

Since its creation in 1958, NASA has been studying the Earth and its changing environment by observing the atmosphere, oceans, land, ice, and snow, and their influence on weather and climate. We now understand that the key to gaining a better understanding of the global environment is exploring how the Earth's systems of air, land, water, and life interact with each other. This approach—called Earth Systems Science—blends together fields like meteorology, oceanography, geology, and biology.

In 1991, NASA launched a more comprehensive program to study the Earth as an integrated environmental system. Known as the Earth Science Enterprise (ESE), its goals are to expand scientific knowledge of the Earth system by using NASA's unique vantage points of space, aircraft, and *in situ* platforms; creating an international capability to forecast and assess the health of the Earth system; widely disseminating information about the Earth system; and enabling the productive use of Earth science results and related technology in the public and private sectors.

*A comprehensive education component is essential to accomplishing these goals.*

This interactive CD-ROM has been developed to provide educators, students, and the general public with an overview of the latest research related to our global environment. The viewer will encounter myriad images, animations, and movies illustrating the natural and human-induced processes affecting the Earth's atmosphere, land, and oceans. The presentation of these topics range from a general to a more detailed scientific approach.

Land, Sea, Ice, and Air are the four major topics that comprise the ESE CD-ROM. Each topic serves as a header under which specific areas of related research are presented. In addition, an overview of such topics as EOS instruments and satellites, data information and educational resources is presented.