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WORLD RESOURCES

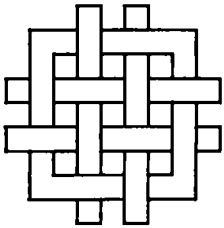
1994-95

A GUIDE TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT



PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Resource Consumption
Population Growth
Women



WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

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March 1994

Dear Friend:

WORLD RESOURCES 1994-95 is the product of a unique collaboration among the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the World Resources Institute that began in 1988. This is the sixth in the *WORLD RESOURCES* series, a source of basic data and analyses on environmental and natural resource issues.

While human capacity to measure environmental trends continues to improve, our understanding of global systems remains rudimentary, and our knowledge of environmental conditions is inconsistent and full of gaps. For instance, see the discussion in this report of a new United Nations assessment of tropical forests which, for the first time, begins to shed some light on how deforestation trends differ for various types of forests.

A consistent theme in all six editions of *WORLD RESOURCES* has been the documentation of increasingly severe environmental stresses created by growth in the world's population and economy. This edition includes special chapters that analyze the nature and impacts of growth in consumption and population and examine the fiscal, economic, and environmental policies that shape those impacts. Another chapter considers the special role of women in achieving sustainable development and the obstacles that remain to women's full participation in that process.

Nearly two-fifths of the world's people live in China and India. *WORLD RESOURCES 1994-95* profiles environmental conditions and development trends in China and India and considers their importance in progress toward sustainable development.

While *WORLD RESOURCES* has three formal collaborators — WRI, UNEP, and UNDP — the book is made possible through the support, cooperation, and collaboration of a much larger group of institutions and individuals around the world. They are too numerous to list here, but we thank them all.

I hope that you find this volume useful, and I welcome your comments and suggestions for future volumes.

Sincerely,


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