



Reliable environmental information online

Much environmental information on the Internet is fragmented, buried or only available at a price. The World Resource Institute (WRI) seeks to remove these barriers to public knowledge with the environmental information portal *EarthTrends*.

EarthTrends is a global environmental information database about the environmental, social and economic trends that shape our world.

Free access to statistical indicators

EarthTrends provides free access to more than 600 statistical national and global indicators.

“One core goal of the WRI is to guarantee public access to information and decisions regarding natural resources and the environment” says the manager of *EarthTrends*, Amy Cassara, and continues: “The objective of *EarthTrends* is to enable journalists, policy makers, researchers and academics to shape decision making and research with a timely source of credible data”. She also explains that *EarthTrends* has around 150,000 users each month. Half of them access *EarthTrends* for educational purposes, 25% are from the academic community, while the rest are in NGOs, multilateral and bilateral development agencies, journalistic/media organisations, government agencies or private industry.

Data are compiled from close to fifty providers, such as the World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization and various national institutions. Amy Cassara tells that they typically contact the providers directly to inform them that their data will be published on *EarthTrends*. Some of the information on the site is supplied directly by the providers, but usually, Amy Cassara and her colleagues just download and compile the information from the providers’ own publications, consulting with experts to review the information on the portal and asking providers for clarification of data issues and technical notes.

EarthTrends is supported by a range of international institutions, including the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the World Bank and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Visit the *EarthTrends* portal at:

www.earthtrends.wri.org/

This newsflash is issued by the EECN which is DG Environment’s support structure for European Environmental Communication Networks.

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http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment/networks/index_en.htm to learn more about the activities of the networks and read newsflashes previously released.

