Defining, gathering, and disseminating international statistics is a collective effort of many people and organizations. The indicators presented in the *World Development Indicators* are the fruit of decades of work at many levels, from the field workers who administer censuses and household surveys to the committees and working parties of the national and international statistical agencies that develop the nomenclature, classifications, and standards fundamental to an international statistical system. Nongovernmental organizations and the private sector have also made important contributions, both in gathering primary data and in organizing and publishing their results. And academic researchers have played a crucial role in developing statistical methods and carrying on a continuing dialogue about the quality and interpretation of statistical indicators. All these contributors have a strong belief that available, accurate data will improve the quality of public and private decisionmaking.

The organizations listed here have made the *World Development Indicators* possible by sharing their data and their expertise with us. More important, their collaboration contributes to the World Bank's efforts, and to those of many others, to improve the quality of life of the world's people. We acknowledge our debt and gratitude to all who have helped to build a base of comprehensive, quantitative information about the world and its people.

For your easy reference we have included URLs (web addresses) for organizations that maintain websites. The addresses shown were active on 1 March 2000. Information about the World Bank is also provided.

International and government agencies

Bureau of Arms Control, U.S. Department of State

The Bureau of Arms Control, U.S. Department of State, is responsible for international agreements on conventional, chemical and biological weapons, and strategic forces; treaty verification and compliance; and support to ongoing negotiations, policymaking, and interagency implementation efforts.

For information contact the Public Affairs Officer, Bureau of Arms Control, U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20520, USA; telephone: (202) 647 6946; website: www.state.gov/www/global/arms/bureauac.html.

Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center

The Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Center (CDIAC) is the primary global change data and information analysis center of the U.S. Department of Energy. The CDIAC's scope includes potentially anything that would be of value to those concerned with the greenhouse effect and global climate change, including concentrations of carbon dioxide and other radiatively active gases in the atmosphere; the role of the terrestrial biosphere and the oceans in the biogeochemical cycles of greenhouse gases; emissions of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere; long-term climate trends; the effects of elevated carbon dioxide on vegetation; and the vulnerability of coastal areas to rising sea levels.

For information contact the CDIAC, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, PO Box 2008, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-6335, USA; telephone: (423) 574 0390; fax: (423) 574 2232; email: cdiac@ornl.gov; website: cdiac.esd.ornl.gov.

Food and Agriculture Organization

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, was founded in October 1945 with a mandate to raise nutrition levels and living standards, to increase agricultural productivity, and to better the condition of rural populations. The organization provides direct development assistance; collects, analyzes, and disseminates information; offers policy and planning advice to governments; and serves as an international forum for debate on food and agricultural issues.

Statistical publications of the FAO include the *Production Yearbook, Trade Yearbook,* and *Fertilizer Yearbook.* The FAO makes much of its data available on diskette through its Agrostat PC system.

FAO publications can be ordered from national sales agents or directly from the FAO Sales and Marketing Group, Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00100 Rome, Italy; telephone: (39 06) 57051; fax: (39 06) 5705/3152; email: Publications-sales@fao.org; website: www.fao.org.

International Civil Aviation Organization

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, was founded on 7 December 1944. It is responsible for establishing international standards and recommended practices and procedures for the technical, economic, and legal aspects of international civil aviation operations. The ICAO promotes the adoption of safety measures, establishes visual and instrument flight rules for pilots and crews, develops aeronautical charts, coordinates aircraft radio frequencies, and sets uniform regulations for the operation of air services and customs procedures.

To obtain ICAO publications contact the ICAO, Document Sales Unit, 999 University Street, Montreal, Quebec H3C 5H7, Canada; telephone: (514) 954 8022; fax: (514) 954 6769; email: sales_unit@icao.org; website: www.icao.int.

International Labour Organization

The International Labour Organization (ILO), a specialized agency of the United Nations, seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labor rights. Founded in 1919, it is the only surviving major creation of the Treaty of Versailles, which brought the League of Nations into being. It became the first specialized agency of the United Nations in 1946. Unique within the United Nations system, the ILO's tripartite structure has workers and employers participating as equal partners with governments in the work of its governing organs.

As part of its mandate, the ILO maintains an extensive statistical publication program. The *Yearbook of Labour Statistics* is its most comprehensive collection of labor force data.

