

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E591_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

CSIRO's press release of 6 February 2003 confirmed that "The Alliance will be close ties with institutions such as the World Bank in the near future."

What close ties have been formed?

What funding has the World Bank invested?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Global Research Alliance - Close Ties

Development of ties with these institutions is at the stage where the World Bank and the UN are initiating workshops and discussions of GRA initiatives. These include:

1. 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.
2. One key factor in establishing credibility and close ties has been the need to demonstrate the ability for the GRA Institutes to bring the value of their combined expertise to projects initiated by the World Bank. During the last year this has been done effectively through the ASEAN Strategic Action Plan on Water Resources Management and through the Global Environment Foundation (GEF) funded project to assess the progress and impediments to success of the World Bank Solar thermal projects in four countries (Egypt, Morocco, India, and Mexico). The GEF through the World Bank investment was \$283,000.
3. The Chief Knowledge & Learning Officer for the World Bank, Mr Nicolas Gorjestani, attended the GRA Champions workshop in 2004 to study the dynamics of the Alliance in order to propagate the model of cross-member engagement, and it was recorded as a set of categorised video summaries.
4. The World Bank initiated a joint workshop with the GRA, and organised and contributed support funding for an Indigenous Knowledge workshop held in S Africa in Feb 2005. The lead at the World Bank for this was Mr Nicolas Gorjestani, who also attended the GRA Principals' meeting in Melbourne, March 2005 to report on the activities, and to initiate a more formalised World Bank partnership with GRA in this area. Follow up meetings with the World Bank are

planned for April with GRA principals from: CSIRO, Australia; Battelle, USA; CSIR S.Africa and CSIR India collaborating.

5. The GRA Principals' Meeting in 2005 adopted CSIRO's strategy to create partnerships directly with key institutions such as the World Bank, as well as developing a systematic procurement strategy.