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Message from the PEI co-Directors

Dear PEI Friends and Colleagues,

The PEI finds itself at an interesting and exciting juncture in its maturity and continuation. The PEI programme now has four regional PEI strategies which build on country experiences of more than 20 countries and South-South cooperation for the exchange of best practices. This represents a significant deepening of the PEI programme within our regional teams and respective agencies UNDP and UNEP. The regional strategies reflect a growing demand for mainstreaming and the integration of both environmental sustainability and pro poor policies into development planning through delivery of high value services the PEI teams have developed. PEI increasingly addresses the mainstreaming challenges to ensure that policies and plans have a positive impact on poor and vulnerable communities and can also more ably feed lessons into global policy discussions.

The PEI stands as a global programme is transitioning into a new phase (2013-17) with the current scale-up phase set to be completed by mid-2013. The Poverty-Environment Facility and regional teams have been working towards developing the next phase project document for 2013-2017 and developed regional strategies based on country needs. The new phase is also enhanced by the PEI business review which was recently submitted to the PEI Joint Management Board with the aim to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of the PEI business model in the next phase building on the results of the mid-term review conducted in 2011. Recently, the 4th annual Donor Steering Group meeting held in Geneva focused on some key issues for the next phase. Specifically, how to deepen engagement in the existing PEI countries and build on the results and lessons learned to date. We have seen good foundations built at the institutional level linking poverty-environment mainstreaming to national development processes; now our focus should be on meeting the implementation challenges in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

At the PEF level we will continue to work with the PEI family to move the PEI into the next phase. Within the post Rio+20 and the evolving post 2015 development agenda the PEI's relevance is clear. We look forward to continuing our engagement and good work at the global, regional and country level into the next phase. We hope you enjoy this edition of the PEI newsletter.

George Bouma and Isabell Kempf

PEI Globally

The 4th Donor Steering Group meeting of the joint UNDP-UNEP PEI

[October 2012] The 4th Donor Steering Group meeting of the joint UNDP-UNEP PEI took place in Geneva on October 04, 2012. The main objectives of the meeting were to present and discuss PEI achievements to date and the draft joint programme proposal for PEI 2013-2017. Representatives from Belgium, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, the EC, the UK, USA, UNDP (Environment and Energy Group and Poverty Group) and UNEP (Division for Environmental Policy Implementation and Division of Regional Cooperation) participated in the meeting. Participants highlighted the strong commitment from both organizations and donor agencies to the continuation of the PEI through 2017, the successful transition of PEI from a global programme influencing the integration of P-E issues in both organizations and in national policy frameworks to the implementation of related plans and budgets, and recommendations for the finalization of the draft joint programme proposal 2013-2017. Main actions agreed upon include the presentation of main results from the PEI Scale up in a headline/executive style to be presented to donor agencies and the revision of the results framework for 2013-2017, with the support of PEI partners, by the end of 2012 to allow for the next phase of PEI to be approved by the 1st quarter of 2013. For further information, please contact victoria.luque@unep.org.

PEI holds Global Workshop to review progress and plan for the next phase (2013-2017)



[August 2012] The PEI held its global workshop in Nairobi from July 9-12, 2012. Workshop participants, including the PEI team from Nairobi, New York, and four regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe & Central Asia, and Latin America) as well as UNDP and UNEP staff from relevant technical areas came together to review progress and plan for the next phase of PEI (2013-2017). The event was opened by Mr. Aeneas Chuma, UN Resident Coordinator in Nairobi and UNDP Representative to UNEP, and Dr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation, UNEP.

Discussions were framed by the Rio +20 outcomes, the opportunities inherent in emerging green economy and climate change sectors, and the need to maintain PEI focus, improve M&E to better demonstrate impacts and change, synthesize the results and experience in mainstreaming at national levels, and increase the visibility of PEI. The sessions benefitted from the inputs and linkages provided by UNEP and UNDP specialists, and break-out sessions explored and defined potential areas of collaboration and integration in particular between PEI and green economy, climate change, chemicals, sustainable consumption and production, ecosystem valuation, gender mainstreaming, human rights based approaches, and environmental and social safeguards. [\[Workshop report\]](#).