Publications can be ordered from the International Labour Office, 4 route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva 22, Switzerland, or from sales agents and major booksellers throughout the world and ILO offices in many countries. Telephone: (41 22) 799 78 66; fax: (41 22) 799 61 17; email: publns@ilo.org; website: www.ilo.org.

International Monetary Fund

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) was established at a conference in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States, on 1–22 July 1944. (The conference also established the World Bank.) The IMF came into official existence on 27 December 1945 and commenced financial operations on 1 March 1947. It currently has 182 member countries.









The statutory purposes of the IMF are to promote international monetary cooperation, facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade, promote exchange rate stability, help establish a multilateral payments system, make the general resources of the IMF temporarily available to its members under adequate safeguards, and shorten the duration and lessen the degree of disequilibrium in the international balances of payments of members.

The IMF maintains an extensive program for the development and compilation of international statistics and is responsible for collecting and reporting statistics on international financial transactions and the balance of payments. In April 1996 it undertook an important initiative aimed at improving the quality of international statistics, establishing the Special Data Dissemination Standard (SDDS) to guide members that have or seek access to international capital markets in providing economic and financial data to the public. In 1997 the IMF established the General Data Dissemination System (GDDS) to guide countries in providing the public with comprehensive, timely, accessible, and reliable economic, financial, and sociodemographic data.

The IMF's major statistical publications include International Financial Statistics, Balance of Payments Statistics Yearbook, Government Finance Statistics Yearbook, and Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook.

For more information on IMF statistical publications contact the International Monetary Fund, Publications Services, Catalog Orders, 700 19th Street NW, Washington, DC 20431, USA; telephone: (202) 623 7430; fax: (202) 623 7201; telex: RCA 248331 IMF UR; email: pub-web@imf.org; website: www.imf.org; SDDS and GDDS bulletin board: dsbb.imf.org.

International Telecommunication Union

Founded in Paris in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) took its current name in 1934 and became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1947. The ITU is an intergovernmental organization in which the public and private sectors cooperate for the development of telecommunications. The ITU adopts international regulations and treaties governing all terrestrial and space uses of the frequency spectrum and the use of the geostationary satellite orbit. It also develops standards for the interconnection of telecommunications systems worldwide.

The ITU fosters the development of telecommunications in developing countries by establishing medium-term development policies and strategies in consultation with other partners in the sector and providing specialized technical assistance in management, telecommunications policy, human resource management, research and development, technology choice and transfer, network installation and maintenance, and investment financing and resource mobilization.

The Telecommunications Yearbook is the ITU's main statistical publication.

Publications can be ordered from ITU Sales and Marketing Service, Place des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland; telephone: (41 22) 730 6141 (English), (41 22) 730 6142 (French), and (41 22) 730 6143 (Spanish); fax: (41 22) 730 5194; email: sales.online@itu.int; telex: 421 000 uit ch; telegram: ITU GENEVE; website: www.itu.ch.

National Science Foundation

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent U.S. government agency whose mission is to promote the progress of science; to advance the national health, prosperity, and welfare; and to secure the national defense. It is responsible for promoting science and engineering through almost 20,000 research and education projects. In addition, the NSF fosters the exchange of scientific information among scientists and engineers in the United States and other



countries, supports programs to strengthen scientific and engineering research potential, and evaluates the impact of research on industrial development and general welfare.

As part of its mandate, the NSF biennially publishes *Science and Engineering Indicators,* which tracks national and international trends in science and engineering research and education.

Electronic copies of NSF documents can be obtained from the NSF's Online Document System (www.nsf.gov/pubsys/index.htm) or requested by email from its automated mailserver (getpub@nsf.gov). Documents can also be requested from the NSF Publications Clearinghouse by mail, at PO Box 218, Jessup, MD 20794-0218, or by telephone, at (301) 947 2722.

For more information contact the National Science Foundation, 4201 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22230, USA; telephone: (703) 306 1234; website: www.nsf.gov.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) was set up in 1948 as the Organisation for European Economic Co-operation (OEEC) to administer Marshall Plan funding in Europe. In 1960, when the Marshall Plan had completed its task, the OEEC's member countries agreed to bring in Canada and the United States to form an organization to coordinate policy among industrial countries. The OECD is the international organization of the industrialized, market economy countries.

