

10 YEARS OF IMAGING OCEANIA SPOT VEGETATION



Mining and the Environment
Australia is one of the world's largest producers of minerals. Besides other environmental impacts mining is responsible for 10% of Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.
Kalgoorlie Super Pit is Australia's largest open cut gold mine.



Endangered Islands
Low-lying Pacific islands could be wiped off the map by rising seas induced by global warming. A 50 cm rise would lead to the displacement of about 200 million people worldwide.
Tidal flooding on Funafuti, Tuvalu. ©2005 Gary Braasch.



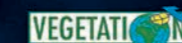
Drought
Rainfall over eastern Australia, the most populated area, has been decreasing. Locally the annual precipitation has fallen from 400 mm to 200 mm over the last 40 years.
Displacement of the shore of Lake Huron. Source: www.flickr.com



World's Greatest Reef in Peril
Since 1978, the 2,500 km long Great Barrier Reef is suffering from mass bleaching, a threatening condition triggered by unusually high sea surface temperatures.
Source: wikimedia.org



Raging Fires
Depending on the season, bushfires can occur in different parts of Australia throughout the year. Fire frequency is also closely related to drought years and especially El Niño events.
Fires detected by MODIS over a 10-day period in November 2008. Source: MODIS Rapid Response Project, NASA/GSFC



The unique image is a composite of all daily images recorded for 10 years by the VEGETATION instruments onboard satellites SPOT-4 and SPOT-5. The bathymetry is derived from the Blue Marble next generation. Capitals and other major cities (> 0.1 million inhabitants) are shown.
More info: <http://eoedu.beispa.be/vgt10>

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