PEI at Rio+20

[June 2012] The PEI convened a side event on 21 June 2012 during the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The event, titled “A Catalyst for Change”, was attended by over 80 participants, including government representatives, UN agencies and civil society. High level representatives from Bhutan, Rwanda and Uruguay showcased experiences and achievements of national PEI programmes, including

building blocks for an inclusive green economy and institutional frameworks and policies that effectively contribute to poverty reduction and sound environmental management. Mr. Karma Tshiteem, Secretary, Gross Happiness Commission, Bhutan, explained how the poverty-environment nexus had been successfully included in the country's five-year holistic development plan. Mr. Stanislas Kamanzi, Minister for Environment and Lands, Rwanda, noted that PEI helped increase renewable energy through the restoration of wetlands and how this helped to establish permanent cross sector developing planning. Mr. Jorge Rucks, Ministry of Housing, Land and Environment, Uruguay, stated that as a result of the success of the PEI supported project for decent work in the waste recycling sector, the project will be replicated in other urban areas. Mr. Heikki Holmas, Minister for International Development, Norway, reiterated the strong donor support to PEI. Both UNDP and UNEP emphasized the link between the practical PEI examples at the country level and the global debate on inclusive sustainable development and stressed that fighting poverty successfully means preserving the environment and ecosystems that are vital to the poor.



PEI in Africa

Botswana: Valuation of natural resources and ecosystems / natural capital accounting



[June 2012] PEI has established a partnership with the World Bank's programme on Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES). PEI is currently the interim secretariat for WAVES based at the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP). On May 11, 2012, PEI and WAVES made a joint presentation on natural resources valuation to the Botswana Economic Advisory Council (BEAC) which endorsed the work on natural capital accounting and has requested further work on water accounts. The Summit for Sustainability in Africa further underscored the importance of valorizing natural resources and ecosystems as reflected in the Gaborone Declaration. The work is keenly supported by the National Strategy Officer (NSO) in the Office of the President. [\[Botswana country fact sheet\]](#)

Burkina Faso: New National Policy on Sustainable Development and Workshop on Youth and Green Jobs

[September 2012] With PEI support, Burkina Faso's National Policy on Sustainable Development with its accompanying law was introduced to the parliament. The policy will reinforce the government's vision on green growth and sustainable development. Along the same lines, PEI is supporting the Ministry of Economy and Finance to develop indicators for sustainable development to be applied in the monitoring and evaluation of the PRSP.

On September 25-27, PEI organized a workshop on 'Youth and Green Jobs' in Bobo Dioulassi as part of its ambition to promote environmentally friendly economic activities for sustainable green growth in Burkina Faso. Over 100 participants attended the workshop, including women members of the YENTA cooperative. The aim of the workshop was to raise awareness on sustainable management and the issue of illicit use of natural resources. [\[Burkina Faso country fact sheet\]](#)

Malawi: PEI supports development of the National Environmental and Climate Change Communication Strategy and contributes to the formulation of the national development strategy



[September 2012] Malawi's Honorable Minister of Environment and Climate Change Management, Ms. Catherine Gotani-Hara, launched the National Environmental and Climate Change Communication Strategy (NECCCS) on 30 August, 2012. The NECCCS is an important tool to raise awareness on the importance of sustainable environment and natural resource management and climate change among various stakeholders. The Strategy has been supported by PEI, the National Climate Change Programme, the Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP) and FAO. The joint

programming among several projects demonstrates how the PEI model is successful in collaborating with other agencies and thereby ensuring country-donor coordination and resource efficiency.

PEI also contributed to the formulation of the "Malawi Growth and Development Strategy II." At the joint PEI-CCP Tripartite Meeting held on 19 September, 2012, the Government of Malawi expressed satisfaction with the implementation of the PEI Project and hailed its contributions to the formulation of the national development strategy, particularly to the chapter on Climate Change and Environmental and Natural Resources Management (ENRM). The PEI Economic Valuation on Sustainable Use of Natural Resources in Malawi was used to justify the need for the country to invest in ENRM and Climate Change. As a result of the economic assessment and other PEI initiated studies, poverty-environment linkages are increasingly being discussed in the media reflected by articles such as ['MW loses K32 BN of GDP Annually due to Unsustainable Use of Natural Resources'](#) published on 12 April, 2012, in The Nation. [\[Malawi country fact sheet\]](#)

