

Newsletter Issue 20 — January / February 2015

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Cover Story

[Data on gender and environment and natural resources needed, Malawi rapid assessment finds](#)



While changes in the environment affect everyone, they affect men and women differently. Identifying and addressing women's and men's needs and having gender-environment data readily available are critical elements to ensuring the success of environment and natural resource policy and programming. The identification and integration of poverty-environment linked indicators is part of the Poverty-Environment Initiative mainstreaming approach to supporting and influencing national planning processes and key strategies and plans.

The [Gender-Environment and Natural Resources Data and Indicator Rapid Assessment](#) aims to provide a rapid assessment of gender-relevant environment and natural resource (ENR) data and indicators in preparation for the Initiative's work in Malawi in 2015. The report identifies gaps in the existing data that is collected, and makes recommendations on potential areas of support to the Government in bridging these gaps.

The major finding of the assessment was that data and indicators on women's role and access to environment and natural resources are not comprehensively collected and reported in Malawi. The report highlights that there is a

need to enhance awareness about the importance of gender-ENR linked statistics for policy making and strengthen national capacity through partnerships with relevant institutions for the collection of both qualitative and quantitative gender and environment and natural resource data.

A significant finding of the 2013 IUCN Environment and Gender Index study reviewed for the Poverty-Environment Initiative assessment is that an increase in a country's environment performance does not imply an increase in the levels of gender equality and women's empowerment in the environmental sector. Targeted and deliberate strategies have to be adopted to ensure an increase in gender equality and women's empowerment in environment and natural resource and a starting point is the provision of data or creation of an index that stimulates the collection of such data.

Message from the co-Directors

The second half of 2014 has brought a change in Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) leadership. We would like to welcome the new UNDP co-Director of PEI, Anne Juepner, who is the director of the Global Policy Centre for Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification (GPC-RED) in Nairobi which builds on the work and structure of the former UNDP Drylands Development Centre. GPC-RED will undertake applied research, develop policy knowledge products, and codify and disseminate knowledge on how to ensure sustainable livelihoods for communities that live in drylands and other fragile ecosystems, while maintaining the resilience of both people and ecology.

A key value added of the PEI to the work of the Centre is its successful experience in calculating the economic value of the sustainable use of natural capital and using that evidence to persuade ministries of planning and finance to integrate pro-poor sustainability objectives into development plans and budgets. This experience will be drawn upon by the Centre. The Centre will support the work of the PEI including in its strategic direction, integrating Poverty-Environment mainstreaming knowledge within UNDP and other partners, providing ATLAS management and quality assurance, contributing to donor reporting, strengthening poverty-environment nexus delivery by four regional teams, and facilitating learning across regions.

Many thanks also to George Bouma, the former co-Director, who is moving to the UNDP Regional Center in Istanbul, for his dedication to the Poverty-Environment Initiative. The unification of the Initiative's leadership in Nairobi, will allow us to further strengthen the collaboration of the two agencies in favour of Poverty-Environment mainstreaming and facilitate the sustainability of our efforts. Paul Steele, the Regional PEI coordinator for Asia Pacific, is now the new Chief Economist of International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and we would like to thank him for his commitment and intellectual drive which allowed PEI to set up nine cutting edge country programs in Asia Pacific. Other staff movements are also reflected at the end of this newsletter.

Efforts for the sustainability of Poverty-Environment mainstreaming have been discussed during the PEI Donor Support Group meeting in Oslo in September 2014 and are also reflected in the increasing integration of the work of the PEI in the new UNDP Strategic Plan and the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2017. The evaluation of the PEI scale up (2008-13) will also provide recommendations for the sustainability of the Poverty-Environment mainstreaming approach and outputs and should be ready by March 2015. We would like to thank the PEI donors for their continued financial and technical support to the Initiative.

