

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E589_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

CSIRO's 2002/2003 Annual Report (page 21) states that "*The GRA Water Action Council Group, of which CSIRO is a lead player, is developing a number of multi-million dollar research proposals for major funding agencies such as the World Bank...and leading charitable foundations.*"

How many of these proposals were submitted?

To whom, and when? (I refer here to agencies and charities, not to government funding.)

What was the cost of developing and advocating these submissions?

What has been the result of each of them?
Please provide a full list?

What funding has been raised as a result of these submissions?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Global Research Alliance - Water Action Council Group

1) In the Water Action Council group, one multi-million dollar expression of interest (EOI) was submitted by the GRA on 31 March 2004.

This EOI was submitted by invitation to participate in Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) and Social Impact Assessment (SIA) studies for the Kalpasar Project, to the Gujarat State Government (India). It was submitted by CSIR India as Lead Agency through the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation.

The total cost of preparing this submission is unknown as CSIRO did not take the lead. CSIRO provided in kind support to the value of \$5,800.

We are awaiting the outcome.

2) CSIRO led the successful GRA bid to develop the ASEAN Strategic Plan of Action on Water Resources Management in the ASEAN member countries, valued at \$372,521. A key part of this work was to formulate the next phase of strategy implementation. This involved designing 11 specific project proposals in partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat for the AWGWRM (ASEAN Working Group for Water Resources Management), targeting the Asian Development Bank as the potential funding agency for these projects.

3) After winning the competitive tender, The Global Environment Foundation (GEF) is funding, through the World Bank, an assessment by the GRA (including CSIRO Energy Technology), of the progress and impediments to success of their solar thermal projects in four countries (Egypt, Morocco, India, and Mexico). The GEF investment was \$283,000.

4) During the last six months CSIRO, together with external partners including the GRA, has developed a pipeline of 22 international project proposals. These have been selected primarily on their synergy with CSIRO's research objectives and utilises a partnership approach in order to access resources, capabilities and environments otherwise not available. This approach has broadened the access international funding agencies, but requires long lead times for project fruition, typically around 3 years.

5) The President of the World Bank, Mr James Wolfensohn, has approached CSIRO to develop a direct partnership with the World Bank. CSIRO's international expertise - experience in more than 60 countries spanning decades, and ability to pull in international collaborators such as GRA members and other well developed relationships, led to this initiative. To initiate the partnership, a pilot project is being designed to develop a methodology to support national scale investment decisions in developing countries, with AusAID support of up to \$2million.

6) Following GRA's raising of profile and last year's demonstration of capability to collaborate effectively in development projects, it was agreed at the Principals' Meeting in February this year to: -

- i) commence developing a number of pro-active proposals for submission to Foundations and Agencies, in the water, energy, digital divide and health sectors. CSIRO is taking the lead in collaboration with Fraunhofer, Germany in the water and energy sectors;
- ii) commence stream-lining the response to tender process, led by DTI Denmark who have considerable experience in managing large scale multi-disciplinary projects.