

Supplementary Report: UK activities in support of the convention in regions other than Africa

The United Kingdom (UK) of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presented its fourth formal report on measures taken to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in October 2004. This supplementary report covers UK activities in support of the convention in regions other than Africa in preparation for the 5th Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (CRIC).

1 General policy:

1.1 Latin America and the Caribbean

DFID works with regional partners to promote poverty reduction in the Independent Caribbean, Central America and South America. Though relatively advanced, the region suffers from high levels of inequality and vulnerability, and persistent poverty, particularly among indigenous peoples and afro-descendants in Latin America.

Our primary focus is to enhance the impact on poverty and inequality of multilateral organisations working in the region (e.g. the Inter-American Development Bank, World Bank and European Commission) and of regional organisations (e.g. the Caribbean Development bank and the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery).

DFID also provides bilateral development assistance to Guyana, Jamaica and Nicaragua; with our country specific programmes in Honduras, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil having evolved into our Latin America regional programme. DFID Caribbean manages a range of multilateral and bilateral partnerships aimed at improving aid effectiveness and helping the region achieve progress towards the Millennium Development Goals.

1.2 Central and Eastern Europe

DFID works in a diverse and challenging set of countries bordering Europe and Asia. These range from one of the poorest countries in the world to a G8 member. Mainly middle income countries, they are almost all fragments of former larger states and face major state building and governance challenges.

Many are fragile states with unresolved conflicts that have the potential to destabilise volatile regional conflicts. Over 60 million people are poor and 150 million remain vulnerable. The region is also experiencing the world's fastest growing HIV/AIDS epidemic with only 3 countries likely to meet the MDG.

Aid flows to the region are considerable, particularly from the European Commission (EC), the World Bank and the US. A key priority for DFID is to ensure that multilateral funds are used well, and that poverty and vulnerability issues are taken into account in their country and regional policies.

In the accession countries of Romania and Bulgaria (and to a lesser extent the Baltic States) we have provided significant resources through our share of EC budgets to assist with public administration reform, regional development and reducing social exclusion. These programmes complement and strengthen the impact of the multilateral agencies. In the Balkans, DFID aims to bring together the European integration and poverty reduction agendas, so that the political impetus of the preparations for accession, and the EC's large aid programmes, support nationally owned pro-poor development strategies. We also work to improve the effectiveness of the overall international aid effort. To this end we provide carefully targeted and responsive technical assistance to key functions of central Government, including support for European integration and national poverty reduction strategies, and for the effectiveness of public financial management and public service reform. In the Central Asia, South Caucasus and Moldova region, DFID operates programmes in the region's poorest countries: Armenia, Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Moldova. This bilateral assistance is focused on improving governance and the institutional environment for poverty reduction; promoting pro-poor sustainable growth; and strengthening the UK's contribution to conflict resolution and peace building.

1.3 Asia

In Asia DFID's strategy has five main components:

- (i) Targeting hard to reach MDGs whilst sustaining progress elsewhere;
- (ii) Enhancing the commitment of Asian countries to poverty reduction;
- (iii) Achieving poverty reduction in difficult environments;
- (iv) Promoting inclusive and pro-poor governance;
- (v) Developing mature partnerships with India, China and regional organisations.

DFID channels an increasing proportion of the bilateral programme directly or indirectly to support achievement of the hard to reach MDGs, notably maternal mortality, TB, HIV and AIDS, and hunger. We are also concerned about basic education. The precise pattern of resource allocation will depend

on country level priorities as determined by analysis of where and why the MDGs are most off-track. We also consider where additional spending will be utilised most effectively.

DFID recognises that sustainable development issues are an increasing concern in the region as growth accelerates. We focus on environmental issues in poverty reduction strategies and consider the impact of our own initiatives. We have engaged through international fora to pursue environmental issues of importance to Asia including climate change and we also engage on policy dialogue in country programmes where environmental and climate change issues are critical. We consider selective support for environmental analysis and capacity building including in Bangladesh; and encourage south-south dialogue on environmental issues.

In the case of water and sanitation and problems of malnutrition and hunger, we engage with government and the donor community to address these areas in national poverty reduction strategies.