Poverty-Environment Initiative activities in 28 countries during 2014 reflect a strengthened focus on efficient implementation mechanisms, gender mainstreaming, social equity, improved monitoring and evaluation, and the application of increasingly persuasive and relevant economic evidence for policy and investment decision-making. PEI aims at strengthening government capacity to take an integrated approach to related sustainable development issues, in particular inclusive green economy, climate change adaptation and mitigation, climate and environmental financing, and sustainable production and consumption. This is reflected in closer cooperation with other UN programmes such as Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns at the country level, examples of such collaboration include Burkina Faso and Mongolia. PEI has also strengthened cooperation with UN Women and provided joint training for PEI staff and counterparts in Africa on gender as an integral part of Poverty-Environment mainstreaming.

The Initiative continued to contribute to a number of global debates such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the expert group on poverty reduction and biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the elaboration of the new UNEP Inclusive Green Economy 2.0 narrative. We hope you enjoy this edition of the PEI newsletter that

contains links to these debates and many inspiring examples of PEI results from around the globe.

Anne Juepner and Isabell Kempf

Poverty-Environment Initiative Global

Donor Steering Group looks to sustain Poverty-Environment mainstreaming beyond 2017



With an eye to the sustainability of Poverty-Environment mainstreaming and the outcomes of the Poverty-Environment Initiative beyond 2017, the Initiative's Donor Steering Group debated ways to strengthen Poverty-Environment's impact globally at its meeting held on 25 September 2014 in Oslo.

The Donor Steering Group meets annually to brief development partners on the progress made in the implementation of the programme of the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) to which donors contribute funding. The role of the Donor Steering Group is to provide guidance on the accountability and Governance of the Initiative and advice on strengthening linkages with respective donor programmes at global, regional and country level.

This year's meeting was hosted by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), a directorate of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting was attended by representatives from the leading donor agencies of Denmark, Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Union.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the members to be updated on the achievements made so far by the PEI and to share lessons learned and key challenges from the Initiative's six-year scale up phase, which concluded mid-2013. The meeting also discussed key elements of sustainability of Poverty-Environment Initiative's results beyond 2017 and gathered donors' inputs so that they can inform the future sustainability strategy of the Initiative.

The Donor Steering Group highlighted two important issues: the communication of PEI results, and the sustainability of the Poverty-Environment approach beyond 2017. The Group expressed support for continued communication of successful PEI outputs, including best practices and lessons learned, as a way of sustaining the mainstreaming of the Poverty-Environment approach beyond the current phase of the Initiative's programme, which concludes in 2017.

On the day following the meeting, the Donor Steering Group shared their experience on mainstreaming Poverty-Environment objectives in their policies and tools in a technical workshop, supported by the Poverty-Environment Facility and UNEP.

Among the agreements reached at the annual meeting, the Poverty-Environment Facility will prepare a draft sustainability strategy on the basis of consultations, including those with the PEI Technical Advisory Group. The draft strategy will be presented at the next Donor Steering Group meeting in 2015.



Poverty Environment Partnership celebrates 20 years of mainstreaming

The Poverty Environment Partnership (PEP) will hold its 20th meeting on theme "Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for Inclusive, Climate Resilient, Green Economies" from 27 to 29 May 2015 at The Hub in Edinburgh, Scotland (UK).

Day 1 of the meeting will be devoted to "Poverty, Environment and Climate: what have we learned and what do we need to know" and has the objective of setting the knowledge agenda on Sustainable Development Goals for zero poverty, zero emissions and sustaining ecosystems.

Day 2 will be on "Poverty, Environment and Climate: What have we done and what do we still need to do" and has the objective of setting the action agenda for SDG implementation on mainstreaming, financing, knowledge generation/communications and measuring/monitoring. More than 50 participants from five continents are expected to take part, including staff from Poverty-Environment Initiative and its partner countries. UK'S Department for International Development (DFID) with support from the European Union (EU), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

The PEP-20 meeting will be immediately followed by the Poverty-Environment Initiative Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting on the afternoon of 29 May. The Group will review the draft Poverty-Environment Initiative sustainability and communication strategies. [\[More\]](#).