Mozambique: The Government welcomes PEI's Public Environment Expenditure Review and the Green Human Development project takes PEI forward

[September 2012] The Government of Mozambique welcomed the recently presented Public Environment Expenditure Review (PEER) for 2005-2010 commissioned by the Ministry of Coordination for Environmental Affairs (MICOA). The PEER analyzes different sectors budget allocations to environmental activities, the environmental expenditure trends across sectors and if these are coherent with national development plans and priorities for the time period. MICOA noted that the report will be very useful for the Ministry when advocating for increased budget allocations for the environment. The review has already been followed up by a three day training on public expenditure reviews for 28 planners from various sectors at the province and the central level. The training was facilitated by the PEER national consultant, the Ministry of Finance, Agriculture and MICOA. The participants expressed that their capacity to conduct public expenditure reviews has been strengthened and that they look forward to participate in similar trainings in the future.

As an outcome of Mozambique's UNDAF 2012-2015 where Poverty-Environment (P-E) linkages successfully were included in the economic pillar, the Green Human Development (GHD) project was developed by PEI and the Africa Adaptation Program. It was signed and launched in September 2012. The GHD's chief purpose is to 'support government institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector and different target groups to manage more efficiently its natural resources and to develop national capacities for green human development.' As such it will follow up on the initiatives taken under PEI phase II and bridge over to PEI Phase III. This will

include further engaging different stakeholders and strengthening the capacities of environmental units in P-E mainstreaming in their plans as well as developing P-E indicators for inclusion in monitoring and evaluation frameworks of national development policies. [\[Mozambique country fact sheet\]](#)

PEI in Asia-Pacific

PEI holds Asia-Pacific Regional Workshops on Green and Inclusive Development



[August 2012] Bhutan hosted participants from eight Asia-Pacific countries in two high-level workshops addressing green and inclusive economics and development. In the keynote address, Bhutan's Minister of Labor and Human Resources, Lyonpo Dorji Wangdi, highlighted environmental resources as a critical asset for economic development and poverty reduction in developing countries. The workshops, titled "Making an impact for a Greener, Inclusive Economy – Lessons Learned and the Way Ahead for Asia Pacific Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)" and "Economic Instruments for Greening Development,"

convened from 9-13 August 2012, and were jointly organized by UNDP and UNEP under their joint Poverty-Environment Initiative, and the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE). The workshops set the stage for PEI's transition to a new phase (2013-17) and countries are now moving to a stage of implementation and capacity building. Participants included senior policy makers from the governments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar/Burma, the Philippines and Thailand, and three UN agencies: UNDP, UNEP, and the UN Capital Development Fund. [\[Workshop Report: Making an Impact for a Greener, Inclusive Economy\]](#); [UNDP Press Release](#); [UNDP Bhutan Press Release](#); [SANDEE Website](#)

Bhutan: New Video on Sustainable Development showcasing PEI work

[September 2012] Bhutan, a small mountainous country nestled in the Himalayas, is a global leader in environmentally sustainable development. Its social, economic, political and spiritual foundations are rooted in the idea of Gross National Happiness. This means it strives towards equitable socio-economic development, preservation of culture, conservation of the environment and good governance. Towards this end, the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative in Bhutan helps to ensure that environmentally sustainable considerations remain an integral part of the country's national development plans. The programme "provides an ideal platform for creating enabling conditions for achieving poverty reduction and environmental sustainability," says Lyonpo Dorji Wangdi, Minister of Labour and Human Resources. Bhutan is committed to carbon neutrality, and environmental considerations are enshrined into its Constitution, including a requirement that the country preserve 60 percent of its land as forest. This short video provides a snapshot of what the "greening" of its national plan means for the country. The video is accessible [here](#). [\[Bhutan country fact sheet\]](#)



