



# MDG 7

## MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOAL

Ensure Environmental Sustainability

### TARGETS

- Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
- Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.
- Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.
- Achieve significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020



## CURRENT GLOBAL STATUS<sup>1</sup>

- From 1990 to 2006 1.1 billion people in the developing world gained access to toilets, latrines and other forms of improved sanitation.
- The World is well on its way to meeting the drinking water target, due mainly to significant progress made in East Asia. It is estimated that by 2015 more than 90% of the global population will use improved drinking water sources. Presently 87% of the global population uses an improved water source compared to 77% in 1990.
- Between 1990 and 2006 the proportion of people without improved sanitation decreased by 8%.
- In 1990 almost half the urban population in developing regions were living in slums. By 2005 that proportion had been reduced to 36%.
- Over 12% of the planet was under some sort of environment protection by 2008. Despite economic pressures, many developing countries have managed to protect vast stretches of both land and water. In 2007, for example, the Democratic Republic of the Congo established one of the largest protected tropical rainforests in the world. In Indonesia, seven new marine protected areas, covering a total of 9,000 square kilometres and containing 45 per cent of the region's shallow water ecosystems, were recently established.
- From 1986 to 2007, the 195 countries that are currently party to the Montreal Protocol have achieved a 97% reduction in the consumption of substances that deplete the Earth's ozone layer.
- The EU is on track to meet its green house gas emission reduction targets under the Kyoto protocol, and there is progress towards agreeing a comprehensive new global climate change agreement.
- Since 2000, the focus on Climate Change have increased, with UNDP describing it as the defining human development challenge of the 21st Century. The impacts of Climate Change are seriously undermining progress on the MDGs, affecting water scarcity, food insecurity, reduced agricultural productivity, floods, the loss of low-lying lands and islands, desertification and the spread of vector borne diseases.
- Between 1990 and 2006 global greenhouse gas emissions rose by 31%. The global community has yet to reach an agreement, similar to that reached regarding ozone depleting substances, that will adequately address the climate change challenge.
- Far more effort is needed to protect species and eco-systems under threat. The number of species threatened with extinction continues to rise. Deforestation continues at an alarming rate, with the net global loss between 2000-2005 estimated at 7.3 million hectares per year.
- The percentage of depleted, fully exploited and recovering fish species has increased from 70% in 1995 to over 80% in 2006

<sup>1</sup>Source: UNDP MDG Report 2009

## IRELAND'S POLICY POSITION & RESPONSE

- 2.5 billion people lack access to safe sanitation and almost 900 million lack access to safe drinking water, resulting in an estimated 4,000 child deaths per day from diarrhoea.
- Despite good progress in reducing the proportion of the urban populations in developing countries living in slums, the current housing and energy crisis may slow progress in developing regions and in some cases reverse positive trends.
- The gender roles assigned to women mean that the impact of environmental degradation is greatest on them; they have responsibility for collecting fuel wood, fetching water and caring for livestock. As the environment is degraded, women and girls spend more time on these tasks giving them less time for education and other activities.

- The White Paper on Irish Aid commits it "...to reducing poverty through environmentally sustainable development. We (Irish Aid) recognise the role of the environment in assuring the livelihoods and well-being of the majority of the world's poor". "Irish Aid will support activities across the programme to increase access to safe water and basic sanitation" White Paper on Irish Aid, 2006.
- Irish Aid's environmental policy for sustainable development seeks to promote environmentally sustainable development that is consistent with the economic, social and environmental needs and priorities of people in developing countries and which contributes to poverty reduction.
- Irish Aid recognises access to adequate water and safe sanitation as a basic need and essential for achievement of all MDGs.
- Ireland recognises Climate Change as a further key challenge in our ongoing poverty alleviation efforts. The Irish Government has committed to playing its full role in formulating and implementing a new global climate change agreement. Irish Aid continues to ensure that Climate Change issues are addressed across all components of its work.
- Irish Aid recognises that climate change is adversely affecting human health and that health protection is central to comprehensive climate change adaptation and mitigation policies.

Environmental concerns such as biodiversity loss require both a country level and international response. Partnership with national governments and civil society organisations at country level and international organisations and multilateral institutions at global level under-pin Irish Aid's response towards achieving MDG 7.

In particular Irish Aid;

- Adopts a mainstreaming strategy, building Irish Aid's capacity to raise environmental concerns in dialogue in our programmes and in our advocacy work.
- Engages strategically with international organisations at the forefront of research and advocacy, strongly contributing to key global environmental and climate related fora and processes.
- Published a policy brief in 2009 on Water Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH) to guide our engagement in policy dialogue and programming related to these issues.
- Works directly with governments in nine priority countries. In the water sector, we work with government departments in Zambia, South Africa and Lesotho. In our water and environment work we align with national plans and where possible, we channel funding through emerging Sector Programmes and associated pooled funding mechanisms. Irish Aid supports civil society organisations working at grass roots level on issues related to natural resource use and environmental degradation. They are supported both in service delivery and advocacy related to MDG7.
- In 2010 it is estimated that Irish Aid will invest approximately €10 million in programmes that have a strong development and climate change impact. In 2008 Ireland's contribution to the water and sanitation sector accounted for 2.7% of bilateral aid (approx. €20 million).
- Irish Aid works to mainstream gender equality in its environmental programmes.

