



Immediately after completing a biology degree, and subsequent Masters in tropical marine ecology, in the U.K., David embarked on a long career overseas involving teaching, research and development project management. Interests in coral-reefs continued but were gradually overtaken by involvement in freshwater-related issues. This started with work on the biological control of vectors of water-borne diseases in the Sudan, leading into inland fisheries related work in Papua New Guinea. After 6 years working for the PNG Government, culminating a position as Chief Fisheries Scientist, he joined the FAO, remaining in PNG, where he spent 11 years as working on the management of large river fisheries. By this time emphasis shifted to managing the environment upon which fisheries depend.

He spent four years as Chief Technical Adviser for the Mekong River Commission, working in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam, assessing the regional impacts of water management on fisheries. This was followed by a period working in the Lower Ganges River Basin (Bangladesh) as manager of a project mainstreaming biodiversity into the fisheries, agriculture and water resources sectors. He earned his PhD in 1986 as an external student of the Open University, UK, based on field work on the applied biology of tropical freshwater fish faunas in Africa and Oceania.

David joined the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, based in Montreal, in August 2003. He is currently responsible for freshwater biodiversity, water resources and agriculture.

His interests remain broad but centre on the role of biodiversity and ecosystems in water resources management.

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