

## U INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### Main messages

In 1998, some 1.2 billion people, around a quarter of people in developing countries, were living on less than \$1 per day. Global population is expected to continue to increase, from 6 billion people in 1999 to a projected figure of almost 9 billion by 2050.

In 1995, UK emissions of carbon dioxide per head were similar to the European average, but about twice the average for the world as a whole.

### Relevance

We have a responsibility to help to address global environmental problems along with other countries – to help raise living standards (and ethical practices) in developing countries and to reduce environmental pressures such as climate change, deforestation, loss of biodiversity and over-fished oceans. International development targets have been agreed to implement national strategies for sustainable development in all countries by 2005 and to reverse the current trends in the loss of global and national environmental resources by 2015.

The extent to which the key objectives identified in the Strategy are being achieved, as reflected by the indicators, is illustrated in the following table.

### Key strategies

- *A better quality of life: A strategy for sustainable development for the UK. (9.1-9.24)*
- *Eliminating World Poverty: A challenge for the 21st century<sup>1</sup>*

### Some other related indicators:

Emissions of greenhouse gases (**H9**); UK resource use (**A1**); UK imports, exports, trade balance (**B4**); UK companies implementing ethical trading codes of conduct (**C11**); Climate change (**N1-N3**); Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides emissions (**P3**); Ozone depletion (**P5**); Estuarine water quality, marine inputs (**R1**); State of the world's fisheries (**R5**); Number of countries with national forest programmes (**S13**)

<sup>1</sup> 1997, ISBN 0-10-137892-0

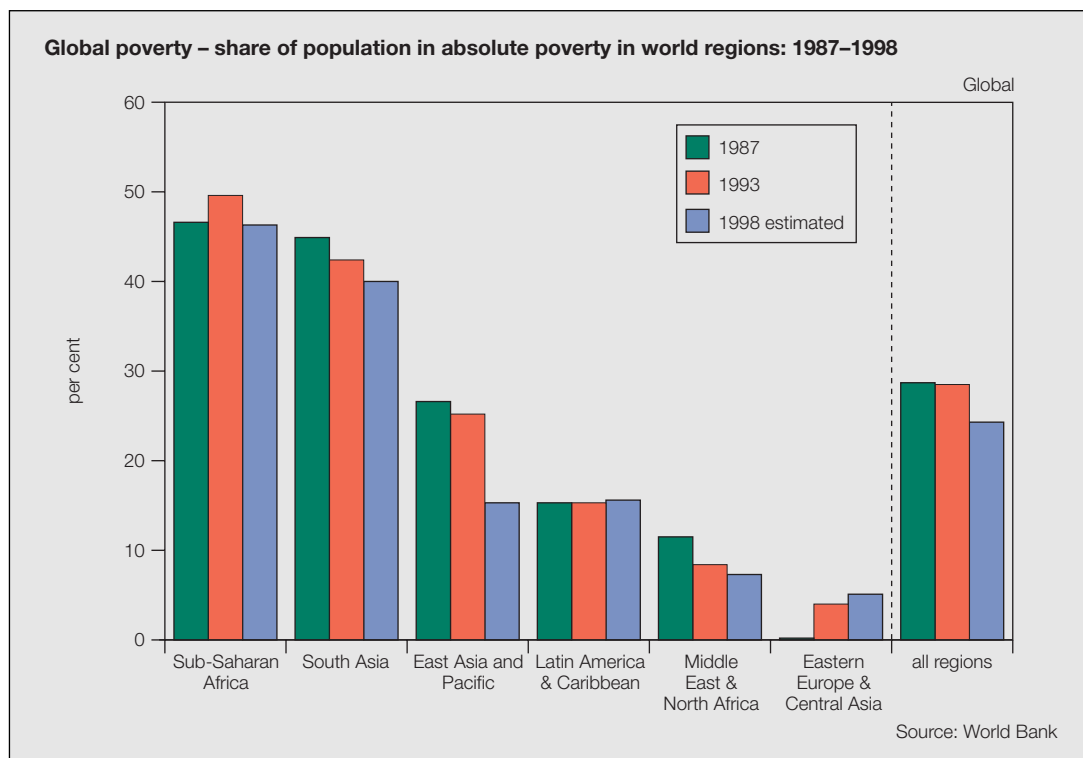
Objective	Ref no.	Indicator	Data used	Change since		Specific targets/goals
				1970	1990	
Work with others to eliminate global poverty and raise living standards in developing countries	U1	Global poverty	1987-1998	...	≈	UK committed to a reduction by half in the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015
	U2	Net Official Development Assistance (oda)	1964-1998	X	≈	UK commitment to the UN's target of 0.7 per cent (Official Development Assistance as a per cent of GNP)
Contextual indicator	U3	Global population	1950-1999	na	na	
Work with others to tackle global pressures on the environment and resources	U4	UK public expenditure on global environment protection	1991/92-1997/98	...	✓	
International conventions aimed at protecting the environment: UK commitment to Multilateral Environmental Agreements	U5	Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements	To be developed	...	...	
Contextual indicators	U6	International emissions of carbon dioxide per head	1995	na	na	12.5 per cent reduction in 'basket' of greenhouse gases 1990 to 2008/2012. 20 per cent reduction in CO <sub>2</sub> emissions 1990 to 2010.
	U7	World and UK materials consumption levels per head	1995-1996	na	na	

