Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Defra's Official Development Assistance

Annual results estimates report 2026

November 2026

We are responsible for improving and protecting the environment. We aim to grow a green economy and sustain thriving rural communities. We also support our world-leading food, farming and fishing industries.

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List of acronyms
AHSS Animal Health Systems Strengthening
CBD Convention on Biological Diversity
CHIPP Blue Planet Fund: Championing Inclusivity in Plastic Pollution
DAC Development Assistance Committee
Defra Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DESNZ Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
DI Defra International
DSIT Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
EBF Eco.Business Fund
EPP Environmental Pollution Programme
FAO Food and Agriculture Organization
FCDO Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
GBF Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
GBP Great British Pounds
GCBC Global Centre for Biodiversity and Climate
GFCR Global Fund for Coral Reefs
GPAP Global Plastic Action Partnership
GPS Global Program on Sustainability
IATI International Aid Transparency Initiative
ICF International Climate Finance
IPM Integrated Pest Management
IWT Illegal Wildlife Trade
KPI Key Performance Indicator
LCA Low Carbon Agriculture
LDNF Land Degradation Neutrality Fund
LLF Legacy Landscapes Fund
MEA Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MPA Marine Protected Area
OCEAN Ocean Community Empowerment and Nature
OCPP Blue Planet Fund: Ocean Country Partnerships Programme
ODA Official Development Assistance
OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECM Other Effective Conservation Measure
ORRAA Blue Planet Fund: Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance
PA Protected area
R&D Research and development
SCCCS Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain Solutions
SDG Sustainable Development Goal
TA Technical Assistance
TNFD Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures
USD United States Dollars

Main findings

Defra's ODA programming has delivered the following results in developing countries:

- from April 2019 to March 2026, over 3 million hectares were brought under sustainable management practices, nearly triple last year's figure
- from April 2021 to March 2026, over 878,000 tonnes of solid waste and pollution were avoided
- from April 2016 to March 2026, over 282,000 people benefitted from new or strengthened livelihoods
- from April 2022 to March 2025, over 48,000 people benefitted from improved tenure or access rights

Total achieved results

The cumulative results for Defra International (DI) key performance indicators (KPIs) up to March 2026 are summarised in **Table 1**. A detailed breakdown of reported results for each KPI is provided in Sections 1 and 2.

Table 1: Cumulative results for Defra International (DI) KPIs up to March 2026

Theme	KPI number	KPI name and unit	Reporting period	Achieved result
Biodiversity	DI KPI 1	Area under ecological management, restoration and protection (hectares)	April 2019 to March 2026	3,262,653 hectares
Biodiversity	DI KPI 1a	Sub-indicator: Area supported through restoration practices (hectares)	April 2019 to March 2026	154,025 hectares
Biodiversity	DI KPI 5	Solid waste and pollution avoided (tonnes)	April 2021 to March 2026	878,328 tonnes
Poverty	DI KPI 7	People benefitting from strengthened or new livelihoods (count)	April 2016 to March 2026	282,679 people
Poverty	DI KPI 8	People with improved tenure or access rights (count)	April 2022 to March 2025	48,702 people

Introduction

Official Development Assistance (ODA) is defined as resource flows to developing countries and multilateral organisations, which are provided by official agencies, like the UK government, or their executive agencies. It aligns to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) definitions of ODA.

Defra is one of several government departments to administer the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget, accounting for around 1.5% of UK ODA in 2025. Defra's ODA programming supports developing countries to reduce poverty, tackle climate change and halt and reverse global nature loss. As for all UK ODA, it must also contribute to gender equality.

This report presents initial results estimates for a selection of the Defra International (DI) KPIs up to March 2026. The DI KPIs are designed to complement our reporting on climate impacts through the annual UK government International Climate Finance (ICF) KPIs. Reporting periods vary by indicator, depending on data availability. The period covered by each KPI is shown in the section above. In addition, all results in this release are estimates based on programme-level data, which contain a level of uncertainty – for more information, see Section 3: Data quality.

We also include case studies from programmes to explain the stories behind the results achieved through Defra's ODA. For more information on the DI KPIs, plus other available data on ODA programmes, see How we measure impact.

Section 1 presents biodiversity metrics, followed by Section 2 which shows our poverty-focused results and Section 3 on data quality. Finally, Section 4 presents a summary of Defra's portfolio of ODA programming as of 2026.

Current results context and quality

18 of 39 (46%) current and historic Defra ODA programmes have now reported results against at least one of these indicators. Results cover the period April 2016 to March 2026 with the exact period covered by each indicator varying. This is an improvement in coverage since last year when 13 programmes were reporting results and will account for some of the current and historic increases in results.

Crucially, we do not expect all programmes to have reported on the indicators as they may have been designed and/or closed before the KPIs existed. Some programmes will not have reported on all relevant indicators due to capacity constraints, data limitations, reporting lags, or considerations of programme relevance and proportionality. Overall, we always aim to provide a conservative estimate of Defra ODA results rather than overclaim our impact. We expect reporting coverage to continue increasing over time as the DI KPIs become more established.

For more information on Defra's full ODA results reporting framework, including updates on potential additional indicators under consideration for future years' reporting, see Table 2 in How we measure impact. For more information on data quality, see Section 3: Data quality.

Section 1: Biodiversity reporting

This section presents data for the 3 sub-indicators that are aggregated and reported under DI KPI 1 ‘area under ecological management, restoration and protection (hectares)’. It also includes, for the first time, data reported under DI KPI 5 ‘Solid Waste and Pollution Avoided (tonnes)’. One case study of Defra’s ODA work in these areas is included for each KPI.

DI KPI 1: area under ecological management, restoration and protection as a result of Defra ODA support

Definition

This indicator aggregates 3 area-based sub-indicators to report the headline indicator DI KPI 1 ‘Area under ecological management, restoration and protection (hectares)’. These are:

- ICF KPI 17: area under sustainable management practices (hectares)
- DI KPI 1a: area under restoration practices (hectares)
- DI KPI 1b: area designated as protected or other effective conservation measure (OECM) (hectares)

Together these indicators measure the area that has benefitted from sustainable management, restoration or protection as a direct result of Defra ODA funding. These types of interventions are essential for improving biodiversity and nature’s contributions to people.

Programmes are reporting against all 3 sub-indicators. As reporting for DI KPI 1b does not meet our publication threshold, the results are aggregated with ICF KPI 17 results.

For this indicator, the total hectares reported is broken down into 3 areas:

1. the country where the area is located
2. the area’s ecosystem type
3. the type of practice implemented

Over time, reporting with this disaggregation will provide insights into the mechanisms and focus of our programming that will support learning, evaluation and future programming design for increased impact. All programmes reporting provided some disaggregation. However, this was not always across all 3 areas.