2 NAPs/projects

As outlined in section 3 of the UK's fourth report, the UK aims to integrate its work in implementing the UNCCD in mainstream development programmes. Accordingly the UK does not currently support the development of NAPS or UNCCD specific consultative processes or partnership agreements.

DFID commitments during the 2004/5 financial year to regions, which address desertification issues, are given in Tables 1-4, classified under multilateral, bi-lateral or research-related expenditure.

2.1 Multilateral commitments

Approximately half of DFID's resources are spent through multilateral agencies, mostly through the EC, WB, regional development banks and the UN. DFID contributes approximately £380 million each year to the development activities of the UN. The UK believes the UN has a crucial contribution to make to peace, development and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Approximately 26% of DFID's budget is allocated through the European Community. It is a priority of DFID to push for increasing the proportion of EC external assistance that is directed to low-income countries (only 42% in 2002).

The UK is the fourth largest donor to the International Development Association (IDA) – the arm of the World Bank that provides concessional loans to developing countries. We are committing £1250 million to the IDA 14 replenishment.

Additionally, the UK directly supports the objectives of the Convention through its contributions to the GEF as set out below.

Table 1 Multilateral expenditure 2004/05

	<i>Value (£000)</i>	<i>Value (US\$000)</i>
European Community		
European Development Fund	265,655	496,775
European Commission National Experts	1,206	2,255
European Investment Bank	2,598	4,858
EC Attribution	640,780 ¹	1,198,259
UN institutions		
UNDP	43,039	80,483
FAO	6,873	12,853
IFAD	7,899	14,771
International Financial Institutions		
Asian Development Bank	689	1,288
Asian Development Fund	21,864	40,886
Caribbean Development Fund	3,286	6,145
GEF replenishment	29,500 ²	55,165

¹ Data is provisional subject to the Court of Auditors

² £118m agreed for four-year period from 2002 includes a voluntary contribution of £15 million.

2.2 Bilateral commitments

DFID funds a large number of programmes in regions other than Africa, all of which deliver some benefits towards combating desertification, and the objectives of the UNCCD.

Table 2 Current relevant DFID bilateral support in regions other than Africa (individual projects above £100K included)

Country	Project title	Value (£000s)	Value (US\$)
Regional:			
Asia	Transforming China's Forest Impacts in East Asia	700	1,309
National:			
Asia/India	Andhra Pradesh Livelihoods Project	45,543	85,165
Asia/India	Western Orissa Rural Livelihoods Project	32,750	61,242
Asia/India	Madhya Pradesh – Western India Rainfed Farming Project II	24,880	46,525
Asia/China	Poor Rural Communities Development Project	19,040	35,605
Asia/Nepal	Livelihoods and Forestry Programme	18,672	34,917

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Asia/India	Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project (FA)	13,880	25,956
Asia/Vietnam	Central Region Livelihoods Improvement Project	12,000	22,440
Asia/Nepal	Agriculture Perceptive Plan 11	10,324	19,306
Asia/Bangladesh	WFP Food Security & Food Aid Programme (FSFAP) in Bangladesh	10,000	18,700
Asia/Pakistan	Rural Support Programme Network Phase 2	10,000	18,700
Asia/India	Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihood Programme	9,760	18,251
Asia/Vietnam	Northern Mountains	7,500	14,025
Asia/China	Pro-Poor Rural Water Reform Project	7,249	13,556
Asia/China	WRDMAP – Technical Cooperation	6,906	12,914
Asia/Bangladesh	Samata-empowerment of the landless	6,625	12,389
Asia/Pakistan	Pakistan: Rural Water Supply and Sanitation	6,500	12,155
Asia/Nepal	Agriculture Perspective Plan Support Programme	6,310	11,800
Asia/Pakistan	Faisalabad Devolution Project	5,785	10,818
Asia/Vietnam	Poverty Analysis Support Programme	5,266	9,847
Asia/India	Himachal Pradesh Forest Sector Reform Project	5,247	9,812
Asia/China	China Watershed Management Project	4,948	9,253
Asia/Nepal	CARE Community Support Project	4,720	8,826
Asia/Nepal	Rural Comm Infrastructure	4,622	8,643
Asia/Nepal	Agricultural Perspective Plan Support Programme	4,014	7,506
Asia/Burma	Support to UN Human Development Initiative (UNHDI) in Burma	4,000	7,480
Asia/Afghanistan	Sustainable Agricultural Livelihoods in the Hazarajat	3,770	7,050
Asia/India	Himachal Pradesh Forest Project Phase II	3,000	5,610
Asia/Afghanistan	Agricultural Input Supply	3,000	5,610
Asia/China	Poor Rural Communities Development Project	2,850	5,330
Asia/India	Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project (TC)	2,720	5,086
Asia/China	Water Resources Demand Management Assistance Project – Financial Aid	2,453	4,587
Asia/Afghanistan	Sustainable Livelihoods	2,100	3,927
Asia/India	Oilseeds Project	2,000	3,740
Asia/Vietnam	Asian Dev Bank Inst Strength	1,800	3,366
Asia	Giripragathi Tribal Project	1,500	2,805
Asia	Global Water Partnership	1,405	2,627
Asia	Environment Planning and Coordination Organisation (EPCO)	770	1,440
Asia	Rural Livelihoods Fund	450	842