Next Global Environment Outlook to focus on gender and environment

During the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, UNEP committed to "Undertake research and publish a Global Environmental Outlook that focuses on Gender and Environment (GGE0), in cooperation with strategic partners from the Network of Women Ministers and Leaders for the Environment (NWMLE) and civil society". The first global assessment of its kind, the Global Gender and Environment Outlook will use social science information as well as gender-relevant indicators to review gender environment linkages and guide policy actions towards gender equality.

Poverty-Environment Initiative participated in the GGE0 multi-stakeholder consultation from 4 to 6 November 2014 in Bonn, Germany, that reviewed the GGE0 methodology, structure and work plan and shared lessons learned on our policy work and information on current efforts that could be useful for the production of the GGE0.

Women, especially in developing countries, are disproportionately impacted by climate change, but they refuse to be passive victims of their circumstance. [\[More\]](#)

[Human Rights-based approach training for implementation in UNEP programming benefits from Poverty-Environment Initiative experience](#)



Poverty-Environment Facility staff participated both as trainers and trainees in a course on the Human Rights-based approach and its practical implementation in the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) programming held from 13 to 14 October 2014 at the United Nations office in Nairobi, Kenya.

The training aimed to enhance the skills of the participants in moving beyond understanding the linkages between environmental sustainability and the Human Rights Based Approach as United Nations Development Group principles, to jointly incorporating them into UNEP's projects and programmes. Since pro-poor environment and natural resource management is at the heart of Poverty-Environment Initiative's mandate, the Initiative was able to share lessons on addressing poverty, social inclusion, and environment issues from their operations to inform the training.

A very lively simulation of a Poverty-Environment Initiative stakeholder meeting to address the issue of livelihoods of indigenous peoples and benefit sharing from park fees versus environmental protection in Kenya's Maasai Mara National Reserve helped participants gain a practical understanding of the challenges involved in accommodating people and environment concerns in decision-making. [\[More\]](#)

Poverty-Environment Initiative participates in the PAGE Academy

Isabell Kempf, the Poverty-Environment Initiative co-Director, served as a resource person to the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) that took place in Turin, Italy from 6 to 17 October 2014. She provided inputs into the high level meeting on 6 October and co-organized together with the International Labour Organization (ILO) the elective, Poverty Reduction for Sustainable Development and Social Inclusion. Participants learned about approaches to poverty reduction for sustainable development and social inclusion, including strategies and actions for pro-poor development policies, plans and programmes at national and sub-regional level illustrated with examples from different Poverty-Environment Initiative regions. [\[More\]](#)

Poverty-Environment Initiative Africa



[Mozambique reviews benefit sharing mechanisms for the forestry and wildlife, gas and mining sectors](#)

The rapid expansion of Mozambique's extractive industry sector holds great promise but also presents enormous challenges that would largely determine the human development trajectory of the country in the years to come. The Government of Mozambique considers it of paramount importance to ensure that the benefits of natural resource extraction are to the advantage of the country as a whole and in particular the communities living in the area where the resources are extracted.

The assessment includes recommendations of how the existing economic instrument in the forestry and wildlife sector which stipulates that 20 % of the revenues from these sectors are to be shared with local communities can be improved. Among other things, the report recommends that there is a need for strengthening local management committees and ensure equal gender participation in these committees to ensure that projects financed by the revenue sharing mechanism are designed to correspond to the needs of local men and women. There is also a further need to ensure that project funding is allocated to sustainable natural resource use as only 7% of current projects have an environmental focus and a review of the ministerial decree to enhance the focus on sustainable natural resource use is recommended.