Results

The total number of hectares benefitting from ecological management, protection and restoration from April 2019 to March 2026 is 3,262,653 hectares, an increase of 197% on last year's figure (1,099,353 hectares). Some of this increase will be due to an increased number of programmes reporting in 2026, including reporting retrospectively on previous years. Of this total:

- 154,025 hectares benefitted from restoration practices (DI KPI 1a) because of Defra ODA support, reported by 5 programmes, a 673% increase on last year's figure (driven by an increase in reporting for the year ending March 2025)
- 3,108,628 hectares benefitted from either sustainable management (ICF KPI 17) or protection (DI KPI 1b) practices through Defra ODA support, reported by 14 programmes, a 188% increase on last year's ICF KPI 17 figure

The results were reported by 14 programmes, an increase of 5 programmes since last year. These are:

- Biodiverse Landscapes Fund
- Environmental Pollution Programme
- Ocean Community Empowerment and Nature
- PROBLUE
- Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance
- Global Fund for Coral Reefs
- Blue Forests
- UK Blue Carbon Fund
- Darwin Initiative Challenge Fund
- Darwin Plus Challenge Fund
- Eco.Business Fund
- Land Degradation Neutrality Fund
- Rural Sustentavel
- Cities4Forests

Of these, 5 programmes reported on DI KPI 1a:

- Darwin Initiative Challenge Fund
- Rural Sustentavel
- Land Degradation Neutrality Fund
- Biodiverse Landscapes Fund
- Cities4Forests

Figure 1: total cumulative area under ecological management, restoration or protection (hectares) as a result of Defra ODA funding, April 2019 to March 2026

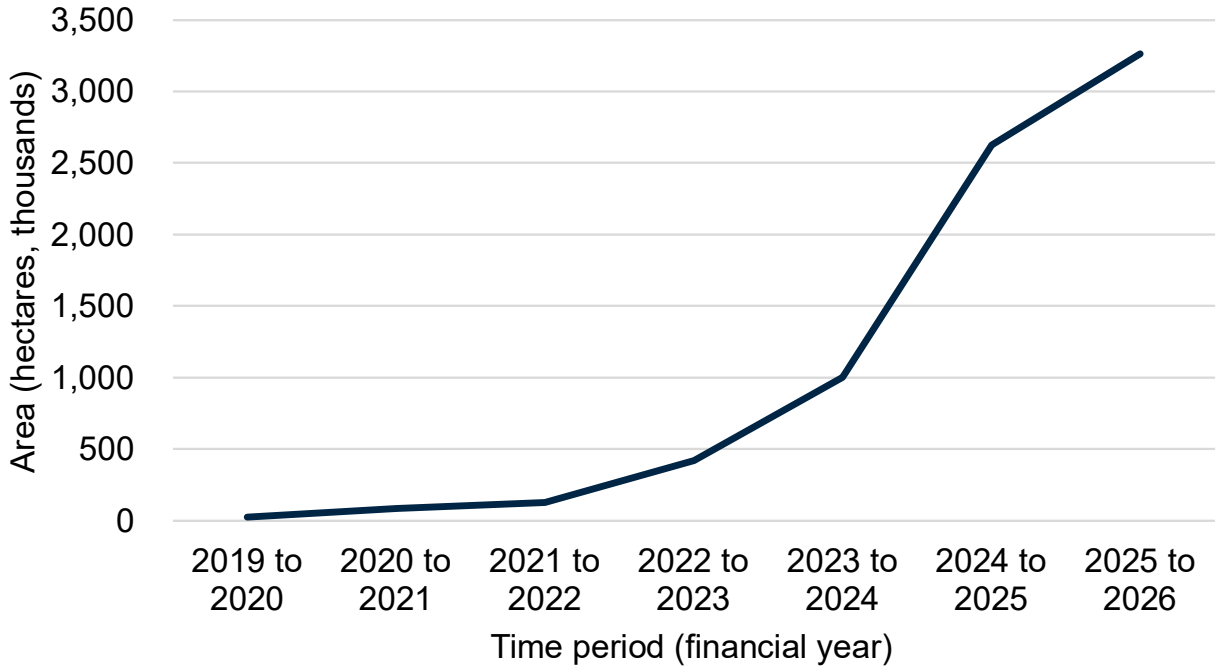

Figure 1 shows a line graph of the cumulative results for DI KPI 1 from April 2019 to March 2026. The Y-axis shows the number of hectares (thousands) that have been placed under ecological management, protection or restoration as a result of Defra ODA. The X-axis shows the financial years from April 2019 to March 2026. The chart shows the results increasing steadily and then accelerating, with more than 1.5 million hectares reported in the year ending March 2025. The increase was less steep in the year to March 2026, though we expect this number to increase as more programme data becomes available next year for the 2025 to 2026 period due to reporting lags.

Benefitting country was disaggregated for 2,925,067 hectares (90%) of results reported. The 49 countries reported under DI KPI 1 can be seen in Figure 2, with further detail available in Annex 2.

The 5 countries reporting the highest results for DI KPI 1 overall were Indonesia (1,234,252 hectares), Tanzania (577,595 hectares), India (252,802 hectares), Mozambique (90,134 hectares) and the Philippines (87,168 hectares).

The ecosystem type was disaggregated for 1,394,276 hectares (43%) of results reported, giving information on the type of ecosystem that was receiving either management, protection or restoration practices. Where disaggregated results were given, the 3 most common ecosystems reported were shoreline systems (82%), intensive land-use (7%) and brackish tidal systems (5%).

The practice type was disaggregated for 1,355,400 hectares (42%) of results reported, giving information on the intervention type that was implemented to manage, protect or restore the area. Where disaggregated results were given, the 3 most common practice

types reported were coastal management (77%), vegetation management (7%), and fisheries management (7%).

Figure 2: countries benefitting from management, protection or restoration practices under DI KPI 1, April 2019 to March 2026

