

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E590_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Mr Baghai argued to estimates hearings on 4 June 2003 that CSIRO was “pushing” this idea with global foundations.

Which foundations are now funding these projects? How much have they invested?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Global Research Alliance - Foundations

1) 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 the Solarthermal projects in four countries (Egypt, Morocco, India, and Mexico). The GEF investment was \$283,000.

2) The President of the World Bank, Mr James Wolfensohn, 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.

3) The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. In a three-part competitive process involving 12,000 scientists, CSIRO, from a starting position of almost no international profile associated with developing country health issues, reached the short list second stage and were invited to submit two project proposals for \$20million and \$17 million, respectively. The collaborators in these two projects already started work and are developing alternative funding routes for part of these proposals. The Director of CSIRO Global Development has been invited by the Research Director of the Gates Foundation to discuss CSIRO work in 2005.

4) CSIRO was invited to become the Water Topic Guide for the Development Gateway, an ICT based initiative originated by the World Bank, which brings together over 400,000 projects in development. It is the database used by the IMF, UN and others. The Water Topic Guide leads, on a global scale, the issues, responses, understanding, and learnings related to water issues in developing countries, and is backed by the GRA (<http://topics.developmentgateway.org/water>). 5296 members of the International Development community subscribe to the Water Topic Page. CSIRO worked closely with AusAID who set up the Country Gateway, to ensure that Australian water expertise in general also has exposure through the Development Gateway portal.

5) The GRA Principals' Meeting in 2005 adopted CSIRO's strategy to create partnerships directly with key institutions such as the World Bank (the success of which is highlighted above), as well as developing a systematic procurement strategy.

CSIRO's Global Development team focuses on CSIRO Strategic Goal 3. "Partnering for Community Impact: Partnerships with other agencies to advance Australia's global development contributions". Responsible for delivering foundation/development aspects of this Goal, guiding by the overall outcome of increasing the impact of science on development issues.

In addition to creating partnerships with large funding institutions, CSIRO's strategy also included has developing partnerships for delivery, both nationally and internationally, and highlighting global awareness of CSIRO and Australia's strong and respected history of often innovative development work, at both the technical level as well as broader policy input. This includes keynote speaker invitations to global policy and development strategy forums (e.g. Science and Technology for Society Forum, Kyoto, Nov 05 www.stsforum.org; Berkeley-UN 'Technology, Innovation and Learning in Developing Economies' conference April 05 bridge.berkeley.edu/conference.html), and developing the national innovation system frameworks for developing countries (current examples - Botswana, Rwanda).