

NAFTA membership in the next ten years, importance to Canada's international environmental agenda (the most forested countries, priority conservation areas, and major contributors to climate change through CO₂ emissions),²⁰ and status as a regional power.²¹

There is no explicit recognition of Commonwealth or Francophonie membership. This does not imply that participation in these organizations is not an important foreign policy objective for Canada. Quite the contrary. Rather it is a recognition that, following Canada's entry into and active participation in the Organization of American States (OAS) and its status as a founding partner of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, membership in these regional organizations should be given equal weight. As most developing countries participate in one of these organizations, membership participation largely balances itself out, making the addition of such a criterion redundant.

4. Results and Analysis

Table 1.0 provides a ranking of countries most committed to sustainable development, from among all 119 countries surveyed, by adding the results across the first four clusters (tables 1.1 to 1.4 provide details on how each country compares within each cluster).

Table 2.0 ranks countries according to the same criteria as Table 1.0, but only considers countries in the low human development category according to the UNDP.

Finally, Table 3.0 again draws on all countries surveyed and, in addition to the sustainable development criteria, adds consideration of key Canadian interests (the fifth cluster). Table 3.1 provides details on how countries compare within the interests/values cluster.

The annex (available upon request) contains the complete set of annotated tables (A0 to A23) on which the above-mentioned summary tables are based.

²⁰ The environmental indicators are from the World Resources Institute and the assessment of priority conservation areas is from the World Bank. Although Canada pursues other environmental objectives as well, these were deemed of secondary importance in the context of choosing priority countries for assistance.

²¹ The following countries received an additional point (Nigeria, South Africa, Egypt, Mexico, Brazil, China, India) and the following received 0.5 points (Sénégal, Côte d'Ivoire, Chile, Colombia, Venezuela, Jamaica, Pakistan, Malaysia, Indonesia).