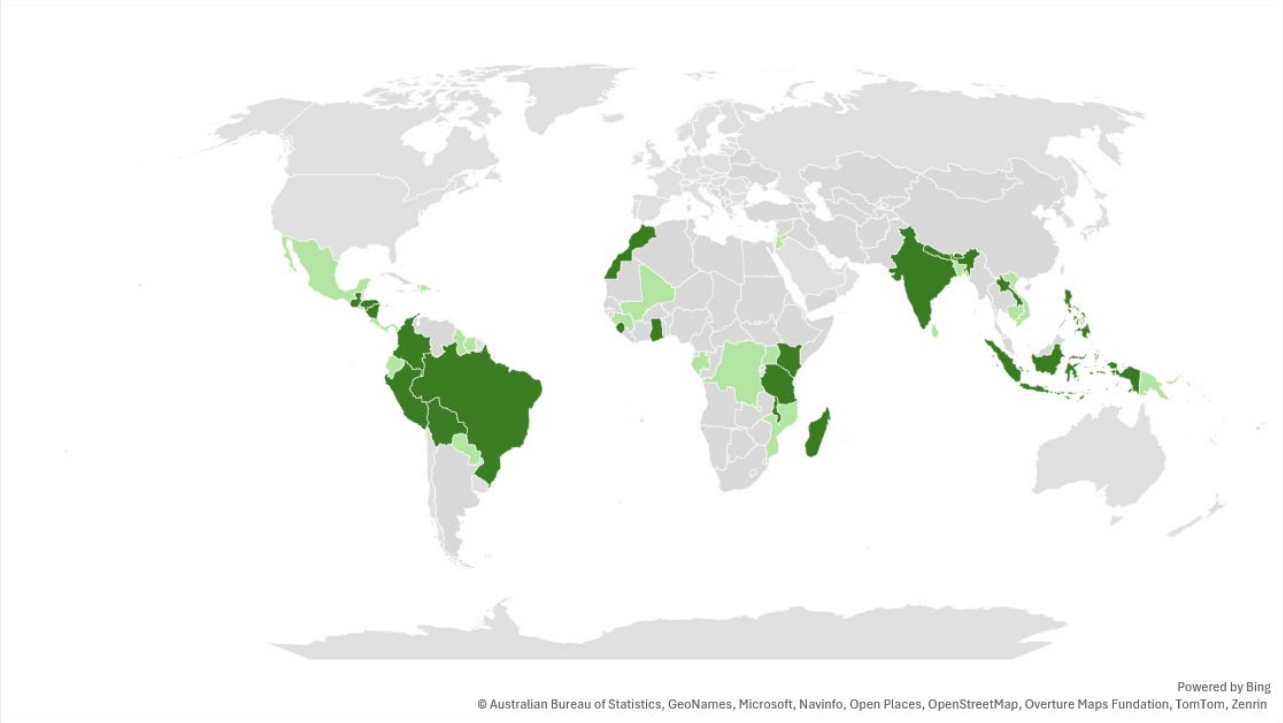

Figure 2 shows a map of the world with the 49 countries reporting DI KPI 1 highlighted. The 20 countries shown in dark green received more than one type of support from Defra ODA, combining restoration with sustainable management, protection, or both. The other 29 countries received only one type of support and are shown in light green. A full breakdown of these countries is available in Annex 2.

Case study: Coral Triangle

Programme result: Defra's investment through Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance has brought 396,235 hectares under sustainable management in Indonesia, protecting critical reefs and supporting greater food security.

Coral reefs underpin food security, climate resilience and the livelihoods of one billion people living close to coral reefs worldwide. The Coral Triangle, spanning coastal South-East Asia, is particularly important – it contains 76% of the world's coral species and is an important source of fish and seafood. For example, the Philippines is among the top 5 markets for UK tuna imports. Yet all coral reef ecosystems in the Coral Triangle have been assessed as Critically Endangered, threatened by overfishing and habitat destruction. This puts food security, climate resilience and the livelihoods of coastal communities at risk.

When fishing communities agree and enforce rules to protect reefs, mangroves and fish breeding areas, these ecosystems can quickly recover. In Indonesia and the Philippines,

with Defra-funded support, new or improved rules have been agreed to protect an estimated 1,085,775 hectares of sea and coast, an area roughly the size of Jamaica. This figure is aggregated from 7 marine programmes, including Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance.

Protecting Indonesia's critical coral reefs, fisheries and mangroves

One example of this is in South-East Sulawesi, Indonesia, where communities faced a high risk of coral degradation and overfishing. Agreeing rules to manage fisheries offered a way for fish stocks and coral to recover. However, these restrictions could result in lower incomes and reduced catches, increasing the risk of poverty, which can make local communities resistant to change. Defra's investment in the Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA) supported the transition by providing a loan on favourable terms, to be repaid once the new rules were in place and fish populations had recovered.

Community involvement is helping turn these management arrangements into practical stewardship. A total of 476 coastal community representatives participated in profiling and Managed Access with Reserves design, including engaging in mapping and joint decision-making.

This approach will protect the coral habitats on which coastal communities depend, as well as sustain future catches, food security and local livelihoods. The project has established 3 Managed Access with Reserves areas so far, with 22,156 hectares under community-led sustainable fisheries management arrangements through Defra's funding of ORRAA.

As a result, some sites have shown positive signs of stable or increasing fish biomass, reduced destructive fishing, respected no-take zones, and regular community patrols.

DI KPI 5: solid waste and pollution avoided

Definition

This indicator measures the overall reduction in waste or pollution produced, the reduction of its leakage into the environment, and the removal of environmental waste or pollution, as a result of Defra ODA funding. This indicator aims to monitor the reduction and removal of these substances with the aim of reducing the negative impacts on the environment and biodiversity.

A material is waste if the holder has discarded it or is required to discard it. Waste can include unwanted substances that, although not always harmful, can cause harm if disposed of improperly. Waste also includes food intended for human consumption that is discarded anywhere along the supply chain, from farms to households. This is different to pollution, which can be defined as substances that are deemed harmful to animals or the environment.

A broad range of waste and pollution types can be counted, including pollution from nutrients, pesticides, hazardous chemicals and a range of waste types like plastics,

agricultural waste, domestic waste or industrial waste. These sorts of substances can have harmful impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services if not disposed of or managed properly. For further details, refer to the indicator methodology note.

For this indicator, the number of tonnes should be disaggregated across 3 areas:

1. waste or pollution type
2. action (reduction or removal)
3. country (if applicable)

Of programmes reporting this KPI, 100% provided some form of disaggregation. However, this was not always across all listed categories.

Results

The total number of tonnes of solid waste and pollution avoided from April 2021 to March 2026 is 878,328 tonnes, reported by 3 programmes. These are: Environmental Pollution Programme, Global Plastic Action Partnership, and Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain Solutions.

Results were disaggregated by type of waste or pollution for 46% of reported results (407,088 tonnes), around 99.7% of which was ocean waste. The ocean waste category can include plastics, fishing waste and other litter and is used by marine programmes that may not be able to identify specific sources of waste. The other categories reported were commercial, domestic and other waste.

Disaggregation of the action of reduction or removal was reported for 46% of results, of which 100% was environmental reduction. This is defined as a reduction in waste or pollution produced or entering the environment, for example reducing food waste through more sustainable food systems or reducing plastic waste through policy initiatives to prevent it from entering the environment.

The country in which waste or pollution was avoided was recorded for 100% of overall results, including the following 5 countries: Ghana, Vietnam, Indonesia, Ecuador, and Kenya. This list excludes one country with less than 100 tonnes of waste or pollution avoided.

Case study: Global Plastic Action Partnership

Programme result: Through national ownership, coordinated action and digital tools, Ghana has made progress in tackling plastic pollution, reporting 369,503 tonnes of waste and pollution avoided due to Defra's investment.

More than 11 million tonnes of plastic are estimated to enter the oceans each year, placing growing pressure on food security, biodiversity and ecosystem health, both in the UK and globally. Research found that between 400,000 and 1 million people die each year in developing countries because of diseases related to mismanaged waste.