Lao PDR: Development of agricultural model concession agreement



[June 2012] PEI Lao PDR initiated work on developing a model contract for agricultural concessions. Lao PDR has approved over 300 large-scale foreign direct investments in the agriculture sector between 2005-2010, mostly for rubber, softwood, and sugarcane. The sector accounts for 13% of overall FDI as of 2010. Contracts can play a key role in influencing how the risks, costs and benefits are fairly distributed between the investor, government and local people. This work is supported by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and by lawyers with extensive experience in drafting concession agreements. PEI conducted stakeholder consultations with all key ministries, development partners and civil society groups in November 2011 and IIED carried out an initial review of existing plantation contracts and concessions which was presented at a lessons learning workshop in February 2012. These meetings generated significant discussions and interest amongst the stakeholders. The model concession agreement will help to get the best economic deal out of a contract and to strengthen environmental and social safeguards. It aims to maximize inclusive development, promote local processing and value-addition, and maximize livelihood opportunities and government revenues. [[Lao PDR country fact sheet](#)]

Nepal: Climate Change Budget Code System introduced in the National Planning Process

Nepal has introduced a climate change budget code system in the national planning process from the fiscal year 2012/13. The policy process was initiated as a follow up to the key recommendations of the Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) conducted under PEI in the country. The National Planning Commission (NPC), in consultation with the Ministry of Environment (MOE), decided to introduce the system of budget code to facilitate the tracking of climate public expenditure. To put the criteria into practice, a two day residential workshop was organized for 10 ministries including the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and 18 departments. The workshop involved practical sessions to encode each of the proposed programme of all departments. A doable process was established and agreed on by all participants to use the coding system this year. [[Nepal country fact sheet](#)]

Philippines: PEI is supporting the country in pursuing EITI compliance in mining



[September 2012] With support from PEI, the Philippines is working on being included in the list of countries that comply to the [Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative](#) (EITI) with the aim to promoting transparency in the controversial mining sector. The EITI is a global standard that promotes revenue transparency in the extractives sector. It has a robust yet flexible methodology for monitoring and reconciling company payments and government revenues at the country level. If the Philippines becomes EITI compliant, it will be the 2nd ASEAN country to ensure an effective process for annual disclosure and reconciliation of all revenues from its extractive sector, allowing citizens to see how much their country receives from oil, gas and mining companies. Under President Aquino, the first step in the EITI process has been achieved when Executive Order No. 79, which defines the mining policy of the Aquino government, was issued in July, mandating various mining stakeholders to pursue EITI accreditation. Signing on to the EITI has also been included in the 2010 to 2016 Philippine Development Plan (PDP). [[Read full article](#)]

PEI in Europe & CIS

PEI holds Europe & CIS Regional Workshop in Bratislava



[September 2012] The Europe and Central Asia PEI Regional Workshop took place on 11-12 September, in Bratislava, Slovakia. The aim of the workshop was to share PEI results and lessons learned from the on-going country programmes and to discuss the needs, priorities and approaches for the new PEI Phase, which would reflect on both current global development strategies (Rio+20) as well as the region's specificities. Over 40 participants attended the workshop, including planning, finance and environment officials from five countries in the region: Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Moldova and Albania; as well as representatives from civil society, UNDP and UNEP. For the first time, the workshop brought together countries with on-going PEI programmes and countries with the potential to join PEI. The workshop enabled the sharing of results and lessons learned, and also helped identify the future direction and the priority focus for Phase II (2013-2017) PEI country programmes and interventions. [[Workshop report](#); [Workshop documents](#); [Blog with video interviews](#)]

Kyrgyzstan

Experts develop indicators to measure “green” growth of Kyrgyzstan

[September 2012] On September 18-19 in Bishkek, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and PEI jointly organized the national round table on the "Evaluation of statistical capacity of the Kyrgyz Republic to monitor progress indicators of 'green' economy based on experience of OECD." The event brought together representatives of ministries and agencies involved in “greening” the Kyrgyz economy. Experts reviewed issues related to the development of these indicators and the capacity for their further mainstreaming into the monitoring and statistics system. This follows on from work undertaken by the OECD. As a result of the discussion a draft indicators matrix was adopted to monitor “green” development in Kyrgyzstan. [See [press release](#)]



Elaboration of the revised PEI strategy and action plan for integrating PE linkages into development strategies and budgets

[September 2012] Following the establishment of the highly committed and devoted PEI inter-ministerial mechanisms at both high political and lower technical levels, the revised PEI strategy and action plan for integrating poverty-environment linkages into development strategies and budgets has been elaborated within the framework of the PEI country project document. This resulted from the consultation of the newly established expert and interagency working groups on 7-8 July in the Issyk-Kul province and the follow-up consultation with the Regional Team. [See [Brief](#) from the Issyk-Kul workshop]

