

Our position on biodiversity

Biodiversity is the term used to describe the biological richness and variety of natural and man-made systems. It includes all living things, from micro-organisms to human beings, and includes the diversity of species, the genetic diversity within species and the diversity of the habitats in which they live.

Every species is dependent on others for its survival. Over the last 25 years there has been increasing concern about the rapid disappearance of species, including many common species, and mainly as a result of human activity. In addition, our general understanding of how individual species contribute to the natural balances within ecological systems is limited.

Conserving biodiversity is regarded, therefore, as a key part of sustainable development, with numerous Conventions and legislation bringing international focus and agreement for action. The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, (the International Agreement which came out of the Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro in 1992), for example required signatories such as the European Union to develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and to integrate biodiversity considerations across all their activities.

- **Current position**

We have two key areas of biodiversity impact arising from our sourcing of raw materials and from the sites where we operate.

Our environmental policy requires that we minimise any negative impacts arising from our operations. We take account of protected species and habitats, as required by national and international legislation, and encourage opportunities to promote biodiversity.

We have a published policy and action plan. The action plan is incorporated as a sustainable sourcing section within our CSR strategy and targets. Actions are set annually and progress publically reported. Detailed sourcing policies underpin this strategy.

We do not sell products from endangered species, listed in Appendix 1 of the Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Natural products such as sponges and loofahs are sourced from renewable sources where the product's origin, harvesting methods and renewability issues are understood.

Policies have been developed to address the biodiversity impacts of specific materials such as palm oil, and we work with external stakeholders on specific initiatives such as the development of systems to improve the sustainability of palm oil production.

We have a management system to monitor and manage biodiversity aspects within our Nottingham Support Office site which includes a designated nature walk.

- **A proactive history**

Historically we've also taken a responsible approach to tackling specific biodiversity issues, including for example:



- As a founder member of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) 1995 Plus Group, Boots The Chemists committed itself to the aim of sourcing wood, and pulp and paper products only from independently accredited sources to criteria such as those of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).
- Our Botanics range was developed in collaboration with Kew Gardens who accredited the sourcing of the botanic materials in the range.
- We carry out annual flora and invertebrate surveys at the Nottingham Support Office site.
- Other projects took account of local provenance with the planting of Sherwood oaks in the Millenium garden and the Nottingham crocus within the nature walk at our Nottingham Support Office.