



Australia’s Preliminary Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Strategy for Resource Mobilisation

Identification of Respondent

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1. Information on International Flows of Financial Resources

This report establishes Australia’s baseline for average annual international biodiversity-related expenditure for the period 2006 - 2010 as **AUD\$98 million** (USD\$88.04 million).

Table 1: International financial flows to developing countries for biodiversity from the Australian Government for the period 2006-2010.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Type of Financial Flows</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Confidence</i>
2006	1.1.1 ODA – Bilateral	Total (Directly + Indirectly related)	\$47,295,900	Medium
2007	1.1.1 ODA – Bilateral	Total (Directly + Indirectly related)	\$56,889,020	Medium
2008	1.1.1 ODA – Bilateral	Total (Directly + Indirectly related)	\$66,269,200	Medium
2009	1.1.1 ODA – Bilateral	Total (Directly + Indirectly related)	\$68,463,120	Medium
2010	1.1.1 ODA – Bilateral	Total (Directly + Indirectly related)	\$179,906,380	Medium
2006	1.2 Other Public Funds	Total (Directly + Indirectly related)	\$4,236,600	Medium
2007	1.2 Other Public Funds	Total (Directly + Indirectly related)	\$4,518,100	Medium
2008	1.2 Other Public Funds	Total (Directly + Indirectly related)	\$1,682,700	Medium
2009	1.2 Other Public Funds	Total (Directly + Indirectly related)	\$21,281,700	Medium
2010	1.2 Other Public Funds	Total (Directly + Indirectly related)	\$39,660,000	Medium
		Total	\$490,202,720	
		Average 2006-2010	\$98,040,544	

Comment

Table 1 establishes a baseline for average annual international biodiversity-related financial flows from Australia to developing countries for the period 2006-2010 of AUD\$98 million per annum. Data included in Table 1 was extracted from official Australian Government reports.

The Australian Government has adopted a phased approach to reporting implementation of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Private sector funds, including from business and non-government organisations will be reported in future years.

The Australian Government is working with the newly established CBD Australian Business and Biodiversity Initiative to develop an appropriate framework to report on private sector implementation of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy in Australia and will commence reporting to the CBD once this framework has been established.

Australia's financial year runs from July 1 to June 30. Data reported for the 2006 - 2007 financial year are reported here as 2006. This reporting process is repeated for every subsequent year (ie 2006 – 2010)

No distinction has been made between direct or indirect impacts on biodiversity.

2. Information on the Availability of Financial Resources in each country

Activities undertaken in Australia and funded by the Australian Government that support implementation of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy are set out in Australia's fifth national report to the CBD.

3. Information on the Steps Being Taken to Implement the Strategy for Resource Mobilisation

3.1 Assessment of the values of biodiversity

Australia's Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 2010-30 recognises that national biodiversity accounting has an important role in demonstrating the extent and condition of biodiversity and ecosystem services in Australia. Such accounts would support public policy and evaluation and ensure that the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services is realistically reflected alongside Australia's national economic and social indicators.

Australia is in the process of developing a series of national environmental-economic accounts, consistent with the international framework of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), adopted by the United Nations in 2012. National accounts for biodiversity and ecosystem services will sit alongside other environmental accounts within the broader framework of the SEEA, which itself will sit alongside the System of National Accounts (SNA).

The SEEA was adopted as an international statistical standard by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 43rd meeting in 2012. As an international statistical standard the SEEA now has the same status as the SNA, from which key economic indicators such as GDP (gross domestic product) emerge. The adoption of the SEEA by the United Nation's peak statistical body is a significant milestone in the on-going development of information to support the needs of government, industry and the general public in the area of environmental policy.

The SEEA is a measurement framework that can provide a range of metrics that link information on the economy and the environment. This integration of information is achieved by the use of common frameworks, classifications and standards, providing an integrated database for policy analysis and decision making.

The SEEA has its roots in the SNA. The SNA is a framework that measures economic activity and organises a wide range of economic data into a structured set of accounts. It defines the concepts, classifications and accounting rules needed to do this. The SNA measures economic activity in monetary terms and such valuation is usually based on market transactions. In a limited number of cases where market transactions do not occur but the transactions are very similar to market transactions, the value is approximated using a range of internationally agreed techniques. The SEEA extends the SNA by recording environmental data that are usually available in physical or quantitative terms in conjunction with the economic data in monetary terms from the SNA. The power of the SEEA comes from its capacity to present information in both physical and monetary terms in a coherent manner.

Parallel to developing a national system of environmental-economic accounts, the Australian Government is implementing a National Plan for Environmental Information (NPEI). The NPEI is a particularly important initiative as environmental accounts must be underpinned by regular and reliable environmental information.

3.2 Identification and reporting funding needs, funding gaps and funding priorities

Refer to Australia's fifth national report to the CBD

3.3 Development of national financial plans for biodiversity

Refer to Australia's fifth national report to the CBD

3.4 Integrated consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in development plans and strategies

N/A

3.5 Country integrated consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in national budgets

Refer to Australia's fifth national report to the CBD

4. Information on specific issues related to resource availability

4.1 Technical cooperation, capacity building and South-South cooperation

All relevant international contributions to technical cooperation and capacity building have been reported in Section 1 under bilateral ODA. There are no instances of non-ODA technical cooperation or capacity building to report at this time.

4.1.1 North-South technical cooperation and capacity building provided

N/A

4.1.2 Support to South-South technical cooperation and capacity building through triangular cooperation

N/A

4.2 Resources raised through reform of incentives and subsidies

No information currently available.

4.3 New and innovative financial mechanisms

The Australian Government is currently working with the private and not-for-profit sector to gather information on new and innovative financial mechanisms in Australia.

4.4 Access and benefit sharing of genetic resources initiatives and mechanisms consistent with the Convention

A number of legislative regimes regulating access and benefit-sharing have been enacted in Australia. The broad objective of these regimes is to maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits arising from the use of Australia's native genetic and biochemical resources.

5. Activity Classification

Comment

Australia recommends that the Secretariat consider the utilisation of the categorisation system contained within the System of Environmental Economic Accounts (SEEA) be adopted for the Resource Mobilisation Strategy. The United Nations is developing a system of integrated classifications regarding environmental activities within an overarching framework of Classification of Environmental Activities (CEA). The definition of activities and their classification is an important part of the SEEA, and its utilisation would provide for greater clarity, consistency and comparability in ongoing reporting.