THE ENVIRONMENT
OUR FUTURE







Ways we affect our environment:



• **Pollutants in the air can damage the ozone layer** which protects the earth from the harmful rays of the sun. They can create acid rain, which harms trees and lakes. 'Greenhouse gases' like carbon dioxide, which is released when forests are cut and fossil fuels burnt, are leading to climate change.
• **Climate change can bring about more extreme weather** like hurricanes and cyclones, as well as floods and drought, and the increase in sea levels which is threatening islands and low-lying coastal areas. Some 250 million people have been affected by desertification, with nearly one billion at risk.
• **Population pressures and poverty aggravate the situation**, as land and natural resources are over-exploited. The poorest people suffer most, because they do not have access to the natural resources they need to live well, and have fewer alternatives to meet their daily needs when the environment is degraded.

It is vital to protect our environment against the degradation and destruction caused by human beings. A clean and safe environment enables us to lead healthy and productive lives.







Ways we can enhance our environment:

• **Maximise environmental resources:** reduce, repair, re-use, recycle, and develop production techniques that are less polluting and more efficient.
• **Improve energy conservation and efficiency** in our buildings, transport systems, and at home.
• **Use environmentally-friendly technologies, and improve agricultural practices** to curb the increase in carbon dioxide.
• **Protect forests** and regenerate areas where forest cover has been lost.
• **Protect land and water resources** by the safe management and disposal of sewage and other waste.
• **Strengthen national and international institutions** involved in environmental protection, and improve public education programmes.
• **Develop and implement strong national and international laws** that promote environmental conservation and the sustainable use of resources.

Commonwealth Day 10 March 2008

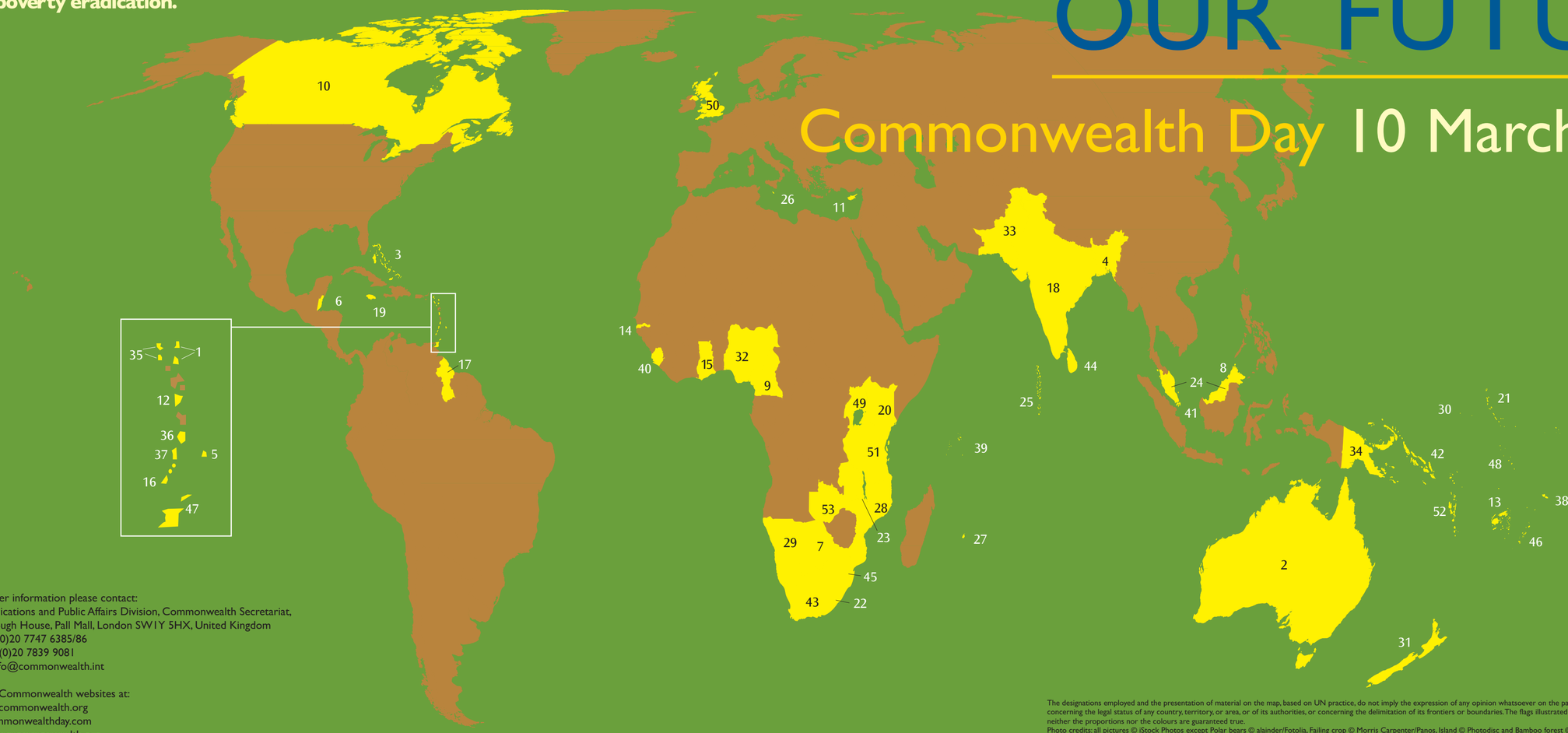
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Commonwealth Secretariat Mission Statement