Representatives of member countries meet at the OECD to exchange information and harmonize policy with a view to maximizing economic growth in member countries and helping nonmember countries develop more rapidly. The OECD has set up a number of specialized committees to further its aims. One of these is the Development Assistance Committee (DAC), whose members have agreed to coordinate their policies on assistance to developing and transition economies.

Also associated with the OECD are several agencies or bodies that have their own governing statutes, including the International Energy Agency and the Centre for Co-operation with Economies in Transition.

The OECD's main statistical publications include *Geographical Distribution of Financial Flows* to Developing Countries, National Accounts of OECD Countries, Labour Force Statistics, Revenue Statistics of OECD Member Countries, International Direct Investment Statistics Yearbook, Basic Science and Technology Statistics, Industrial Structure Statistics, and Services: Statistics on International Transactions.

For information on OECD publications contact the OECD, 2, rue André-Pascal, 75775 Paris Cedex 16, France; telephone: (33 1) 45 24 82 00; fax: (33 1) 49 10 42 76; email: sales@oecd.org; websites: www.oecd.org and www.oecdwash.org.

United Nations

The United Nations and its specialized agencies maintain a number of programs for the collection of international statistics, some of which are described elsewhere in this book. At United Nations headquarters the Statistics Division provides a wide range of statistical outputs and services for producers and users of statistics worldwide.

The Statistics Division publishes statistics on international trade, national accounts, demography and population, gender, industry, energy, environment, human settlements, and disability. Its major statistical publications include the *International Trade Statistics Yearbook, Yearbook of*





National Accounts, and *Monthly Bulletin of Statistics,* along with general statistics compendiums such as the *Statistical Yearbook* and *World Statistics Pocketbook.*

For publications contact United Nations Publications, Room DC2 853, 2 UN Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA; telephone: (212) 963 8302 or (800) 253 9646 (toll free); fax: (212) 963 3489; email: publications@un.org; website: www.un.org.

United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), Global Urban Observatory

The Urban Indicators Programme of UNCHS (Habitat) was established to address the urgent global need to improve the urban knowledge base by helping countries and cities design, collect, and apply policy-oriented indicators related to urban development at the city level. In 1997 the Urban Indicators Programme was integrated into the Global Urban Observatory, the principal United Nations program for monitoring urban conditions and trends and for tracking progress in implementing the goals of the Habitat Agenda. With the Urban Indicators and Best Practices programs, the Global Urban Observatory is establishing a worldwide information, assessment, and capacity building network to help governments, local authorities, the private sector, and non-governmental and other civil society organizations.

Contact Christine Auclair (guo@unchs.org), Urban Indicators Programme, Global Urban Observatory, UNCHS (Habitat), PO Box 30030, Nairobi, Kenya; telephone: (2542) 623694; fax: (2542) 624266/7; website: www.urbanobservatory.org.

United Nations Children's Fund

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the only organization of the United Nations dedicated exclusively to children, works with other United Nations bodies and with governments and nongovernmental organizations to improve children's lives in more than 140 developing countries through community-based services in primary health care, basic education, and safe water and sanitation.

UNICEF's major publications include *The State of the World's Children* and *The Progress of Nations*.

For information on UNICEF publications contact UNICEF House, 3 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA; telephone: (212) 326 7000; fax: (212) 888 7465 or 7454; telex: RCA-239521; email: publications@un.org; website: www.unicef.org.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is the principal organ of the United Nations General Assembly in the field of trade and development. It was established as a permanent intergovernmental body in 1964 in Geneva with a view to accelerating economic growth and development, particularly in developing countries. UNCTAD discharges its mandate through policy analysis; intergovernmental deliberations, consensus building, and negotiation; monitoring, implementation, and follow-up; and technical cooperation.

UNCTAD produces a number of publications containing trade and economic statistics, including the *Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics*.

For information contact UNCTAD, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland; telephone: (41 22) 907 12 34 or 917 12 34; fax: (41 22) 907 00 57; telex: 42962; email: reference.service@unctad.org; website: www.unctad.org.













United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations established in 1945 to promote "collaboration among nations through education, science, and culture in order to further universal respect for justice, for the rule of law, and for the human rights and fundamental freedoms . . . for the peoples of the world, without distinction of race, sex, language, or religion. . . ."