For the mining sector, the report recommends the Government to introduce 'performance guarantee' measurements to ensure that companies will follow their environmental obligations and prevent future generations from having to pay for unsustainable mining practices today. The Government could further consider to introduce a benefit sharing mechanism similar to the one used in the forest sector. [\[More\]](#)

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Policy makers from Africa attend gender-environment economic policy training



Poverty-Environment Initiative Africa in collaboration with the UNDP-led Gender Economic Policy Management Initiative (GEPMI) and with support from UN Women organized a gender training in Naivasha, Kenya, from 25 to 29 August 2014. The training aimed to equip participants with core capabilities in the use of gender-responsive economics for policy development and planning, specifically in the domains of environment, natural resources and climate change.

Thirty-two participants representing ministries of finance, planning, environment, agriculture, women and social affairs as well as UNDP, UNEP and UN Women staff members from Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda participated in the event.

"The training has shown how gender and natural capital are crucial variables for economic development, it has demonstrated that the mainstreaming of both gender- and environment-related issues require a systematic approach," said Mudith Cheyo Buzenja, the Assistant Director of Poverty Eradication and Economic Empowerment with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Tanzania. "But most importantly the training has provided me with the tools to further this work in my country." [\[More\]](#)



Involving local communities in wildlife management in Malawi

Malawi's national parks and its wildlife generate important revenues for the Government. Nature-based tourism has been estimated to contribute to 2.7% of GDP according to an economic valuation of natural resources in Malawi (2011) supported by the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative. With this in mind the Government of Malawi is taking sustainable wildlife management and protection seriously. Malawi's wildlife is currently under threat from poachers especially in hills and forest areas where animals no longer have places to hide due to increasing rates of deforestation and forest bush fires.

Striking a balance between the needs of local communities and wildlife is one of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife's top priorities. The Minister of Information, Tourism and Culture Kondwani Nankhumwa believes that replenishing wild animals in protected areas where they are in decline would help to improve the situation. To this end the Ministry has budgeted MK300 million (USD 613,000) to replenish wild animals in game reserves and national parks.

The Poverty-Environment Initiative Malawi Programme, whose overall aim is to support the Government of Malawi to reduce poverty while promoting sustainable use of the environment and natural resources, is currently supporting the Government to review its wildlife policy. [\[More\]](#)

(Photo credit: kwekudee-tripdownmemorylane.blogspot.com)



Achieving inclusive sustainable economic growth in Malawi

An inaugural national symposium on 'Achieving Inclusive Sustainable Economic Growth: From Rhetoric to Practice', organized by the Economics Association of Malawi (ECAMA), was held in Lilongwe from 8 to 10 October 2014.

Representatives of the Government of Malawi, civil society, academia and development partners attended the three-day long event. Poverty-Environment Initiative Malawi presented on 'Breaking the vicious cycle of low-income and poverty through sustainable environment and natural resources management.'

The Government recognized the importance of sustainable natural resource management in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) II as well as in national and sectoral policies, plans and budgets. The National Statistics Office in collaboration with the Economic Planning and Development Division was encouraged to consider modifying the national accounting system to better accommodate the value of natural capital. [\[More\]](#)

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Mozambique's Strategy for Gender, Environment and Climate Change 'Connects the Dots'

In 2010 IUCN as part of Global Gender and Climate Alliance (GGCA), in collaboration with UN Women, embarked on a project to develop gender and climate change strategies on behalf of several developing country governments, starting with Mozambique. Through multi-stakeholder workshops that included government representatives, civil society, and academia, IUCN developed a strategy and thematic action plan brings gender equality and women's empowerment to the heart of climate action on the ground and brings climate change in gender policy.

In December 2014, the UNDP Rio+20 World Centre on Sustainable Development published Grounding Inclusion and Equity in Public Policy: A Case Study on the Mozambique Strategy for Gender, Environment and Climate Change.

"With global climate policy negotiations moving at a snail's pace and communities in developing countries already feeling the adverse impacts on the ground, it is clear we need to act urgently," says Leisa Perch, co-author of the Case Study with Rosaly Byrd. "IUCN, as part of the GGCA, has broken new ground on mobilizing women and men around climate action and this effort is worth highlighting."