Key	
✓ significant change, in direction of meeting objective	X significant change, in direction away from meeting objective
≈ no significant change	... trend is uncertain or no quantitative data available
na not applicable, in cases where the indicator is for contextual purposes	

**Objective** Work with others to eliminate global poverty and raise living standards in developing countries

**Indicator** Global poverty

U1



**In 1998, some 1.2 billion people, around 24 per cent of people in developing countries, lived in extreme poverty, on less than \$1 per day.<sup>1</sup>**

**Relevance** A key sustainable development objective is to raise the living standards in developing countries to create a more just world. Allowing international inequalities to grow could jeopardise social stability and sustainable development for everyone. It is also vitally important that as developing countries grow, they are helped to do so without increasing environmental pressures eg climate change, land degradation, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, polluted and over-fished oceans, which would affect everyone.

**Targets and goals** The 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action has set the goal of eradicating poverty in the world, through decisive national actions and international co-operation. As a step towards this, focusing on the medium term, the UK together with developing and developed countries, has committed itself to a reduction by half in the proportion of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.

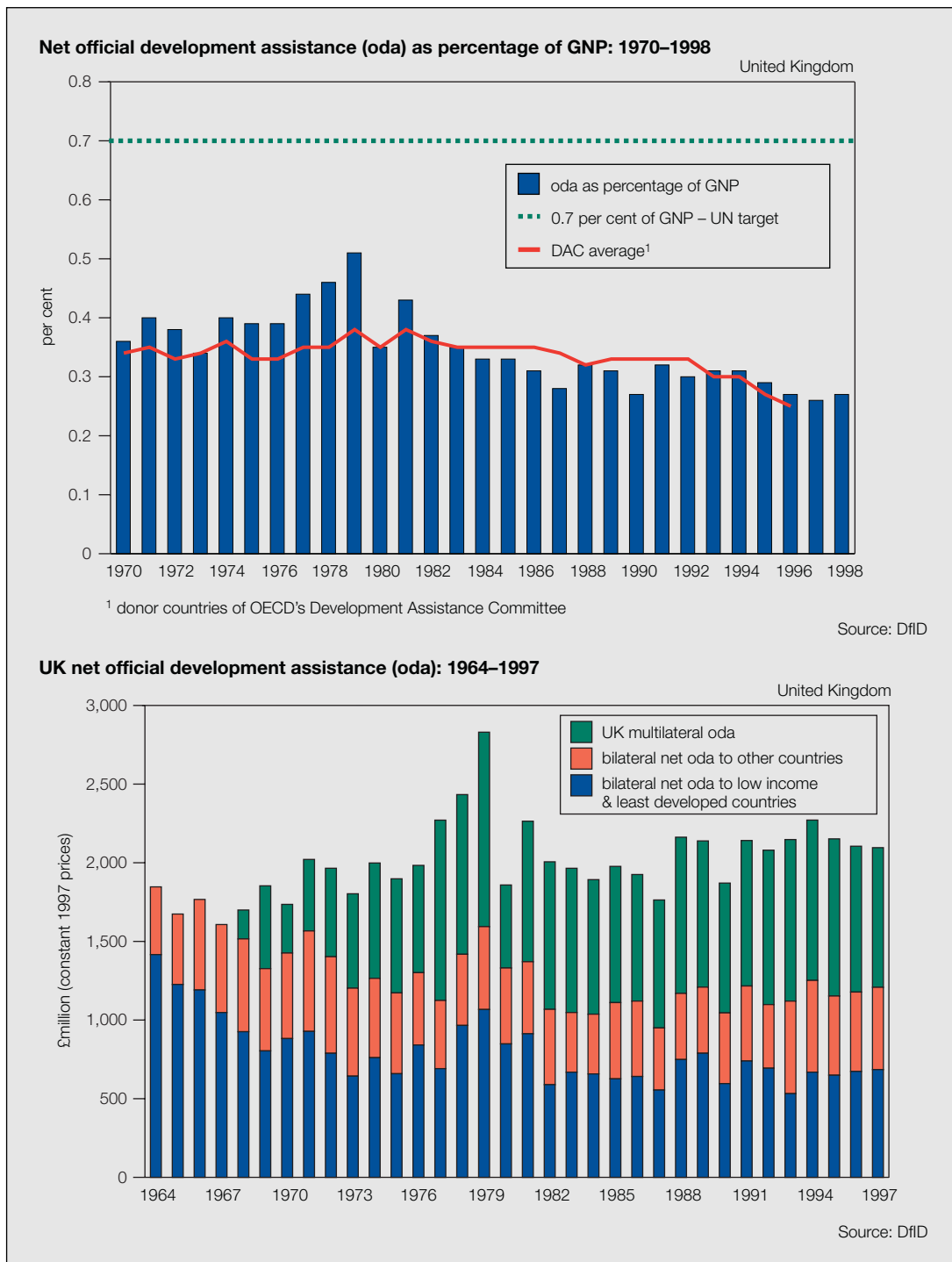
**Trends** The percentage of developing countries' population living in poverty declined between 1987 and estimates for 1998, from 28.7 per cent to 24.3 per cent, but the absolute number of people living in poverty increased by approximately 20 million to 1.2 billion.

