



Audubon Armchair Activist

Audubon's Letter of the Month Club

July 2003

JULY 11th IS WORLD POPULATION DAY!

Human population growth is one of the most pressing environmental problems facing the U.S. and the world. Population expansion over the last 50 years has exacerbated many environmental problems, including air and water pollution, loss of birds, other wildlife and their habitat, fisheries depletion, and climate change. These are global problems that transcend national boundaries.

Friday, July 11th is World Population Day – a day to acknowledge human population and its impact on world nations, economies, birds and wildlife and the environment. Use this occasion to help make the connection between population and its impact on the environment right! So for this month's issue of the ARMCHAIR ACTIVIST, we're encouraging you to do one or more of the following three things:

(1) Submit a Letter-to-the-Editor of your local paper making the connection between global population and its impact on the environment. Visit this link now to

instantly identify your local papers, then review, edit or send one of our sample letters! Be sure to send it before July 11th! http://www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/lte_issues.asp

(2) Send a message to your Members of Congress urging them to increase our nation's commitment to voluntary international family planning programs! Utilize our free service to instantly identify and communicate with your lawmakers. Read background information, review our two pre-written letters, then edit or send as is by going to this link now: <http://www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/issues.asp?type=312>

(3) Learn more about this issue and why Audubon is involved, more about species impacted by loss of habitat overseas due to over population, as well as events happening across the country on July 11th by visiting our website at www.audubonpopulation.org, and World Population Day at <http://www.unfpa.org/>

sample letter:

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Your Name
Address
City State Zip
Telephone Number

DATE

Letters Editor
Name of Paper Here
Address
City, State, Zip

Dear Editor:

Later this week is World Population Day — a good time to remember how much progress we have made, and how much more we have yet to achieve. The good news is that countries as diverse as Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Iran have now reached replacement level fertility. The bad news is that India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, with a combined population of 1.2 billion, are projected to reach 2.2 billion by 2050. Africa, with a population of 840 million, is projected to soar past 1.84 billion by 2050 even with rising levels of AIDS-related mortality.

Clearly, improving access to family planning services is still key to saving the environment and reducing rising levels of mortality in much of the developing world. Unfortunately, over the last 30 years U.S. funding for international family planning has declined by more than 40 percent, even as world population has increased by 60 percent. The U.S. Congress can reverse this trend by supporting efforts to increase our nation's commitment to international family planning services and programs coordinated through USAID, and returning funding to the United Nations Population Fund. Now is the time for every American to call Congress and remind them that a healthy planet inhabited by healthy people depends on a renewed commitment to improving access to family planning.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Audubon
1150 Connecticut Ave, NW #600
Washington, D.C. 20036



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