This case study has been prepared by the RIO+ Centre's Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Cluster to strengthen understanding on how inclusive sustainable development can be mainstreamed at the public policy level, particularly how countries are tackling inclusion practically, lessons learned and identifying key takeaways for other countries interested in such information.

The Gender and Climate-Smart Agriculture Assessment carried out by the RIO+ Centre in five Southern African countries, namely Lesotho, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe, provides a comprehensive review of existing policies relating to gender, land, biofuels and climate change and assesses the extent to which these policies take into consideration structural inequalities, particularly those facing women, as well as the implications for meeting Climate-Smart Agriculture's social equity and social development objectives.

The Mozambique case study is the first of a 5-part series of case studies published by the Rio+ Centre exploring interesting stories from within the Southern African region on how gender is mainstreamed in climate change and agricultural policy. The studies consider the people, policies and institutions that have allowed some efforts to move beyond social consequences analysis and to respond to both strategic and practical gender needs. [\[More\]](#)

Leisa Perch is a Policy Specialist and Rosaly Byrd a Research Associate (Gender and Climate-Smart Agriculture) with the UNDP Rio+20 World Centre on Sustainable Development, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil



natural resource and climate change management

Twenty members of Malawi's Parliament attended a training of the Parliamentary Committee on Environment and Climate Change Management, which had been organized by the Leadership for Environment and Development–South Eastern Africa (LEAD-SEA) in Lilongwe on 25-26 October 2014.

Poverty-Environment Initiative Malawi (PEI Malawi) was invited to present the findings and the implications of the Economic Valuation of Sustainable Natural Resource Management in Malawi which was conducted in 2011. The PEI-supported Malawi State of Environment and Outlook Report from 2010 was also presented as part of the training by Professor Sosten Chiotha from the research organization, LEAD-SEA.

The members of Parliament welcomed the training programme and were particularly interested in the evidence of the cost of unsustainable natural resources use in Malawi. They highlighted that the training programme provided them with the information required to advocate for and support decisions for more sustainable use of environment and natural resources that also contribute to poverty reduction in the assembly.

They further called for continued collaboration with institutions like LEAD-SEA and PEI Malawi so that they can use the findings of various studies to influence changes in policy, planning and budgeting for pro-poor sustainable environment, natural resources and climate change management including its implementation on the ground.

[\[More\]](#)

Rwandese success story at UN organized Sharefair

As a means to promote technologies and innovations that support rural female small-holder farmers, UN Women in collaboration with Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Institute for Rural Reconstruction, and World Food Programme (WFP), hosted a Sharefair and round table discussions from 15 to 17 October 2014 at UN headquarters in Nairobi. Poverty-Environment Initiative Africa supported achievements in creating a 'green' sustainable village, spearheaded by a women-led cooperative, in Kabeza village in the Rubaya sector of northern Rwanda, were highlighted at the Sharefair.

In response to high levels of poverty and pressures from unsustainable use of resources, the Poverty-Environment Initiative in collaboration with REMA assisted the Kabeza village in adopting technologies that would put them on a pro-poor sustainable development path. Ownership of the initiative was placed in the hands of a local women-led cooperative. Increased agricultural productivity, resulting from key interventions such as: introducing rainwater harvesting systems, the use of biogas residue as a fertilizer, tree planting for climate proofing, and terracing, has helped increase food security for the community.

The Rubaya success is further being replicated in Muhanga district, with support from REMA, UNDP Rwanda and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The Ministry of Local Government has in the 2014/2015 fiscal year requested all districts to establish at least one demonstration village based on the best practices from Rubaya. [\[More\]](#)

Poverty-Environment Initiative Asia-Pacific

Poverty-Environment Initiative highlighted at 6th ASEAN-UN Summit



The 6th ASEAN-United Nations (UN) Summit was held on 12 November 2014 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The Meeting was chaired by His Excellency Mr. U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and attended by the Heads of State/Government of ASEAN and H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the UN. H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of ASEAN, was also in attendance. In his statement on the Summit, H.E. U Thein Sein, the President of Myanmar, addressing Social-Cultural Cooperation, spoke of the cooperation between the UN and ASEAN to address climate change through the Poverty-Environment Initiative:

“The Summit reiterated the urgency to step up cooperation between the UN and ASEAN in addressing climate change through, promoting, among others, the Poverty and Environment Initiative, implementing the 10 Year Framework of Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production, and implementing multilateral environmental agreements, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Montreal Protocol, and the regional seas conventions and action plans.”