UNESCO's principal statistical publications are the *Statistical Yearbook, World Education Report* (biennial), and *Basic Education and Literacy: World Statistical Indicators.*

For publications contact UNESCO Publishing, Promotion, and Sales Division, 1, rue Miollis F, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France; fax: (33 1) 45 68 57 41; email: publishing.promotion@unesco.org; website: www.unesco.org.

United Nations Environment Programme

The mandate of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and people to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

UNEP publications include *Global Environment Outlook* and *Our Planet* (a bimonthly magazine). For information contact the UNEP, PO Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya; telephone: (254 2) 62 1234 or 3292; fax: (254 2) 62 3927 or 3692; email: oedinfo@unep.org; website: www.unep.org.

United Nations Industrial Development Organization

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) was established in 1966 to act as the central coordinating body for industrial activities and to promote industrial development and cooperation at the global, regional, national, and sectoral levels. In 1985 UNIDO became the sixteenth specialized agency of the United Nations, with a mandate to help develop scientific and technological plans and programs for industrialization in the public, cooperative, and private sectors.

UNIDO's databases and information services include the Industrial Statistics Database (INDSTAT), Commodity Balance Statistics Database (COMBAL), Industrial Development Abstracts (IDA), and the International Referral System on Sources of Information. Among its publications is the *International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics*.

For information contact UNIDO Public Information Section, Vienna International Centre, PO Box 300, A-1400 Vienna, Austria; telephone: (43 1) 260 26 5031; fax: (43 1) 213 46 5031 or 260 26 6843; email: publications@unido.org; website: www.unido.org.

World Bank Group

The World Bank Group is made up of five organizations: the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the International Development Association (IDA), the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID).

Established in 1944 at a conference of world leaders in Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States, the World Bank is a lending institution whose aim is to help integrate developing and transition economies with the global economy, and reduce poverty by promoting economic growth. The Bank lends for policy reforms and development projects and provides policy advice, technical assistance, and nonlending services to its 181 member countries.

For information about the World Bank visit its website at www.worldbank.org. For more information about development data contact the Development Data Center, World Bank, 1818 H Street NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA; telephone: (800) 590 1906 or (202) 473 7824; fax: (202) 522 1498; email: info@worldbank.org; website: www.worldbank.org/data.

World Health Organization

The constitution of the World Health Organization (WHO) was adopted on 22 July 1946 by the International Health Conference, convened in New York by the Economic and Social Council. The objective of the WHO, a specialized agency of the United Nations, is the attainment by all people of the highest possible level of health.

The WHO carries out a wide range of functions, including coordinating international health work; helping governments strengthen health services; providing technical assistance and emergency aid; working for the prevention and control of disease; promoting improved nutrition, housing, sanitation, recreation, and economic and working conditions; promoting and coordinating biomedical and health services research; promoting improved standards of teaching and training in health and medical professions; establishing international standards for biological, pharmaceutical, and similar products; and standardizing diagnostic procedures.

The WHO publishes the *World Health Statistics Annual* and many other technical and statistical publications.

For publications contact Distribution and Sales, Division of Publishing, Language, and Library Services, World Health Organization Headquarters, CH-1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland; telephone: (41 22) 791 2476 or 2477; fax: (41 22) 791 4857; email: publications@who.ch; website: www.who.ch.

World Intellectual Property Organization

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations based in Geneva, Switzerland. The objectives of WIPO are to promote the protection of intellectual property throughout the world through cooperation among states and, where appropriate, in collaboration with other international organizations and to ensure administrative cooperation among the intellectual property unions—that is, the "unions" created by the Paris and Berne Conventions and several subtreaties concluded by members of the Paris Union. WIPO is responsible for administering various multilateral treaties dealing with the legal and administrative aspects of intellectual property. A substantial part of its activities and resources is devoted to development cooperation with developing countries.

For information contact the World Intellectual Property Organization, 34, chemin des Colombettes, Geneva, Switzerland; mailing address: PO Box 18, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland; telephone: (41 22) 338 9111; fax: (41 22) 733 5428; telex: 412912 ompi ch; email: publications.mail@wipo.int; website: www.wipo.int.