Coordinated interventions across the plastics lifecycle could reduce plastic pollution in the ocean by up to 80% by 2040. The UK is one of the leading donors to the Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP), the world's largest multi-stakeholder partnership tackling plastic pollution. GPAP is uniquely placed to bring governments, businesses, academia and civil society together to help reduce the production of plastic waste and waste mismanagement. Active in 25 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America, GPAP's role as the UK's only ODA programme dedicated specifically to plastic pollution gives the UK a focused platform to support this collective response. To date, it has influenced over 47 national policies and action plans and catalysed more than £2.6 billion in investment.

Transforming Ghana's plastic system

Without action, Ghana's plastic pollution is forecast to increase by approximately 190% between 2020 and 2040 due to rapid urbanisation, population growth and increased consumption of single-use plastics.

Ghana became the first African country to join GPAP in 2019. Through GPAP, Ghana worked with key stakeholders in its packaging and waste management industries to agree a roadmap for tackling plastic pollution.

Ghana also partnered with global technology company SAP to support more than 2,000 informal waste pickers in using digital tools to record the quantities and types of plastic they collected. Through this partnership, waste pickers received up-to-date information on market prices, helping them target higher-value materials and supporting fairer earnings and greater transparency across the recycling supply chain.

Significant investment was unlocked to support Ghana's progress, with US$77 million raised to keep materials in use for longer through better collection, reuse and recycling. This investment can help sustain action beyond initial projects, supporting Ghana's continued efforts to reduce plastic waste and keep materials in use.

Defra's support to Ghana's National Plastic Action Partnership has helped avoid 369,503 tonnes of mismanaged solid waste and pollution. This result highlights the scale of progress in tackling the country's waste challenge and the importance of continuing efforts to improve waste collection and recycling.

By bringing partners together and adopting innovative technology, Ghana is moving proactively towards reducing plastic pollution across the plastics lifecycle. Through national ownership and coordination, waste and pollution are being reduced and avoided, improving the quality of life for thousands.

Figure 3: Egrets forage in the polluted Korle Lagoon, a coastal wetland in Accra, Ghana. Credit: Muntaka Chasant/Shutterstock



Section 2: Poverty and people reporting

This section presents data for 2 indicators relating to people and poverty. One case study is included to demonstrate Defra's ODA work in supporting livelihoods.

DI KPI 7: people benefitting from strengthened or new livelihoods as a result of Defra ODA support

Definition

This indicator measures the number of people who have benefitted from their livelihoods being strengthened or from alternative livelihood opportunities being created as a result of Defra ODA funding. This indicator focuses on wider considerations than just the income or employment status of an individual; it also looks at many other factors that are likely to protect or increase the sustainability of existing livelihoods. This includes aspects such as income, vulnerability, food security, and well-being. It emphasises policy and institutional changes, as well as direct support to improve access to natural, social, and financial resources. For further details, refer to the indicator methodology note.

For this indicator, the total number of people reported should be disaggregated across 2 areas:

1. whether the livelihood was strengthened or created

2. the sector under which the livelihood falls

This is in addition to standard inclusion disaggregations of sex, age, disability and geographic location. Of programmes reporting this KPI, 75% provided some form of disaggregation. However, this was not always across all listed categories.

Results

The total number of people benefitting from strengthened or new livelihoods as a result of Defra ODA from April 2016 to March 2026 was 282,679 (Figure 4). The total figure is lower than the result reported last year. This is because a number of programmes have revised their historic results downwards as a result of more robust data collection methods, or more accurate information becoming available. As a result, Figure 4 shows a new result of 267,808 for the previous reporting period, 75% of last year's reported result of 355,778.

This year, there are 12 programmes reporting on this indicator in total. These are:

- Environmental Pollution Programme
- Global Plastic Action Partnership
- Global Fund for Coral Reefs
- Blue Forests

- OCEAN
- PROBLUE
- Darwin Initiative Challenge Fund
- Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund
- Eco.Business Fund
- Land Degradation Neutrality Fund
- Rural Sustentavel
- Cities4Forests

Figure 4: total cumulative number of people benefitting from strengthened or new livelihoods as a result of Defra ODA funding, April 2016 to March 2026

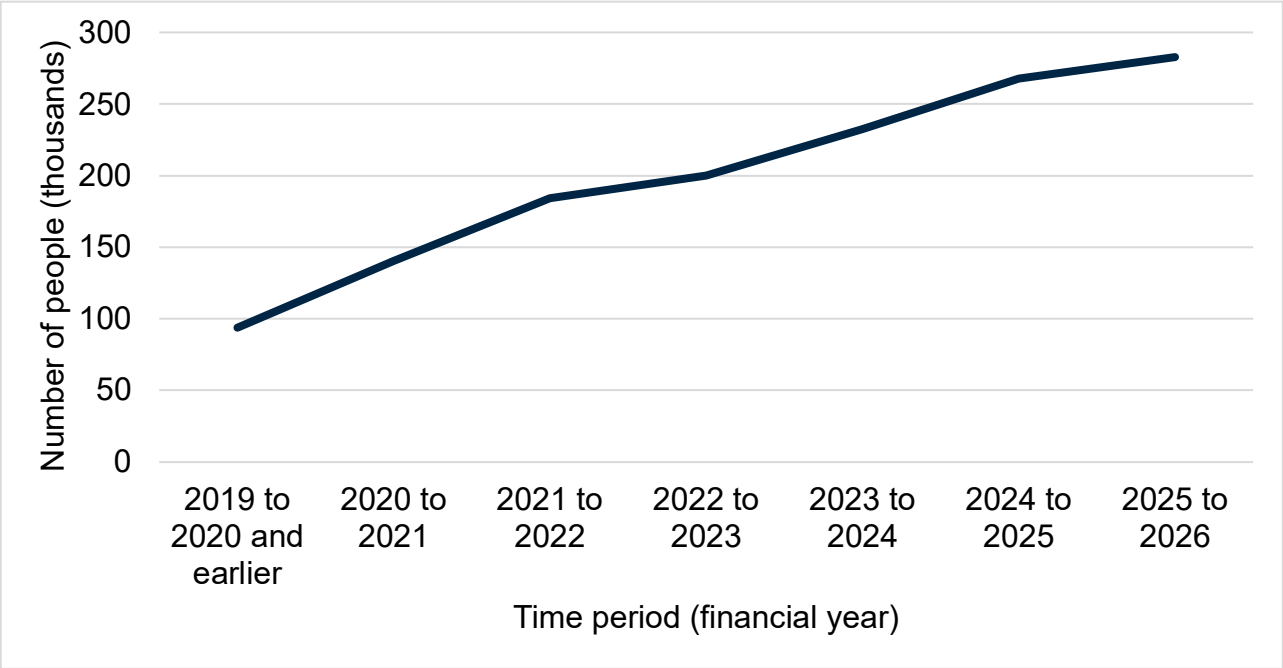

Figure 4 shows a line graph of the cumulative results for DI KPI 7 from April 2016 to March 2026. The Y-axis shows the number of people (thousands) benefitting from strengthened or new livelihoods as a result of Defra ODA. The X-axis shows the financial years from April 2019 and earlier to March 2026. The period covering 2019 to 2020 and earlier aggregates figures from April 2016 to March 2020, to avoid disclosure of individual programme figures. The increase in people reported is generally steady over the whole period, increasing by almost 200,000 in total, with slightly smaller increases over the periods ending March 2023 and March 2026.

