



# Building a sustainable future: Managing resources

**Economic growth in developing countries is dependent on natural resources, including food, water, energy, oceans and minerals. Sustainably managing these natural resources is critical to successful, long-term development.**

Australia is helping improve natural resource management at many levels by supporting developing countries to use natural resources to grow their economies and provide social benefits to their people. Australian aid is also supporting the poor to improve agricultural productivity, infrastructure, social and environmental protection, and to access new market opportunities.



Photo: Rob Maccoll, AusAID

## Food security through rural development

When food is scarce in communities, people prioritise it above everything else to ensure their survival. The Food Security through Rural Development Initiative is part of Australia's response to these challenges. The initiative addresses the immediate needs of the poorest by improving access and availability to food.

Australia is working with partner governments in Asia, the Pacific and Africa to strengthen the long-term food security by improving agricultural productivity, improving rural livelihoods and strengthening community resilience.

## Improving global food security

Australia supports the work of multilateral and regional institutions to improve global food security. For example we work with the World Food Programme to improve funding certainty and allow it to better plan assistance for humanitarian emergencies and the World Bank to support nationally-endorsed agricultural development programs.



Photo: Kate Holt, Africa Practice



Photo: Bart Verweij, AusAID



Photo: International Finance Corporation

## Managing water resources in the Mekong

The 'Australian Mekong Water Resources Program is helping the countries of the Mekong Subregion to more equitably and efficiently use and manage water resources. The Program supports national governments in the region to develop capacity and policies on agriculture, hydropower, flood preparedness and mining.

## Mining for development

High commodity prices and the depletion of mineral reserves in developed countries have seen an unprecedented increase in minerals exploration in developing countries.

Through the Mining for Development Initiative, Australia works with academic institutions, governments and NGOs to help developing countries benefit from their resources in a socially, environmentally and economically sustainable way.

## Improving access to clean and affordable energy in the Pacific

Ensuring adequate, reliable, affordable and environmentally-responsible supplies of energy is critical for job creation, improving competition and increasing prosperity in developing countries. Australia is supporting improved access to clean and affordable energy in the Pacific and a framework endorsed by Pacific Leaders at the 2010 Pacific Islands Forum.

## Sustainable oceans in the Coral Triangle

Countries in the Coral Triangle—East Timor, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Solomon Islands—recognise the critical need to fortify productive coastal ecosystems against the impacts of climate change. This can be done by reducing over-fishing, maintaining habitats and addressing destructive fishing practices.

Australia is a partner of the Coral Triangle Initiative, which protects and enhances the livelihoods of some 240 million people who depend on coastal marine resources for food and livelihoods.