

By Judith S. Ames

Concerns About the Environment in Asia

ASIA

Title: WWF Asia-Pacific Programme

URL: <http://www.panda.org/asiapacific/>

The WWF's stated aim is to "help conserve the region's biological and cultural diversity which is increasingly threatened by rapid agricultural, industrial, and urban expansion." On its Asia-Pacific site, one can read the latest environmental news, learn about the Eco-Regions, and view numerous photos organized around a monthly or special topic.

JAPAN

Title: UNCHS: Habitat

URL: <http://www.fukuoka.unchs.org/indexes/index-e.html>

This site emanates from the Fukuoka office of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Perhaps the most useful portion of this Web site is the section labeled "Information Files," which includes Occasional Papers, Reports, and Database files.

Title: Global Change Japan

URL: <http://www.gcj.esto.or.jp/>

One can find lists of organizations involved in "global change research." In addition, there are extensive links to abstracts (and then to the sponsoring organization or agency) to research studies on a wide range of topics such as Wildlife, Ozone, and Climate.



CHINA

Title: International Fund for China's Environment

URL: <http://www.ifce.org/>

This organization is based in Washington, D.C. and has a branch office in Beijing. It was founded in 1996 by scientists who were interested in helping China face and resolve its environmental problems. The Web site does not have extensive resources, but it does provide some news about the environment as well as links to information created by the China Wildlife Conservation Association.

Title: International Rivers Network—China Campaigns

URL: <http://irn.org/programs/threeg/>

The focal point of this site is the "Three Gorges Project," which when completed will be the largest hydroelectric plant in the world. (In 1994 the construction started, and it is anticipated that it will be completed in 20 years.) The IRN is looking at this project and using it to "increase public awareness regarding the environmental, social, cultural, and economic impacts of unsustainable river management practices in China."

Title: Flora of China

URL: <http://flora.huh.harvard.edu/china/>

A large collection of data, with 12 volumes of descriptions (out of the

planned 25 volumes to be published on-line). There are illustrations, jpeg photos, descriptions of plant species, papers and reports. There are links to the Flora of China checklist, information which is being gathered on the more than 30,000 species of ferns and seed plants of China.

KOREA

Title: Green Korea

URL: <http://www.greenkorea.org/english/english.html>

Green Korea is a nongovernmental organization which is involved in various campaigns to alert people to dangers to the environment. In addition to highlighting their campaigns on this site, there are also short news articles on clean-ups, biodiversity and other environmental topics.

INDIA

Title: Centre for Science and Environment

URL: <http://www.cseindia.org/>

The CSE is an NGO in India with a special concern for sustainable natural resource management. On its site one can find articles from the CSE magazine, *Down to Earth*, published biweekly; there are also press releases and daily news clippings about the environment, using 80 newspapers from India and worldwide.

Title: Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India

URL: <http://envfor.nic.in/>

In addition to presenting the structure and organizational setup of this Ministry, there are several databases on this site such as the National River Water Quality Monitoring Programme and Indian Forest Cover (by states). The text of legislation on environmental issues is also available, as is a newsletter on Indian environment and forest policies, published every two months.

Title: Conservation Status Listing of Indian Plants

URL: http://www.wcmc.org.uk/igcmc/rl_plt/rl_plt.html

A detailed database, organized by Indian states, which includes information on the plant family, scientific name, and degree of threat to the plant's existence.

PHILIPPINES

Title: Philippine National Herbarium

URL: <http://www.pnh.com.ph/>

The National Herbarium is part of the Philippines Biodiversity Information Center which was established with the purpose of giving information on the protection and conservation of Philippine flora. While not an extensive site, there is some information on the conservation status, the richness of the flora in the Philippines, as well as the details of the Flora of the Philippines project.

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