

biodiversity partners

DFID has many other important partners.

NGO partners Many DFID projects involve non-governmental organisations. DFID provides matching funds for UK NGOs through the Joint Funding Scheme (JFS) and is especially keen to develop links with NGOs in partner countries, who often have great reserves of expertise and local knowledge.

Research partners Research plays an important part in biodiversity work. DFID funds a number of programmes of research undertaken both in the UK and overseas. It's a complex area, with much to be learnt – but one in which the UK has lots of relevant expertise. Important research areas include:

- long-term conservation incentives e.g. national environment funds
- economic valuations of biodiversity
- economic instruments to promote equitable benefit sharing
- coastal zone management
- urban impacts on biodiversity
- intellectual property and biotechnology
- fair trade

Research programmes include the Renewable Natural Resources Research Strategy, the Environmental Research Programme and the Environmental Studies Line. DFID also influences the work of international research institutions, through its financial support of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research.

Training partners DFID is keen to encourage multi-disciplinary training in the sustainable use and management of natural resources, and to improve understanding of the issues in enterprises that depend on these resources.

UK Government partners It is vital that all UK government policies consistently support biodiversity. Most international conventions have far-reaching implications, so DFID works closely with these 'lead' departments:

Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions – all international environmental agreements and conventions

Department of Trade and Industry – technology, fair trade, intellectual property and industry

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food – plant genetic resources and agricultural biodiversity

Foreign and Commonwealth Office – British Overseas Territories

Business partners DFID recognises the need to work with the private sector. It is currently developing closer ties with business, and promoting initiatives which distribute the benefits from the world's resources more fairly, such as ethical trade and ecotourism.

Internal partners Biodiversity directly relates to many other areas, so *Biodiversity Matters* is linked to other DFID strategies including: sustainable livelihoods, sustainable agriculture, water and forestry.

Linking DFID Policy and Practice in Biodiversity, the current review of DFID's experience with biodiversity work, will develop the approaches outlined in *Biodiversity Matters*, and provide more information on key issues and best practice. This is part of DFID's commitment to continual learning.

poverty & biodiversity

Biodiversity is part of this planet's wealth. Its loss affects everyone. Yet some of the world's richest areas of biodiversity are populated by its poorest people.

Often, these same people – and their forebears – were responsible for protecting and developing this marvellous biological wealth.

Yet poverty can drive the poor to deplete resources on which they depend.

Which is why poverty and biodiversity must be tackled together.



The Department for International Development (DFID) is the government department responsible for managing Britain's programme of development assistance to poorer countries and for ensuring that Government policies which affect developing countries, including the environment, trade, investment and agricultural policies, take account of developing country issues.

As set out in the recent White Paper on International Development, the Government is committed to the internationally agreed targets to halve the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015, together with the associated targets including universal access to primary education and basic health care by the same date.

The British programme of development assistance stood at £2,144 million in 1996/97, 0.27 per cent of GNP. The new Government has committed itself to reversing the recent decline in UK spending on development assistance, and has reaffirmed the UK's commitment to the 0.7 per cent United Nations target.

DFID will work in partnership with developing countries which are committed to the international targets, and is putting in place new ways of working with the UK private and voluntary sectors, and the research community.

As well as its Headquarters in London and East Kilbride, DFID has offices in New Delhi, Bangkok, Nairobi, Harare, Pretoria, Dhaka, Suva and Bridgetown.

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Thanks to all who have contributed.

Printed by The Print Room on Landscape, a 100% post-consumer recycled paper.
Put together by River Path Associates:
www.riverpath.com
Designed by Michael Stewart Design, Poole



partnerships

DFID Department for
International
Development



biodiversity MATTERS

20% of the world's population suffer extreme poverty.

We aim to strengthen the international will to halve that proportion by 2015. It's a clear and achievable target.

A related target concerns environmental deterioration – which the UN has agreed must be reversed at national and international levels.

Biological diversity or *biodiversity* is vital to both tasks.

Biodiversity benefits the poor – and its loss can cause them real harm. Which is why biodiversity matters.

Biodiversity is nature's wealth, the 'variety of life' in all its many forms. From the smallest microbe to the largest mammal, from individual genes to complex ecosystems – all life is characterised by variety.

This variety is nature's constantly changing deck of cards. Each card is a potential opportunity – from a pest-resistant crop or a new medical cure to healthier cattle. The loss of biodiversity – whether a single species or entire ecosystems like forests, grasslands, marine or coastal areas – means the loss of opportunities, possibly forever.

Biodiversity includes people, too. Where we live is intricately bound up with how we live. Nature's variety is reflected in our diverse cultures and beliefs. This cultural diversity can be diminished by loss of biodiversity.

'We shall continue to help poor people in developing countries, often rich in species and habitats, but lacking resources, to manage and benefit from their biodiversity.'

Eliminating World Poverty: A Challenge for the 21st century, White Paper on International Development

development & biodiversity

Biodiversity is fundamental to stable and resilient ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems are a fertile source of useful goods like food, fuel and medicines, as well as services like clean water, fertile soils and fresh air.