World Tourism Organization

The World Tourism Organization is an intergovernmental body charged by the United Nations with promoting and developing tourism. It serves as a global forum for tourism policy issues and a source of tourism know-how. The organization began as the International Union of Official Tourist Publicity Organizations, set up in 1925 in The Hague. Renamed the World Tourism Organization, it held its first general assembly in Madrid in May 1975. Its membership includes 138 countries and territories and more than 350 affiliate members representing local governments, tourism associations,





and private companies, including airlines, hotel groups, and tour operators. The World Tourism Organization publishes the *Yearbook of Tourism Statistics*, the *Compendium of Tourism Statistics*, and the triannual *Travel and Tourism Barometer*.

For information contact the World Tourism Organization Capitán Haya, 42, 28020 Madrid, Spain; telephone: (34) 91 567 81 00; fax: (34) 91 567 82 18; email: omtweb@world-tourism.org; website: www.world-tourism.org.

World Trade Organization

The World Trade Organization (WTO), established on 1 January 1995, is the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). The WTO provides the legal and institutional foundation of the multilateral trading system and embodies the results of the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations, which ended with the Marrakesh Declaration of 15 April 1994. The WTO is mandated with administering and implementing multilateral trade agreements, serving as a forum for multilateral trade negotiations, seeking to resolve trade disputes, overseeing national trade policies, and cooperating with other international institutions involved in global economic policymaking.

The WTO's Statistics and Information Systems Divisions compile statistics on world trade and maintain the Integrated Database, which contains the basic records of the outcome of the Uruguay Round. Its *Annual Report* includes a statistical appendix.

For publications contact the World Trade Organization, Publications Services, Centre William Rappard, 154 rue de Lausanne, CH-1211, Geneva, Switzerland; telephone: (41 22) 739 5208 or 5308; fax: (41 22) 739 5792; email: publications@wto.org; website: www.wto.org.

Private and nongovernmental organizations

Currency Data & Intelligence, Inc.

Currency Data & Intelligence, Inc. is a research and publishing firm that produces currency-related products and undertakes research for international agencies and universities worldwide. Its flagship product, the *World Currency Yearbook*, is the most comprehensive source of information on currency. It includes official and unofficial exchange rates and discussions of economic, social, and political issues that affect the value of currencies in world markets. A second publication, the monthly *Global Currency Report*, covers devaluations and other critical developments in exchange rate restrictions and valuations and provides parallel market exchange rates.

For information contact Currency Data & Intelligence, Inc., 45 Northcote Drive, Melville, NY 11747, USA; telephone: (631) 643 2506; fax: (631) 643 2761; email: curncydata@aol.com; website: pacific.commerce.ubc.ca/xr/cdi.

Euromoney Publications PLC

Euromoney Publications PLC provides a wide range of financial, legal, and general business information. The monthly *Euromoney* magazine carries a semiannual rating of country creditworthiness.

For information contact Euromoney Publications PLC, Nestor House, Playhouse Yard, London EC4V 5EX, UK; telephone: (44 171) 779 8888; fax: (44 171) 779 8656; telex: 2907002; email: hotline@euromoneyplc.com; website: www.euromoney.com.



World Trade Organization



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Institutional Investor, Inc.

Institutional Investor magazine is published monthly by Institutional Investor, Inc., which develops country credit ratings every six months based on information provided by leading international banks.

For information contact Institutional Investor, Inc., 488 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022, USA; telephone: (212) 224 3300; email: info@iimagazine.com; website: www.iimagazine.com.

International Road Federation

The International Road Federation (IRF) is a not-for-profit, nonpolitical service organization. Its purpose is to encourage better road and transport systems worldwide and to help apply technology and management practices that will maximize economic and social returns from national road investments. The IRF has led global road infrastructure developments and is the international point of affiliation for about 600 member companies, associations, and governments.

The IRF's mission is to promote road development as a key factor in economic and social growth, to provide governments and financial institutions with professional ideas and expertise, to facilitate business exchange among members, to establish links between IRF members and external institutions and agencies, to support national road federations, and to give information to professional groups. The IRF publishes *World Road Statistics*.