**Background** One definition of poverty, used by the World Bank, is people living on the equivalent of less than \$1 per day. The problem is getting bigger because the world's population is increasing rapidly – it is projected to increase by half by 2050, adding another three billion people. Helping developing countries to grow economically will place additional pressures on the world's resources and increase pollution unless resources are used more efficiently and pollution is de-coupled from economic growth.

<sup>1</sup> Population living on less than \$1 a day at 1993 purchasing power parity prices.

**Objective** Work with others to eliminate global poverty and raise living standards in developing countries

**Indicator** Net Official Development Assistance (oda) U2



The UK government spent 0.27 per cent of GNP in 1998 on official development assistance, well below the UN target of 0.7 per cent.

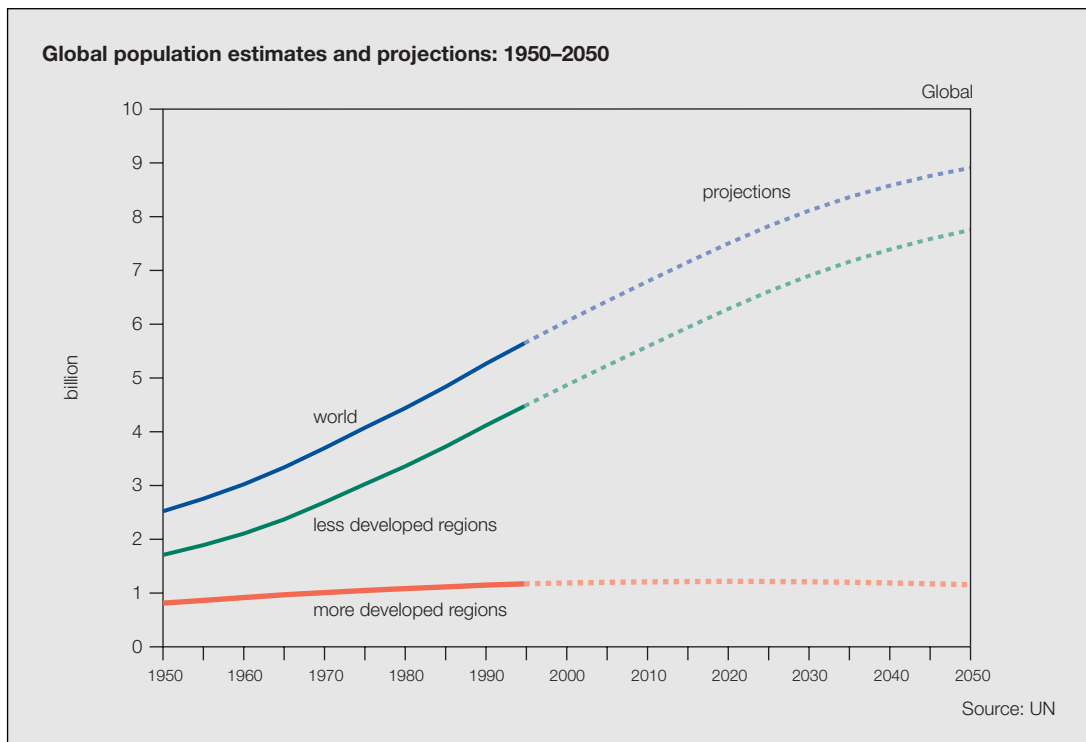
**Relevance** Official development assistance is a financial flow to poorer countries to promote sustainable development. It encompasses projects and programmes aiming to promote economic growth, sustainable agriculture and private sector development, improve health, education and opportunities.