Building Inclusive Green Economies: Stories of Change from Asia-Pacific



Poverty-Environment Initiative recently launched Inclusive Green Economies: Stories of Change from Asia-Pacific. Stories of Change from Asia-Pacific is a booklet capturing the Initiative’s experience in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, and Thailand. This publication is the third in the series Stories of Change, which was inspired by joint work between Poverty-Environment Initiative and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) in producing the original Stories of Change, published in 2013. [\[More\]](#)

Lao PDR National Assembly identifies problems in natural resource sector

The National Assembly of the Lao PDR has highlighted that many foreign investment projects working in the natural resource sector are not operating in accordance with the law and National Assembly officials need to

educate themselves on the issues to better address problems with projects, reported the Vientiane Times on 23 August 2014.

Vice Chairperson of the National Assembly Economic, Planning and Finance Committee Dr. Bouakham Thippavong was addressing a training workshop on the “Process of National Planning, Public and Private Investment Approvals and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments” in Vientiane.

She said the National Assembly observed that Laos has approved many projects particularly those related to mining, hydropower, industrial tree plantations and agriculture sectors, with some of these investments not operating in accordance to the laws and regulations of the country.

Co-chair of the workshop as part of the UNDP–UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative, Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP Ms Azusa Kubota, emphasized the efforts of UNDP in helping Laos become a resilient country.

“This year’s UNDP global human development report, titled Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience, states that achieving human development is one thing, but sustaining it is another. This requires evidence-based and consistent policy interventions to ensure environmental sustainability and equal distribution of prosperity,” she said.

“Investments of any sort have tremendous development potential for the government and people of Lao PDR, and therefore, policy interventions should aim to make global and regional integration of the economy work for all.”

Laos has realized impressive economic growth of over 7 percent annual GDP growth and almost halved poverty rates during the past two decades. Economic growth is driven largely by high inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI), mainly into the natural resource sectors.

During the two day training session, National Assembly staff was also given the opportunity to share their experiences on the management of investments with the technical ministries. At the end of the workshop, participants urged the organizers to support further technical workshops related to improving the quality of investments Laos. [\[More\]](#)

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PEI Asia Pacific showcases experiences of poverty-environment mainstreaming



Bringing together country delegations from Bangladesh, Nepal and Indonesia, UN agencies, partner organizations, bilateral donors and civil society, Poverty-Environment Initiative Asia Pacific hosted a Showcase Event on 6 November 2014 at the Foreign Correspondents’ Club in Bangkok. The event was held to commemorate and share with key

collaborators from the government and development partners, successes from the region and challenges in promoting pro-poor environmentally friendly growth among countries. Officials from the ministries of Planning, Finance, Environment and Local Government shared experiences from their countries of helping vulnerable communities meet the harsh effects of climate change and environmental degradation. [\[More\]](#)

Poverty-Environment Initiative Europe & Commonwealth of Independent States



Sustaining pastures and livelihoods in Central Asia

In Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) region the Poverty-Environment Initiative is being implemented in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Albania. Building on the achievements of its first period, Poverty-Environment Initiative Phase II works with key government partners to influence policy making and strengthen the mainstreaming of poverty-environment concerns into budget processes, sectoral programmes and sub-national planning, with an overall aim to bring about lasting institutional change and empower key actors to catalyze and increase investment into management of natural resources in a pro-poor and sustainable manner.