Suusamyr district representatives visit Naryn oblast to share their experiences with the application of the ‘E-Pasture Committees’

[August 2012] PEI and the UNDP GEF “Demonstration of Sustainable Pasture Management in Suusamyr Valley” project organized two exchange visits among the local authorities and pasture committees of the two PEI pilot areas: Naryn oblast and Suusamyr Valley. The study tour to Naryn that took place in July and the one to Suusamyr that took place in August enabled participants to study best practices pertaining to the application of the information system – ‘E-Pasture Committee.’ This system, which was introduced and tested in Suusamyr Rural Administration, has been recognized as an effective instrument for operative management of pasture resources and was recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture for replication and implementation in other regions of the republic. The system allows operative and effective management of pasture resources and monitoring of the state and degradation of pastures. The exchange visits resulted in a decision to replicate the E-Pasture Committee in five pasture committees of the Naryn oblast. [See Briefs on [study tour to Naryn](#) and [study tour to Suusamyr](#)]



PEI supports joint environmental journalism training in Issyk-Kul

[October 2012] PEI and UNDP’s “Environment and DRM” cluster conducted a joint environmental journalism training for nearly 30 journalists on September 28-30 in Issyk-Kul. The aim of the training was to increase capacity of journalists to become effective communicators and change agents for sustainable development. To recognize outstanding coverage of environmental issues in the Kyrgyz Republic, PEI and the UNDP Environment and DRM cluster announced an environmental journalism contest that will cover the following themes: climate change, climate risk management, poverty and environment nexus, and green economy and sustainable development. [See [website](#) for more information]

Tajikistan

PEI supports elaboration of the country Mid-Term Development Strategy (MTDS)

[August 2012] PEI is working with the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, and other stakeholders on elaboration of the country Mid-Term Development Strategy (MTDS) 2013-2015. PEI has so far: introduced the P-E mainstreaming approach to the multi-disciplinary MTDS expert team, has agreed on the joint scope of work and provided them with the detailed informal P-E mainstreaming guidance, submitted the first set of concrete recommendations to be considered in the MTDS in each relevant priority area and sector, and identified criteria to evaluate the effectiveness and results of the mainstreaming process that will be applied once the final MTDS will be officially adopted.

Officials from key ministries trained on Monitoring and Evaluation of PE indicators

[July 2012] On July 04, 2012, a training session was organized targeting M&E officials from key ministries, including the Ministry for Economic Development and Trade (MEDT). The objective of the training was to build the capacity of the officials to formulate and monitor Poverty and Environment (PE) indicators and assess progress against set targets. Since the next generation of the Poverty Reduction Strategy (PRS) is under development, this is an ideal opportunity for PEI Tajikistan to get more closely involved in its formulation. This is a key entry point to ensure that poverty-environmental issues are taken into account in the PRS process.

PEI supports trainings for journalists to raise awareness on poverty-environment linkages



[August 2012] With PEI support, two-day trainings on “Effective Media Coverage of the Poverty-Environment Links” were conducted for journalists and editors of ecological publications. The trainings, which took place on June 28-29 in Khujand and August 21-22 in Dushanbe enabled participants to learn about practical tools for raising awareness on environmental degradation and its impact on the population’s wellbeing.

PEI Policy Brief: The Economic Cost of Agricultural Land Degradation in Tajikistan

[September 2012] “The Economic Cost of Agricultural Land Degradation in Tajikistan” study attempts for the first time to present the importance of understanding the full range of costs of current land management practices. It estimates that the economic cost of land degradation associated with foregone production on degraded and unused agricultural land to be in the order of 1,946 million Somoni (US\$442 million) – 7.8% of Tajikistan’s GDP (2010). It supports further efforts to determine the economic benefit of adopting alternative sustainable land management (SLM) policies across Tajikistan. The policy brief, which summarizes the study, is available in [English](#), [Russian](#) and [Tajik](#). The full report will be available by the end of the year.

