

[Press release: Government scales up support to protect the world's ocean with multimillion boost for marine recovery](#)

Blue Planet Fund delivers £16.2m for five programmes to tackle climate change, restore ocean health and reduce poverty in developing countries.

[Government scales up support to protect the world's ocean with multimillion boost for marine recovery](#)

Projects to tackle climate change and protect the world's ocean have been given a major boost with the first £16.2 million of funding from the UK's £500 million Blue Planet Fund announced today.

The programmes, financed from the UK's overseas aid budget, will increase marine protection, tackle plastic pollution and the decline of global coral reefs, as well as using the UK's world-leading expertise to help respond to marine pollution disasters such as the Xpress Pearl in Sri Lanka.

The ocean is a critical carbon sink which every year absorbs almost a third of global CO₂ emissions. Around the globe, the ocean supports the livelihoods of one in every ten people, including some of the poorest and most vulnerable.

In the run up to the UK hosting the COP26 climate talks in November, the government is working with developing countries to take action to protect and restore our oceans.

The projects receiving funding include the launch of a new UK-led programme which will help developing countries partner with the UK's world-leading scientists to better manage marine protected areas, and improve our understanding of the impacts of climate change and contaminants in the ocean.

The Ocean Country Partnership Programme (OCP) already has work underway with UK scientists at the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) providing analysis of water samples from Sri Lanka to contribute to the ongoing response to the Xpress Pearl environmental disaster in June.

Environment Secretary, George Eustice, said:

The UK is a global leader in marine protection and will continue to advocate for ambitious climate and ocean action at COP26 this year.

Our shared ocean is a vital resource and provides habitat to precious marine life, as well as supporting the livelihoods of one in every ten people worldwide.

The Blue Planet Fund will support many developing countries on the front line of climate change to reduce poverty and improve the health of their seas.

Coral reefs support 25% of marine life and provide benefits to thousands of species – qualities that make them one of the world’s most valuable ecosystems. However, they are also extremely vulnerable to climate change and pollution. Today’s investment will support work by the [Global Fund for Coral Reefs \(GFCR\)](#) in the Caribbean, Indian Ocean, Pacific and Southeast Asia by exploring techniques such as sewage treatment and the management of marine protected areas to help save these suffering ecosystems.

Marine pollution, including plastic pollution, is a significant pressure on the marine environment – not only does it threaten key species and ecosystems in the world’s ocean, it also affects the health and livelihoods of those living in coastal regions. A share of the £16.2m will also go towards the expansion of the [Global Plastic Action Partnership \(GPAP\)](#)’s pioneering work in developing countries and facilitate a united effort against plastic waste globally. Since its launch in 2018, GPAP secured a commitment by Indonesia to reduce 70% of mismanaged waste by 2025 and a commitment by Viet Nam to reduce marine plastic waste by 75% by 2030, among others.

The UK is also leading calls for a new global ‘30by30’ target to protect at least 30% of the land and at least 30% of the ocean by 2030. Over eighty countries now support the marine protection target, and the Blue Planet Fund will help make sure that 30by30 becomes a reality.

UK’s most sustainable breweries at New Zealand’s biggest beer festival

Innovative UK breweries will feature on the GREAT stand at New Zealand’s premier celebration of good beer.

UK's most sustainable breweries at New Zealand's biggest beer festival

World news story

Innovative UK breweries will feature on the GREAT stand at New Zealand's premier celebration of good beer.



The UK returns to Beervana to showcase Britain's most innovative breweries

Eight of the UK's most innovative breweries will feature on the UK's Department for International Trade's Great Britain stand at [Beervana](#) in Wellington from the 13 to 14 of August.

As New Zealand's premier celebration of good beer, the Great Britain stand will bring international beer lovers together.

The 8 breweries featured on the stand are:

Greene King Brewery and Shepherd Neame are members of the UK's ['Net Zero Now'](#) initiative launched in July 2021. This scheme is an industry protocol and certification standard which will help bars and pubs across Britain reach net-zero before the national legal deadline of 2050.

Britain's oldest brewery, Shepherd Neame, founded in 1698 has repeatedly pioneered sustainable brewing methods. They recycle 97% of the grain and hops used in the brewing process and their waste management was restructured so they could convert it into biofuel. In 2013 Shepherd Neame also invested in a £3 million water recovery plant which enabled them to reduce their water consumption by 40%.

British Consul General and Deputy Trade Commissioner Asia Pacific (Australia and New Zealand) Louise Cantillon said:

We are proud to be featuring 8 of the UK's most innovative and sustainable breweries at Beervana 2021.

Beer is one of the UK's top 3 food and drink exports with over 1 billion pints exported every year. Through the future UK-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement we will continue to strengthen opportunities to export high-quality British food and drink products so they can be enjoyed by a wider New Zealand audience.

Today UK breweries employ 870,000 people either directly or indirectly. Every job in brewing supports 18 employees in pubs, one employee in farming, one in the supply chain and one in retail.

Media contact

Bailee Dean

Public Relations and Communications Manager

UK's Department for International Trade

British Consulate General Sydney

bailee.dean@mobile.trade.gov.uk

Published 12 August 2021

UK steps up support to help British nationals leave Afghanistan

- Military personnel will deploy to the country on a short term basis to assist British nationals to leave
- The British Embassy in Kabul is focusing efforts on consular assistance and accelerating work to provide visas for former UK staff in Afghanistan
- Last week FCDO Travel Advice changed to recommend British nationals leave Afghanistan as soon as possible

The additional deployment of approximately 600 troops is in light of the increasing violence and rapidly deteriorating security environment in the country. In parallel, the number of staff working at the British Embassy in Kabul has been reduced to a core team focused on providing consular and visa services for those needing to rapidly leave the country.

Last Friday the FCDO changed Travel Advice to recommend that all British

nationals leave Afghanistan as soon as possible, while commercial travel options remain available. Any British nationals who are still in Afghanistan are encouraged to contact the Embassy in Kabul as soon as possible for assistance.

UK troops will provide force protection and logistical support for the relocation of British nationals where required and assist with the acceleration of the Afghan Relocation and Assistance Policy (ARAP). This will help to make sure interpreters and other Afghan staff who risked their lives working alongside UK forces in Afghanistan can relocate to the UK as soon as possible.

Defence Secretary Ben Wallace MP said:

I have authorised the deployment of additional military personnel to support the diplomatic presence in Kabul, assist British nationals to leave the country and support the relocation of former Afghan staff who risked their lives serving alongside us.

The security of British nationals, British military personnel and former Afghan staff is our first priority. We must do everything we can to ensure their safety.

The additional military support announced today will arrive in Kabul over the coming days.

Sir Laurie Bristow, the UK's Ambassador to Afghanistan, will continue to lead a small team in Afghanistan which will relocate within Kabul to a more secure location. This team will focus on helping remaining UK nationals to leave the country, and the continued roll out of the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and working with international partners to support the Afghan Government.

ARAP, launched on 1 April 2021, is the most generous scheme of its kind in the world and has already supported over 3,100 former Afghan staff and their families to start new lives in the UK, with more than 1,800 of them arriving over the last few weeks alone. In the coming days UK Government will further accelerate work on this scheme to ensure those who are eligible go through the necessary security checks and have the required documentation to travel to the UK.

The UK remains committed to Afghanistan and will continue working as part of the international coalition to support the country's government through our diplomacy, development and counter terrorism work. This year the UK will provide Afghanistan with more than £100 million of support to improve critical health and education services.