

in India, South Korea and South Africa.

Specialist UK consultancies are also leading the field in pioneering global approaches such as carbon offsetting (the most popular offsets are tree planting schemes) and ecological footprinting (an indicator of environmental sustainability). Other areas of expertise include carbon trading.

The City of London was the leading location for international carbon trading in 2006. Carbon trading puts price tags on the release of greenhouse gases so that they can be included in economic decisions. According to a World Bank report, traders based in the UK have been responsible for buying 43 per cent of the carbon traded under the Kyoto Protocol.

Sustainable energy is also another area that the UK excels in, as showcased by companies such as Garrad Hassan, one of the country's leading independent consultancies in grid-connected wind energy.

Headquartered in Bristol, the company has won major contracts in Japan, Korea and China, and recently signed an agreement with China's Zhejiang Windey Engineering company to provide engineering design and training services for its new 1.5MW wind turbine development.

And in another recent

announcement, UK researchers commissioned by the government are to work with their Indian counterparts to provide a detailed assessment of potential impacts of climate change in India and to undertake a pilot regional project to identify and develop adaptation strategies.

The project will seek to improve climate change scenarios for India up to 2050 through different modelling scenarios. It will also assess the impact of climate change nationally on water resources, agriculture and forestry, exploring linkages between the sectors.

It follows the successful completion of a major assessment of the impacts of climate change on India, carried out by the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and India's Ministry of

Environment & Forests, covering water resources, agriculture, forests, industry, sea level and human health.

The results from this assessment found that India was likely to face significant adverse effects in a range of sectors, including agriculture, health, forestry and infrastructure. The study found that temperatures were likely to rise in the next few decades, leading to a reduction in wheat and rice yields.

Speaking at the launch of the second phase of the India/UK Partnership workshop in Delhi, UK Environment Secretary David Miliband said: "The UK has so far committed over 40 million pounds to help build developing countries' understanding of how climate change will affect them and to improve integration of climate risks within development plans."

Do you know your own carbon footprint?



The website for Conservation International located at: www.conservation.org has a carbon calculator which allows you to measure your own impact on the earth and find out what personal measures you can take to reduce it.