Programmes reported on the following inclusion disaggregations: sex, the age categories “youth” (between 15 and 24 years of age) and “adult” (between 25 and 64 years of age), and the geographic category “rural”. Results were disaggregated by sex for 7% of the total results, of which 11,022 men (54%) and 9,553 women (46%) benefitted. Disaggregating by age, 661 individuals were identified as youths (0.2% of the total result) and 924 individuals were identified as adults (0.3% of the total result). Considering geography, 32,990 beneficiaries (12% of total result) were identified as rural. The volume of

programmes reporting disability was below the adopted threshold for disclosing disaggregated results.

For this indicator, the support to livelihoods can be reported as having either created a new livelihood opportunity (like new employment) or it can strengthen an existing livelihood (such as making it more resilient to shocks). Of the results reported, 134,519 (48%) could be disaggregated, of which 58,817 people (44%) had benefitted from strengthened livelihoods while 70,767 people (53%) benefitted from new livelihoods created, and 4,935 (4%) were recorded as benefitting from both strengthened and new livelihoods. The type of support to livelihoods (new or strengthened) was not reported for the remaining 148,160 people (52% of overall results).

The sector under which the livelihood falls was disaggregated for 232,515 people (82%) reported, giving more information on the different sectors in which Defra's work is supporting people. Of the results that were disaggregated by sector, 3 sectors were above the reporting threshold: agriculture (51%), fisheries and aquaculture (35%) and waste management (14%).

Case Study: Environmental Pollution Programme

Programme result: Defra's investment in the Environmental Pollution Programme (EPP) helped strengthen livelihoods for 14,153 people in Vietnam, equipping farmers with skills to improve the quality and sustainability of their farming practices, manage pests more safely and reduce reliance on chemical pesticides.

Pollution harms people and nature, causing around 9 million deaths each year. Air pollution increases the risk of lung cancer, respiratory difficulties and cardiovascular issues.

Beyond the air we breathe, pollution affects water and soil and includes waste dumped or burned in the open. The triple planetary crisis is the combined threats of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution which can reinforce one another, putting people's health and the natural systems they depend on at risk.

Reducing harmful pesticide use in Vietnam

Across Vietnam's coffee, tea, and pepper farms, pests and diseases are becoming more damaging as the effects of climate change intensify. Many farmers rely heavily on chemical pesticides to protect their crops. However, when used excessively, chemical pesticides can pollute the air, land and water and put people's health at risk. Excessive pesticide use also damages soil, harms wildlife and weakens the natural systems that farming depends on.

To reduce pesticide use and support safer farming practices, farmers can adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Using this approach, farmers manage pests by observing their crops and using natural pest-control methods.

As part of one project to increase the adoption of IPM among Vietnamese farmers, the Defra-backed EPP partnered with 12 companies across the coffee, tea, and pepper value chains. The programme and its partners engaged 11,000 farmers across 4 provinces, including 6,509 farmers who received training on the recommended approaches to limit the use of chemical pesticides.

The project took proactive steps to ensure that farmers had equal access to information; staff and partners established 32 female-led farmer groups, exceeding the target of 20, and supported 21 demonstration farms managed by women, strengthening women's leadership, decision-making, and knowledge-sharing within farming systems. Additionally, 819 vulnerable households – including people with disabilities, victims of Agent Orange and low-income families – participated in IPM training. This ensured that safer agricultural practices and livelihoods were accessible to those most at risk.

Between 2022 and 2025, there was an 82% reduction in insecticide use on tea farms. Farmers who adopted IPM recorded 10% to 31% higher annual income than farmers using conventional practices, which encouraged other farmers to consider IPM.

The £3 million EPP has generated evidence to inform the design and scale-up of similar interventions. These lessons can help target future investment, strengthen more livelihoods and reduce pollution through evidence-based action.

Figure 5: Female farmers check tea plants as part of the Integrated Pest Management project in Vietnam. Credit: © Rainforest Alliance 2025



DI KPI 8: people with improved tenure or access rights

Definition

This indicator measures the number of people who have had an improvement in their land tenure or access rights as a result of Defra ODA programming support. Tenure reflects relationships between people and land directly, and between individuals and groups of people in their dealings with land and natural resources. Within this KPI, the term ‘land tenure and access rights’ can be used to refer to lands, water bodies, coastal seas, fisheries, pastures, forests, wildlife and in some cases mineral resources.

Our programmes aim to ensure individuals and communities have the access and security they need to achieve an adequate standard of living, to have a place to live in security, peace and dignity and to develop their cultures.

For further details, see the indicator methodology note.

For this indicator, the total number of people reported should be disaggregated across 3 areas:

1. the country where the targeted beneficiaries are based
2. the level of tenure or access rights reported
3. the scale of tenure (whether the tenure security is at the local, regional or national level)

This is in addition to standard inclusion disaggregations of sex, age, disability and geographic location. Of programmes reporting this KPI, 100% provided some form of disaggregation. However, this was not always across all listed categories.

Results

The total number of people benefitting from tenure or access rights as a result of Defra ODA from April 2022 to March 2025 was 48,702 (Figure 6), a 1% increase on last year’s figure. This was reported by 3 programmes in total. These are: Darwin Initiative Challenge Fund, UNDP Climate Promise, and Rural Sustentavel. No programmes have yet reported results achieved in the year ending March 2026.

