

## FILE FORMATS

The GIS data available from this site are provided in different formats. Many of the data files have also been zipped for compression. Below is a brief description of each type of file format you may find on this site.

### **ESRI\_e00**

This is an ESRI Arc Export transfer format that allows spatial and descriptive information for vector and raster data to be combined into a single ASCII file. The file will only work with ESRI software.

### **ESRI\_grid**

This is an ESRI proprietary file format of the ESRI Arc/Info Grid product. It can also be used and created within the spatial analyst extension of ArcView 3.x.

### **ESRI\_shp**

This is an ESRI shapefile that consists of three component files for each feature class compressed into one. Each file in the set shares the shapefile name with a different extension. The main file (\*.shp) stores the geometry and must always have an index file (\*.shx). A dBASE file (\*.dbf) stores all the attributes of the shapes in the main file. All three files are required for proper loading into GIS software that reads the shapefile format.

### **.TAR**

These are files compressed and bundled under a tar archive (TAR), which is a file containing multiple other files. This type of file can be expanded using many of the same unzip programs that will extract ZIP files (see below). These files should be downloaded to your hard drive before they are expanded.

### **.TIFF**

The Tagged Interchange (Image) File Format (TIFF) is an industry-standard for raster data storage and transfer across operating systems and applications.

### **.ZIP**

Most of our data files are compressed using the ZIP format. Each compressed file may contain one file or multiple files. Zipped files can be extracted using a variety of unzip programs such as; WinZip, PowerArchiver and Stuffit. The Unix commands for *upzip* and *uncompress* can also extract files. These files should be downloaded to your hard drive before they are expanded.