0.77
	(10.28)	(7.16)	(−1.90)	(1.57)	
ln Living	3.22	0.22	−0.27	0.16	0.74
	(9.57)	(6.27)	(−2.57)	(1.90)	
ln Env	4.18	0.27	−0.26	0.18	0.82
	(13.43)	(8.25)	(−2.72)	(2.25)	

Table 7. Impact of BERI indexes on environmental indicators

Dependent variable	Intercept	ln ICPGDP	In Delay	ln Contract	Adjusted R^2
ln Air	1.99	0.32	0.19		0.81
	(3.48)	(3.23)	(0.56)		
ln Water	3.21	0.18	0.31		0.72
	(6.19)	(2.04)	(1.00)		
ln Land	3.25	0.20	0.18		0.68
	(6.18)	(2.19)	(0.57)		
ln Living	2.99	0.21	0.24		0.66
	(4.87)	(1.99)	(0.64)		
ln Env	4.29	0.22	0.23		0.74
	(7.96)	(2.40)	(0.72)		
ln Air	2.05	0.32		0.16	0.81
	(2.24)	(2.10)		(0.34)	
ln Water	3.45	0.15		0.35	0.72
	(4.15)	(1.11)		(0.82)	
ln Land	3.43	0.18		0.22	0.68
	(4.12)	(1.26)		(0.52)	
ln Air	1.99	0.32		0.19	0.81
	(3.48)	(3.23)		(0.56)	
ln Living	3.01	0.22		0.17	0.65
	(3.06)	(1.34)		(0.33)	
ln Env	4.42	0.21		0.23	0.73
	(5.13)	(1.47)		(0.52)	

Table 8. Impact of ICPGDP, *LJS* and *RTB* on environmental indicators

Dependent variable	Intercept	In ICPGDP	*PC1*	Adjusted R^2
ln Air	1.60	0.38		0.76
	(2.91)	(6.02)		
ln Air	3.35	0.18	0.26	0.95
	(8.81)	(4.07)	(6.18)	
ln Water	2.59	0.29		0.72
	(5.57)	(5.35)		
ln Water	4.13	0.11	0.23	0.96
	(16.68)	(3.73)	(8.37)	
ln Land	2.79	0.27		0.70
	(6.19)	(5.16)		
ln Land	4.20	0.10	0.21	0.93
	(13.15)	(2.78)	(5.96)	
ln Living	2.79	0.27		0.70
	(6.19)	(5.16)		
ln Living	4.05	0.11	0.24	0.90
	(9.12)	(2.15)	(4.91)	
ln Env	3.77	0.31		0.73
	(7.79)	(5.48)		
ln Env	5.35	0.12	0.23	0.95
	(18.08)	(3.58)	(7.15)	

Table 9a. Regression results for ln (Green)

Intercept	In PCGNP	In ICPGDP	In *FOP*	ln (Share of agriculture in GDP)	In (Population density)	Adjusted R^2
3.31	0.16					0.71
(25.55)	(8.66)					
2.60		0.23				0.71
(12.29)		(8.65)				
2.75		0.20	−0.11	0.06	0.09	0.64
(4.69)		(3.85)	(−1.31)	(0.93)	(1.32)	
3.27		0.17	−0.16		0.09	0.73
(11.11)		(5.38)	(2.19)		(1.34)	

Table 9b. Regression results for ln (Brown)

Intercept	In PCGNP	In ICPGDP	ln *FOP*	In (Urban /total population)	In (Population density)	In (Manufacturing share of GDP)	In (Life expectancy)	Adj R^2
3.81	0.21							0.76
(24.25)	(9.75)							
2.73		0.32						0.82
(12.40)		(11.75)						
3.91		0.20	−0.19	0.14	0.06	0.16	−0.34	0.82
(2.63)		(2.27)	(1.98)	(1.46)	(2.30)	(2.04)	(−0.67)	
2.94		0.16	−0.20	0.14	0.06	0.15		0.83
(8.02)		(2.65)	(2.20)	(1.46)	(2.25)	(1.95)		

Table 9c. Green/Brown impacts of ICPGDP, *FOP* and regulatory efficiency

Variable	Intercept	ln ICPGDP	ln *FOP*	ln *RTB*	ln *LFS*	Adj R^2
ln (Green)	3.84	0.03	−0.17	0.39		0.93
	(9.37)	(0.52)	(1.83)	(3.37)		
ln (Brown)	3.95	0.09	−0.07	0.36	0.14	0.98
	(9.44)	(2.69)	(1.09)	(4.20)	(1.07)	

as significant explanatory variables. Since they are collinear, we have computed their first principal component (*PC1*) and used it as a composite regressor. When it is included with ICPGDP (Table 8) the results show substantial improvement in the explanatory power of the regressions: the adjusted R^2 increases between 9 and 24%. The change in outliers indicates that the improvement is especially striking for Ireland, India and Thailand.

5.3 Green and Brown Indices

For both Green and Brown indices, the regressions reported in Table 9 suggest that performance is again strongly associated with income per capita, freedom of property and (in small samples) measures of regulatory efficiency. The two rural sector variables

(population density; proportion of GDP in agriculture and forestry) are only weakly associated with the Green index (Table 9a). The fit is much better for the Brown index: degree of urbanization, population density and manufacturing share in GDP all have the expected signs and relatively high significance (Table 9b). Life expectancy as a proxy for public health priority has no independent effect.

