

OAK RIDGE NATIONAL LABORATORY

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LandScan User:

We are pleased to announce the release of LandScan 2013 Global Population Database. The LandScan 2013 Global Population Database was developed by Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) for the United States Department of Defense (DoD). This release represents the fifteenth version of LandScan and succeeds all previous versions. It is recommended that users of previous versions of LandScan replace any earlier version with LandScan 2013.

Improvements that have been incorporated into the LandScan 2013 Global Population Database are outlined below:

- Updated results from the 2010 - 2013 rounds of census activities for numerous countries have been released and were integrated into this version of LandScan. These new data allow for significant refinements in the population distribution. For temporal consistency, census counts were normalized to match the July 2013 national population estimates provided by the CIA World Factbook. However, due to the dramatic effects on population distribution precipitated by the ongoing crisis in Syria and considering the demand for more current population data for that area, the total population for Syria and the neighboring nations were adjusted to account for refugee and internally displaced persons movements as of June 2014.
- Output from ORNL's "Settlement Mapper Tool" (which rapidly delineates and characterizes settlements using high-resolution imagery) was incorporated in this version of LandScan. NGA's Controlled Image Base (CIB) imagery, imagery provided through NGA from Digital Globe's Global Enhanced GEOINT Delivery, and other high-resolution imagery sources were used extensively for verification and validation, for refining urban built-up areas, for adding thousands of smaller villages and populated places, and for the identification and mitigation of input data anomalies to improve the spatial precision and values of the population distribution.

Because of these refinements we advise against cell-by-cell comparison between LandScan 2013 and earlier versions of LandScan.

The enclosed LandScan 2013 CD-ROM contains the following files:

- The LandScan 2013 Global Population Database at 30 arc-seconds (1 km. or finer) in the following formats:
 1. Raster GIS: ESRI Grid format. [Note: the Spatial Analyst extension for ArcGIS or ArcView (3.x) is required for analyzing the LandScan data.]
 2. Binary raster: ESRI binary raster format (see included documentation). Almost any high level programming language can read this file directly.

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- Two raster boundary files defining assignments of LandScan cells to 1) country, and 2) sub-country Level 1 Administrative areas. [Note: These sub-national areas were not used for the actual population modeling process.]
- A ReadMe file that describes data contents and formats.

Please feel free to contact me, Ms. Amy Rose (865-576-3561; rosean@ornl.gov), or Ms. Marie Urban (865-576-3568; urbanml@ornl.gov) if you have any questions or comments about LandScan 2013. Thank you for your continued interest in the LandScan Global Population Database.

Sincerely,

Edward A. Bright
Director, LandScan Global Population Project
Geographic Information Science & Technology