

EarthTrends

Welcome to **EarthTrends**, an online collection of information regarding the environmental, social, and economic trends that shape our world. Committed to the principle that accurate information drives responsible decisions by governments and individuals, **EarthTrends** offers the public a large breadth of statistical, graphic, and analytical data in easily accessible formats.

Much of the environmental information on the internet is fragmented, buried, or only available at a price. **EarthTrends** gathers data from the world's leading statistical agencies, along with WRI-generated maps and analyses, into a single database for rapid searching and retrieving. To facilitate the comparison of data from different sources, **EarthTrends** supplements its content with detailed metadata that reports on research methodologies and evaluates the information's reliability. All of these resources are made available to the public at no charge.

Our users range from individuals who influence environmental policy—whether in governments, academia, corporations, think-tanks, or other civil society groups—to educators, students, and the public at large. To meet their diverse needs, we present information in multiple formats and differing levels of complexity. We encourage you to explore the data within our ten topic areas and five information tools to fully grasp the capabilities of **EarthTrends**!

EarthTrends originated as an offshoot of **WRI's World Resources report**, a global reporting series recognized worldwide as an authoritative source for its timely statistics and unbiased analysis of environmental issues. Since its conception in 1984, the World Resources series has consistently published the broadest compilation of environmental and social development data available. National governments and statistical agencies around the world use **WRI** data as a ready reference, acknowledging **WRI** as an authority in collecting, standardizing, and analyzing national-level statistics.

In 2000, **WRI** recognized the need to present the data of the World Resources series in a more versatile format—one whose breadth of information could be easily navigable, continuously updated, and unconstrained by the space limitations imposed by print. This initiative eventually produced the concept of **EarthTrends**.

EarthTrends brings online the indicators and analyses previously only available in hard copies of the World Resources reports. In addition, **EarthTrends** shares the information the reports cannot accommodate, including hundreds of maps, country profiles, and data tables; complete time series data; and feature articles analyzing current environmental trends. Circumventing the costs of printing and distribution also permits **EarthTrends** to continually update its content as new information emerges. To avoid overwhelming users, the site allows people to filter information for precisely what they need, either by country, subject, or date. Overall, the site provides for an efficient data-searching experience.

World Resources Institute
www.wri.org

www.earthtrends.wri.org