Biodiversity-related Official Development Assistance

These statistics present bilateral ODA data up to 2014, based on DAC members’ reporting on the biodiversity Rio marker to the Creditor Reporting System (CRS)\(^1\). For more information, see methodology box on last page. 2015 data will be published by end-2016. Detailed project-level data is publicly available at [http://oe.cd/RioMarkers](http://oe.cd/RioMarkers).

- Total bilateral biodiversity-related ODA commitments by members of OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) increased over the past decade, reaching USD 6.44 billion per year on average in 2012-14, representing 4.8% of total bilateral ODA.
- Germany, United States and EU institutions provided 45% of total biodiversity-related ODA over 2012-14.
- Development co-operation activities for biodiversity often target multiple environmental objectives. In 2012-14: - 77% of biodiversity projects simultaneously target mitigation, adaptation and desertification objectives, and - 51% of biodiversity projects also target gender equality priorities.
- Asia received the highest share of bilateral biodiversity-related ODA in 2007-14 (30%), with 61% of these activities targeting biodiversity as their prime objective.

How much bilateral ODA is going towards biodiversity?

![Chart 1. Trends in biodiversity-related ODA, three-year averages](http://oe.cd/RioMarkers)

Note: Chart 1 presents a trend based on averages over three years, so as to smooth fluctuations from large multi-year projects programmed and committed in a given year. Since reporting on biodiversity Rio marker became mandatory for DAC members in 2007, the increase in ODA after 2007 might in part be attributed to improved coverage.

Development co-operation activities for biodiversity often target multiple objectives, related to environmental and other policy priorities, e.g. climate change and gender equality. In 2012-14, 77% of total biodiversity-related activities simultaneously pursued mitigation, adaptation and desertification objectives (see Figure 1 for overlap shares with individual markers). This signals that DAC members exploit the co-benefits between biodiversity and other environmental objectives in their ODA portfolios. The nexus, particularly with climate change (adaptation and mitigation), is likely to drive the upward trend in total biodiversity-related ODA. Moreover, gender equality priorities have also been increasingly mainstreamed in biodiversity-related ODA, as DAC members harness the synergies between different policy priorities. Over 2012-14, 51% of biodiversity-related ODA also targeted gender objectives, which is an increase from a share of 40% in 2009-11 (Chart 2).

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\(^1\) While earmarked contributions channelled through multilateral organisations are included in bilateral figures, this data does not capture core contributions to multilateral agencies, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Multilateral Development Banks are in a process of developing a joint approach for the reporting of biodiversity finance, with the aim to agree a joint methodology in 2016, and provide initial estimates in 2017.

Updated April 2016, OECD DAC
[http://oe.cd/RioMarkers](http://oe.cd/RioMarkers)
Biodiversity-related ODA commitments by DAC members

**Germany, United States and EU institutions** together provided **45%** of total biodiversity-related ODA over 2012-14 (Chart 3). United States, Germany and Japan are the top three development co-operation providers targeting biodiversity as a principal objective. Iceland, Norway and Denmark dedicated to biodiversity activities the highest shares of their ODA portfolios (17%, 15% and 12% respectively).

**Over 2012-2014, 86% of bilateral biodiversity-related ODA were grants** (inc. grant-like ODA and equity investment), with the rest constituting ODA loans. This represents a shift towards grants since 2009-11, when the grant component was 78%, signalling a possible change in the preferred instruments used by donors in their biodiversity-related ODA portfolios. In overall ODA, however, there was a move in the opposite direction, from the grant share of 86% in 2009-11, to 78% in 2012-14.
Which sectors are targeted by bilateral biodiversity-related ODA commitments?