PEI in Latin America & the Caribbean

PEI holds regional workshop in Panama City



[September 2012] The PEI regional workshop was held on 17-18 September in Panama City, hosted by the regional teams of UNEP and UNDP. The workshop was inaugurated by Ms. Isabell Kempf (Co-director, PEI), Ms. Margarita Astralaga (Regional Director, UNEP/ROLAC) and Mr. Freddy Justiniano (Director, UNDP regional programme), who outlined the key issues of the workshop. Other key-note speakers to provide insights on the Initiative and its functioning were Mr. Gabriel Labbate (UNEP/PEI), Mr. Koen Toonen (Regional Coordinator, PEI), Stefano Pettinato (Poverty Unit UNDP). Focusing on the issues

of poverty, environment and understanding the link between the two was named a priority. The workshop marked the preparatory stage of the new phase of PEI (2013-2017) in the region. The representatives of Uruguay and Dominican Republic shared their experience of participating in the PEI programme from the period of drawing national plans up until the implementation. Representatives from Paraguay, Guatemala, Perú presented their original proposals, which were further elaborated at the workshop drawing from the experience of the two countries mentioned above. [\[Workshop report; Workshop presentations\]](#)

Guatemala: Implementation phase - Ecosystem and Human Well-being Assessment to inform local development planning in the Dry Corridor

[August 2012] Following completion in July 2012 of the status and trends assessment of key ecological, social and economic variables in the eastern “corridor seco” (Dry Corridor) in eastern Guatemala, the consortium conducting the ecosystem and human well-being assessment is now engaging with Municipal and Departmental authorities and the National Development Planning Agency (SEGEPLAN) to strengthen decision making and development planning processes that reduce vulnerability, enhance food security, increase equity and maintain the provision of environmental services in a context of climate change. The key watersheds emanating from the Sierra de la Minas support three key agricultural subsistence and export production systems. Started in late 2011, the ecosystem and human well-being assessment is led by the UNDP Guatemala office and implemented by a multidisciplinary team from the consortium comprising of Fundación Defensores de la Naturaleza (FDN), Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (CEAD-UVG) and WWF Guatemala. The consortium is working in close collaboration with the National Development Planning Agency (SEGEPLAN), the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN), the Ministry of Agriculture, the Secretariat for Food Security and the Ministry of Social Development. [\[Guatemala country fact sheet\]](#)



PEI participation at UNEP’s PROECOSERV organized workshop on “Mainstreaming Ecosystem Services into Development Policy: Approaches and Opportunities”, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, 23 – 24 May 2012

[June 2012] The Guatemala Sub-Global Assessment team represented by colleagues from WWF Guatemala and the National Development Planning Agency (SEGEPLAN), and Gabriel Labbate of UNEP/PEI LAC

participated at this workshop organized by UNEP's Project on Ecosystem Services (PROECOSERV) funded by GEF. Alex Forbes of the Poverty-Environment Facility also gave a video-conference presentation on PEI's experiences of ecosystem and economic assessments informing development policy and planning processes. Key PEI messages from the workshop, among others, emphasized the need to have decision-makers engaged right from the beginning in order to validate that the assessments are meeting a known interest and need, and to ensure that the findings and recommendations are communicated in a language and format that can be easily understood and used by decision-makers.

Publications & Resources

PEI Annual Progress Report 2011



The year 2011 has been a critical one in accomplishing the transition from making the case for the integration of poverty-environment objectives into key development issues and actually making this integration happen. During this transition, there has been a level of maturity in PEI country programmes attributable to the combination of political, economic, environmental, institutional and social transformations supported by PEI and contributing to positive change. This report highlights many of the successes and some of the challenges faced in bringing about this change. The report is available [here](#).

Lessons learned from carrying out ecosystem assessments: Experiences from members of the Sub-Global Assessment Network



The UNEP-WCMC hosted Sub-Global Assessment (SGA) Network released a report titled "Lessons learned from carrying out ecosystem assessments: Experiences from members of the Sub-Global Assessment Network" which draws on PEI's experience in Guatemala, Thailand and Rwanda. The report draws on the experience of over 70 practitioners who have carried out ecosystem assessments in more than 30 countries worldwide on local, national and regional scales. It presents key lessons learned and offers a set of simple, practical first steps for those instigating new assessments. The aim is to "inspire practitioners, helping them to define priorities, forestall some common challenges and create a clear pathway for action." The report is available [here](#).