6. Summary

Using a multidimensional survey analysis of the UNCED reports, we have developed a set of comparative indices of environmental policy and performance in 31 countries. We find a strong positive correlation between our environmental indicators and the level of economic development. The fit is substantially better when national incomes are adjusted for purchasing power parity. The income elasticity of the indices is positive and highly significant in all environmental dimensions. The pattern of elasticities suggests that protection measures for land and living resources precede those for water; action for reducing air pollution comes later.

Some impact for institutional development is also suggested by our results, although the information base is quite limited. The level of explanation in all regressions improves significantly with the addition of the business international effectiveness indices for legal/judicial and administrative systems and the Gastil measure of property rights protection. Similar BERI measures are not significant, however. We also obtain insignificant or perverse results for all Gastil measures of degree of popular representation and freedom of information.

Decomposition of overall environmental performance into Brown and Green sectors yields some additional insight into the impact of demographics and economic structure on regulation. Controlling for income, comparative analysis of the Brown sector indices suggests a very significant country response to environmental pressures from industrialization and urbanization. However, our results do not reveal an equivalent response on the Green side beyond the effect of variations in income per capita.

In summary, our findings suggest that a detailed, quantified analysis of the UNCED reports can yield comparable and plausible indices of environmental policy performance across countries. Cross-country variations in our environmental index are explained well by variations in income per capita, degree of urbanization and industrialization, security of property rights and general administrative efficiency.

Notes

1. United Nations General Assembly document A/CONF.151/PC/8 and A/CONF.151/PC/8/Add.1
2. The survey instrument is included in the Appendix. All country scores are available on request.
3. Agriculture includes wood production from plantations and primary forests.
4. We recognize some risk of endogeneity, but we regard it as minimal in this case. Life expectancy is influenced by many policy and other variables which are not directly related to environmental concerns.
5. See Scully (1992) for details.
6. For a discussion of these indicators, see Keefer & Knack (1993).
7. See Wheeler & Mody (1992) for details.

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Appendix: Questionnaire for evaluating environmental policy performance

1. AWARENESS
   A. When did environmental awareness gain prominence?
      2 Pre 1972
      1 1972–89
      0 1990+
   B. How widespread is this awareness at present?
      2 Mass awareness countrywide
      1 Restricted to limited pockets of élite groups
      0 Very little awareness
   C. The extent of awareness regarding global dimensions
      2 Excellent
      1 Reasonable
      0 Very little

2. POLICY
   A. For how long has significant environmental policy existed?
      2 Dates back to 1970s
      1 Introduced in the last ten years
      0 Very little so far
   B. How did the policy evolve?
      2 As a felt need
      1 Of late as a result of diffusion of knowledge
      0 Yet to evolve significantly
   C. What is the coverage of the policy?
      2 Comprehensive with clearly laid down targets
      1 Some policy and some targets
      0 Very little policy

3. LEGISLATION
   A. When did significant environmental legislation begin to be enacted?
      2 Dates back to 1970s
      1 Introduced in the last ten years
      0 Very little so far
   B. How extensive is the legislation so far?
      2 Comprehensive and supported by detailed rules and regulations
      1 Sketchy; some rules and regulations
      0 Only a few or none at all

   C. What is the extent of machinery for enforcement of laws?
      2 Agency clearly entrusted with specified guidelines
      1 Agency set up but yet to develop effectively
      0 No agency or very little effort so far

4. CONTROL MECHANISM
   A. What is the nature of regulatory instruments?
      2 Both command and control as well as economic
      1 Only command and control
      0 Hardly any mechanism
   B. What is the extent of power vested in the environmental protection agency?
      2 Both formulation of policy as well as its enforcement
      1 Only limited to policy
      0 No agency or very little power
   C. What is the degree of decentralization of such an agency?
      2 Extensive
      1 Somewhat
      0 Very little
   D. What is the extent of allocation of funds to the agency?
      2 Reasonably good for carrying out allotted tasks
      1 Some but not enough for effective functioning
      0 None or very little
   E. What is the extent of self regulation by polluters?
      2 Extensive
      1 Somewhat
      0 Very little
   F. How widespread is the involvement of NGOs in regulation?
      2 Extensive
      1 Somewhat
      0 Very little
   G. What is the progress of preparation of a national environmental action plan (NEAP)?
      2 NEAP with detailed plans for identifiable regions have been prepared
      1 Only a sketchy NEAP or plans for some regions
      0 No action so far

5. MEASURE OF SUCCESS
   A. What is the trend in environmental indicators?
      2 Improving
      1 Not much headway but steady
      0 Deteriorating
   B. Roughly what percentage of GDP is being devoted for environmental control measures?
      2 More than 1%
      1 Some but less than 1%
      0 Almost none
   C. What is the market share of pollution control industries in total industrial production?
      2 Above the global average
      1 Around average
      0 Below average
   D. What is the prevalence of environmental incidents/accidents?
      2 Almost none
      1 A few
      0 Considerable
   E. How good is the availability of environmental data?
      2 Extensively compiled
      1 Sporadically available
      0 None or very little
   F. What is the extent of interest in environmental studies and R & D?
      2 Widespread
      1 Somewhat
      0 None or very little
   G. How widespread is the involvement of NGOs in the environmental movement?
      2 Considerable
      1 Somewhat
      0 None or very little

H. What is the prevalence of environmental litigation?
   2 Considerable
   1 Somewhat
   0 None or very little
I. What is the level of media interest in environmental issues?
   2 Very high
   1 Somewhat
   0 None or very little

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