DFID concentrates on the relationship between biodiversity and the world's poor, for whom natural resources meet essential and immediate needs. It sees three areas of direct importance to its work.

improving poor people's livelihoods through sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity

protecting those livelihoods by preventing biodiversity loss – which can increase vulnerability and have disproportionate effects on the poor

providing alternatives for people who are otherwise forced to over-exploit biological resources

Biodiversity projects address complex issues and conflicting priorities. They need to be given sufficient time to develop and deliver results. They must also be placed in the right context. People need long-term security if they are to invest in the future of their environment – which makes access and tenure rights of crucial importance.

global action

Biodiversity loss is a global concern. More world leaders gathered at the Rio or 'Earth' Summit in 1992 than ever before. Most signed the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – which drives world action on biodiversity.

CBD is a landmark agreement. It recognises that development is an overriding priority for poorer countries, while looking at the importance of biodiversity across all sectors.

CBD has three main objectives:

conserving biodiversity
the *sustainable use* of its components
giving people *a fair share* of any benefits arising from the use of genetic resources

Many other international agreements involve biodiversity, including:

Conventions on...

International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)
Conservation of Migratory Species (the 'Bonn Convention')
Conservation of Water Fowl and Wetlands ('Ramsar')
The Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)
and the International Tropical Timber Agreement

DFID supports CBD and other international agreements in two main ways:

funding development and research projects with specific biodiversity objectives (since 1992, DFID has spent over £170 million on more than 150 projects with a biodiversity focus – in over 40 countries)

integrating biodiversity concerns into its other projects and programmes

international initiatives

Internationally, DFID works with many organisations like the World Bank, and the UN's Development Programme (UNDP) and Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). It also seeks to influence international policy, through the UN Commission for Sustainable Development and World Trade Organisation Committee on Trade and Environment.

DFID also channels considerable amounts of money through international organisations with an environmental remit – principally the Global Environment Facility (GEF) – and through European Community programmes.

GEF is a fund set up to support the CBD and other global environmental agreements. So far, Britain has committed £225 million.

GEF provides money for developing countries, and countries in the former Eastern bloc, to meet the extra costs of protecting the environment in the global interest. It currently spends about 40% of its money on biodiversity projects.

DFID has clear objectives for its 'multilateral' support. It aims to make sure the money provided is spent effectively and often takes part in co-operative ventures that help it influence international policy. Currently, for instance, it is funding work at the European Commission, producing guidelines for biodiversity in development.

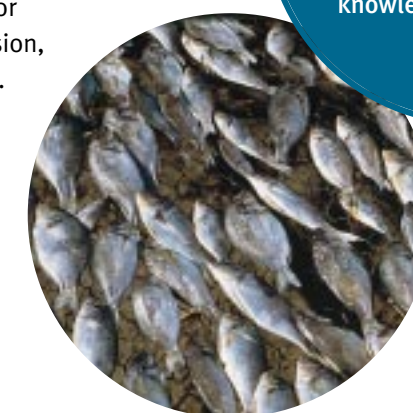
Some development groups need help with the complex process of applying for funding from international organisations. DFID can help them understand the system and give direct assistance in preparing project proposals.



- more than 26,000 species are globally threatened
- some 10% of coral reefs – as biodiversity-rich as rainforests – are eroded beyond recovery

No one knows the number of species on earth, but current estimates suggest around 13 or 14 million. Only some 1.75 million have been described. This incredible variety is being lost. The figures here are estimates – the true scale of the problem could be much worse.

- over 75% of the world's crop varieties have become extinct this century
- traditional indigenous knowledge is being lost



partner countries

DFID's work is done in partnership with developing countries – each of which sets its own priorities within the wider global context. For example, the United Nations has agreed that each country should produce national strategies for sustainable development by 2002. DFID is helping partner countries produce these. It is also using the revision of its own Country Strategy Papers as an opportunity to review biodiversity activities within each country.

The prime focus of DFID's partnerships is on the poorest countries. We support projects in middle-income countries, too – where pockets of extreme poverty still exist, and where environmental threats can have global consequences. DFID is also responsible for the Know How Fund, which includes a number of biodiversity projects in the former Eastern Bloc.

The White Paper has helped to tighten the focus of DFID's work, and 'bilateral' projects now concentrate on promoting benefits to the poor through an emphasis on:

capacity – training people, sharing information and helping institutions to develop ways of meeting the challenge of managing their biodiversity

coherence – linking local projects to national, regional and international policies, removing constraints and promoting incentives to encourage sustainability

In practice, this means supporting projects that:

stimulate the sustainable use and management of resources, such as the Mount Cameroon Project – which, by involving villagers, the government and industry in the management of their forests, led to practical systems for sustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products

conserve genetic resources important to the future livelihoods of poor people, such as a project in East Africa which found ways for farmers to increase bean production by improving disease management – while maintaining the many local bean varieties

improve agriculture practices in a way that increases production and enhances biodiversity – like the INTERFISH project in Bangladesh, which introduced fish farming in rice fields and trains farmers in more environmentally friendly methods of pest control

promote benefit-sharing, for example by funding botanic gardens (in developing and developed countries) to collaborate in defining a common policy for the fair exchange of genetic resources

preserve the traditional knowledge that many communities hold about their environment, as is being done in Uganda, where the expertise of the Bahima pastoralists is defining new approaches to wildlife conservation in the Mburo National Park and is improving livelihoods

The double helix shown here is the shape of DNA, the basic genetic building block of life on earth.