Country classification

Bert Lenaerts

*Suggested citation*:

Lenaerts, Bert, 2024. Country classification database.

# Overview

The first dataset (tab Names\_global) converts country[[1]](#footnote-2) names written in full to the respective ISO3 codes. Be aware that semi- or formerly dependent countries (such as West- and East-Germany or mainland China and larger China) can lead to multiple entries for the same country code. It is, therefore, advised to check for duplicates after converting country names to ISO3 codes. The second dataset (tab Names\_US) converts US state full names to abbreviated versions. The third dataset (tab Labels) provides additional classifications and labels for each country included. Table 1 provides an overview of these labels.

| **Table 1** Definition of country labels. | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Variable name** | **Definition** | **Source** |
| *Identifiers* | | |
| ISO3 | ISO3 country code | International convention |
| SIMPLE\_NAMES | Simplified country names | Author’s judgement |
| OFFICIAL\_NAMES | Official country names according to the European Union | European Commission (2020) |
| ISO2 | ISO2 country code | International convention |
| ISO2\_EU | Same as ISO2 with two exceptions for Greece (EL) and the United Kingdom (UK) | European Union convention |
| ISO3\_IMPACT | Abbreviated country groups used by IFPRI's IMPACT model | IMPACT data |
| IMPACT\_NAMES | Country groups used by IFPRI's IMPACT model |
| IMPACT\_NAMES2 | Alternative country groups used by IFPRI's IMPACT model |
| *Regional classifications* | | |
| CONTINENT\_UN2 | United Nations subregional classification | UNSD (2023) |
| CONTINENT\_MS | Subregional classification according to the CGIAR’s market segmentation database | Internal |
| CONTINENT\_five | Regional classification in five regions to optimally predict per capita GDP growth | Internal |
| CONTINENT\_IMPACT | Regional classification used by IFPRI's IMPACT model | IMPACT data |
| IMPACT\_MISSING | Country missing from IFPRI's IMPACT model classification |
| CONTINENT\_CGIAR1 | CGIAR regional classification | CGIAR (2021a) |
| CGIAR1\_missing | Country missing from CGIAR classification |
| CONTINENT\_UN | United Nations regional classification | UNSD (2023) |
| UN\_missing | Country missing from United Nations regional classification |
| CONTINENT\_TRADE | Classification capturing major trade blocks | Internal |
| CONTINENT | Regional classification based on landmass | Author’s judgement |
| CONTINENT\_WB | World Bank regional classification | World Bank (2018) |
| WB\_missing | Country missing from World Bank classification |
| MADDISON | Regional classifier for Maddison (2006) | Author’s judgement based on MADDISON groups |
| INFOODS | Regional classifier for INFOODS and Global Expanded Nutrient Supply (GENuS) | Author’s judgement based on INFOODS groups |
| *Categorical geographic, economic and political indicators* | | |
| INCOME\_GROUP | World Bank income classification | Based on World Bank per capita GDP + additional sources if missing |
| EXTINCT | Dummy indicator of countries no longer existing | Author’s judgement |
| UNINHABITED | Dummy indicator of uninhabited countries (excluding military or administrative staff) | Author’s judgement |
| DEPENDER | Sovereign state above dependent territories (if relevant) | Author’s judgement |
| FAO\_UNLISTED | Countries NOT listed on FAOSTAT’s “Crops and livestock products” subportal | [FAOSTAT](https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data) |
| LANDLOCKED | Indicator of landlockedness | Wikipedia (2020d) |
| SEALOCKED | Indicator of sealockedness (islands) | Wikipedia (2020c) |
| SOUTH | Southern hemisphere indicator | Author’s judgement |
| TROPICS | Tropical region indicator | Author’s judgement |
| *Mapping* | | |
| EU\_map | Indicator of European and near-European countries that can be used for mapping purposes (that is, North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia) | Internal |
| AFR\_map | Indicator of African and near- African countries that can be used for mapping purposes (that is, South-Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia) |
| EU\_extended | Extended Europe indicator, including Russia and Turkey. |
| *Other* | | |
| NOTE | Additional comments | Internal |

# Country identifiers

Kosovo (XKX) and Palestine (PSE)[[2]](#footnote-3) are included despite not having an official ISO3 code. The Channel islands Jersey (JEY) and Guernsey (GGY) are included separately but not as a whole[[3]](#footnote-4). Tiny islands like Clipperton Island (XCL), the Paracel Islands (PIS/XPI) and the Spratly Islands (XSP) are not considered. Akrotiri and Dhekelia (XAD) and Northern Cyprus (XNC/ZNC) are considered part of Cyprus (CYP).

Some countries changed their ISO3 codes over time: Romania's switch from ROM to ROU, Burma (BUR) being renamed to Myanmar (MMR), East Timor (TMP) being renamed to Timor-Leste (TLS) and the Byelorussian Socialist Soviet Republic (BYS) being renamed to Belarus (BLR).

Lastly, some codes differ between sources. The World Bank uses the code MON for Montenegro (MNE), WSH for the Western Sahara (ESH) and sometimes ADO for Andorra (AND). The European Union uses the ISO2 code EL for Greece (GRC, GR) and the ISO2 code UK for the United Kingdom (GBR, GB). The Seychelles (SYC) share the same ISO2 code with the former country of Serbia and Montenegro (SCG): SC. Some sources use the code CZS for Czechoslovakia (CSK).

