Environmental democracy is rooted in the idea that meaningful public participation is critical to ensuring that land and natural resource decisions adequately and equitably address citizens’ interests. At its core, environmental democracy involves three mutually reinforcing rights; the ability for people to freely access information on environmental quality and problems, to participate meaningfully in decision-making, and to seek enforcement of environmental laws or compensation for damages.

The Environmental Democracy Index (EDI) is the first interactive public platform that tracks countries’ progress in establishing national laws to promote transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement in environmental decision making. The index evaluates 70 countries, across 75 legal indicators, based on objective and internationally recognized standards established by the United Nations Environment Programme’s (UNEP) Bali Guidelines. EDI also includes a supplemental set of 24 limited practice indicators that provide insight on a country’s performance in implementation.

EDI was developed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and The Access Initiative (TAI) in collaboration with partners around the world. To find out more about how you can participate in or support EDI, visit www.environmentaldemocracyindex.org

The Access Initiative (TAI) is a global network that promotes access to information, participation and justice in environmental decision-making. To find out more, visit www.accessinitiative.org