Asia	Burma Rural Smallholder Irrigation	430	860
Asia	TA for Land Policy	335	627
Asia	Environment Planning and Coordination Organisation	330	617
Asia	Rural Livelihoods Evaluation Partners	240	449
Asia	Reflect Programme in Burma	240	449
Asia	Income Poverty Strategic Opportunities Fund	150	281
East Europe/Ukraine	Rural Livelihoods Programme	7,500	14,025
East Europe/Kyrgyzstan	Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	4,000	7,480
East Europe/Kyrgyzstan	Rural Hygiene and Sanitation	3,399	6,356
East Europe/Albania	Rural Livelihoods	1,200	2,244
East Europe/Tajikistan	Third Party Arbitration Courts	1,000	1,870
East Europe/Albania	Albania support to the Ministry of Environment	380	710
East Europe/Modova	Support to the Loan Guarantee Fund – Moldova	145	271

2.3 Global commitments

The projects below outline DFID support to inter-regional specific desertification related projects. (individual projects above £100K included).

Table 2: inter-regional desertification related projects

Project Title	Value (£)	Value (US\$)
Developing Markets for Watershed Protection and Improved Livelihoods	307,502	562,727
Poverty and Environment Initiative Phase II	179,689	328,831
Secure water: building sustainable livelihoods for the poor into demand responsive approaches-inception phase	143,835	263,218
Improving Community Spate Irrigation Systems	296,333	542,289
Improving Support For Enhancing Livelihoods Of The Rural Poor.	1,207,764	2,210,208
International Fund For Agricultural Development (IFAD): Sustainable Livelihoods Diagnostic Trust Fund.	1,215,000	2,223,450
Irrigation Charging water saving and rural livelihoods	189,510	346,803

Natural Resources Information System (NARSIS) and RLD Communications Programme	197,542	361,502
R. 7981 Making The Link Between Micro and Meso - Learning From Experience On Community - Based Planning And Mgmt.	239,238	437,805
Sustainable Livelihoods Learning Platform, Livelihoods Connect	312,289	571,488
Sustainable Rural Livelihoods enabling Agreement with Overseas Development Institute	110,233	201,726
Illegal Logging & Associated Trade: Tackling the underlying Governance Policy & Market Failure	980,233	1,793,826
Programme on Forests	1,000,000	1,830,000
Support to the National Forest Programme Facility: GCP/INT/812/MUL (Multidonor trustfund) provided by DFID through GCP/INT/909/UK.	500,000	915,000
Developing markets for watersheds protection services and improved livelihoods	150,195	274,856
Rural Enterprise Technology Facility	431,731	790,067
Applying Benchmarking as a Tool for Irrigation Management Reform	196,516	359,624
Augmenting Groundwater Resources by Artificial Recharge	242,743	444,219
Building Capacity for a Strategic Approach to Water Resources Development and Management	156,316	286,058
Business Partnerships for Development in Water and Sanitation (Phase 2)	191,743	350,890
Core support for all Global Water Partnership Activities	1,050,000	1,921,500
Derivation and testing of the water poverty index phase 1	151,903	277,982
Director for the World Bank/Global Water Partnership - Groundwater Management Advisory Team	163,117	298,504
Global Water Partnership - Core Funding 2003	1,050,000	1,921,500
R8023 Guidelines for good governance: sustainable management of large scale water users associations	419,578	767,827