Biodiversity projects are concentrated in: general environment protection; agriculture, forestry, fishing & rural development; and water supply & sanitation (Chart 4), with 77% of total biodiversity-related ODA flowing to these sectors over 2007-14. Of total ODA to sector, biodiversity-related finance represents a significant share in forestry (67%) and fishing (30%), but considerably less in agriculture (14%) and tourism (12%). In transport, industry, mining, and construction – the sectors which have important implications for biodiversity – cumulatively just 0.6% of total ODA to these sectors targets biodiversity activities, suggesting a significant potential for biodiversity mainstreaming.

Chart 4. Five main sectors receiving biodiversity-related ODA
Average 2007-14, bilateral commitments, USD billion, constant 2014 prices

Where is bilateral biodiversity-related ODA flowing to?

Asia received the highest share of bilateral biodiversity-related ODA in 2007-14 (30%), followed closely by Africa (29%) (Chart 5). The vast majority (61%) of biodiversity-related ODA flowing to Asia target biodiversity as their prime objective (marked principal), while for Africa this share stands at 30%. South America stands out as a sub-region receiving 12% of biodiversity-related ODA in 2007-14, which is significantly higher than South America’s 3% share of total bilateral ODA commitments.

Chart 5. Geographical distribution of bilateral biodiversity-related ODA
Average 2007-14, bilateral commitments, USD million, constant 2014 prices

[Diagram and chart images are described in the text.]
A large share of biodiversity-related ODA is “unspecified” (i.e. not earmarked to a country or region) (Charts 5 and 7). This reflects finance for international and multi-regional activities, programmes and funds, as well as research-based activities. An example is the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, which supports developing countries in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and fostering sustainable forest management.

The top five recipients of bilateral biodiversity-related ODA over 2007-14 were India, Brazil, Viet Nam, China and Indonesia (Chart 6), which together accounted for nearly 21% of total biodiversity-related ODA. Biodiversity considerations are heavily mainstreamed into ODA commitments to Guyana and Panama, with 40% and 38% respectively of bilateral ODA targeting biodiversity-related activities, followed by Brazil (27%) and Azerbaijan (20%).

Nearly half of bilateral biodiversity-related ODA flows to middle-income countries, whereas 24% flows to least developed countries and other low-income countries (Chart 7). The relative skew towards middle-income countries can partly be explained by high volumes of biodiversity-related ODA directed to Brazil and China, which are upper middle-income countries, and India, Viet Nam and Indonesia, which are lower middle-income countries.

### Chart 6. Top 10 recipients of biodiversity-related ODA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Principal objective</th>
<th>Significant objective</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% in total biodiversity ODA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viet Nam</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Box: Rio marker methodology

Since 1998, Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has monitored development finance targeting the objectives of the Rio Conventions through DAC members’ reporting on the Rio markers. The Rio markers are mainly used by bilateral donors, to indicate their policy objectives in relation to each activity. Every development co-operation activity reported to the CRS should be screened and marked as either (i) targeting the Conventions as a “principal” objective or a “significant” objective, or (ii) not targeting the objective. Activities marked as “principal” would not have been funded but for that objective; activities marked “significant” have other prime objectives but have been formulated or adjusted to help meet biodiversity concerns.

The Rio markers are descriptive rather than strictly quantitative. They allow for an approximate quantification of financial flows targeting the objectives of the Rio conventions. The figures presented in this flyer may not be identical to the figures reported by Parties to the CBD, where reporting is often based on, but may not be directly comparable to Rio marker data.

**Definition and Criteria for Eligibility**

Biodiversity-related development finance is defined as activities that promote at least one of the three objectives of the Convention: the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of its components (ecosystems, species or genetic resources), or fair and equitable sharing of the benefits of the utilisation of genetic resources.

An activity can be marked with the biodiversity Rio marker if it contributes to:

- a. protection of or enhancing ecosystems, species or genetic resources through in-situ or ex-situ conservation, or remedying existing environmental damage; or
- b. integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services concerns within recipient countries’ development objectives and economic decision making, through institution building, capacity development, strengthening the regulatory and policy framework, or research; or
- c. developing countries’ efforts to meet their obligations under the Convention.

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http://oe.cd/RioMarkers