Rural Growth Programme - Planning at the Local Level: Approaches and Lessons Learned

The Rural Growth Programme (RGP), funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) and UNDP, works to improve the local environment for economic growth, income generation and job creation, including for women and poor population groups in the Sughd Province of Tajikistan. This publication draws attention to the subject of effectiveness of the medium-term planning for local economic development and focuses on the analysis of the planning process itself, key lessons learned, as well as on the aspects supporting and hindering broad and effective application of the local planning practice in Tajikistan. It elaborates on the results and experiences with integrated planning for sustainable development in 14 selected districts of the Sughd region. It highlights the importance of integrating issues such as preservation of the ecological and climatic balance and sustainable use of natural resources into rural economic planning. The publication showcases PEI support in such integration. [\[Download publication\]](#)

Discussion Paper: What drives institutions to adopt integrated development approaches?



The paper was developed as a basis for UNDP's efforts to more rigorously address the poverty-environment nexus in response to the 2010 [Evaluation of UNDP Contribution to Environmental Management for Poverty Reduction: The Poverty-Environment Nexus](#) as well as the recommendations of the Executive Board. The evaluation recommended that UNDP should learn from the lessons of PEI as it represents good practice and serves as a model of how UNDP (programmatically), in partnership with other UN agencies, can integrate poverty and environmental priorities at the country level. The paper synthesizes lessons learned from the PEI approach and its focus on the institutional framework for planning, budgeting and reporting through working with key coordinating ministries. The lessons show that although development contexts and institutional structures vary, there are certain principles that help make institutions more capable to drive change towards more socially and environmentally inclusive outcomes. The paper is available [here](#).

The UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals into Development Planning Processes



The publication provides an overview and update on the progress of the UNDP-UNEP Partnership Initiative for the Integration of Sound Management of Chemicals into Development Planning Processes. It highlights information on the technical guidance provided through the Initiative; five steps that countries typically follow to advance national chemicals management regimes; and partnership initiative activities. The publication includes a section on "Linking to the UNDP-UNEP PEI." PEI is working closely with the UNDP/Environment and Energy Group Chemicals and Waste Management team to improve the mainstreaming of Sound Management of Chemicals into development planning processes. The publication is available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

Comparative Experience: Examples of Inclusive Green Economy Approaches in UNDP's Support to Countries



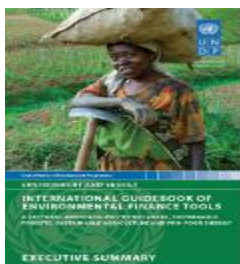
The UNDP report was released at Rio+20 and recently updated. It contains over 40 brief summaries of comparative experience from all regions and shows that several UNDP programmes meet the criteria for green economy. These include projects under the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI), GEF and its Small Grants Programme, Montreal Protocol, Japan-UNDP Africa Adaptation Programme, and others. The report is available [here](#).

Building an Inclusive Green Economy for All: Opportunities and Challenges for Overcoming Poverty and Inequality

Examples of the green economy in practice show great potential for delivering a "triple bottom line" of job-creating economic growth coupled with environmental protection and social inclusion. However, there are

significant barriers to realizing this potential on a large scale. To build an inclusive green economy that is equitable and sustainable will require carefully designed policies and targeted investments that enable low and middle-income countries and the poor to contribute to and benefit from the transition. This joint Poverty-Environment Partnership paper aims to stimulate a dialogue among developing country policymakers, development partners and other stakeholders on how best to support country-led efforts to build inclusive green economies. The paper is available [here](#).

International Guidebook of Environmental Finance Tools – A Sectoral Approach: Protected Areas, Sustainable Forests, Sustainable Agriculture and Pro-Poor Energy



The UNDP Guidebook provides guidance on developing and implementing the most commonly used, widely applicable, and potentially high-impact environmental finance tools. It aims to define and analyze the primary tools that are already in use and that can be applied globally to advance sustainable development. The tools explored have been successfully applied to protect the environment and promote pro-poor and predominantly rural development. They were identified through a review of over 100 environmental finance case studies from over 30 developing countries across four sectors: pro-poor energy, protected areas, sustainable agriculture and sustainable forestry. The Guidebook is available [here](#).