<i>Targets and goals</i>	The government will start to reverse the decline in UK spending on official development assistance and reaffirms the UK's commitment to the 0.7 per cent UN target.
<i>Trends</i>	UK official development assistance to developing countries has been increasing in real terms, but assistance as a proportion of GNP has been declining over the period 1970 to 1998. In 1998, bilateral official development assistance (a direct country-to- country flow) accounts for just over half of UK official development assistance.
<i>Background</i>	Official development assistance is given to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries; it is concessional and has a grant element of at least 25 per cent. The figures shown are net of loan repayments. Well-targeted development assistance is essential to provide the basic amenities, such as clean water and sanitation, and adequate nutrition – 20 per cent of the world's population still lack access to a safe and nearby supply of fresh water.

**Objective** Contextual indicator

**Indicator** Global population

**U3**



**The world population will have reached 6 billion in 1999 and is likely to reach almost 9 billion by 2050, but fertility is declining globally. The number of older people is rising significantly. The growth in population is concentrated in the less developed regions.**

**Relevance** The pressure on all resources will continue to increase as the population increases.

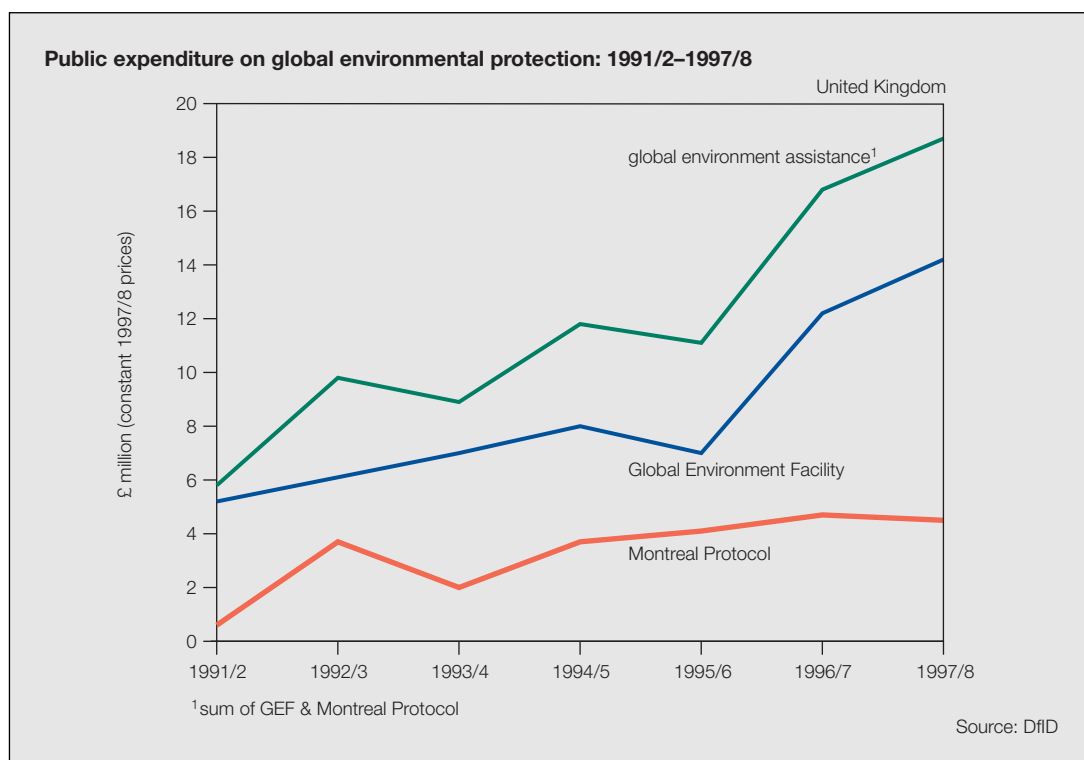
**Trends** The world population is growing at 1.33 per cent per year, an annual net addition of about 78 million people. World population in the mid-twenty-first century is expected to be in the range of 7.3 to 10.7 billion, with a figure of 8.9 billion by the year 2050 considered to be most likely. At the same time, fertility is now declining in all regions of the world. In nearly all the more developed countries, fertility is significantly below the level necessary for the replacement of generations. In 1998, 66 million persons in the world were aged eighty or over, or about one in every 100 persons. This number is expected to increase almost six-fold by 2050 to reach 370 millions.