# EXAMPLES OF IRISH AID PROGRAMME INTERVENTIONS IN SUPPORT OF MDG 7



NATURE OF INTERVENTION	SPECIFIC EXAMPLE OF IRISH AID RESPONSE	RESULTS
<p><b>STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO ADVANCE POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENT OBJECTIVES</b></p>	<p>Multi-annual joint donor contribution to the Poverty Environment Initiative of UNEP/UNDP<sup>2</sup> (PEI: €7m in 2010). The UN Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) is a global UN-led programme that supports country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national development planning.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support provided to the Governments of Rwanda and Mozambique.</li> <li>• Institutional and capacity strengthening programmes set up in both countries.</li> <li>• Activities to address these countries particular poverty-environment challenges identified and being carried out.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SECTOR WIDE APPROACHES IN WATER AND SANITATION</b></p>	<p>Since 2008, Irish Aid has supported an NGO water supply, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) initiative in Liberia aimed at significantly increasing people's access to safe water and sanitation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for rural water and sanitation, and urban sanitation programmes delivered .</li> <li>• Slums and peri-urban areas of congested cities targeted.</li> <li>• Hygiene promotion increased.</li> <li>• Government capacity to deliver on its coordination, monitoring &amp; supervision tasks improved.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS INTO NATIONAL PROGRAMMES</b></p>	<p>Multi-annual support to joint donor National Safety Nets Programme in Ethiopia (overall €7m in 2010). This programme supports the livelihoods of the poorest people in Ethiopia.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In excess of 34,000 public works programmes delivered each year with a strong focus on addressing environment challenges.</li> <li>• Activities such as soil and water conservation, tree planting, watershed management included.</li> <li>• The environment and local livelihoods benefiting directly while ensuring a positive climate change impact.</li> </ul>
<p><b>EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGES</b></p>	<p>Partnerships to improve food productivity while protecting the environment.</p> <p>In Malawi Irish Aid is working with the national smallholder's farmers association (NASFAM) which aims to achieve sustainable food production while reversing environmental degradation. Irish Aid is also supporting the World Agro-Forestry Centre to work with smallholder farmers to improve their resilience to climate change and other drivers of vulnerability.</p> <p>Irish Aid is supporting FARM-Africa and SOS Sahel Ethiopia to implement the Bale Eco-Region Sustainable Management Programme. This programme works with government to support local communities in the sustainable management of natural resources in the region while contributing to sustainable livelihoods in the local and national economy-particularly marginalized groups (e.g. women, the poorest and youth).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmentally friendly agricultural practices including legume intercropping, crop rotation and reduced tillage promoted.</li> <li>• The World Agro-Forestry Centre supporting 200,000 smallholder famers to promote the planting of fertiliser trees, fruit trees, fodder trees and fuel wood trees to limit soil erosion, improve water management, increase soil fertility and improve agricultural productivity.</li> <li>• Local communities supported to turn traditional activities into income generating enterprises (e.g. bee-keeping, bamboo furniture manufacturing, mead production, wild coffee harvesting). Plans are at an advanced stage to harness support from carbon markets rewarding local communities for their success in reversing forest depletion trends.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup>UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme, UNDP – United Nations Development Programme.

# ETHIOPIA CASE STUDY



*Ali Beker honey farmer in Bale eco-region.*

## Helping to ensure environmental sustainability

The Bale eco-region in southern Ethiopia is home to 1,600 varieties of plants, 300 types of birds and about 250 endangered Ethiopian foxes. The 2,200km<sup>2</sup> area comprises the second largest moist tropical forest in Ethiopia. The close connection between nature and livelihoods is demonstrated by the Bale region's 40 water sources, which benefit over 12 million people in Ethiopia, neighbouring Kenya and Somalia.

Irish Aid has been supporting the conservation of this important natural resource since 2006, through the Bale Eco-Region Sustainable Management Programme which is delivered jointly by FARM-Africa and SOS Sahel Ethiopia. It promotes community forestry management to conserve the forest, so that local people can benefit from its products whilst protecting the resources for future generations.

Gadise Tadesse, from Chiri Village, is a member of one of the Savings and Credit Groups, established by the Programme. Gadise used a loan of €70 to buy honey, which she made into mead, and sold at a profit of 280%. With the proceeds she bought a milk cow and 1,000 eucalyptus seedlings, which she plans to harvest for building materials. Gadise's credit group has doubled its savings from the original grant provided by the programme. This enables more families to have alternative, environmentally sustainable sources of income, and so avoid harmful use of the forest.

Ali Beker's father taught him how to keep bees in the forest, and the community forestry management programme has helped Ali to build on traditional practices. He has received training in bee-keeping and now has more modern and efficient hives. The volume of wild honey now produced by Ali has increased, and his income has doubled. Community leader Hassen Lemo, 65, explained how the programme has benefited the community: "Six years of the programme provides us with knowledge that will benefit us for sixty years. We are managing the forest and value it today differently from the past so that our children will also be able to benefit".

One long-term idea being investigated under the programme is the potential for climate change financing. This would provide funds to the Government and communities in exchange for maintaining the forest, and would assist Ethiopia in meeting the Millennium Development Goal 7 of environment sustainability. Such an initiative would ensure that the value of the Bale eco-region was fully recognised, and the benefits shared at local, national and international levels.

 **Irish Aid**  
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