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WORLD RESOURCES 1992-93: A GUIDE TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT. A Report by The World Resources Institute in collaboration with The United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992. ISBN: 0-19-506231-0 (pbk) \$19.95; 0-19-506231-0 (cloth) \$32.50. LC: 86-659504. Printed on recycled paper.

WORLD RESOURCES 1994-95: A GUIDE TO THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT. A Report by The World Resources Institute in collaboration with The United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994. ISBN: 0-19-521045-X (pbk) \$21.95; 0-19-521044-1 (cloth) \$35.00. Printed on recycled paper.

In 1986, when the World Resources Institute and the International Institute for Environment released the first volume in the World Resources series, the editors acknowledged the challenges involved in producing a publication that would address the many ways in which environmental and resource issues are related. Narrative chapters and data tables presented information that attempted to identify indicators of resource use and environmental quality. In the process, the editors also identified areas where basic information was lacking. The data series that were selected for presentation were influenced by the kinds and amounts of comparable data for major resources that were available for the 146 countries included in the volume. From the beginning, the goal of the editors has been to "meet the critical need for accessible, accurate information on some of the most pressing issues of our time." The third volume in the series, 1988-89, marked the beginning of the regional focus section and the change from annual to biennial publication. Asia was the focus for 1988-89 and Latin America was the special focus of the 1990-91 edition. In the intervening years, the World Resources Institute cooperates with the United Nations Environmental Programme and the United Kingdom Department of the Environment to produce "The Environmental Data Report." This review will concentrate on the 1992-93 and the 1994-95 editions.

The 1992-93 volume in the World Resources series opens with a special section on "Sustainable Development." The Regional Focus in this volume presents an overview of the environmental and resource problems confronting the nations of Central Europe as they make the transition to market-driven democratic governments. Sections presenting Basic Conditions and Trends worldwide and supporting Data Tables complete the volume.

The material in this volume was compiled to provide support for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro. The authors and editors present arguments that support the position that sustainable economic development must be accompanied by concern for development of human resources and technologies that are less destructive of natural resources. The seven major industrialized countries, six rapidly industrializing countries, and the forty-one countries with per capita GNP of less than \$250.00 are examined and compared in the Special Focus section. The conclusions drawn will not surprise anyone who has followed the discussions of environmental concerns over the past

twenty-five years. 1) The industrialized countries should work to reduce waste and improve energy efficiency. 2) The poor countries must attack the Gordian Knot of poverty, environmental degradation, and human deprivation through education, slower population growth, and wiser use of resources. 3) The rapidly industrializing countries face the major challenges of simultaneously conserving natural resources, improving the standard of living, and investing in environmental clean-up. In all cases, these changes will be more widely accepted when initiatives incorporate and support local knowledge and culture. The global challenge is to recognize that sustainable development can only be achieved when the quality of life for rich and poor alike improves and is sustained.

The 1994-95 volume Special Topic Part I concentrates on "People and the Environment" with a review of the problems evolving from interactions between people and natural resources. These problems range from overuse of resources to waste disposal to the sheer growth in human numbers. A third chapter in this section examines the role of women in sustainable development. The Regional Focus for 1994-95 places the emphasis on China and India. These complex chapters present pictures of two countries facing enormous environmental challenges. China's economic development is proceeding so rapidly that environmental problems are accumulating almost faster than they can be addressed. And yet, if steps are not taken soon, development could stop or leave both the people and the country environmentally impoverished. India's rapid industrialization and rate of population growth are straining even her wealth of natural resources. Both chapters provide recommendations for planning to alleviate these problems.

In both volumes, Conditions and Trends in population, agriculture, natural resources, water, energy, and the atmosphere are examined in depth in the nine chapters of Part III. Detailed tables of data are presented in Part IV to expand and explain the conclusions drawn in Part III. Most tables in the 1992-93 volume include data for 146 countries, the 1994-95 volume includes data for 152 countries.. The supplementary disks, "World Resources Data Base on Diskette", include all of the data presented in the printed volumes plus data for twenty year time series for many of the files. The 1994-95 volume, for the first time, includes a chapter in international policies and institutions.

These volumes should be made available as widely as possible. The writing is clear, cogent and compelling. The indexes are well-organized and lead the user to the text of all four parts and in 1994-95 include references to specific country information included in the tables of Part IV.

In addition to obtaining copies for your library, please consider providing copies for a library in one of the lesser developed countries where access to hard currencies are limited.