**Background** Figures are taken from the 1998 revision of the United Nations world population estimates and projections – ‘more developed regions’ comprise North America, Japan, Europe, Australia and New Zealand; ‘less developed regions’ include all other areas.

**Objective** Work with others to tackle global pressures on the environment and resources

**Indicator** UK public expenditure on global environment protection

U4



**By 1998, the UK had committed £215m to global environmental protection since the launch of the Global Environment Facility in 1991**

**Relevance** Protection of the global environment – the seas and oceans, the atmosphere (from the build up of greenhouse gases, and ozone depletion) and biodiversity is vital for sustainability in the longer term.

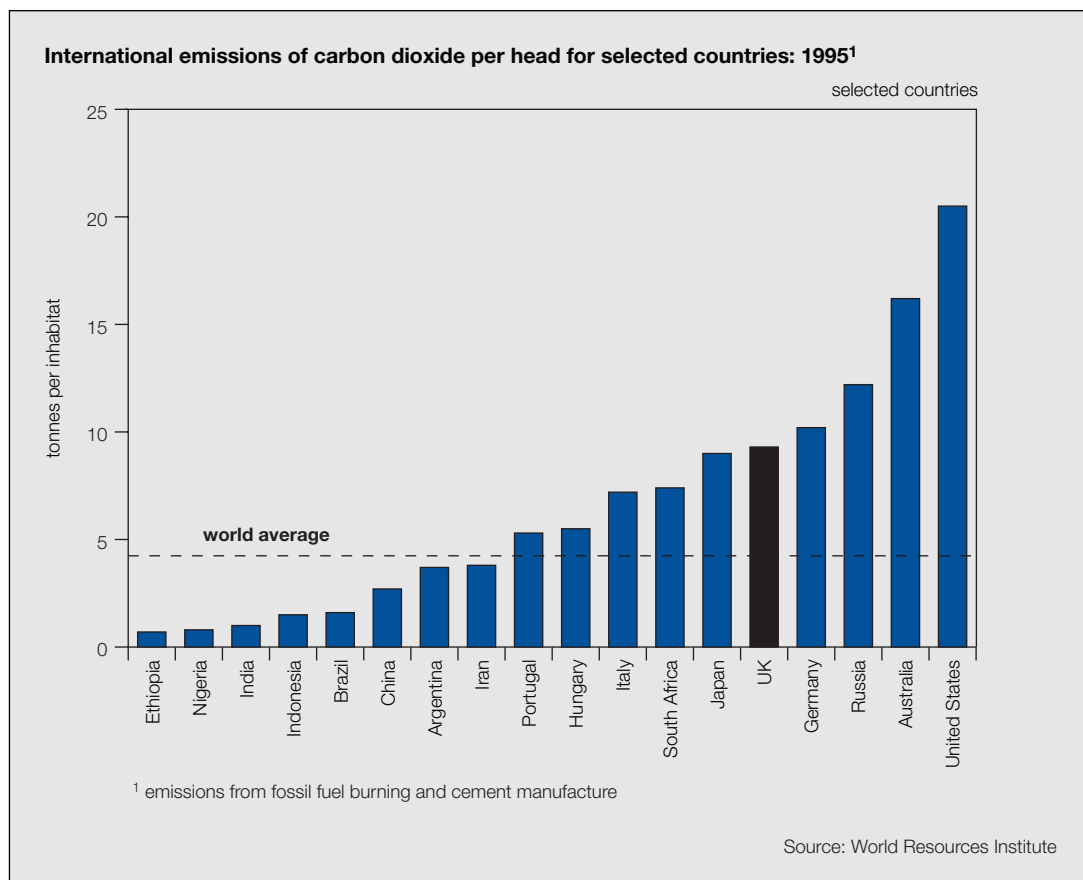
**Trends** UK public spending, in real terms, on global environmental protection has more than trebled over the period 1991/92 to 1997/98.

