

WORLD BANK: Environmental Mandate & Activities

The World Bank

Environmental mandate

Concern for the environment is growing in developing countries. Environmental resources - fresh water, clean air, forests, grasslands, marine resources, and agro-ecosystems - provide sustenance and a foundation for social and economic development. The World Bank's environment strategy closes the gap between development and the environment by placing developing country priorities with three objectives:

Improving the quality of life - people's health, livelihood, and vulnerability - affected by environmental conditions;

Improving the quality of growth - by supporting policy, regulatory, and institutional frameworks for sustainable environmental management, and by promoting sustainable private development; and

Protecting the quality of the regional and global commons such as climate change, forests, water resources, and biodiversity.

Global Environmental Public Goods - As an implementing agency of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the Bank has been in the forefront of addressing global environmental issues. Through its Carbon Finance Unit, the Bank provides support to the efforts of mitigating climate change and contributes to the establishment of global carbon finance market. As one of the largest financiers of biodiversity projects, the World Bank is committed to helping those who are dependent on natural resources.

Socially responsible investment - The World Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility Practice advises developing country governments on the public policy roles and instruments that they can most usefully deploy to encourage corporate social responsibility. Internally, the Bank's Environmental and Social Sustainability initiative — its own approach to corporate social responsibility - is seeking to achieve best environmental practice in the Bank's physical facilities as well as its corporate and operational procurement.

Environmental activities

- Natural resources management – biodiversity, climate change, coastal and marine management, forests & forestry, land resources management, water resources management
- Pollution management and environmental health
- Environmental economics and indicators
- Global environmental management
- Environmental and social sustainability