

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT REDUCES POVERTY

...towards a safe and just world



New Zealand's International
Aid & Development Agency

A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT REDUCES POVERTY

The paddles that bring growth from afar

Nga Hoe Tuputupu-mai-tawhiti

NZAID



A healthy

We all rely on our environment for food, water and shelter; to regulate the climate and absorb waste; and as a basis of culture and spiritual connection.

Poor communities depend on their environment even more directly in their daily lives: the stream for water, the local reef and the soils where they live for each day's food.

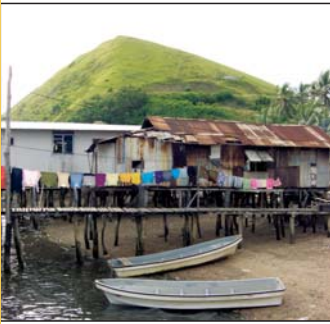
Poor people are therefore more vulnerable to changes in their environment. They also have limited options for changing their use of the environment. Community solutions to using the environment sustainably are particularly important for NZAID's development partners.

“Environmental sustainability is the foundation... for improving human health and well-being.”

Investing in Development (2005) Millennium Project Report to the UN Secretary-General

environment reduces poverty

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CASE STUDIES

Bouma eco-tourism

Fijian communities in Bouma Fiji have, with NZAID assistance, voluntarily conserved one of the largest areas of protected forest in Fiji – as well as an important marine reserve – by developing community-based ecotourism. This environmental protection has enabled them to sustain social and economic development achievements.



What is

The objective of sustainable development is to eradicate poverty while protecting and managing natural resources. The Johannesburg Plan Of Implementation (2002) asserts that *"poverty eradication, changing unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are... essential requirements for sustainable development."*

Sustainable development means finding ways to balance a healthy environment with peoples' social and economic goals.

We cannot have sustainable development unless we take the environment into account. This is why NZAID works with our development partners to protect, and where possible improve, the natural environment – particularly for those most vulnerable to environmental change and least able to manage this for themselves.

"Sustainable development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

*World Commission on Environment and Development,
The Bruntland Commission, 1987.*

sustainable development?

WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?



Controlling invasive species in the Pacific

The introduction of invasive species has had a significant impact on day to day livelihoods in the Pacific. An example is the Viwa Island Community in Fiji where rats and canetoads cause crop damage and pollute the water supply. These pests also threaten the survival of native species such as the Fijian ground frog.

With the help of NZAID, the Pacific Invasives Initiative, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP), communities such as Viwa are working to prevent the spread of invasive species and to trial eradication programmes. This can lead to practical improvements in peoples' lives and the conservation of biodiversity.



NZAID helps

NZAID seeks to ensure a protected and improved natural environment so that our partners may achieve sustainable development and eliminate poverty. This reflects New Zealand's commitment to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Millennium Development Goals.

NZAID will support our partners to improve the capacity of poor people to manage:

- natural resources
- natural disasters
- climate change
- access to technology.

We will also help our partners to improve environmental governance, especially for poor communities by:

- bringing environmental issues fully into national planning
- developing locally appropriate laws and systems
- assisting with land and resource access issues, and
- including communities in decision-making.

“Human activities are causing environmental damage on a massive scale throughout the world and ... biodiversity – the very basis for life on Earth – is declining at an alarming rate... Only by valuing all our precious natural and human resources can we hope to build a sustainable future.”

Kofi Annan: address to launch the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 30/3/2005.

people to better manage their environment

NZAID HELPS PEOPLE TO BETTER
MANAGE THEIR ENVIRONMENT



CASE STUDIES

Managing urban water supply in the Pacific

NZAID supports activities under a regional partnership for improving access to water and sanitation, coordinated by the Secretariat for the Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC). Under the partnership, Pacific countries have identified environmental pressure caused by urban water supply systems as a priority concern. Many countries have problems with losing more water through leakage than is able to be delivered to the tap. This in turn puts unnecessary pressure on limited local water supplies and natural ecosystems.

With NZAID support, SOPAC and the regional partners are helping Pacific countries to develop urban water management plans, and to repair and maintain reticulation systems over the long-term.

We gratefully acknowledge the photographers and the copyright holders.



If you want to know more...

...about NZAID's environment policy, *A healthy environment reduces poverty*, please contact NZAID's communications team on communications@nzaid.govt.nz or at our postal address: **Private Bag 18-901, Wellington.**

For a copy of the policy or any other NZAID policies visit our website: www.nzaid.govt.nz

Other useful web addresses are:

Development Resource Centre (Dev-Zone) – www.dev-zone.org
or email: schools@globaled.org.nz

NZ Council for International Development (CID), the NGO umbrella group – www.cid.org.nz

AusAID, the Australian government's overseas aid programme – www.ausaid.gov.au

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID) – www.dfid.gov.au

Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC) – www.sourceoecd.org/environment

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – www.unep.org

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) – www.undp.org

Asian Development Bank (ADB) – www.adb.org

The World Bank – www.worldbank.org

The Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) – www.sprep.org

The Secretariat of the Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) – www.sopac.org

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) – www.wwf.org

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – www.iucn.org

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – www.tnc.org