The regional Poverty-Environment Initiative Europe and CIS Community of Practice workshop took place on 3-6 November 2014 at the City Hotel in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Around 40 participants attended the workshop comprising planning, finance and environment officials from five countries in the region: Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia and Albania, experts and resource people. Participants also included Poverty-Environment Facility, UNEP and UNDP representatives.

The Community of Practice meeting started with a full day field visit to the pasturelands of Suusamyр, where the participants witnessed the community's experience in sustainable pasture management and management of climate risks on the example of Suusamyр Valley. This initiative has been implemented jointly by UNDP's "Demonstrating Sustainable Mountain Pasture Management in Susamyр Valley", "Central Asia Climate Risk Management (CA-CRM)" project and UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative in Kyrgyzstan. During the visit, the delegates met with government agencies, local authorities, visited Suusamyр Valley and reviewed the results of the project.

Delegates were introduced to an innovative electronic pasture management application Electronic Jayit Comitet. The system helps to keep track of pasture areas, number of users and pasture cattle, livestock vaccination, fees for cattle head, and issues pasture tickets. In addition, the system can help monitor degradation of pastures and undertake measures in time as well as implement measures to adapt to climate change. After successful testing of the system in Suusamyр Valley, it was implemented in Naryn, Batken and Osh provinces as part of the Poverty-Environment Initiative.

On the second day, the technical discussions focused on approaches to integrating green economy principles into sectoral policies, as well as instruments and tools to introduce cross-sectoral budgeting, natural accounting, expenditure frameworks and coordination mechanisms.

The training workshop was opened on the third day with a welcoming speech by Ms Aidai Kurmanova, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy of the Kyrgyz Republic.



New course for sustainable development will modernize public service in Kyrgyzstan

The Government of Kyrgyzstan launched its second phase of the Poverty-Environment Initiative programme on 16 July 2014 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Building on the achievements and lessons learned from the previous phase the programme will support the Government of Kyrgyzstan to adopt and implement policies that promote pro-poor environmental sustainability.

A new course for sustainable development will lead to the modernization of public service in Kyrgyzstan.

In this process “I would like to note the special role and contribution of UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative, which was one of the key actors in the [initial] process of promoting...the ideas of sustainable development in Kyrgyzstan” said Ms Aidai Kurmanova, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economy, at the launch event.

The successful implementation of an electronic pasture management project in Susamyr is one of the key achievements from the first that now will be replicated to three new provinces, Naryn, Batken and Osh.

[\[More\]](#)

With many rivers to cross, how do you make the environment visible in development policies?



In the last few decades, environmental sustainability has been recognized as a key part of development. It forms one of the Millennium Development Goals and dominates the post-2015 consultations.

But let`s be honest: Economy-centred growth, with little regard for environmental impact, still dominates the development strategies of most countries.

The joint Poverty-Environment Initiative has been successful in raising the awareness that in many cases, you can actually create social, environmental, and economic improvements at the same time. In Europe and Central Asia, we work together with governments, business owners, NGOs, civil society groups and ordinary citizens to make sustainability a top priority in development planning.

In Armenia, we conducted a case study of a not-yet-exploited gold mine. The study showed that ecosystem services like food, water, and clean air provision have a significant economic value in the region, and that mining would negatively affect these services. Nevertheless, the most important outcome of the study is that local experts have been trained in the valuation of ecosystem services. The government is really interested in the method, and we are working together to assure that it will be regularly applied in the development of big projects.

With our support, Kyrgyzstan has become the first country in Central Asia to pilot the OECD green growth indicators. The national statistic committee learned how to deal with complex environmental data and now monitors 65 indicators related to poverty and environment. This enables the government to take action based on evidence. For example, the experience gained in the Armenian mining study is equally valuable for the green accounting aspirations in Tajikistan. Kyrgyzstan is also about to introduce accounting and budgeting tools similar to Tajikistan, so the two countries will work together closely to reach their common goals.