R8039-Transboundary Water Resources Management: Using Law To Develop Effective National Water Policy For	199,150	364,444
Support to Global Water Partnership Follow up to Framework for Action	925,000	1,692,750
Support to International Programme for Technology and Research in Irrigation and Drainage (IPTRID)	288,500	527,955
Water Thematic Budget Project Management Costs 2001/2003	353,320	646,575
Wateraid Programme Partnership Agreement	1,900,000	3,477,000
World Commission on Dams - Dams for Development Unit	487,533	892,185
Total	41,972,893	76,810,394
Other¹	1,405,071	2,571,279

¹ Combined value of projects under £100,000

DFID is working with international networks such as the Global Village Energy Partnership (GVEP) and the EU energy initiative (EUEI) to promote access to affordable energy services, drawing on the full menu of technology options, including renewable energy.

DFID has supported the creation of a new €220 million EU energy facility, which will invite calls for proposals later this year. This grant fund aims to improve access to reliable and affordable energy, especially in Africa, and is encouraging viable renewable energy proposals.

2.4 Research

DFID has continued to fund a substantial portfolio of research on a number of fronts linked to desertification prevention and mitigation.

DFID funding to CGIAR centres is set to double to £20 million annually from 2004 for a period of three years (total contribution 2005/6 was £19.2 million). DFID provides core support to the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) as part of its contribution to CGIAR, much of whose work focuses on the Central West Asia and North Africa (CWANA) region. ICARDA's research is designed as a single coherent program, sub-divided into the following six mega-projects:

- Management of scarce water resources and mitigation of drought
- Integrated gene management
- Improved land management to combat desertification
- Diversification and sustainable improvement of rural livelihoods
- Poverty and livelihoods analysis
- Knowledge management and dissemination for sustainable development

ICARDA also conducts research on livelihoods focusing on crop and livestock systems especially for smallholder farmers, household investment and marketing opportunities for value-added crop and livestock products and options to both increase and diversify the value of crop production.

As part of our support to CGIAR we also support the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi Arid Tropics, based in India, half of this Institute's work is directed to Africa, the other half to Asia. The Centre has had considerable impacts on drylands research in India. It adopts integrated genetic and natural resource management (IGNRM) as its overarching research strategy to attain scientific excellence and relevance in agriculture in the semi-arid tropics, focusing on key livelihood and income opportunities to improve the well-being of the poor with equity, multidisciplinary, sustainability and community participation as core principles.

Since 2006 there is a new DFID sustainable agriculture research strategy in place that will govern £100 million of research spending for 5 years. A key focus of the strategy will be to increase agricultural productivity as a means of achieving poverty reducing growth in the wider economy. A key component of this research will be to ensure sustainable and productive management of natural resources and environmental sustainability. There will be four regional research programmes, 3 in Africa and one in South Asia. DFID will also partner with the UK research councils to support research with southern based organisations.

DFID has also provided around £3.4 million for renewable energy research projects in the last 8 years. This was spent on the development and promotion of renewable energy, especially for rural communities. It has included a wide range of technologies such as wind, small hydropower, solar and biomass.

Other smaller DFID funded research programmes of relevance are listed in Table 3.

Table 3 Social and Economic and Engineering Research projects

Natural Resources Institute - ends 1 June 2006	Land Access and Participatory Territorial Development: lessons and policy implications from South Africa and Brazil
Intermediate Technology Development Group	Researching pathways to scaling up sustainable and effective kitchen smoke alleviation
Technology and Development Group, University of Twente, ends 31 March 2006	Enabling urban poor livelihoods policy making: understanding the role of energy services
ENERGIA International Network on Gender and sustainable Energy; c/o ETC Foundation, ends 31 December 2005	Gender as a Key Variable in Energy Interventions in Developing Countries: Are We Asking the Right Questions?
Black and Veatch Consulting Ltd, ends 15	Water demand management in ground water

June 2006	overexploitation
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