# Extinct countries

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Table 2** Extinct countries | |
| **Extinct country** | **Constituting parts today** |
| *Included (separate from constituting parts today)* | |
| Netherlands Antilles (ANT) | Aruba (ABW), Curaçao (CUW), Sint Maarten (Dutch part) (SXM) and the Caribbean Netherlands (Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba) (BES) |
| Czechoslovakia (CSK) | Czechia (CZE) and Slovakia (SVK) |
| Yugoslavia (YUG) | Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH), Croatia (HRV), North Macedonia (MKD), Serbia (SRB), Montenegro (MNE), Slovenia (SVN) |
| Serbia and Montenegro (SCG) | Serbia (SRB) and Montenegro (MNE) |
| *Excluded (considered part of constituting parts today)* | |
| Saudi Arabian–Iraqi neutral zone (NTZ) | Saudi Arabia and Iraq |
| Somaliland | Somalia |
| Northern Cyprus, Cyprus No Mans Area | Cyprus |
| People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South) | Yemen |
| Republic of Vietnam | Vietnam |
| German Democratic Republic (East) and Federal Republic of Germany (West) | Germany |

# Regional classification

See tab Abbreviations and tab Regional\_classification for more information.

**Table 3** List of countries with disputable regional classifications

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **ISO3 code** | **Country name** | **Applicable regions** |
| RUS | Russia | Eastern Europe or Central Asia |
| PAK, AFG, IRN | Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran | Middle East or South Asia |
| SDN | Sudan | North Africa or East Africa |
| MRT | Mauritania | North Africa or West Africa |
| AGO | Angola | Central Africa or South Africa |
| CYP | Cyprus | Middle East or Europe |
| EGY | Egypt | North Africa or Middle East |
| UKR | Ukraine | Europe or same region as Russia |
| ARM, AZE, GEO | Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia | Middle East or same region as Russia |
| MSR, MTQ, GLP, BES, … | Overseas territories | Local region or Europe |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Figure 1** United Nations regional classification  Source: Wikipedia (2020a) based on UN Statistics Division (2020) |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Figure 2** Pacific Culture Areas  *Source*: Wikipedia (2020b) |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Figure 3** Regional classification based on large landmasses  *Source*: Allroggen et al. (2015) |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Figure 4** World Bank regional classification  Source: World Bank (2018) |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Figure 5** CGIAR regional classification  Source: CGIAR (2021b) |

# Mapping information

|  |
| --- |
| Afbeelding met kaart  Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving |
| **Figure 6** Map of countries included in (A) EU\_map and (B) EU\_extended. |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Figure 7** Map of countries included in AFR\_map. |

|  |
| --- |
| Afbeelding met kaart  Automatisch gegenereerde beschrijving |
| **Figure 8** Map of countries according to the regional classification capturing major trade blocks |

# Geographic labels

Sealocked entities consist of one or more islands or parts of islands (Australia is regarded a continent) (Wikipedia, 2020b) (Figure 9) , whereas landlocked entities are not connected to an ocean (Wikipedia, 2020a) (Figure 10).

Southern countries consist of countries wholly below the equator, as well as Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, and Kenya, whose landmass lies predominantly below the equator.

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Figure 8** Sovereign states and states with limited recognition fully on islands, those with land borders shaded green, and those without shaded dark blue  *Source*: Wikipedia (2020c) |

|  |
| --- |
|  |
| **Figure 9** 42 landlocked (green) and 2 doubly landlocked (purple) countries  *Source*: Wikipedia (2020d) |

# References

Allroggen, F., Wittman, M.D., Malina, R., 2015. How air transport connects the world–A new metric of air connectivity and its evolution between 1990 and 2012. Transportation Research Part E: Logistics and Transportation Review 80, 184–201.

CGIAR, 2021a. One CGIAR Region Mapping [WWW Document]. URL https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1O5BtrGjuU49TFGb5xGTAr\_joTQAHFuj9/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=113606872214300277418&rtpof=true&sd=true

CGIAR, 2021b. CGIAR 2030 Research and Innovation Strategy.

European Commission, 2020. Annex A5 - List of countries, territories and currencies [WWW Document]. URL https://style-guide.europa.eu/en/content/-/isg/topic?identifier=annex-a5-list-countries-territories-currencies

Maddison, A., 2006. The World Economy. OECD Publishing, Paris.

UNSD, 2023. Standard country or area codes for statistical use (M49) [WWW Document]. URL https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/

Wikipedia, 2020a. Landlocked country [WWW Document]. URL https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landlocked\_country

Wikipedia, 2020b. List of island countries [WWW Document]. URL https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_island\_countries

Wikipedia, 2020c. File:United Nations geographical subregions.png [WWW Document]. URL https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:United\_Nations\_geographical\_subregions.png

Wikipedia, 2020d. Pacific Culture Areas [WWW Document]. URL https://nl.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bestand:Pacific\_Culture\_Areas.png

World Bank, 2018. Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals 2018: World Development Indicators. World Bank, Washington, DC.

1. We consider a "country" as any entity with an ISO country code, whether these are sovereign states or not. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Sometimes the code PAL is also used. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Sometimes the code CHI is used for the Channel islands as a whole. The Isle of Man (IMY) is not considered separately. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)