

Research

for a sustainable environment

Earthwatch's Research Programme focuses on the sustainable management of ecosystems and the services they provide. It involves a global community of leading researchers, employees, NGOs and businesses, working together for a sustainable environment. Our research addresses four priority areas:

Climate Change

Improving our understanding of the carbon cycle, assessing climate change impacts and exploring management interventions to mitigate impacts on landscapes and species.

Oceans

Understanding and mitigating the effects of human activities on coastal habitats such as mangroves and coral reefs.

Ecosystem Services

Conserving and enhancing multifunctional landscapes to maintain a balance between productivity and biodiversity.

Cultural Heritage

Investigating the genetic, ecological, cultural, and linguistic diversity found in native biological and cultural systems, and how communities manage their environments.

Earthwatch seeks to develop strategic research partnerships to contribute to global conservation agendas and enable businesses to operate more sustainably.

Why is environmental research relevant to business?

- The next 50 years will see dramatic changes in ecosystem services that we take for granted – stable climates, water supply, soil health and agriculture
- Businesses depend on and impact ecosystems
- Economic success is linked to environmental and social performance
- Organisations are trying to understand and manage their ecological footprint, to assess and mitigate risks throughout their business processes

The business case for environmental research

- Urgent need for scientific research to develop sustainable solutions
- Better assessment on companies' dependence and impacts on ecosystems
- Strengthen operations, explore new opportunities and identify new business models
- Companies can show leadership by engaging in environmental research

Outcomes of business engagement with research

- Better informed business strategies and practices
- New tools for managing environmental risks and seizing opportunities
- Demonstrating leadership in addressing sustainability challenges
- Increased employee awareness, greater commitment, improved talent pipeline
- Enhanced networking with scientists and other companies
- Productive partnerships with NGOs and stakeholders
- Contributions to national and international policy frameworks



Earthwatch Institute is a global environmental organisation.

Our mission is to engage people worldwide in scientific field research and education in order to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment.

Our vision is a world in which we live within our means and in balance with nature.

www.earthwatch.org/europe

Working together

Earthwatch supports over 50 research projects, many of which focus on sustainability challenges relevant to business. Working together we can select projects that provide excellent opportunities for employee volunteering and training in areas critical to your business success.

We can also work with you to co-develop new research projects which address environmental issues of particular importance to your company, while contributing to global conservation priorities. Partnerships with Earthwatch provide opportunities to learn from scientists and other companies.

Two of the great challenges for environmental sustainability are understanding how climate change will shape our future and reducing the impacts of agriculture on natural and productive landscapes.

Earthwatch climate change research

Climate change threatens the sustainability of ecosystem services on which we depend. Our research investigates how to balance society's competing demands and maintain ecosystem services under changing conditions. Monitoring the impacts of climate change is vital, but studies must yield results of direct management benefit and support decision making. Current projects include research on the impact on climate change from melting permafrost in northern Canada, and the use mangrove forests as long-term carbon sinks in Kenya and Sri Lanka.

The HSBC Climate Partnership supports critical research into the impacts of climate change on the world's temperate and tropical forest ecosystems. Earthwatch is working with HSBC and the Smithsonian Tropical Rainforest Institute to gather data that will inform management plans and policy decisions concerning the future of the world's forests and the communities that depend on them.

Shell supports the Earthwatch project *Climate Change and Landscape in Borneo*, which looks at maintaining rainforest ecosystem functions in the face of land use and climate change. The programme is helping Shell work with others to make a positive contribution towards the conservation of global biodiversity.

Earthwatch sustainable agriculture research

Population growth, economic development and changes in lifestyles are driving up demand for food and agricultural goods. Expansion and intensification of agriculture are putting further pressure on the remaining productive land. Our research explores how multi-functional landscapes can produce the food we need while also conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services and providing benefits to farmers, rural communities and society. A common research framework covering a range of sites will assess alternative strategies and inform future planning and policy. Among the companies that have taken the lead in supporting sustainable agriculture and forest research are Starbucks, Syngenta, Cadbury and British American Tobacco. See the Research for **sustainable agriculture** [insert 4] information sheet in this series.



1

2

3

4

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS FAMILY

- 1 Partnerships for a sustainable environment
- 2 Engaging employees for a sustainable environment
- 3 Research for a sustainable environment
- 4 Research for sustainable agriculture

Next steps

To find out more about partnering with Earthwatch, please contact:

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