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British study says we're best-equipped to adapt

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Canada is the best place to move to if you want to live in a country most equipped to withstand the effects of climate change in the decades ahead, according to a British study.

Developed nations fared best in the *Climate Change Risk Report*, produced by Maplecroft, a British consultant group specializing in the mapping of risk.

Canada is No. 1, followed by Ireland, Norway, Denmark and Sweden.

Africa is the most vulnerable region, and eight of the 10 most vulnerable countries are African, with the Comoros Islands followed by Somalia and Burundi in second and third places, according to the report.

The Comoros Islands in the Indian Ocean, between Mozambique and Madagascar, is politically unstable and the report says it is the world's most vulnerable country to the future impacts of global warming such as increased storms, rising sea levels and agricultural failure.

"We're not saying anything about the changing climate," said Andy Thow, one of the report's authors, told the *Independent* newspaper. "We're saying, what's the situation on the ground in terms of vulnerability? If there were an impact, how vulnerable would the country be?"

The study looked at six sectors – the economy; natural resources and ecosystems; poverty, development and health; agriculture; population, settlement and infrastructure; and institutions, governance and social capital.

The study assigns a figure on the scale of one to 10, with one being the most vulnerable, and 10 the most secure. The Comoros scored 1.21; Canada's score is 8.81.

"Canada, on the other hand, is extremely well equipped to adapt to changes in climate," Thow told the British newspaper. "It scores well across all aspects of the index. This is because of the low pressure on natural resources resulting from a low population density and large land area, combined with high agricultural capacity, a healthy economy, few development and health challenges and excellent public institutions."