**Background** The Global Environment Facility provides grants and concessional funds for projects and activities that aim to protect the global environment. The Montreal Protocol is a legally binding multilateral agreement to eliminate or reduce the use of chemicals which damage the ozone layer. The UK also provides financial support to protect the environment through the United Nations Environment Programme, through individual conventions and bilaterally.

<b>Objective</b>	International conventions aimed at protecting the environment: UK commitment to Multilateral Environmental Agreements	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (to be developed)</b>	<b>U5</b>
<i>Relevance</i>	Many environmental problems are regional, for example where water and air pollution crosses national boundaries, and these need to be addressed by countries working together. Other problems require global action such as climate change and protection of oceans. The UK supports international action to tackle these problems at both regional and global levels.	
<i>Background</i>	This indicator needs to be considered further. An indicator, which simply counts all agreements to which the UK is a party, would not reflect the level or extent of implementation, nor the impacts and costs in the UK.	

**Objective** Contextual indicator

**Indicator** International emissions of carbon dioxide per head **U6**



The UK, with 1 per cent of the world’s population, emitted 2 per cent of global carbon dioxide in 1995. UK emissions per head are similar to the European average, half that of the United States, and around twice the average for the world as a whole.

**Relevance** All developed countries have acknowledged the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which cause climate change. This indicator shows the differential between per capita carbon dioxide emissions and can be used to monitor moves towards a more equitable distribution.

