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Stefan Schwarzer joined the United Nations Environment Programme in 2000, and is mainly responsible for the UNEP GEO Data Portal, a great source for statistical and geospatial data with many different forms of visualizations and analysis. Main areas of work include Remote Sensing, GIS and visualizations. Stefan Schwarzer holds a Diploma in Applied Physical Geography from the University of Trier/Germany.

Innovative Approaches to the Visualization of Scientific Regional, National and Thematic Statistical Data

Abstract:

Project Background: Globalization and the related growth in trade provoke socio-economic as well as environmental changes. The TREI-C (Tracking Environmental Impacts of Consumption) project has been set up to quantify and localize the environmental impacts (global warming and impacts on human health), and emissions (sulfur dioxide or nitrogen oxides) of current production and related trade patterns.

Results have shown, for example, that the environmental impacts induced by German consumption in the rest of the world can be traced back through trade linkages, and that their magnitude is significant. More than 90% of the impacts on human-health induced by the German consumption are, for example, occurring outside of the country, mainly in China. The same is true for the US but to a lesser extent.

Innovative approaches to the visualization of the resulting data matrixes have been utilized to render the scientific data and findings both more attractive and understandable. As the project's main communication channel will be its website, much emphasis has been laid on transforming the abstract data into meaningful graphics.