



# ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING BY EUROPEAN FOUNDATIONS

## A SNAPSHOT

# ABOUT THE EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDERS GROUP

The European Environmental Funders Group (EEFG) is an emerging network of foundations across Europe active in the fields of environment, sustainable development and climate change. The network is coordinated by the European Foundation Centre (EFC) and provides a platform for learning, networking and identification of synergies. The EEFG's first meeting was held in Brussels in January 2008, and since then more than 50 foundations have been involved in the group's activities. Funding for the network is provided by Fondazione Cariplo, Oak Foundation and Stiftung Mercator. Foundations interested in the EEFG's work can contact the EEFG secretariat at the EFC: [environment@efc.be](mailto:environment@efc.be)

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## Authors

Marilena Vrana, EFC

Jon Cracknell, JMG Foundation

## Special thanks

Sevdalina Rukanova, EFC

Harriet Williams, JMG Foundation

## Other contributors

Inês de Oliveira Magalhães, EFC

Marianne Johnston, EFC

Triona Keaveney, EFC

Wendy Richardson, EFC

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**I've stepped in the middle of seven sad forests  
I've been out in front of a dozen dead oceans  
I've been ten thousand miles in the mouth of a graveyard  
And it's a hard, it's a hard, it's a hard, and it's a hard  
It's a hard rain's a-gonna fall.**

“

## FOREWORD

Bob Dylan wrote these lyrics for his song "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall" in the summer of 1962. The song has been interpreted over the years to have many different messages: some have called it an anti-war protest song, while others believe that the dense imagery alludes to injustice and suffering more broadly. The important issue is the overarching message: how the issues we face today have massive, irreversible impact on future generations. You may be asking yourself: How does this relate to a mapping of the efforts of European environmental funders?

This report represents an important point of departure for a group of committed European funders that are serious about tackling the environmental problems we face. To date there has been little documentation on the collective contributions made by European foundations towards advancing environmental issues. This venture is therefore inherently worthwhile as it aims to better inform future funding strategies and to provoke discussion not only on the size and scope of foundations' efforts in this field, but also on the impact and effectiveness of such efforts.

I would particularly like to thank the funders who responded to our call for input and willingly shared their strategies, experiences and financial information for this study. This level of transparency and openness is needed more and more in the face of increasing scrutiny of foundations' impact and efficacy. I trust that the report will further whet the appetite of environmental funders and add vigour to our endeavour in building up the knowledge base on environmental funders' actions across Europe.

I think it is also important to challenge these funders to use this mapping as a means to identify gaps and specific issues that are currently being neglected. In any field, one should not be placated just because they are funding what is the trend of the moment. We must constantly be striving to point out our own shortfalls, identify the areas of need and work together in finding solutions. But beyond the funders that are already interested in environmental issues this report should also be taken as an urgent wake up call to the wider philanthropic sector. The environment is not simply a trendy thematic issue to be tackled in isolation, but one which must become cross-cutting in our varied activities, and needs more foundations to focus on it, otherwise it's a hard rain's a-gonna fall.

**Gerry Salole,**  
Chief Executive, European Foundation Centre

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Environmental Funding by European Foundations: A Snapshot represents the most systematic study to date into support for environmental initiatives by European foundations. It builds on a pilot mapping conducted in 2007/2008<sup>1</sup> by the EFC. The long-term goal is to establish as detailed a picture as possible of the state of European independent funding for environmental issues with a view to raising the profile of environmental funders, better supporting their information needs in this field, improving coordination, and providing analysis that informs discussion of effectiveness in environmental grantmaking.

This report features a detailed analysis of the environmental grants of 27 European public-benefit foundations, and refers to the total environmental expenditure of a further 13 foundations. While this is not a representative sample of the whole European foundation sector, the mapping covers many of Europe's largest environmental foundations. It should be noted that only foundations that have a defined environmental programme or mission were contacted for the purpose of this project.

## KEY FINDINGS:

- In 2008-09, the 27 foundations covered in the study provided 791 environmental grants to 599 organisations, amounting to €181.5 million. These grants represent on average 16% of the total grants made by the foundations that are the main focus of this study. A further 13 foundations provided only top-level environmental expenditure, which brings the total environmental expenditure of these 40 foundations to €292.5 million.
- More than a third of the 791 grants were allocated to initiatives in the two following categories: 'Terrestrial ecosystems & land use' and 'Biodiversity & species preservation'. The categories 'Climate & atmosphere', 'Energy', and 'Transportation' together account for 20.4% of all grants made. This suggests that European foundations appear to have little appetite for grappling with 'systemic' environmental issues, even though these have the potential to undermine progress elsewhere.
- 76% of the total funding went to organisations headquartered in Europe and 15% to organisations based in North America. However, only 56% of the total funding directly benefits initiatives in either Europe or North America and significant amounts of funding are re-directed to other parts of the world.
- Given that more than 80% of European environmental legislation is developed at European Union (EU) level, it is striking that only a little over 4% of the grants in the study were explicitly directed towards advancing European policies.

<sup>1</sup> European Foundation Funding for Environmental Issues: A Snapshot, EFC, May 2008

Environmental funding still represents a relatively small share of Europe's total philanthropic expenditure. However, a growing number of foundations working on public health, migration, and social and economic justice issues are beginning to engage with the environmental agenda. They are investing in research and pilot initiatives aimed at addressing the impact of environmental degradation and climate change on their core interests, and we expect such investments to become more significant in the future.

Furthermore, the last decade has witnessed the creation of several new foundations that are developing significant environmental programmes. Lastly, it appears that foundations funding scientific research are increasingly interested in issues of an environmental nature.

The data analysis is complemented by a brief review and reflection piece on the environmental performance of the 27 EU Member States. Since the effectiveness of public-benefit foundations - or any other organisation working to improve environmental outcomes - is partly determined by the political and social context in which they operate, this section of the report seeks to inform funders and stimulate future discussion on ways in which their philanthropic funds could help raise the environmental performance of the EU.

"Environmental Funding by European Foundation: A Snapshot" forms part of a growing body of international research into environmental funding patterns, which includes the "Where the Green Grants Went"<sup>2</sup> reports, produced by the UK Environmental Funders Network, "Tracking the Field"<sup>3</sup> reports produced by the US Environmental Grantmakers Association, "A Profile of Environmental Grantmaking in Canada"<sup>4</sup> produced by the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network, "Green Philanthropy 2009"<sup>5</sup> from the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network, and "Green Grants in NZ"<sup>6</sup>, commissioned by two New Zealand-based environmental foundations.

While a comprehensive picture on environmental philanthropic funding is yet to emerge across these countries or regions, the reports are beginning to shed light on the volume of foundations' support for environmental initiatives, as well as on the geographic distribution of grants and support provided to different environmental issues. This information provides important context for grantmakers as they design grant-making strategies in order to tackle the pressing environmental problems that confront the global community.

It is hoped that "Environmental Funding by European Foundations: A Snapshot" will inspire and encourage more funders to share their data and contribute to developing a more complete picture of the state of environmental funding by European foundations - one that will reflect more adequately the weight and value-added of European environmental philanthropy within Europe and beyond.

<sup>2</sup> Where the Green Grants Went 4, Environmental Funders Network (EFN), 2009

<sup>3</sup> Tracking The Field, Volume 2: A Closer Look at Environmental Grantmaking, Environmental Grantmakers Association (EGA), New York, 2009.

<sup>4</sup> A Profile of Environmental Grantmaking in Canada: 2007 National Overview, summary report, Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network (CEGN), Toronto, March 2010.

<sup>5</sup> Green Philanthropy 2009, Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (AEGN, Melbourne), October 2009.

<sup>6</sup> Green Grants in NZ, Saints Information Limited, a report for the Hikurangi Foundation and ASB Community Trust.

# METHODOLOGY

The study sought to gather grant-level data from a selected group of foundations from EU Member States and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries. A list of 150 foundations that appear to be active on environmental issues was developed through desk research and in consultation with Donors and Foundations Network in Europe (DAFNE) members. Funders were contacted by email with a request to submit their most recent and complete list of environmental grants for one fiscal year, in the language and currency in which it was available. A total of 27 foundations (18%) provided the requested data; a further 13 foundations (8.6%) provided only top-level environmental expenditure figures. The list of foundations is available in Annex I.

The grants analysed were made in 2008 and 2009. Some foundations use accounting periods based on the calendar year, while others, particularly in the UK, tend to straddle the calendar year. The goal in this report has been to achieve maximum consistency by using accounts where the period covered overlaps as much as possible.

Gathering grant-level data from foundations at European level represents a huge challenge, for a number of reasons:

- Grant-level data are not easily available, as there are few mandatory public-reporting requirements across Europe. While many foundations now publish detailed annual financial statements on their websites, complete grants lists are still rare.
- Most data are available only in the official language of the country where a foundation is registered, which represents both a translation and conceptual challenge.
- There is tremendous diversity of legal and organisational forms of public-benefit foundations<sup>7</sup> across Europe, due to different cultural, historical and legal traditions. This makes it difficult to identify and engage the relevant actors.
- There is no clear consensus among European foundations, or even the foundations within a single country on what constitutes 'environmental funding'. For example a foundation that defines itself as focusing on research might not consider itself to be an environmental funder, even if some of its grants would qualify for inclusion in this report.

The number of UK-based foundations featured in this report is deliberately limited, although past editions of the "Where the Green Grants Went"<sup>8</sup> reports published by the UK Environmental Funders Network have analysed the grants of 97 foundations in detail. In order to avoid weighting this report towards environmental philanthropy in the UK, grant information is included for just 10 of the largest UK-based foundations.

<sup>7</sup> The EFC defines public-benefit foundations as purpose-driven, asset-based, independent and separately constituted non-profit entities

<sup>8</sup> EFN *op. cit.* note 2 pp. 7

# ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING BY EUROPEAN FOUNDATIONS: A SNAPSHOT

## TOTAL FUNDING

A total of 27 foundations provided comprehensive grant-level data on their environmental funding for the most recent fiscal year for which data were available (2008 or 2009). These foundations made close to 800 environmental grants in the period under review. Following a check for double-counting<sup>9</sup>, 791 grants were retained for the analysis, amounting to €181.5 million. A further 13 foundations provided only top-level figures concerning their environmental funding, totalling €61.9 million. The combined environmental grants expenditure for the 40 foundations that submitted partial information or their complete set of grants comes to €292.5 million. While €292.5 million may look like a lot of money at first glance, in reality it represents a small share of the total giving by the foundations covered in the study. Data for 21 out of the 27 foundations show that these foundations spent €162.7 million on environmental issues compared to a total expenditure on all issues of over €1 billion. Environmental grants therefore represent only 16% of total grants made for these 21 foundations. For 15 out of the 21 foundations, environmental grants represent less than a third of their total grantmaking; while for seven of the 21 foundations, environmental grants are less than 10% of their total grantmaking.

## KEY FINDINGS:

- **27** foundations
- **791** grants
- **€181.5** million granted for environmental work
- **599** grantees
- Average grant size: **€229,404**
- Median grant size: **€50,085**

In terms of size, the average grant amount for the sample is €229,404, while the median grant amount is just €50,085. The average size is high in comparison to average grant sizes in similar research from around the world. In the US, UK and Canada, the average grant comes to €75,106, €53,863 and €34,338 respectively. The difference is likely due to the fact that the 27 foundations covered in the study represent mostly the larger environmental funders in Europe.

A small number of large grants account for a significant share of the total expenditure, with the 10 largest grants accounting for 40% of the funding reported in this study. This pattern is not an unusual one when analysing the funds provided by foundations, but the 'top-heavy' nature of the distribution is particularly evident in this survey due to the nature of the sample. Grant sizes range from more than €15 million down to just €640, and the total amount of environmental grants made by the 27 foundations also varies hugely.

Average grant sizes for each foundation also showed significant variation, from €3.2 million to just €13,229. The average grant size for more than half of the foundations studied was under €100,000, with eight foundations having average grants that fell in the range between €56,000 and €70,000.

## THEMATIC FOCUS

The programmatic priorities of the 27 foundations were analysed by coding the 791 grants to 13 thematic categories. Annex II of this report provides descriptions of the categories, which were jointly developed by the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network, the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network, the US Environmental Grantmakers Association, the UK Environmental Funders Network and the EFC. Table 1 shows how grants are distributed across the categories.

<sup>9</sup> Grants made to other foundations in the group of 27 and subsequently re-granted were removed from the total used for analysis.

TABLE 1: ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS BY THEMATIC ISSUE

THEMATIC ISSUE	NO. OF GRANTS	TOTAL (€)	AVERAGE GRANT (€)	% OF ALL GRANTS	NO. OF FOUNDATIONS
Terrestrial ecosystems & land use	119	35,718,544	300,156	19.7	19
Biodiversity & species preservation	114	30,676,222	269,090	16.9	15
Multi-issue work	57	28,842,937	506,016	15.9	13
Climate & atmosphere	103	22,466,023	218,117	12.4	14
Coastal & marine	51	20,362,557	399,266	11.2	9
Agriculture & food	131	13,686,008	104,473	7.5	16
Energy	86	10,658,531	123,936	5.9	12
Toxics & pollution	21	5,276,690	251,271	2.9	6
Fresh water	23	4,555,893	198,082	2.5	8
Transport	22	3,887,361	176,698	2.1	8
Sustainable communities	40	3,333,520	83,338	1.8	14
Trade & finance	18	1,681,072	93,393	0.9	6
Consumption & waste	6	313,402	52,234	0.2	5
TOTALS	791	181,458,760	n/a	100	n/a

Work in the categories 'Terrestrial ecosystems & land use' and 'Biodiversity & species preservation' receives strong support, with the two categories combined accounting for more than a third of all grants given.

The three categories 'Climate change & atmosphere', 'Energy', and 'Transportation' account for 20.4% of all grants made. This is a rough indication of the proportion of funding available to tackling climate change directly and through strongly related issues. The small sums of money directed to work around 'Trade & finance' and 'Consumption & waste' are striking, considering that these categories cover critical challenges including the de-materialising of economic activity, boosting sustainable consumption, tackling population growth, and reforming financial systems associated with environmental

degradation. Foundations appear to have little appetite for grappling with such systemic issues, although arguably they threaten progress in other categories of environmental effort.

According to the European Environment Agency, such issues also suffer a policy deficit: "Current [European] policies do not sufficiently address the underlying causes of unsustainable consumption, tend to focus instead on reducing impacts, and are often based on voluntary instruments."<sup>10</sup>

Foundations are well placed to help accelerate progress in tackling these challenges, given their ability to fund innovation and to take risks, but doing so will require a move out of their current 'comfort zone'.

<sup>10</sup> The European Environment - State and outlook 2010: synthesis, European Environment Agency, 2010

## GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS

This report provides two different analyses of the geographic distribution of the grants from the 27 foundations - the first according to the location of the immediate grantee, the second according to where the funds are ultimately spent. This methodology recognises that grantee organisations are often based in one place but aim to affect outcomes in another. For instance, an EU-based group in the business of protecting elephants may re-grant some of its revenues to partner organisations in Kenya; or a Brussels-based think tank may direct its energies to influencing international climate negotiations.

### i) Location of grantee organisation

Grants were coded according to the country where the grantee organisation is located, so a grant to Greenpeace International, for example, is recorded as a grant to the Netherlands, since the organisation is headquartered in Amsterdam.

The 791 grants from the 27 foundations were distributed to organisations across 51 different

countries. As it becomes clear in Table 2, the bulk of the funding is concentrated in a small number of countries. The top three countries - Netherlands, UK, and US - account for nearly 69% of the grants in terms of their value, and the top five (adding Italy and Sweden) - for more than 78%. It is interesting that nearly 13% of the funding was directed to organisations based in the US, where there is a domestic environmental philanthropic sector spending more than \$2 billion annually<sup>11</sup>.

Fourteen of the foundations in the study directed 90% to 100% of their grants to organisations headquartered in their home country. At the other end of the scale, the group of 27 includes foundations with an explicitly international mandate, with five foundations making less than 13% of their grants to groups based in the country where the foundation is located. It should be noted that the regulatory environment for foundations is not conducive to cross-border giving in some European countries; this represents one possible barrier to funding internationally.

TABLE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS BY GRANTEE LOCATION: TOP 20 COUNTRIES

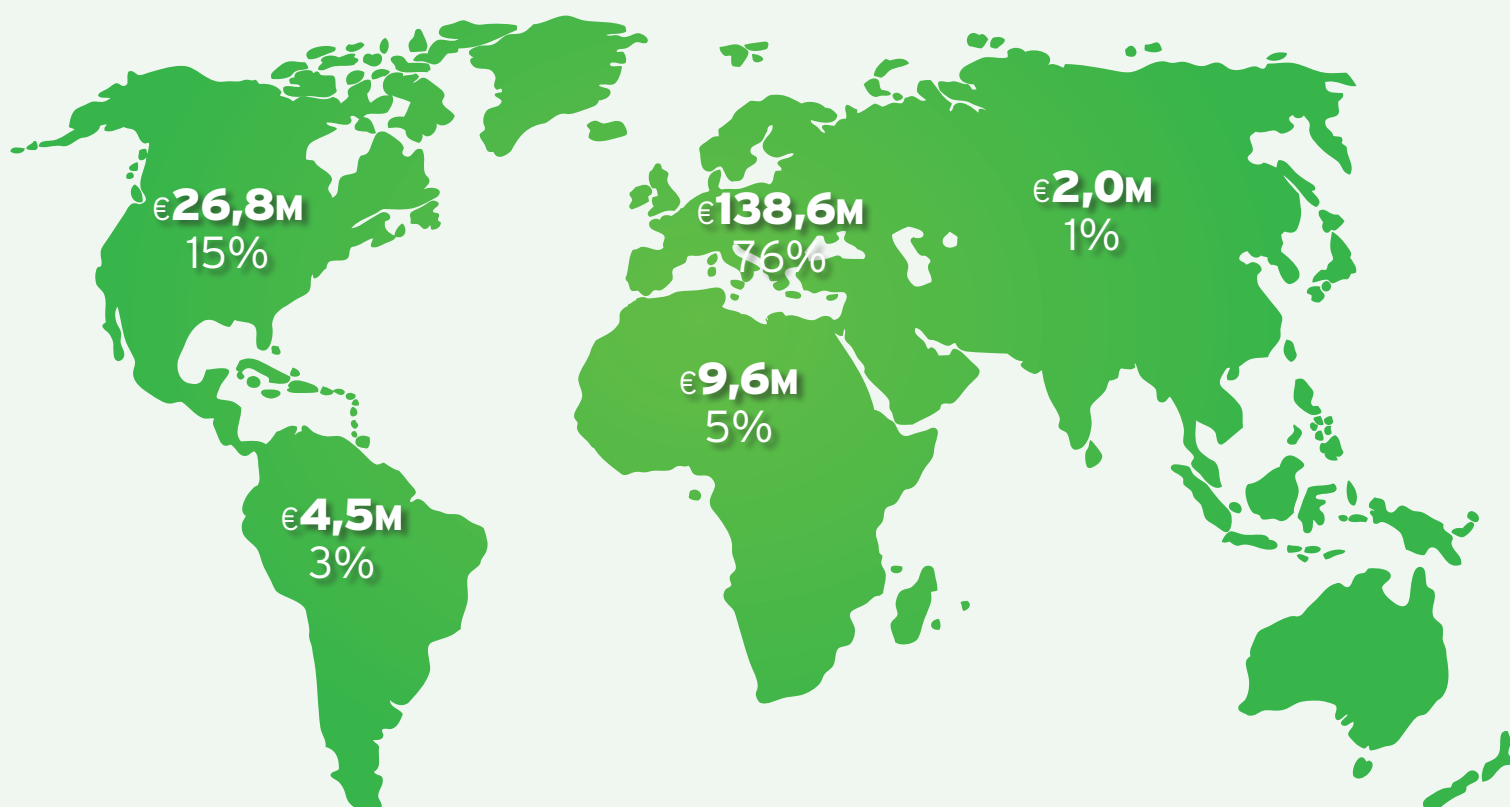
COUNTRY IN WHICH GRANTEE IS BASED	NO. OF GRANTS	VALUE (€)	NO. OF FDNS. GRANTING TO THIS COUNTRY	% OF TOTAL ENVT. GRANTS
Netherlands	111	77,883,859	8	42.9
United Kingdom	236	24,230,046	16	13.4
United States	57	23,052,824	8	12.7
Italy	79	9,600,829	7	5.3
Sweden	2	7,160,000	1	3.9
France	75	7,027,142	5	3.9
Germany	38	4,884,804	4	2.7
South Africa	11	4,856,689	7	2.7
Belgium	42	4,246,748	5	2.3
Canada	5	3,747,815	2	2.1
Uganda	11	2,973,901	3	1.6
India	13	1,341,619	5	0.7
Switzerland	22	1,257,070	6	0.7
Belize	2	1,238,724	1	0.7
Argentina	3	1,181,014	1	0.7
Brazil	1	1,000,000	1	0.6
Greece	2	628,896	1	0.3
Kenya	6	585,143	2	0.3
Poland	10	570,168	1	0.3
Surinam	1	464,000	1	0.3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>177,931,290</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>98.1</b>

<sup>11</sup> EGA op. cit. note 3 pp. 7

The distribution of grants shown in Table 2 is influenced by the composition of the sample of 27 foundations covered in this study. Given that many foundations tend to fund organisations located in the country in which they are based, one would expect that the share of money going to environmental

groups in, say, Germany<sup>12</sup> or Spain, would be higher if more German or Spanish foundations had provided data for the research. With additional data on foundations' giving, future editions of this research should be able to make more accurate assessments of how grants are being disbursed.

FIGURE 1: DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS BY GRANTEE LOCATION, CLUSTERED BY REGION



Looking at the geographical distribution of grantees by world region rather than country, the dominance of Europe is clear, with 76% of the funds going to organisations headquartered within Europe. This does not mean, however, that the activities they carry out all take place within Europe. More information on the regions being supported is provided below.

#### ii) Location of end beneficiary

Whilst it is interesting to explore the geographical distribution of grants based on the location of grantees, it is clear that

many environmental initiatives take place in an international context, and that the end beneficiaries may not be located in the same place as the organisation receiving the funding. With this in mind, an attempt was made to consistently code each grant by the end-beneficiary country or region. Table 3 shows the 20 countries receiving the most funding. Only grants that directly benefit one country have been included in this table; grants that support work in more than one named country, or a geographic region ('Asia', for instance) have been excluded.

<sup>12</sup> It is worth noting that in 2011 the Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen conducted an online survey aiming to identify German foundations' support for environmental and climate change protection. Out of a total of 350 German-based environmental foundations contacted, 100 participated in the survey, which equates to a 28.6% response rate. Key findings indicate that work on environmental education and communication, climate change and biodiversity receive strong support from German environmental funders. In terms of beneficiaries, the report shows that the majority of German funders support non-governmental organisations, universities, research and educational institutions based in Germany. For further information, see *StiftungsReport 2011/12 Auftrag Nachhaltigkeit: Wie Stiftungen das Klima schützen*, Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen, Berlin, 2011 (ISBN 978-3-941368-21-7)

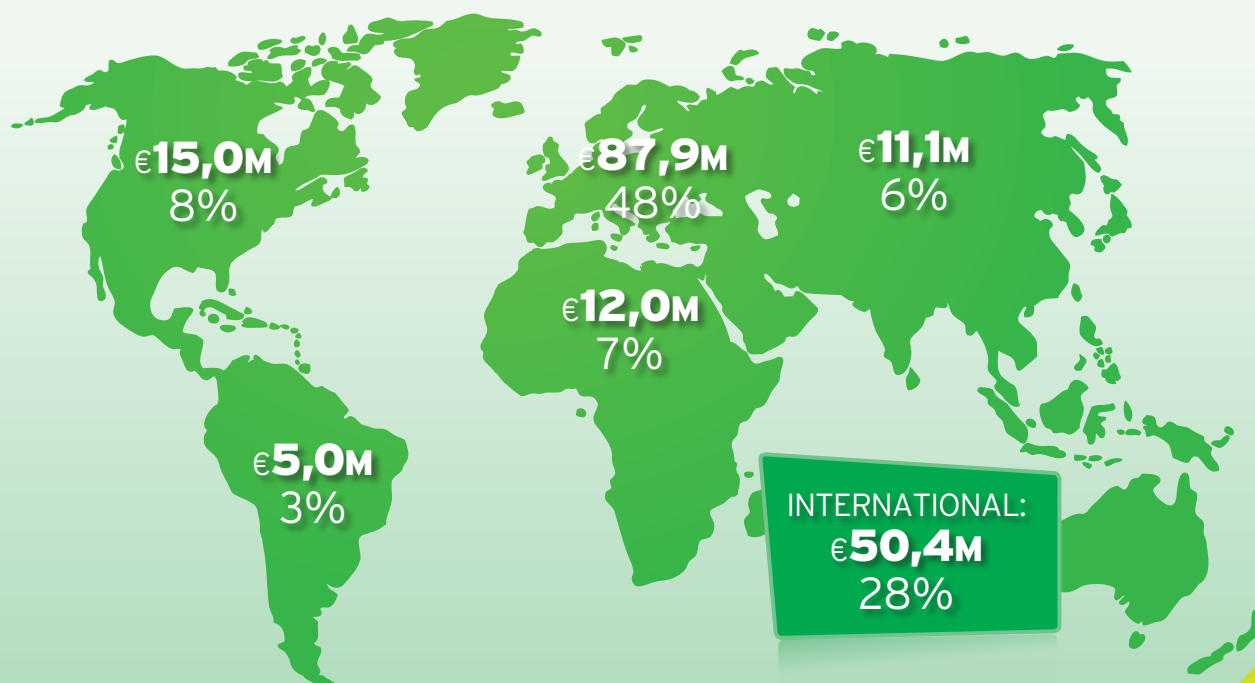
TABLE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS BY END-BENEFICIARY COUNTRY: TOP 20 COUNTRIES

COUNTRY OF END BENEFICIARY	NO. OF GRANTS	VALUE (€)	NO. OF FDNS. GRANTING TO THIS COUNTRY	% OF TOTAL ENV. GRANTS
Netherlands	73	50,368,909	4	27.8
United Kingdom	135	13,359,426	8	7.4
United States	30	11,129,743	2	6.1
Italy	77	9,542,897	6	5.3
India	19	6,073,582	6	3.3
Canada	3	3,656,215	2	2.0
Germany	22	2,623,780	3	1.4
Indonesia	6	2,411,703	3	1.3
France	39	1,992,830	3	1.1
Belize	3	1,353,770	1	0.7
Argentina	3	1,181,014	1	0.7
Belgium	9	1,028,497	1	0.6
Malaysia	1	750,000	1	0.4
China	8	644,895	4	0.4
Kenya	9	636,024	4	0.4
Switzerland	19	630,720	3	0.3
Greece	2	628,896	1	0.3
Poland	10	570,168	1	0.3
South Africa	6	485,389	4	0.3
Mali	8	458,000	3	0.3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>109,526,458</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>60.4</b>

The heavy concentration of funding in a small number of countries is clear, with the top 5 countries in Table 3 accounting for nearly 50% of all grants made. Figure 2 shows the distribution of grants to end beneficiaries according to geographic region. Where

grants benefit a wide range of countries, and/or there is no specific information on how international funds are being deployed, then the category 'international' has been used, alongside the five main world regions.

FIGURE 2: DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS BY END-BENEFICIARY LOCATION, CLUSTERED BY REGION



While 91% of grants have been awarded to organisations in Europe and North America (Figure 1), in practice much of this money goes to support environmental actions elsewhere. Only 56% of the total funding benefits directly initiatives in either European countries or North America (Figure 2). Africa, Asia, and Latin America thus get a higher share of the funding than appears in Figure 1. The 28% of grants that are categorised as 'international' cover projects with global reach, such as conservation work carried out in a variety of countries, or attempts to influence international environmental policy.

Looking at the country level, it is interesting to note that only 12 grants - amounting to €892,720 - are wholly or partially dedicated to environmental work in China. This represents less than 0.5% of the total grants made by the 27 foundations, and indicates a clear mismatch between support from European funders and the impact that China and other rapidly growing economies are having on the global environment.

Looking at Europe, the study identified a sub-set of grants that is explicitly geared towards EU legislation and policies, such as the Common Agricultural Policy, or policies in the field of climate, energy and transport. A total of 70 grants worth €7.6 million were made in support of this kind of work, and these represent a little over 4% of all the grants given by the 27 foundations, and just over 8.6% of the grants that benefitted Europe as a geographical region. Given that 80% of European environmental legislation is framed at the EU level, it is striking that so few European environmental funders are investing actively in trying to make this legislation more ambitious. In addition, only a few grants were identified that promote the implementation of EU environmental legislation or the monitoring of performance, despite the fact that both are vital to the delivery of good environmental outcomes.

## **MOST WIDELY-SUPPORTED GRANTEES**

The collected data enables an analysis of the funding received by individual grantees. In total the 27 foundations supported 599 environmental organisations. Table 4 lists all the organisations that received grants from at least two of the 27 foundations in the study, and then shows whether or not these grants came from foundations based in more than one country.

World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and Friends of the Earth should arguably feature in Table 4, as both received grants from multiple foundations. However, with the exception of Friends of the Earth USA, none of their regional offices received funding from two different foundations from the sample of 27, which was the first requirement for featuring in Table 4. In WWF's case, a total of 19 grants were spread across nine of their national offices, and in the case of Friends of the Earth, eight grants were directed to four of their international offices, in addition to the grants allocated to Friends of the Earth USA.

Given the disparate funding interests of the foundations studied, and their tendency to support grantees based in their own country, it is not surprising that few grantees received awards from multiple foundations. UK-based organisations stand out in the table as being most likely to have received grants from two or more of the 27 foundations. Only eight grantees outside the UK received support from two or more foundations from the group of 27 and only one organisation had secured grants from four of the 27 foundations. This is consistent with the findings of the "Where the Green Grants Went" that show that grants from foundations tend to be spread widely and thinly across the environmental movement.

TABLE 4: GRANTEE ORGANISATIONS RECEIVING GRANTS FROM AT LEAST TWO OF THE 27 FOUNDATIONS INCLUDED IN THE STUDY

Grantee	HQ country	Funders from more than one country
Avon Wildlife Trust	UK	No
Bath City Farm	UK	No
Butterfly Conservation	UK	No
China Dialogue	UK	No
Clean Air Task Force	USA	Yes
ClientEarth	UK	Yes
Climate Group, The	UK	Yes
Compassion in World Farming	UK	No
European Environmental Bureau	Belgium	Yes
Friends of the Earth USA	USA	Yes
Global Canopy Programme	UK	No
Global Witness	UK	Yes
Green Alliance	UK	Yes
Greenpeace International	Netherlands	Yes
Internat. Institute for Env't. & Development	UK	No
IUCN Netherlands	Netherlands	No
John Muir Trust	UK	No
Marine Stewardship Council	UK	Yes
Natuurmonumenten	Netherlands	No
Pacific Environment	USA	Yes
Peace Parks Foundation	South Africa	Yes
Pesticide Action Network UK	UK	No
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	UK	Yes
Sandbag	UK	Yes
Shark Trust, The	UK	Yes
Slow Food International	Italy	Yes
Stichting Natuur en Milieu	Netherlands	No
Third Generation Environmentalism - E3G	UK	Yes
Whitley Fund for Nature	UK	No

# **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE BY EU MEMBER STATES & ISSUES FOR FUNDERS TO CONSIDER**

Understandings of 'effectiveness' in environmental philanthropy need to take into account the presence or absence of supportive political and values systems in different countries, along with analysis of the capacity of environmental organisations, and debate over what kinds of environmental outcomes actually constitute a success. This part of the report uses a series of well-known indicators to compare overall environmental performance and attitudes towards the environment between EU countries. The data in Table 5 shows that a number of countries stand out as environmental leaders in a broad sense, and that other countries might benefit from additional resources in order to drive change. This short review seeks to provide a broader context for discussion of effectiveness among funders and to stimulate debate on ways in which the overall environmental performance of the EU could be increased.

**TABLE 5: COMPARATIVE DATA ON ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE AND AWARENESS IN EU MEMBER STATES**

The table looks at environmental performance within and between EU Member States. Columns shaded purple provide background information on population and levels of income. Columns shaded blue present information from three internationally recognised indicators of environmental performance, plus greenhouse gas emissions per capita. Columns shaded pink reflect values and awareness in relation to environmental issues. Please refer to the notes beneath the table for a full explanation of data categories. The top performing countries on each indicator are picked out in blue font in the table, and those at the bottom of the rankings in red.

MEMBER STATE (1)	COUNCIL VOTES (2)	POPULATION (3)	% OF TOTAL EU POPULN. (4)	GDP/CAP (\$) PPP (5)	GHG/CAP (6)	ENV. PERF. INDEX 2010 (7)	HAPPY PLANET INDEX (8)	ECOL. FOOTPRINT (GHA/CAP) (9)	CONFIDENCE IN THE ENV. MOVEMENT (10)	ACTIVE MEMBER OF ENV. ORG (11)	% OF POPLN. WHICH IS "POST-MATERIALISTIC" (12)	"HOW WELL INFORMED DO YOU THINK YOU ARE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE" (13)
SWEDEN	10	9,340,682	1.9	37,775	7.0	86.0	48.0	5.1	9.4	1.0	8.8	82.3
FRANCE	29	64,714,074	12.9	34,092	8.2	78.2	43.9	4.9	10.2	6.3	7.6	56.7
AUSTRIA	10	8,375,290	1.7	39,454	10.4	78.1	47.7	5.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	48.0
MALTA	3	412,970	0.1	24,081	7.2	76.3	50.4	3.8*	n/a	n/a	n/a	46.3
FINLAND	7	5,351,427	1.1	34,401	13.2	74.7	47.2	5.2	5.2	1.6	3.5	76.3
SLOVAKIA	7	5,369,168	1.1	22,267	9.0	74.5	43.5	3.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	41.3
UK	29	62,008,048	12.4	35,053	10.3	74.2	43.3	5.3	12.9	6.0	4.7	72.3
GERMANY	29	81,802,257	16.3	35,930	11.7	73.2	48.1	4.2	7.3	1.5	3.6	65.7
ITALY	29	60,340,328	12.0	29,418	9.1	73.1	44.0	4.8	9.0	1.4	6.2	40.3
PORTUGAL	12	10,637,713	2.1	23,113	7.4	73.0	37.5	4.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	29.0
LATVIA	4	2,248,374	0.4	14,330	5.2	72.5	36.7	3.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	48.7
CZECH REP.	12	10,506,813	2.1	24,987	13.6	71.6	38.3	5.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	36.7
SPAIN	27	45,989,016	9.2	29,651	9.0	70.6	43.2	5.7	8.1	1.1	3.1	50.0
DENMARK	7	5,534,738	1.1	36,764	11.7	69.2	35.5	8.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	69.7
HUNGARY	12	10,014,324	2.0	18,815	7.3	69.1	38.9	3.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	53.0
LITHUANIA	7	3,329,039	0.7	16,997	7.2	68.3	40.9	3.2	n/a	n/a	n/a	40.7
LUXEMBOURG	4	502,066	0.1	80,304	25.8	67.8	28.5	10.2*	n/a	n/a	n/a	64.7
IRELAND	7	4,467,854	0.9	38,685	15.3	67.1	42.6	6.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	66.0
ROMANIA	14	21,462,186	4.3	11,766	6.8	67.0	43.9	2.9	5.8	0.2	0.4	29.3
NETHERLANDS	13	16,574,989	3.3	40,777	12.6	66.4	50.6	4.4	4.8	4.1	5.2	76.7
SLOVENIA	4	2,046,976	0.4	27,899	10.6	65.0	44.5	4.5	5.0	2.7	1.9	71.7
ESTONIA	4	1,340,127	0.3	18,274	15.1	63.8	26.4	6.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	44.3
POLAND	27	38,167,329	7.6	18,837	10.4	63.1	42.8	4.0	6.8	1.6	0.5	41.3
BULGARIA	10	7,563,710	1.5	12,052	9.6	62.5	42.0	2.7	6.0	0.4	0.2	28.3
GREECE	12	11,305,118	2.3	28,833	11.3	60.9	37.6	5.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	53.0
BELGIUM	12	10,839,905	2.2	36,274	12.5	58.1	45.4	5.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	57.0
CYPRUS	4	803,147	0.2	28,045	12.9	56.3	46.2	4.5*	15.5	1.1	1.5	56.7

**Notes**

- Column 1: Member State name, ranked using their scores on the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) as shown in Column 7.
- Column 2: Number of votes in the EU Council of Ministers.
- Column 3: Population in 2010, Eurostat (Extracted from Eurostat website on 15 March 2011).
- Column 4: Percentage of total EU population.
- Column 5: Gross Domestic Product per capita in US dollars, on a Purchasing Power Parity basis (International Monetary Fund, 2010)
- Column 6: Greenhouse Gas Emissions per capita in tonnes (Eurostat 2008).
- Column 7: EPI 2010: A ranking of 163 countries by the quality of their environmental policies. Countries with a high score often have high per capita Gross Domestic Product, reflecting the financial resources available to environmental protection (Yale and Columbia Universities, <http://epi.yale.edu/>).
- Column 8: Happy Planet Index 2009: The index combines measures for life expectancy, life satisfaction, and ecological footprint to measure wellbeing in relation to resource consumption (New Economics Foundation, [www.happyplanetindex.org](http://www.happyplanetindex.org)).
- Column 9: Ecological footprint, measured in global hectares per capita. Measures the amount of biologically productive land and water area required to produce all the resources that an individual, population, or activity consumes, and to absorb the waste that they generate, given prevailing technology and resource management practices.

- For 24 of the countries these data are for 2007 (National Footprint Accounts 2010, [www.footprintnetwork.org](http://www.footprintnetwork.org)). For the three countries marked with an asterisk the data relate to 2005, and were taken from the Happy Planet Index report (available at [www.happyplanetindex.org](http://www.happyplanetindex.org)).
- Column 10: World Values Survey (WVS) Question: "How much confidence do you have in the environmental protection movement?" Figure in the table is the percentage replying: "A great deal". The WVS provides insights into the underlying values and attitudes of the public in 63 countries.
- Column 11: WVS Question: "Membership of environmental organisation". Figure in the table shows the percentage replying: "Active Member"
- Column 12: WVS Question: "Post-Materialist Index" - this is a composite index drawing on 12 different questions. The figure in the table shows the percentage of people in that country considered 'post-materialists'.
- Column 13: "How well informed do you think you are about climate change?" (Eurobarometer, 2009). The answers to three questions were averaged and the average score for each country is reported in the table. The three questions were: a) Q: "Personally, do you think you are well informed or not about the causes of climate change?" A: "Well informed"; b) Q: "Personally, do you think you are well informed or not about ways in which we can fight climate change?" A: "Well informed"; c) Q: "Personally, do you think you are well informed or not about the different consequences of climate change?" A: "Well informed".

## **POPULATION SIZE, LEVELS OF INCOME AND VOTING WEIGHTS**

Columns 2 to 5 in Table 5 show population size, income per capita and the voting weight of each of the 27 EU Member States. Germany, France, the UK, Italy, Spain and Poland account for more than 70% of Europe's population. Adding the next three countries, Romania, the Netherlands, and Greece takes the figure to more than 80% of the total EU population. Looking at their voting weights, it is clear that what happens in these nine countries is crucial in terms of the overall EU environmental agenda and Europe's level of political ambition for sustainability.

Levels of income vary hugely across the 27 Member States, with Luxembourg having nearly seven times greater per capita GDP than that of Romania. Looking at the nine largest Member States, the gap in terms of per capita GDP ranges from €29,319 (\$40,777) in the Netherlands to just €8,460 (\$11,766) in Romania. This has significant implications for public and political interest in the environmental agenda. While 76.7% of people in the Netherlands consider themselves to be well informed on climate change, just 29.3% feel this way in Romania. Indeed there is a gulf between the attitudes of citizens in the new Member States of Central and Eastern Europe, and their Western European counterparts. While the reasons for this are completely understandable, the practical political consequences are very real in relation to issues like climate change.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Focusing on the four environmental performance indicators (columns 6 to 9) gives another perspective. The relative lack of wealth of Lithuania, Latvia and Romania corresponds with relatively low levels of per capita greenhouse gas emissions. Only Sweden manages a 'top 5' result on greenhouse gas emissions, while also being in the top five Member States in terms of per capita GDP. The variation in greenhouse gas emissions is striking, with Luxembourg emitting nearly five times the volume of greenhouse gases per person than Latvia (25.8 tonnes compared to 5.2 tonnes). This contributes to Luxembourg's poor performance in terms of Ecological Footprint and Happy Planet Index.

Turning to the Environmental Performance Index (EPI), there is marked variation between the best and worst performer (Sweden and Cyprus respectively). However, in general, EU Member States perform well in terms of the quality of their environmental policy at a global level. Thirteen EU countries feature in the 'top 25' of the world rankings for the EPI, and 22 out of the EU 27 Member States have a higher EPI score than the United States, which ranks 61st in the world out of the 163 countries covered by the index.

In contrast to the EPI, EU Member States do not score well on the Happy Planet Index (HPI) rankings, since many consume large volumes of resources in order to provide long lifespans and life satisfaction for their populations. The highest scoring EU Member State in the HPI is the Netherlands, which ranks 43rd out of 143 countries worldwide. It is clear that the EU remains a long way from achieving a sustainable way of living, even if the quality of environmental policy is high in international terms.

Three EU Member States stand out as performing well both on EPI and HPI. These are Sweden, Malta and Austria, which feature in the top 5 EU Member States in both rankings. Many of the wealthy industrialised countries that score well on the EPI also have large ecological footprints, and are consuming more than their fair share of the world's resources.

Within the EU, countries with lower per capita income tend to have smaller ecological footprints. The five EU Member States with the smallest footprints are Romania, Hungary, Malta, Bulgaria, and Slovakia.

## **VALUES AND PUBLIC OPINION**

The data on values (columns 10 to 12) are drawn from the World Values Survey, a global research collaboration in which the public in 63 countries around the world are asked a set of questions that provide insights into their underlying values.

The first of the World Values Survey questions asks how much confidence members of the public have in the environmental protection movement in their country. The UK and France score well on this, along with Cyprus. The UK and France, along with the Netherlands, are also the three countries that seem to have the highest level of citizen involvement in

the environmental movement. The data suggest that these countries have relatively well-developed environmental organisations, with those in the Netherlands and the UK benefitting from significant philanthropic support. The contrast with Bulgaria and Romania is again marked, with 6% or more of the public in the UK and France actively involved in environmental organisations, compared to under 0.5% in Bulgaria and Romania.

Similar disparities can be found when looking at the proportion of survey respondents in each country that are thought to be 'post-materialist' in their values. This figure is calculated by combining the answers to 12 questions from the World Values Survey that seek to measure how much material success matters to the respondent. The top five countries from those for which data are available are: Sweden, France, Italy, the Netherlands, and the UK. The scores on this question reinforce the sense of a European Union comprised of Member States with widely disparate levels of awareness and empathy towards environmental issues, but a joint political decision-making process at the EU institutional level.

When post-materialism, as measured by the World Values Survey, is plotted against the EPI scores of a wider range of countries, for example members of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), there is a notable positive correlation between higher levels of post-materialism and effective environmental policy performance.

Finally, it is worth repeating the observation made about how well-informed the public feels about climate change, as shown in column 13 of Table 5. In the five EU countries scoring highest on this indicator (Sweden, the Netherlands, Finland, the UK, and Slovenia), on average 75.9% of the public felt they were well-informed. In the five countries with the lowest scores (Italy, Czech Republic, Romania, Portugal, and Bulgaria), the average of those who felt they were well informed was just 32.7%, less than half of that for the leading countries. The Italian figure stands out in the context of this report, given that Italian foundations are playing a leading role within European environmental philanthropy in general.

## ISSUES FOR FUNDERS TO CONSIDER

This brief review aims to stimulate debate amongst funders about ways in which the overall environmental performance of the EU could be raised in coming years. Based on the findings from the mapping as well as the picture emerging from the analysis of EU Member States' environmental performance, the authors would like to raise the following issues for foundations to consider:

- What constitutes success for foundations that are funding environmental work across Europe? Are countries with high ecological footprints but high-quality environmental policy actually performing 'better' than those where this trend is reversed?
- What is the relationship between the capacity of environmental organisations (numbers, funding, and staff) in different countries and the performance of those countries on key indicators?
- Should foundations based in the wealthier EU countries invest more in Member States where both environmental awareness and environmental organisations are less developed? Over 40% of grants analysed for this report are directed towards environment groups based in the Netherlands, the EU country that scores highest in the Happy Planet Index. What can help drive a better targeting and more effective allocation of philanthropic funds in Europe and beyond, for those that are working internationally?
- Should foundations direct more resources into work that questions values and social norms, rather than initiatives that work within the social and political status quo? Environmental policy performance seems to correlate strongly with measures of 'post-materialism' in industrialised societies. Yet this report demonstrates that currently there is very little philanthropic support for work around issues like consumption and economic growth.
- What is the relative availability of philanthropic funding for the environment in each EU Member State? More comprehensive data on foundations giving would allow calculation of the per capita availability of grants for environmental initiatives.
- How does public sector funding for environmental initiatives across the EU compare to funding from foundations? Is the same bias towards conservation evident? And how do the volumes of funding from government sources compare to foundation grants?



## **FORWARD MOMENTUM**

This report represents the first systematic attempt at an in-depth analysis of European foundations' environmental funding. While limited in terms of the number of funders covered, it is hoped that this report will provide a good basis for further reflection and research. It also feeds into the body of work that is currently being developed on the state of environmental philanthropy in different parts of the world.

A number of opportunities to take this work forward have been identified:

- Expand and deepen the mapping to cover a larger number of foundations and gain better insight into issues such as the distribution of resources within the environmental movements of different countries and regions, funding gaps, funding strategies and impact areas (research, policy, capacity building, markets, etc)
- Build further evidence of foundations' role and contribution in the environmental field through the compilation of case studies, documenting approaches and impact in this field
- Develop support tools to enable funders to access the data gathered and other relevant knowledge resources
- Provide mechanisms to communicate the results and sustain discussion on the issues raised in the report and reflection on the role of foundations in advancing environmental agendas

## ANNEX I: FOUNDATIONS COVERED IN THE MAPPING

Adessium Foundation (Netherlands)\*  
Agropolis Fondation (France)\*  
Arcadia Fund (UK)\*  
Baltic Sea 2020 (Sweden)\*\*  
Children's Investment Fund Foundation (UK)\*  
Dutch Postcode Lottery (Netherlands)\*  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation (UK)\*  
European Climate Foundation (Netherlands)\*  
Fondation Charles Léopold Mayer pour le progrès de l'Homme (France)\*  
Fondation Ensemble (France)\*  
Fondation Insolites Bâisseurs (France)\*\*  
Fondation Nature et Découvertes (France)\*\*  
Fondation Nicolas Hulot pour la Nature et l'Homme (France)\*\*  
Fondation PETZL (France)\*\*  
Fondazione Cariplo (Italy)\*  
Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Cuneo (Italy)\*  
Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Lucca (Italy)\*  
Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Padova e Rovigo (Italy)\*  
Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Pistoia e Pescia (Italy)\*\*  
Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Bologna (Italy)\*\*  
Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena (Italy)\*  
Foundation A.G. Leventis (Cyprus)\*  
Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian (Portugal)\*\*  
Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento (Portugal)\*\*  
Fundación BBVA (Spain)\*\*  
Fundación 'la Caixa' (Spain)\*\*  
Garfield Weston Foundation (UK)\*  
Gatsby Charitable Foundation (UK)\*  
King Baudouin Foundation (Belgium)\*  
Mava Foundation (Switzerland)\*\*  
Nordea Fonden (Denmark)\*\*  
Oak Foundation (Switzerland)\*  
Realdania (Denmark)\*\*  
Rufford Foundation (UK)\*  
Shell Foundation (UK)\*  
Sigrid Rausing Trust (UK)\*  
Sophie and Karl Binding Stiftung (Switzerland)\*  
Stavros Niarchos Foundation (Greece)\*\*  
Stichting DOEN (Netherlands)\*\*  
Stichting Fonds 1818 (Netherlands)\*  
Stiftung Mercator (Germany)\*  
Tubney Charitable Trust (UK)\*  
Tudor Trust (UK)\*  
Turing Foundation (Netherlands)\*

\* Provided detailed grant-level data for this study.

\*\* Provided only total expenditure and total environmental expenditure data.

## ANNEX II: ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDING: THEMATIC ISSUES TAXONOMY

This taxonomy was developed jointly by the Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network, the Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network, the UK Environmental Funders Network, the US Environmental Grantmakers Association and the EFC with the aim to promote better comparison in analyses of environmental funding patterns. It features 13 main thematic categories, each described and further clarified through a list of keywords and concepts.

**Agriculture and food:** Includes support for organic and other forms of sustainable farming; training and research to help farmers in developing countries; campaigns relating to the control of the food chain; initiatives opposed to factory farming; horticultural organisations and projects; education on agriculture for children and adults (e.g. city farms); opposition to the use of genetically-modified crops and food irradiation; work on food safety and on the genetic diversity of agriculture (including seed banks); and soil conservation.

**Biodiversity and species preservation:** Covers work that protects particular species, be they plant or animal, vertebrate or invertebrate. Includes support for botanic gardens and arboretums; academic research on botany and zoology; the protection of birds and their habitats; marine wildlife such as whales, dolphins and sharks; protection of endangered species such as rhinos and elephants; the defence of globally important biodiversity hotspots, including the use of refuges, reserves, and other habitat conservation projects; and wildlife trusts.

**Climate and atmosphere:** Includes support for work on climate change, ozone depletion, acid rain, air pollution and local air quality.

**Coastal and marine ecosystems:** Includes support for work on fisheries; aquaculture; coastal lands and estuaries; marine protected areas; and marine pollution (such as marine dumping).

**Consumption and waste:** Includes support for work directed at reducing consumption levels; initiatives that look to re-define economic growth; projects on waste reduction, sustainable design and sustainable production; recycling and composting schemes; and all aspects of waste disposal, including incinerators and landfills.

**Energy:** Includes support for: alternative and renewable energy sources; energy efficiency and conservation; work around fossil fuels; hydroelectric schemes; the oil and gas industries; and nuclear power.

**Fresh water:** Includes support for all work relating to lakes and rivers; canals and other inland water systems; issues of groundwater contamination and water conservation; and projects relating to wetlands.

**Multi-issue work:** Covers grants which are hard to allocate to specific categories, generally because the grant takes the form of core funding to an organisation that works on a range of different issues, or because the grant supports environmental media titles or environmental education projects covering a wide range of issues. In addition, some grants provided to generalist re-granting organisations are captured in this category, as it is not possible to tell which issues will be supported when the funds are re-granted.

**Sustainable communities:** Includes support for urban green-spaces and parks; community gardens; built environment projects; and community-based sustainability work.

**Terrestrial ecosystems and land use:** Includes support for land purchases and stewardship; national or regional parks; landscape restoration and landscape scale conservation efforts; tree planting, forestry, and work directed to stopping de-forestation; and the impacts of mining.

**Toxics and pollution.** Covers all the main categories of toxics impacting on the environment and human health: hazardous waste; heavy metals; pesticides; herbicides; radioactive wastes; Persistent Organic Pollutants; household chemicals; other industrial pollutants; and noise pollution.

**Trade and finance.** Includes support for: work on corporate-led globalisation and international trade policy; efforts to reform public financial institutions (such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and Export Credit Agencies); work directed at the lending policies of private banks; initiatives around the reduction of developing country debt; and local economic development projects and economic re-localisation.

**Transport.** Includes support for work on all aspects of transportation, including public transport systems; transport planning; policy on aviation; freight; road-building; shipping; alternatives to car use plus initiatives like car pools and car clubs; the promotion of cycling and walking; and work on vehicle fuel economy.

## ANNEX III: ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDERS NETWORKS AND WORKING GROUPS

Australian Environmental Grantmakers Network (Australia)  
[www.aegn.org.au](http://www.aegn.org.au)

Bundesverband Deutscher Stiftungen, Working Group on Environment, Nature and Health (Germany)  
[www.stiftungen.org](http://www.stiftungen.org)

Canadian Environmental Grantmakers Network (Canada)  
[www.cegn.org](http://www.cegn.org)

Centre Français des Fondations, Working Group on Environnement (France)  
[www.centre-francais-fondations.org](http://www.centre-francais-fondations.org)

The Consultative Group on Biological Diversity (CGBD)  
[www.cgbd.org](http://www.cgbd.org)

EFC European Environmental Funders Group  
[www.efc.be/environment](http://www.efc.be/environment)

Environmental Funders Network (UK)  
[www.greenfunders.org](http://www.greenfunders.org)

Environmental Grantmakers Association (US)  
[www.ega.org](http://www.ega.org)

Latin American and the Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (RedLAC)  
[www.redlac.org](http://www.redlac.org)

SwissFoundations Working Group on Environment (Switzerland)  
[www.swissfoundations.ch](http://www.swissfoundations.ch)



#### **About the EFC...**

The European Foundation Centre, founded in 1989, is an international membership association representing public-benefit foundations and corporate funders active in philanthropy in Europe, and beyond. The Centre develops and pursues activities in line with its four key objectives: creating an enabling legal and fiscal environment; documenting the foundation landscape; building the capacity of foundation professionals; and promoting collaboration, both among foundations and between foundations and other actors. Emphasising transparency and best practice, all members sign up to and uphold the EFC Principles of Good Practice.