Figure 6: total cumulative number of people with improved tenure or access rights as a result of Defra ODA funding, April 2022 to March 2025

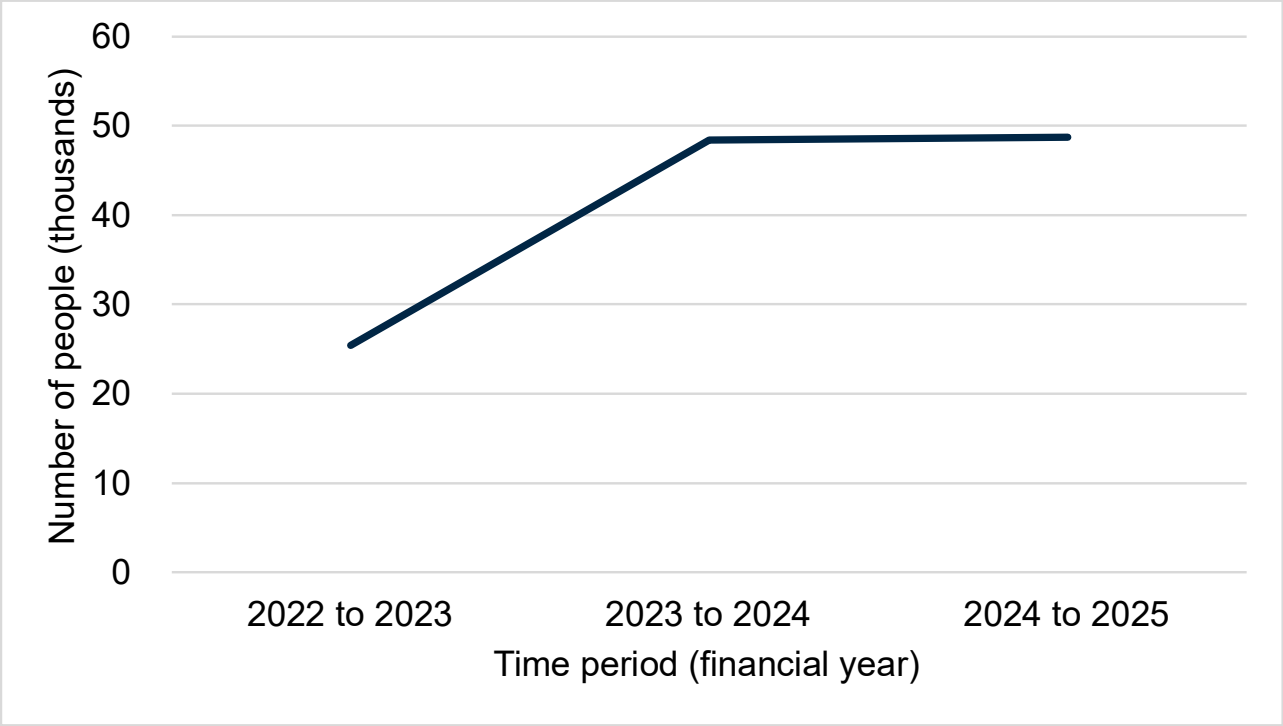

Figure 6 shows a line graph of the cumulative results for DI KPI 8 from April 2022 to March 2025. The Y-axis shows the number of people (thousands) that have had their tenure or access rights improved because of Defra ODA. The X-axis shows the financial years from April 2022 to March 2025. The chart shows the number of people with improved tenure or access rights almost doubling in the year to March 2024, with a small subsequent increase in the following year to March 2025.

The country in which the targeted beneficiaries are based was recorded for 31,655 beneficiaries (65% of overall results). Improved tenure or access rights were reported in the following countries:

- Brazil
- Cambodia
- Ecuador
- Guatemala
- Indonesia
- Tanzania
- Zimbabwe

This list excludes 5 countries with fewer than 100 beneficiaries.

For this indicator, the level of tenure or access rights reported was recorded for 11,764 people (24% of overall results). Of these, 8,375 people (71%) had benefitted from access rights, while for 3,138 people (27%) the level reported was registered freehold or equivalent. The remaining 2% of disaggregations did not meet our reporting threshold. The

level of tenure or access rights was not reported for 36,938 people (76% of overall results).

For age and disability disaggregations, the volume of programmes reporting was below the adopted threshold for disclosing disaggregated results.

For this indicator, disaggregation by sex was provided for 11,522 people (24% of overall results). Of these, 5,322 people (46%) who benefitted from improved tenure or access rights were female, while 6,201 beneficiaries (54%) were male. Sex was not reported for the remaining 37,180 people (76% of overall results).

Some limited disaggregation by geography was also provided for this indicator, with 11,458 people identified as living in rural areas (24% of overall results). Geography was not reported for the remaining 37,244 (76% of overall results).

Section 3: Data quality

Why these are results estimates

Defra collects programme data from a wide variety of sources. Different partners operate in different contexts and may use different methods. We support our delivery partners with guidance and advice to enhance the quality of their data and help them align with agreed methodologies.

Prior to analysis, ODA analysts review data returns from teams, check the results and supporting information, and determine whether any adjustment factors are necessary to ensure quality and confidence in the results we publish. Note that due these adjustments and subsequent rounding, some disaggregations may not sum to totals and percentages may not sum to 100%.

Although we and our partners strive to maximise data quality through our reporting, the quality of the data we receive (in terms of accuracy and completeness) can vary due to the particularly challenging environments in which we operate. For this reason, we refer to our results as estimates, and they are not classified as official or accredited official statistics.

Defra endeavours to apply best practice in data quality and transparency and has voluntarily applied the Code of Practice for Statistics when producing our annual results report. Our statement of voluntary compliance with the Code demonstrates the steps we have taken to improve the trustworthiness, quality and value of Defra's results estimates.

Reporting periods

For reporting purposes, we consider our results by financial year (April to March). This is consistent with UK government annual ICF reporting. In reality, programmes may have different reporting periods depending on their own reporting cycles. Where this is the case, we will assign their results to the most appropriate reporting period.

The reporting periods covered vary by indicator depending on data availability and are stated in the relevant section for each KPI.

Defra-attributed cumulative results estimates

As this publication presents estimates of the results of Defra's ODA spend, we make efforts to ensure all the results reported focus on "achieved results" and are attributable to Defra spend specifically. This includes our reporting on DI indicators and on programme-specific results case studies. In cases where Defra is a partial funder of a larger programme (for example, multilateral programming), Defra-attributed results are calculated based either on a pro rata share of total programme results according to the proportion of funding provided by Defra, or by reporting only the results of specific workstreams that Defra funds. This ensures we do not overclaim the results that Defra spend was responsible for delivering. Results estimates in this report are presented cumulatively across the reporting period up to March 2026 with reporting periods varying by indicator. This reflects our approach of counting each person, area or entity benefitting from our programmes only once towards the total result for an indicator to avoid double-counting, even where support may be provided through a given programme over several years. It also reflects the high likelihood of our receiving historic data updates as new programmes report data that may be backdated to cover a longer period of Defra funding. This is because teams need time to integrate relevant indicators into programme-level monitoring frameworks to capture their contributions against the standard indicators.

Revisions and corrections

Defra aims to take a cautious approach to reporting results estimates. We will reduce figures reported if there is any uncertainty using agreed adjustment factors in line with the established approach for UK government annual ICF results reporting, to avoid overclaiming our impact. For more information, see the ICF supplementary guidance on additionality and attribution.

Given the nature of these estimates and the way in which they are measured, in some instances new evidence will mean we revise our historic figures. Some reasons for this include:

- programmes providing backdated data on Defra funding which includes results achieved in earlier years of the reporting period
- resolution of previous uncertainty over data quality, and removal of adjustment factors
- programmes updating or correcting their methodologies

In such cases existing results will be updated for accuracy in the next annual publication. We will explain any historic changes in the relevant indicator section as needed.

