THE GEOGRAPHY OF HUMAN IMPACTS

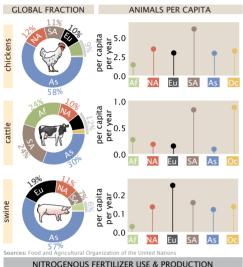
Page 1 represents the impact humans have on the Earth at a global scale. While these numbers are handy, it is important to acknowledge that they vary from country-to-country and continent-to-continent. Furthermore, the consequences of these anthropogenic impacts are also unequally distributed, meaning some regions experience effects disproportionate to their contribution. Here, we give a sense of the geographic distribution of several values presented on page 1, broken down by continental region as shown below



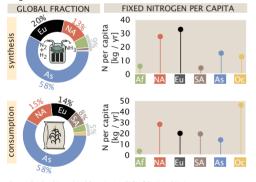
Europe — (Eu)

THE LIVESTOCK POPULATION

The global population of terrestrial livestock is around 30 billion individuals, most of which are chickens. Asia houses most of the global livestock population, though South America and Europe harbor more animals on a per-capita

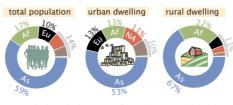


Modern agriculture requires nitrogen in amounts beyond what is produced naturally. Asia synthesizes and consumes a large majority of fixed nitrogen. However, Europe and North America dominate per capita synthesis whereas Oceania consumes more fertilizer per capita than any other region



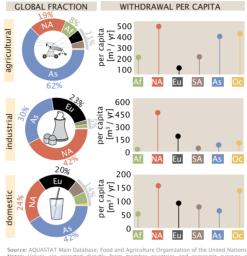
THE HUMAN POPULATION

There are ≈ 8 billion humans on the planet, with approximately 50% living in 'urban' environments. The majority of the worlds population (as well as the majority of both urban and rural dwellers) live in Asia.



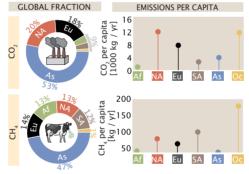
WATER WITHDRAWAL

While Asia withdraws the most water for agricultural and municipal needs, North America withdraws the plurality of water for industrial purposes. North America also withdraws more water per capita than any other region.



GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

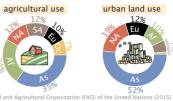
and CH, are two potent greenhouse gases which are routinely emitted by anthropogenic processes such as burning fuel and rearing livestock. While Asia emits roughly half of all CO₂ and CH₄, North America and Oceania produce the most on a per capita basis, respectively.



ages in kg CO, or CH, per year over time pe

POWER GENERATION AND CONSUMPTION

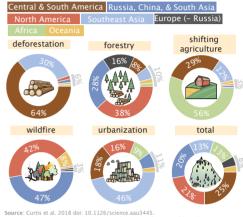
Though humans are nearly evenly split between urban and rural environments, agricultural land is the far more common use of land area. Together, Asia and Africa contain more than half of global agricultural land. Asia alone accomodates more than half of the global urban



TREE COVERAGE AREA LOSS

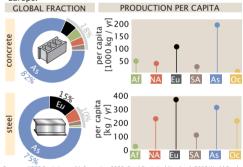
Most drivers of tree coverage area loss are comparable in their effect at a global scale. However, there are drastic regional differences in the relative magnitudes.

REGION DEFINITION



MATERIAL PRODUCTION

Humans excavate an enormous amount of material from the Earth's crust and transform it to build our structures. Two of these materials, concrete and steel, are produced primarily in Asia on both a global and per capita basis. Asia's per capita production of steel is only outpaced by



0.50

0.25

0.00 Af

0.75

0.00

PRODUCTION PER CAPITA

NA

NA Eu SA

Eu SA As

From heating water, to powering lights, to moving our vehicles, nearly every facet of modern human life requires the consumption of power, culminating in nearly 20 TW of power use in recent years. Asia consumes over half of the power derived from combustion of fossil fuels, with Europe and North America each consuming around 20% of the global total. Asia also produces the plurality of power from renewable technologies, such as hydroelectric, wind, and solar, however, North America, South America, and Europe each produce more on a per capita basis. Nuclear energy, however, is primarly produced in Europe, with North America and Asia coming in second and third place, respectively. On a per-capita basis, North America consumes or produces more energy than all other regions considered here, yielding a total power consumpall other regions tion of nearly 10,000 W per person.

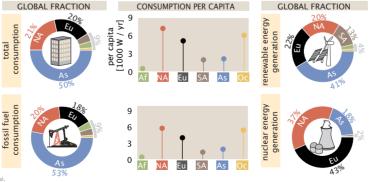


Figure 3: Regional distribution of anthropogenic effects. Several quantities from Figure 2 were selected and the relative magnitudes were broken down by subcontinental area (A). Donut charts in all sections show the relative contributions of each quantity by region. Ball-and-stick plots show the per capita breakdown of each quantity across geographic regions. All data for global and per-capita breakdowns correspond to the latest year for which data were available. The regional breakdown for deforestation uses the regional convention as reported in the source data45.