

# Conservation



## 2008 International Year of Planet Earth

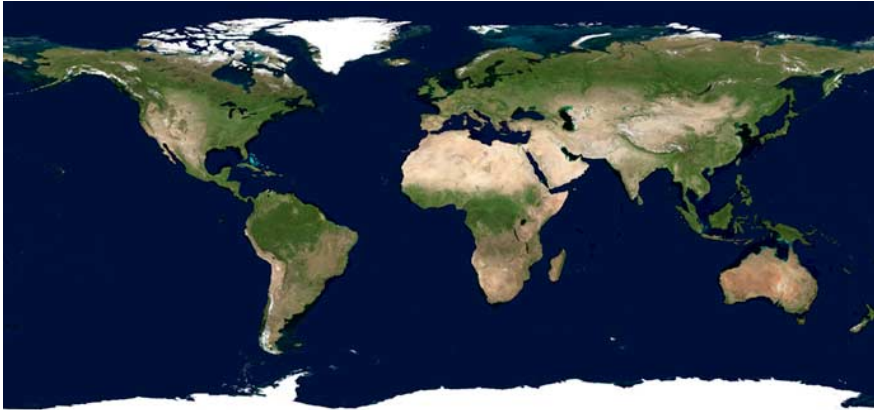


Photo courtesy of NASA

The knowledge that these scientists collect is really important as it helps to create a picture of how healthy the Earth is and how our human activity is affecting it.

By highlighting the Earth sciences, we can learn more about what work is carried out and therefore more about our planet.

It has been decided by the United Nations that 2008 should be International Year of Planet Earth. The year hopes to highlight the work of the Earth sciences. These Earth sciences, also known as

Geosciences, are areas such as geology, hydrology, meteorology, oceanography and many more.

Scientists who work in Earth sciences are involved in exploring, discovering and looking after the Earth. They explore and are responsible for how we find and use natural resources such as oil, gas, coal, minerals, water and soil. They help to preserve and protect the natural environment, as well as helping to predict natural disasters and repair environmental damage.

### Geology in Ireland

In Ireland, International Year of Planet Earth is being promoted by the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI), which is the National Earth Science Agency in Ireland. It is responsible for giving out geological information and advice and for collecting data which helps provide this service.

The GSI want to make us more aware of the importance of the Earth Sciences and it hopes that this new awareness will encourage more people to work in this area and make more use of the information gained from such work.



### WHAT WILL BE HAPPENING?

During 2008 many events will be organised throughout the island of Ireland to highlight the International Year of Planet Earth. All primary schools in the country will receive a set of planet earth posters and a rock set. The posters will be designed to simply and colourfully explain key themes/events of planet earth such as plate tectonics or volcanoes. The rock sets will consist of 6 samples of Ireland's main rocks, simply explained and mounted in a nice display frame. There will be public lectures, Planet Earth Walks & Talks, a Planet Earth TV series, schools competitions, conference exhibits and much, much more. Details will be advertised and will also be available on a continually updated Calendar of Events on the website

[www.planeteearth.ie](http://www.planeteearth.ie)