Contact the Geneva office at 2 chemin de Blandonnet, CH-1214 Vernier, Geneva, Switzerland; telephone: (41 22) 306 0260; fax: (41 22) 306 0270; or the Washington, DC, office at 1010 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 410, Washington, DC 20001, USA; telephone: (202) 371-5544; fax: (202) 371-5565; email: info@irfnet.com; website: www.irfnet.org.

Moody's Investors Service

Moody's Investors Service is a global credit analysis and financial opinion firm. It provides the international investment community with globally consistent credit ratings on debt and other securities issued by North American state and regional government entities, by corporations worldwide, and by some sovereign issuers. It also publishes extensive financial data in both print and electronic form. Its clients include investment banks, brokerage firms, insurance companies, public utilities, research libraries, manufacturers, and government agencies and departments.

Moody's publishes Sovereign, Subnational and Sovereign-Guaranteed Issuers.

For information contact Moody's Investors Service, 99 Church Street, New York, NY 10007, USA; telephone: (212) 553 1658; website: www.moodys.com.

PricewaterhouseCoopers

Drawing on the talents of 150,000 people in more than 150 countries, PricewaterhouseCoopers provides a full range of business advisory services to leading global, national, and local companies and public institutions. Its service offerings have been organized into six lines of service, each staffed with highly qualified, experienced professionals and leaders. These services include audit, assurance, and business advisory services; business process outsourcing; financial advisory services; global human resource solutions; management consulting services; and global tax services.

PricewaterhouseCoopers publishes *Corporate Taxes: Worldwide Summaries* and *Individual Taxes: Worldwide Summaries.*

For information contact PricewaterhouseCoopers, 1301 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019, USA; telephone: (212) 596 7000; fax: (212) 259 5324; website: www.pwcglobal.com.







The PRS Group

Political Risk Services is a global leader in political and economic risk forecasting and market analysis and has served international companies large and small for about 20 years. The data it contributed to this year's *World Development Indicators* come from the *International Country Risk Guide*, a monthly publication that monitors and rates political, financial, and economic risk in 140 countries. The guide's data series and commitment to independent and unbiased analysis make it the standard for any organization practicing effective risk management.

For information contact The PRS Group, 6320 Fly Road, Suite 102, PO Box 248, East Syracuse, NY 13057-0248, USA; telephone: (315) 431 0511; fax: (315) 431 0200; email: custserv@PRSgroup.com; website: www.prsgroup.com.

Standard & Poor's Rating Services

Standard & Poor's *Sovereign Ratings* provides issuer and local and foreign currency debt ratings for sovereign governments and for sovereign-supported and supranational issuers worldwide. Standard & Poor's Rating Services monitors the credit quality of \$1.5 trillion worth of bonds and other financial instruments and offers investors global coverage of debt issuers. Standard & Poor's also has ratings on commercial paper, mutual funds, and the financial condition of insurance companies worldwide.

For information contact The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc., Executive Offices, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, USA; telephone: (212) 512 4105 or (800) 352 3566 (toll free); fax: (212) 512 4105; email: ratings@mcgraw-hill.com; website: www.ratings.standardpoor.com.

World Conservation Monitoring Centre

The World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) provides information on the conservation and sustainable use of the world's living resources and helps others to develop information systems of their own. It works in close collaboration with a wide range of organizations and people to increase access to the information needed for wise management of the world's living resources. Committed to the principle of data exchange with other centers and noncommercial users, the WCMC, whenever possible, places the data it manages in the public domain.

For information contact the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, 219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK; telephone: (44 12) 2327 7314; fax: (44 12) 2327 7136; email: info@wcmc.org.uk; website: www.wcmc.org.uk.

World Resources Institute

The World Resources Institute is an independent center for policy research and technical assistance on global environmental and development issues. The institute provides—and helps other institutions provide—objective information and practical proposals for policy and institutional change that will foster environmentally sound, socially equitable development. The institute's current areas of work include trade, forests, energy, economics, technology, biodiversity, human health, climate change, sustainable agriculture, resource and environmental information, and national strategies for environmental and resource management.

For information contact the World Resources Institute, Suite 800, 10 G Street NE, Washington, DC 20002, USA; telephone: (202) 729 7600; fax: (202) 729 7610; telex 64414 WRIWASH; email: lauralee@wri.org; website: www.wri.org.



