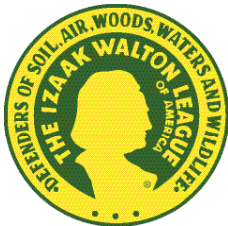


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UNDERSTANDING POPULATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Many of the conservation challenges we face today are, at their root, caused by the staggering number of people using the Earth's natural resources. We have nearly 7 billion people on the planet already and are adding nearly 80 million each year. That's a lot of people tapping into resources like fresh water, fossil fuels, forests, and fisheries. Through workshops, media outreach, and advocacy, the League promotes sensible solutions to the complex and difficult challenges presented by population growth.

IMPACTS

Currently, the United States has less than 1/20 of the world's population (305 million), yet consumes almost 1/4 of the world's natural resources. At the same time, China and India, which each have more than 1 billion people, are increasing their per capita consumption of natural resources. If population growth and consumption rates are not stabilized, we could face severe shortages of the natural resources that all living things need to survive.

Population growth has already had a significant impact on the Earth's natural resources. For example, vast areas of forest have been cleared to make room for housing and agriculture. In many parts of the world, clean drinking water is in short supply. And fish and wildlife habitat has been degraded or destroyed, pushing many species to the brink of extinction. As the world's population continues to grow, greater numbers of people will continue to consume even greater amounts of natural resources, with potentially enormous direct and indirect impacts on our quality of life and the planet.

SOLUTIONS

For decades, through publications, articles, online resources, and media outreach, the League has worked to educate people and policy makers about the effects of unrestrained population growth on natural resources. We support integrated development so that environmental, economic, and social needs are all addressed. This includes increased funding of population and development programs, enhanced educational and economic opportunities, as well as improved access to health care, including voluntary family planning.

The League is also committed to giving citizen activists the information and skills they need to be better advocates on these issues. We conduct numerous workshops across the country and participate in population leadership forums. In addition, we organize advocacy training for League members on Capitol Hill to increase funding for the U.S. government's population and reproductive health programs.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION PROGRAM

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