

A hive of activity



A Halcrow Foundation grant of £2,000 is being used to set up a bee-keeping facility in Bakary Sambouya, a village in The Gambia.



The funds will buy hives, as well as protective clothing and other equipment, which the local women will use to produce honey for sale to tourists and hotels.

As well as improving household income and living standards, the project will help raise the women's status in the community, reducing their dependency on the male population. It will also encourage sustainability and self-reliance and reduce migration from rural to urban areas.

The Gambia is one of the poorest countries in Africa – 60 per cent of its population is defined as living in poverty.

The project will be managed by The Kambeng Trust, a small UK-registered charity which has been working in the village for five years. The trust, which last year had an income of £14,500, has built, staffed and furnished a school for 150 local children, who would otherwise have no education.

The bee-keeping project is an extension of the charity's work in the village.

The project will involve fencing off an area for the bee hives and clearing it to prevent bush fires. The hives will also have to be built and the bees trapped. The women will be trained by Gambia's National Bee Keeping Association and the Christian Children's Fund.

Halcrow's Keith Bull, who submitted the funding application, has visited the school and seen the valuable work the trust is doing. He will monitor the bee-keeping project personally on self-funded visits.