If we find an error in results after publication, our response will depend on the scale of the impact. Where an error could change the findings presented, we will issue an unscheduled

correction. We will correct any minor errors along with any other data revisions in the next annual publication.

Data disaggregation

To protect sensitive data, we may suppress publication of disaggregated results in cases where reporting volume is insufficient. This is usually applied in cases where fewer than 2 programmes have reported, or when fewer than 100 units (including beneficiaries, hectares and tonnes) are reported for a category. This approach ensures that potentially sensitive information on programme beneficiaries is not identifiable and reduces the risk of inaccuracy or misinterpretation when presenting small, estimated results. An exception to this rule is specifically selected and approved programme case studies.

In line with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data's Inclusive Data Charter, all people-based results data should be disaggregated by sex, age, geographic location and disability status. This year, we have sufficient programmes reporting sex-disaggregated results to include breakdowns in this publication, as well as limited age disaggregation for one indicator, and limited geographic disaggregation for both indicators. The volume of programmes reporting disaggregation by disability status, and age for other indicators, was still below the threshold for disclosing this data.

We have also included additional disaggregated information as specified in the methodology for each indicator, for example on benefitting country, where the data allow for this.

While barriers to data collection exist, Defra recognises that disaggregation of data by sex, age, geographic location and disability status is a requirement for people-based reporting and provides vital insights into who is benefitting from Defra's ODA programming. We are working with our delivery partners to strengthen data disaggregation in accordance with the Inclusive Data Charter.

Section 4: Defra's ODA portfolio

The information presented in this section provides an overview of Defra's current portfolio of Official Development Assistance (ODA) programmes.

What is Defra ODA?

Official Development Assistance is defined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as government aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Defra's ODA focuses on the protection and sustainable management of nature in developing countries – particularly the critical global ecosystems that underpin UK resilience and national security, like the Amazon rainforest and the Coral Triangle.

All UK ODA expenditure must comply with the International Development Act (2002, updated in 2014) as the applicable legal framework, which requires ODA programmes to demonstrate that they are 'likely to contribute to a reduction in poverty' and to be 'likely to contribute to reducing inequality between persons of different gender'.

The UK is allocating around £6 billion of International Climate Finance (ICF) from our aid budget over the next 3 financial years from 2026 to 2027 to 2028 to 2029. This period is the fourth period of ICF and is labelled as ICF 4. We expect to spend around 25% of ICF 4 ODA on nature cross-government. The UK has also met and exceeded the ICF 3 spending target – spending £12.8 billion over UK financial years 2021 to 2022 to 2025 to 2026 against a commitment of £11.6 billion. ICF represents a UK government commitment to support developing countries to undertake mitigation and adaptation actions to prevent and tackle the challenges caused by climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental degradation.

Our ODA portfolio

Defra's ODA portfolio in the year ending March 2026 included 32 live programmes. Our current ODA portfolio is delivered through a combination of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms, with multilateral programming being delivered through institutions working globally. Multilateral partners for Defra's ODA include the World Bank, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) among others. Defra supports a range of work through its multilateral partners, including natural capital accounting (through the World Bank's Global Program on Sustainability), blue finance mobilisation (through the World Bank's PROBLUE programme), and implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (through the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, hosted by the Global Environment Facility). In addition to its main ODA programmes detailed in Annex 1, Defra contributes to several ODA-eligible multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal Protocol, Basel and Minamata conventions.

To find out more about Defra's current ODA programming, see Annex 1 for a full list of programmes and programme ID codes that allow the programmes to be identified on Development Tracker (DevTracker). This site contains further information and key documents for each ODA programme.

Defra's current ODA programmes are delivered across a range of ODA-eligible countries, focused on locations where the potential for impact on poverty, biodiversity and climate outcomes is greatest. Spend is primarily delivered across the following regions:

- South and South-East Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Latin America and the Caribbean

Internal analysis of global data on nature dependency, poverty, biodiversity levels and threats, irrecoverable carbon tipping points and in-country risk supports this geographic focus.

How we measure impact

Defra's ODA Results Framework

In 2023, Defra developed an ODA Results Framework that aims to quantify and aggregate portfolio-level impacts of our ODA programming across 5 themes (Biodiversity, Poverty, Climate, Finance and Technical Assistance) using a combination of new and pre-existing standardised key performance indicators (KPIs).

A standardised KPI is one with a set methodology to which reporting must align. Using standard methods gives Defra the ability to quality assure the data we receive and publish estimates of the impact of multiple ODA programmes using a single common definition relevant to multiple programmes.

Existing International Climate Finance (ICF) KPIs

These climate-related KPIs are reported annually as part of the cross-government ICF results publication, capturing combined results against 15 indicators from all ICF-eligible ODA programmes across 4 departments, including Defra. For more information on the results, as well as access to the KPI methodology notes, see UK International Climate Finance results. A review of the ICF KPI framework is currently ongoing. We will consider how the outcome of this review affects our full results framework in 2027.

Defra International (DI) KPIs

These additional biodiversity and poverty-focused indicators were developed by Defra to complement its reporting on climate impacts through the ICF KPIs. Methodology notes were developed and published for 5 indicators in January 2025, and 1 indicator is covered by an existing ICF KPI methodology note (ICF KPI 17). For more information, review the published DI indicator methodology notes.

An up-to-date version of the Results Framework can be found in Table 2.

Table 2: Full Defra ODA Results Framework, 2026

Theme	KPI number	KPI name	Unit	Status
Biodiversity	ICF KPI 17	Area under Sustainable Management Practices	hectares	Published: ICF results
Biodiversity	DI KPI 1a	Area under Ecological Restoration	hectares	Published: DI results
Biodiversity	DI KPI 1b	Extent of Protected Areas	hectares	Disaggregated reporting expected in 2027
Biodiversity	DI KPI 2	Species threat reduction	count	Decision to be made in 2027 after ICF KPI review concludes
Biodiversity	DI KPI 5	Solid Waste and Pollution Avoided	tonnes	Published: DI results
Biodiversity	ICF KPI 8	Ecosystem Loss Avoided	hectares	Published: ICF results
Biodiversity	ICF KPI 10	Value of Ecosystem Services Generated or Protected	£	Published: ICF results
Climate	ICF KPI 1	People Supported to cope with effects of Climate Change	count	Published: ICF results
Climate	ICF KPI 4	People with Improved Resilience	count	Published: ICF results
Climate	ICF KPI 6	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduced or Avoided	CO_2e tonnes	Published: ICF results
Poverty	DI KPI 7	People benefitting from strengthened or new livelihoods	count	Published: DI results
Poverty	DI KPI 8	People with Improved Tenure or Access Rights (Land and Sea)	count	Published: DI results
Poverty	DI KPI 9	People with Improved Income	count	Decision to be made in 2027 after ICF KPI review concludes
Poverty	DI KPI 10	People with Improved Food Security	count	Decision to be made in 2027 after ICF KPI review concludes
Finance / Transformative Change	ICF KPI 11	Private Finance Leveraged	£	Published: ICF results

