

Catalyzed project

The impacts of climate change on global biodiversity



Thematic Area:

Biodiversity and climate change

Start date: 2nd February 2011

Status: Active

Key contacts



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Project description

Climate change is projected to have a significant effect upon the future rate of biodiversity loss. There is therefore an urgent need to identify the key mechanisms underpinning climate change impacts on biodiversity in order to best select climate change adaptation strategies. It is also essential that the scale of these changes are clearly communicated to policy and decision-makers.

With these aims in mind, the Shared Challenges Programme convened meetings in early 2011 to discuss ways in which CCI could develop collaborative projects centred on climate change impacts on wildlife. These meetings led to the development of two CCI-funded projects:

- 1) 'Mechanisms underpinning climate change impacts on global biodiversity' (Collaborative Fund)
- 2) 'Developing a framework to inform climate change adaptation for global biodiversity' (Workshop Fund)

During these meetings, CCI partners were also invited to help shape the agenda and provide recommendations of speakers at a conference on a related topic, organised by the RSPB in collaboration with Natural England and WWF-UK. The day-long conference, 'Climate Change: Biodiversity and People on the Front Line', took place at the Royal Society on the 9th November 2011 and its aim was to highlight the impacts of climate change on wildlife and people, now and in the future. A report based on this meeting can be found on the RSPB website.

Aims

The original aim of this project was to bring together people from across CCI with an interest in the way in which climate change impacts wildlife and the implications for adaptation, to discuss potential collaborative projects. As a result, two projects were funded by CCI, and the Programme has continued to support their activities and to contribute to the production of project outputs.

Key activities

Two brainstorming meetings (2nd February 2011 and the 9th March 2011) discussed a potential application to the CCI Collaborative Fund for a project related to climate change impacts on species.

A follow-up meeting (9th March 2012) explored next steps and future collaborative opportunities stemming from the two CCI-funded projects. It was agreed that the group will meet again in early 2013 when the Collaborative Fund project has been completed.





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Related resources

There are a number of outputs stemming from the two CCI-funded projects, including:

Title	Audience
 CCI Policy Brief: Climate change adaptation for biodiversity	One of the outputs from the Strategic Initiative Workshop Fund project
 CCI Poster: Climate change adaptation for biodiversity	Presented at the 'Planet Under Pressure' conference in London in March, 2012.

Two papers are also being prepared for publication in peer-reviewed journals. The summary and the poster are available on the CCI website.

Conservation impact

Shared Challenges workshops helped to catalyze the development of two CCI-funded projects.

These meetings also created a strong network of people interested in climate change impacts and adaptation and after the current projects have been completed, further opportunities for collaborative work will be explored.

CCI partners involved:

- The British Trust for Ornithology
- RSPB
- Fauna and Flora International (FFI)
- UNEP-WCMC
- IUCN
- BirdLife International
- Departments in the University of Cambridge, including Geography, Plant Science and Zoology

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