We work as a trusted partner for all Commonwealth people as: a force for peace, democracy, equality and good governance; a catalyst for global consensus-building; and a source of assistance for sustainable development and poverty eradication.

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Published by the Communications and Public Affairs Division, Commonwealth Secretariat, January 2008.

***Fiji Islands was suspended from the councils of the Commonwealth in December 2006. **Nauru is a member in arrears. ***Pakistan was suspended from the councils of the Commonwealth in November 2007.**

	COUNTRY	CAPITAL
1	ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA	St John's
2	AUSTRALIA External territories: Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Coral Sea Islands Territory, Heard Island and McDonald Islands, Norfolk Island, and Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands	Canberra
3	THE BAHAMAS	Nassau
4	BANGLADESH	Dhaka
5	BARBADOS	Bridgetown
6	BELIZE	Belmopan
7	BOTSWANA	Gaborone
8	BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	Bandar Seri Begawan
9	CAMEROON	Yaoundé
10	CANADA	Ottawa
11	CYPRUS	Nicosia
12	DOMINICA	Roseau
13	FIJI ISLANDS*	Suva
14	THE GAMBIA	Banjul
15	GHANA	Accra
16	GRENADA	St George's
17	GUYANA	Georgetown
18	INDIA	New Delhi
19	JAMAICA	Kingston
20	KENYA	Nairobi
21	KIRIBATI	Tarawa
22	LESOTHO	Maseru
23	MALAWI	Lilongwe
24	MALAYSIA	Kuala Lumpur
25	MALDIVES	Malé
26	MALTA	Valletta
27	MAURITIUS	Port Louis
28	MOZAMBIQUE	Maputo
29	NAMIBIA	Windhoek
30	NAURU**	Nauru
31	NEW ZEALAND Includes territories of Tokelau and Ross Dependency (Antarctic). Self-governing countries in free association with New Zealand: Cook Islands and Niue	Wellington
32	NIGERIA	Abuja
33	PAKISTAN***	Islamabad
34	PAPUA NEW GUINEA	Port Moresby
35	ST KITTS AND NEVIS	Basseterre
36	ST LUCIA	Castries
37	ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES	Kingstown
38	SAMOA	Apia
39	SEYCHELLES	Victoria
40	SIERRA LEONE	Freetown
41	SINGAPORE	Singapore
42	SOLOMON ISLANDS	Honiara
43	SOUTH AFRICA	Tshwane
44	SRI LANKA	Colombo
45	SWAZILAND	Mbabane
46	TONGA	Nuku'alofa
47	TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	Port of Spain
48	TUVALU	Funafuti
49	UGANDA	Kampala
50	UNITED KINGDOM Overseas territories: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Henderson, Ducie and Oeno Islands, St Helena and St Helena Dependencies (Ascension and Tristan da Cunha), South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, and Turks and Caicos Islands	London
51	UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	Dar es Salaam
52	VANUATU	Port Vila
53	ZAMBIA	Lusaka
	THE COMMONWEALTH	