

Appendix C: Constructing the maps

This Appendix outlines the methodology for developing the choropleth maps used in the report.

There are two principal map types:

- a) Baseline maps showing the position of each of the Conservation Aggregates at baseline point in time.
- b) Change maps, showing how Conservation Aggregates are changing on an indicator of “Good Growth” both in absolute terms and relative to their matched Comparator Aggregate.

For the baseline maps, indicators were ranked into national quintiles with an equal number of Conservation Aggregates in each of the five quintile bands.

For the change-over-time maps a different approach was adopted. We coded those Conservation Aggregates that fell ‘close to’ zero on the change measure as showing ‘little change’. To do this we needed to specify a band of values around zero which we would regard as showing little change.

Firstly we calculated at the 5th and 95th percentile values on the change measure (to avoid being skewed by outliers) to give a sense of the overall spread of values. We then defined the ‘little change’ band as being +/-10% of the range (5th-95th percentile value range) around zero. Any Conservation Aggregate that had a change value of less than -10% below zero was classified as ‘improver’ while any Conservation Aggregate that had a change value of more than +10% of the range was classified as getting ‘worse’.