

International Affairs

Aid and the environment. A briefing for the House of Commons Environmental Audit Select Committee

The NAO have compiled this briefing for the Environmental Audit Committee in support of the inquiry it is undertaking on the impact of UK overseas aid on environmental protection and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

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The Summary of this briefing sets out the key points arising from our research. It is supported by five Parts which provide relevant material in a series of readily assimilable graphics and explanatory notes. The format enables the reader to gain an overview of the topic and explore particular points of interest.

The Briefing covers the following areas:

- Part 1 provides information on the departments involved in providing aid and the ways in which they deliver it;
- Part 2 provides an analysis of recent UK expenditure on aid for environmental protection and climate change, the UK's commitment to provide 'Fast Start' funding, and the planned expansion of aid for climate change during 2011-12 to 2014-15;
- Part 3 sets out how DFID's previous performance framework established under the last government addressed environmental protection and climate change; the present government's priorities for environmental protection and climate change, including plans to develop performance indicators; and progress against the United Nation's Millennium Development Goal for ensuring environmental sustainability;
- Part 4 describes current developments within DFID, including its intention to become more "climate smart" by ensuring that its programmes take account of, and are resilient to, climate change. It also provides information on DFID's current reviews of its aid programmes; and
- Part 5 describes the international framework for monitoring and reporting aid expenditure, and the comparative performance of the UK against other donors.

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