Theme	KPI number	KPI name	Unit	Status
Finance / Transformative Change	ICF KPI 12	Public Finance Leveraged	£	Published: ICF results
Finance / Transformative Change	ICF KPI 15	Evidence of Transformative Change	score	Published: ICF results
Technical Assistance	TA KPI 1	Number of countries supported with technical assistance	count	Published: ICF results
Technical Assistance	TA KPI 2.1	Number of beneficiaries (individuals) supported	count	Published: ICF results
Technical Assistance	TA KPI 2.2	Number of beneficiaries (organisations) supported	count	Published: ICF results
Technical Assistance	TA KPI 3	Number of climate or nature policies informed	count	Published: ICF results

Broader ODA impacts

The Defra ODA Results Framework used in this publication does not capture the full benefits of Defra's ODA programmes, because individual programmes have context-specific aims that are not all covered by the standardised indicators in this framework. Part of Defra's impact will always need to be captured through programme-specific results indicators capturing the unique benefits achieved through a given programme design, objective, context and set of geographies.

All programmes will have a data story specific to their programme told through their logical framework, a programme monitoring tool that uses programme-specific indicators to track and report progress, as the primary accountability mechanism for every programme funded by UK ODA. Annex 1 lists the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) identifiers that can be used to find further programme information and results on DevTracker. In this report we have also included a range of examples to illustrate the broader results achieved through Defra's ODA, which can be found in the KPI reporting sections of this report in the form of case studies.

User feedback

We welcome your feedback. Email any comments or suggestions to ODAhub@defra.gov.uk.

Annex 1: Defra ODA programmes

Table A1 includes all Defra ODA programmes which have been active at any point between April 2019 and March 2026, including programmes which have now closed, although not all these programmes have reported contributions to the results estimates in this publication. Further details and important documents for each programme can be found on DevTracker by searching the programme identifier.

Table A1: Defra ODA programmes and DevTracker IDs, April 2019 to March 2026

Programme name	Programme IATI Identifier
Animal Health Systems Strengthening (AHSS)	GB-GOV-7-AHSS-36850
Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)	GB-GOV-7-VMD-AMR001
Biodiverse Landscapes Fund	GB-GOV-7-BLF
Blue Planet Fund: Blue Forests	GB-GOV-7-BPFBLUEFORESTS
Blue Planet Fund: Championing Inclusivity in Plastic Pollution (CHIPP)	GB-GOV-7-BPFCHIPP
Blue Planet Fund: Fiji Blue Bond	GB-GOV-7-BPF-FijiBlueBond
Blue Planet Fund: Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR)	GB-GOV-7-BPFGFCR
Blue Planet Fund: Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP)	GB-GOV-7-BPFGPAP
Blue Planet Fund: OCEAN Challenge Fund	GB-GOV-7-BPFOCEAN
Blue Planet Fund: Ocean Country Partnerships Programme (OCPP)	GB-GOV-7-BPFOCPP
Blue Planet Fund: Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA)	GB-GOV-7-BPFORRAA
Blue Planet Fund: Portfolio Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning	GB-GOV-7-BPF
Blue Planet Fund: PROBLUE	GB-GOV-7-BPFPROB
Blue Planet Fund: UK Blue Carbon Fund	GB-GOV-7-BPF-BCF
Cities4Forests	GB-GOV-7-PO020-C4F
Climate Promise	GB-GOV-7-ICF-UNDPCP
Darwin Initiative Challenge Fund	GB-GOV-7-DarwinInitiative
Darwin Plus Challenge Fund	GB-GOV-7-DPLUS
Eco.Business Fund (EBF)	GB-GOV-7-ICF-P0003-EcoB
Environmental Pollution Programme	GB-GOV-7-EQ
Global Biodiversity Framework Fund Investment	GB-GOV-7-ICF-PO0015-GEF7
Global Program on Sustainability (GPS)	GB-GOV-7-ICF-PO014-GPS
ICF R&D: Global Centre for Biodiversity and Climate (GCBC)	GB-GOV-7-ICF-P0011-RD
Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) Challenge Fund	GB-GOV-7-IWTChallengeFund
Innovate4Nature (I4N)	GB-GOV-7-Innovate4Nature
International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (IAPB)	GB-GOV-7-IAPB
International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime Strategic Vision 2030	GB-GOV-7-IWT-ICCWC
Kew ODA core support	GB-GOV-7-ALB-KEW001

Programme name	Programme IATI Identifier
Land Degradation Neutrality Fund (LDNF)	GB-GOV-7-PO009-LDN
Legacy Landscapes Fund (LLF)	GB-GOV-7-30x30LegacyLandscapesFund
MEA: An annual contribution to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) to secure UK membership and participation within the organisation	GB-GOV-7-INTSUB005-CITES
MEA: An annual core contribution to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to support the delivery of the Convention's objectives	GB-GOV-7-INTSUB002-CBD
MEA: Annual contribution to the United Nations Environment Trust Fund of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)	GB-GOV-7-INTSUB008-IPBES
Nature Positive Economy	GB-GOV-7-NPE
Rural Sustentavel	GB-GOV-7-ICF-PO013-LCP2
Sustainable Cooling and Cold Chain Solutions (SCCCS)	GB-GOV-7-32CPL-00499-KA
Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)	GB-GOV-7-TNFD-PO002
Ukraine Agricultural Reconstruction and Environmental Protection Projects Fund	No IATI Identifier
United Nations Environment Programme annual contribution	GB-GOV-7-INTSUB001-UNEP

Annex 2: Country-level disaggregations of DI KPI 1

20 countries supported to place areas under restoration practices (DI KPI 1a) and at least one of sustainable management (ICF KPI 17) or protection (DI KPI 1b):

- Bhutan
- Bolivia
- Brazil
- Colombia
- Ghana
- Guatemala
- Honduras
- India

- Indonesia
- Kenya
- Laos
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Morocco
- Nepal
- Nicaragua
- Peru
- Philippines
- Sierra Leone
- Tanzania

24 countries supported to place areas under sustainable management (ICF KPI 17) or protection (DI KPI 1b) only:

- Anguilla
- Armenia
- Belize
- Comoros
- Costa Rica
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Dominican Republic
- Ecuador
- El Salvador
- Fiji
- Gabon
- Guyana

- Jordan
- Maldives
- Mexico
- Federated States of Micronesia
- Mozambique
- Panama
- Papua New Guinea
- Paraguay
- Sri Lanka
- Suriname
- Uganda
- Vietnam

5 countries supported to place areas under restoration practices (DI KPI 1a) only:

- Bangladesh
- Cambodia
- Guinea
- Mali
- Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha