

Funding

Indicator name Conservation funding and development assistance aid

Indicator unit US \$

Area of interest Funding of biodiversity conservation projects by a few key donors is documented in DOPA Explorer at the country level. Funding at the site level is currently documented mainly in DOPA's eConservation application currently available in a Beta version at <http://econservation.jrc.ec.europa.eu>

Related targets



[Sustainable Development Goal 17 on partnerships for the goals](#)

[Also SDGs 14 and 15?](#)



[Aichi Biodiversity Target 20 on mobilizing financial resources](#)

Policy question

Understanding who is doing what and where in biodiversity conservation at the global scale is critical for decision makers, from international donors to conservation organisations. By providing information on both past and present projects, we hope to improve the reuse of project results and lessons learned. Further correlating funding with environmental indicators such as species abundance and diversity, forest cover, land degradation and fragmentation can be useful to assess the long-term impact of local interventions (Waldron *et al.*, 2017). Similarly, one can also assess whether funding has been allocated to areas that are exposed to highest pressures, have most unique habitats and high biodiversity as these sites should be supported in priority.

Use and interpretation

DOPA Explorer provides at the country level a list of conservation projects supported by a number of funding programmes from the EU, the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Project names, their begin and end dates, the type of action and the name of the donors are indicated in a tabular form (Figure 1). All projects have also been georeferenced in another tool from the DOPA, eConservation, and a link to the tool is embedded in DOPA Explorer to allow the visualisation of the project location.

We also provide information about the net official development assistance (ODA) and official aid received per country (current US\$) as provided by the World Bank. Note that in contrast to the information provided about the conservation projects, the ODA is not providing details about the contribution of the development aid allocated to conservation (Figure 2).

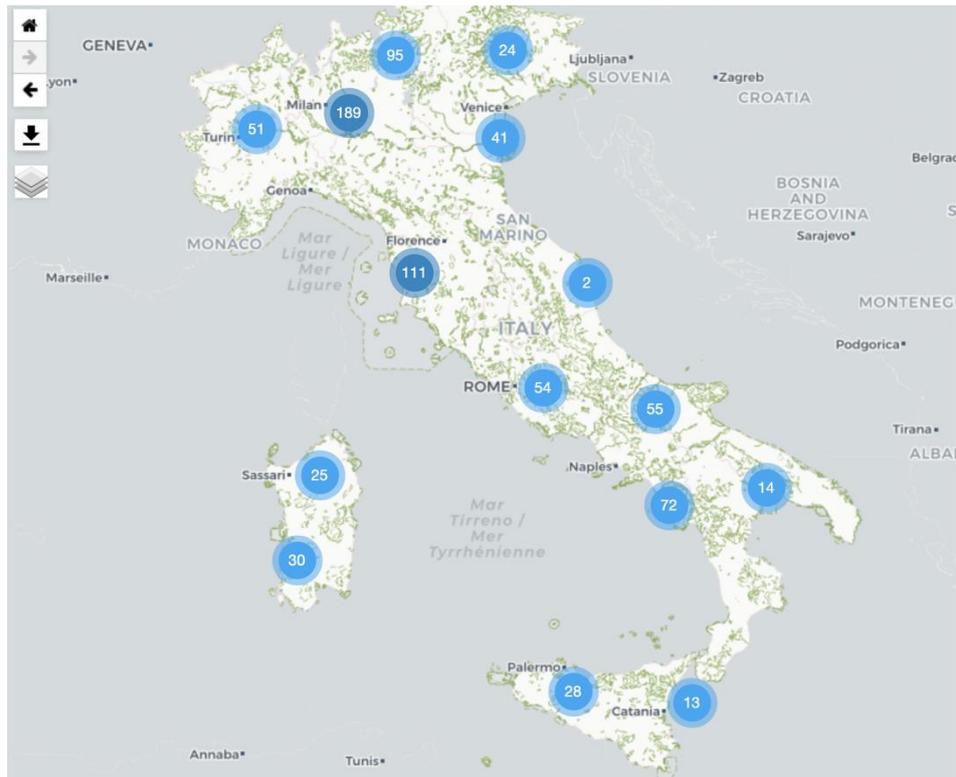


Figure 1. Screen capture of the conservation projects funded in Italy

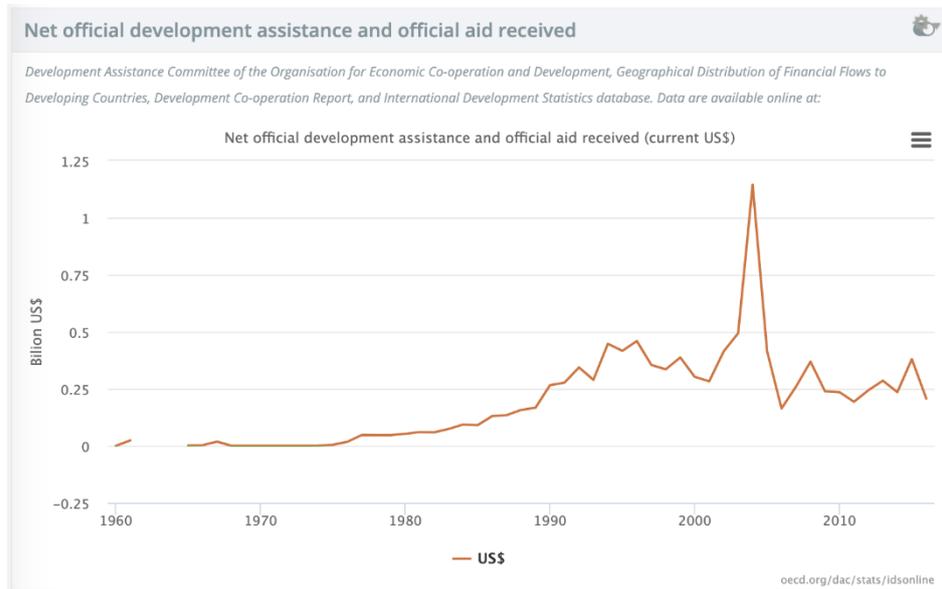


Figure 2. Screen capture of the evolution of development aid as made available by the OECD

Key caveats

Our efforts in documenting who is doing what and where is very much under development as there is no common standard data structure adopted by the

main donors and therefore no simple way to import the information in the DOPA. The number of donors is also very large and we therefore have constrained ourselves to a few key donors only.

The map of conservation projects presented are therefore currently limited to a few programmes, covering a limited time period (from 1992 to 2018 for the EU, from 1987 to 2017 for the World Bank and from 1991 to 2008 for the GEF). We plan to be as exhaustive as possible and hope to cover more donors over the next years. Most information had to be encoded and georeferenced manually. Projects often had limited information about the subject matter and the flagging of a project as one addressing biodiversity conservation was sometimes subjective. Georeferences were also missing and have been encoded manually. Projects that did not specify locations were georeferenced to the location of the country's capital city, assuming that the projects are implemented at a country level. Similarly, projects spread over multiple locations and countries had to be artificially distributed in terms of budget across these locations in an arbitrary way. The users will however find some information in eConservation about the level of precision we attributed to the geolocation assigned to each project. All these steps are obviously prone to errors and can lead to wrong information.

Indicator status ODA funding is frequently reported by a number of authorities such as the OECD or the World Bank. If the information presented by the DOPA is more detailed and is specific to biodiversity conservation, it should not be considered under any circumstances as a formal reporting on biodiversity-related financing under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

Available data and resources

Data available DOPA Explorer provides a list of conservation projects funded by the European Union (from 1992 to 2018), the World Bank (from 1987 to 2017) and the GEF (from 1991 to 2008, pre-processing is in progress). The EU data include projects from the EU LIFE Programme, the BEST Initiative and EuropeAid. Our database contains currently over 3100 projects covering some 10470 different project sites in over 215 countries.

Data updates Currently no more updates are planned

Codes Standard GIS operations.

Methodology

Methodology The information currently presented includes data on biodiversity related projects funded by big public donors such as the European Union (EU), the World Bank and the Global Environment Facility. Where applicable, we use the Rio marker for biodiversity related development finance to identify relevant projects, i.e. aid activities targeting biodiversity as a principal or significant objective. The Rio marker for biodiversity was introduced in 1998 as a statistical policy marker to facilitate monitoring and reporting of development finance supporting the objectives of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

The project data obtained from the data providers were pre-processed in various ways before being included in the eConservation database and interface. Pre-processing includes checking, filtering and cleaning of datasets, transformation to different data formats, geo-referencing, and classification of conservation action types (Salafsky *et al.*, 2008).

Input datasets

The information currently presented includes data on biodiversity related projects funded by

The EU:

- Life Programme: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/search>
- BEST initiative: https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/best-initiative-supporting-biodiversity-outermost-regions-and-overseas-countries-and-territories_en
- EuropeAid: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/index_en

The World Bank:

- World Bank projects: <https://projects.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/projects-home>

The GEF:

- Global Environment Facility: <https://www.thegef.org/projects-operations/database>

References

Salafsky, N. *et al.* (2008). A standard Lexicon for biodiversity conservation: unified classifications of threats and actions. *Conservation Biology*, 22(4): 897-911.

Waldron, A. *et al.*, (2017). Reductions in global biodiversity loss predicted from conservation spending. *Nature*, 551: 364–367. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/nature24295>

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Factsheet last updated

October 12, 2023



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