Institutional and Context Analysis Guidance Note



This UNDP Guidance Note offers practical guidance to UNDP Country Offices on how to use Institutional and Context Analysis (ICA) to assess the enabling environment. The term 'institutional and context analysis' refers to analyses that focus on political and institutional factors, as well as processes concerning the use of national and external resources in a given setting and how these have an impact on the implementation of UNDP programmes and policy advice. An ICA is envisioned as an input to programming that focuses on how different actors in society, who are subject to an assortment of incentives and constraints, shape the likelihood of programme success. This Guidance

Note offers ideas on undertaking country level ICA to develop a Country Programme (Chapter 1) and conducting an ICA at the sector or project level (Chapter 2). The Guidance Note is available [here](#).

A guidebook to the Green Economy Issue 1: Green Economy, Green Growth, and Low-Carbon Development



This UNDESA guidebook aims to provide an overview of recent literature on 'Green Economy' and the related concepts of 'Green Growth' and 'Low-Carbon Development' (and other variations such as low-emissions development or low-carbon growth). The overview provides a brief history of these concepts and brings together recent publications from international organizations, think-tanks, experts, political groups, governments, non-government organizations and others. Recent national green economy, green growth and low-carbon development strategies are also included. The guidebook is available [here](#).

Moving Beyond GDP: How to factor natural capital into economic decision making



This report by WAVES (Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services) illustrates how natural capital accounting can be a powerful tool for policy makers grappling with trade-offs in a growing economy. A number of countries are already undertaking natural capital accounting by compiling accounts for water, energy, and minerals to be able to manage them better or to evaluate the trade-offs needed for making different development decisions. The report is available [here](#).

Staff News



Vladimir Mikhalev, an invaluable member of the PEI Europe and Central Asia Regional Team, passed away in July 2012. He is sorely missed by the PEI community not only as an expert on poverty and social aspects of development but also as a good friend.



Koen Toonen has been selected for a detail assignment as UNDP Head of Sub-Office in Garowe, Somalia. This assignment is in principle until mid-June 2013, after which he expects to return to his current function as Regional Coordinator with the PEI. The assignment will begin on 22 October, 2012.



Charlie Avis joined PEI as Programme Officer and is based at the PEF in Nairobi. He has spent 20 years working on the interface between people and the environment, first in academia, then in the private sector, and more recently for WWF (policy and field positions) in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Pacific. He has a first degree in Geography (UCL, UK) and a Masters degree in Rural Development (UCD, Ireland) and authored the book "Business from and for Nature" which summarizes the results of a 6-year pan-European initiative on the successful development of working mechanisms which are good for people, business and the environment. His most recent long-term position was as Conservation Director of the WWF South Pacific Programme, based in Fiji. He can be reached at charles.avis@unpei.org.



Moa Westman joined PEI as a JPO and is based at the PEF in Nairobi. She has spent the past two years in India working on finding a balance between business growth, environmental sustainability and rural development for the Suzlon Group. She has a Masters degree in Political Science with an emphasis on development studies. Her Master's thesis was on 'Corporate Social Responsibility through Public Private Partnerships – Implications for Civil Society and Women's Empowerment in India.' Moa has previously worked on projects on water management and community development in Ethiopia and Ecuador. She can be reached at moa.westman@unep.org.



Zulfira Pulatova, PEI country project manager in Tajikistan has left her post to pursue a fellowship abroad. The UNDP Country Office will be recruiting a new manager.

PEI on Teamworks



'Teamworks' is a UN corporate knowledge management platform established to enhance knowledge sharing among UN agencies and external partners, including government and civil society. The [PEI space on Teamworks](#) serves as a platform to exchange knowledge on poverty-environment issues through discussion forums, blogs and news articles.

Recent activity includes an e-discussion on *Advancing Sustainable Development: The case of Extractive Industries (EI)* hosted by the UNDP Asia-Pacific Inclusive Growth and Development (AP-IGD) team, which is intended to i) enhance the understanding of the economic, environmental, and social implications of EI from a human development perspective, and ii) examine ways in which EI can be managed and revenue utilized for sustainable development.

To subscribe to this space, please send an email to devika.iyer@undp.org and charles.avis@unep.org.

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