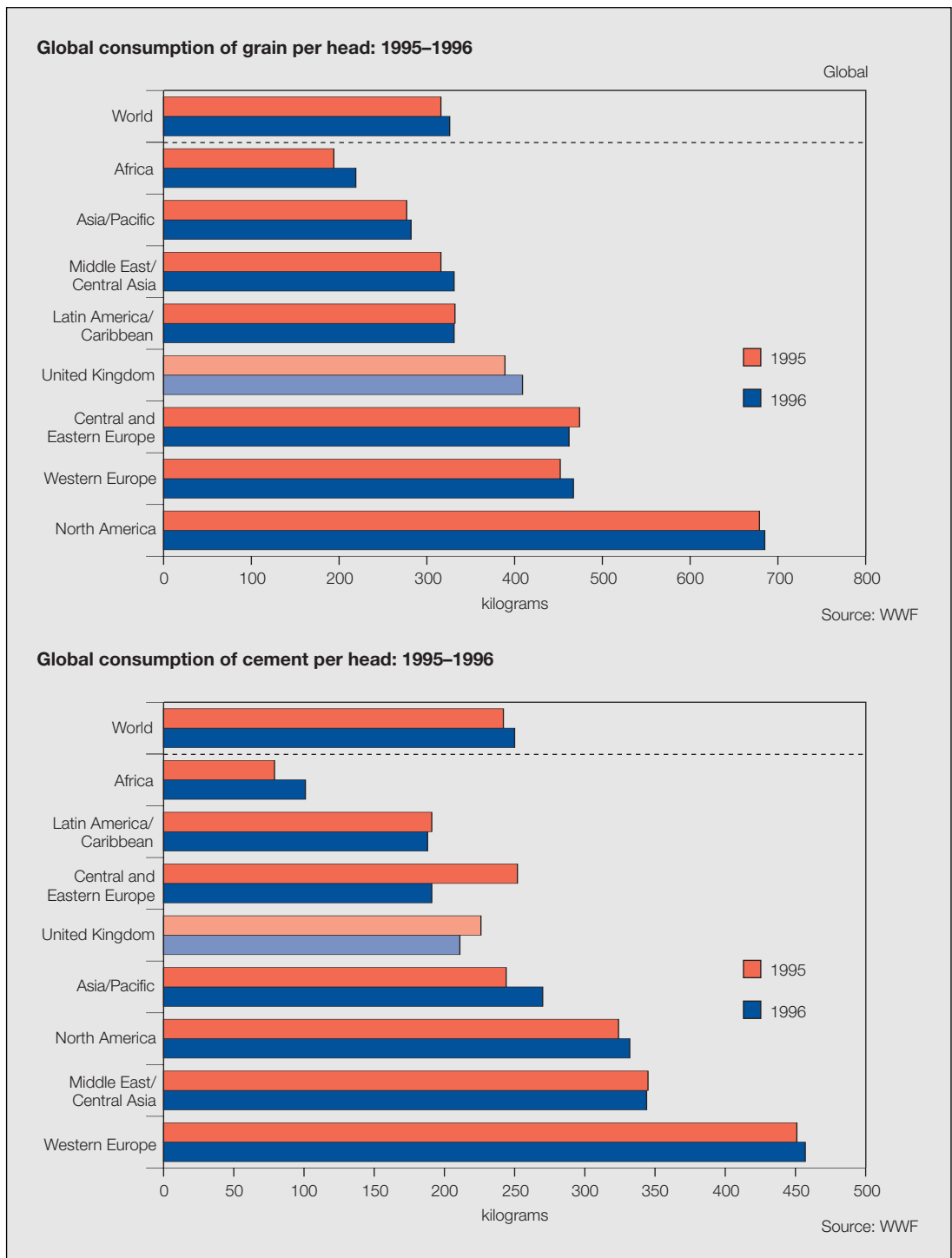
**Targets and goals** Under the Kyoto Protocol, the UK has a legally binding target to reduce emissions of the basket of six greenhouse gases by 12.5 per cent relative to the 1990 level over the period 2008-2012. It also has a domestic goal to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 20 per cent below 1990 levels by 2010.

**Trends** The ratio of UK emissions per head to the world average was the same in 1995 as in 1992. Global energy-related carbon dioxide emissions are expected to rise between 30 and 40 per cent by 2010. Much of the growth will come from the developing world, especially from countries with rapidly expanding economies and high population growth.

**Background** Carbon dioxide is the largest contributor of the greenhouse gases which cause climate change.

**Objective** Contextual indicator

**Indicator** World and UK materials consumption levels per head U7



The charts illustrate UK consumption levels for 1995-1996 of two representative commodities – grain and cement, compared with other parts of the world.

**Relevance** Rich and poor countries may have very different ‘environmental footprints’, which there is no single way of measuring. One measure is CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (indicator U6). Others include the consumption of renewable and non-renewable materials. Total material resource use for the UK is not yet available but is to be developed (Indicator A1); globally such calculations are in their infancy. In their absence, a small selection of commodities might be used as proxies,

- Trends* World per capita consumption between 1995 and 1996 increased for both grain and cement. For both commodities, all regions except Latin America/Carribbean and Central & Eastern Europe showed increases, as did the Middle East/Central Asia for cement only. In the UK from 1995 to 1996 per capita consumption increased for grain and decreased for cement.
- Background* Natural resources are frequently extracted in one country, transformed into products in another and consumed in a third. High-income countries gain the benefits of consuming imported resources, but the environmental cost of producing them falls on other, often developing countries, that supply them. Therefore it is desirable to establish the shares of resources and pressures that consuming countries place on the global environment in respect of material consumption. The WWF has published two editions of *The Living Planet* in 1998 and 1999, which include data on a selection of commodities. Two have been chosen as examples, one renewable – grain (drawing on FAO sources) and one non-renewable – cement (using Centre for Concrete Information data). Other commodities included in these reports are fish and wood. It is intended to develop such measures by drawing on similar annual data for a range of suitable representative commodities so as to monitor trends and enable appropriate action to be taken to ensure that levels of consumption are sustainable.