Poverty-Environment Initiative Latin America

[Peru transforms management of solid waste](#)



A large audience attended an interactive exchange of experience and dialogue led by H.E. Mariano Castro, Peru's Deputy Minister of Environment Management, at Peru's Ministry of Environment (MINAM), during the UN Climate Change Conference held in Lima. The side event "Project PEI-Integrated Solid Waste Management for Sustainable and Inclusive Development" held as part of the dialogue "Voices for the Climate", was held in the auditorium of "Sustainable Cities" on 6 December 2014.

"How many of you separate waste?" Asked the Deputy Minister and 20 people in the audience raised their hands. Castro said that although they seem to be few people in Peru, it is a major change since only five years ago it was impossible to find anyone. "A few years ago nobody separated waste. Three years into the Project, there are now 250 municipalities that have solid waste policies," he said.

The Poverty-Environment Initiative Project has been implemented in cooperation with the MINAM and the Provincial Municipality of Arequipa, through funding from the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), United Nations Volunteers and the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative. [\[More\]](#)

Gender and monetary transfers featured in Asuncion international seminar



The Poverty-Environment Initiative conducted an international Seminar "Green Economy and Poverty Reduction" in Asuncion, Paraguay, on 26-27 November 2014. National and international experts presented on the Green Economy and introduced Poverty-Environment Initiative tools and approaches to the Seminar's participants drawn from the Latin American and the Caribbean region.

Among the contributions made by expert participants, the Gender Team of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Service Center addressed the links between gender and monetary conditional transfers. They were joined by representatives of the Ministry of Women of Paraguay, and the Planning Directors of the conditional transfer programs Progresa (Mexico) and Familias en Accion (Colombia), who shared their experiences of these successful programmes.

The Seminar was held through the support of the UNDP Regional Center in Panama.

Calendar



2015 Calendar of Poverty-Environment Communication and Outreach Opportunities

Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai, Japan, 14-18 March. The Conference will complete the assessment and review of the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action and adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. [\[More\]](#)

UN Convention to Combat Desertification Third International Scientific Conference: "Combating desertification, land degradation and drought for poverty reduction and sustainable development - the contribution of science, technology, traditional knowledge and practice", Cancun, Mexico, 9-12 March. [\[More\]](#)

Poverty-Environment Initiative Global Retreat, Nairobi, 30 March–1 April. [\[More\]](#)

Poverty-Environment Partnership 20th Meeting (PEP), Edinburgh, UK, 26-29 May. [\[More\]](#)

UNDP Executive Board Annual Session, New York, 1-12 June, [\[More\]](#)

World Environment Day, 5 June. World Environment Day (WED) is the United Nations' principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. [\[More\]](#)

World Day to Combat Desertification, 17 June. The World Day to Combat Desertification is a unique occasion to remind everybody that desertification can be effectively tackled, that solutions are possible, and that key tools to this aim lay in strengthened community participation and co-operation at all levels. [\[More\]](#)

Third International Conference on Financing for Development, Addis Ababa, 13 to 16 July. The Conference will assess the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration and constitute an important contribution to and support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. [\[More\]](#)

United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda (also known as the Special Summit on Sustainable Development), New York, 25-27 September. The Summit is expected to adopt the Post-2015 development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [\[More\]](#)

Twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, Ankara, Turkey, 12-23 October. [\[More\]](#)

Twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (UNFCCC COP-21 and Kyoto Protocol COP/MOP-11), Paris, 30 November–11 December. [\[More\]](#)

2015 International Year of Soils. The 68th UN General Assembly declared 2015 the International Year of Soils (IYS). The IYS 2015 aims to increase awareness and understanding of the importance of soil for food security and essential ecosystem functions. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has been nominated to implement the IYS 2015, within the framework of the Global Soil Partnership and in collaboration with Governments and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. [\[More\]](#)

European Year of Development 2015. The European Year of Development 2015 will be a key opportunity to raise awareness of development across Europe, and to show European taxpayers know that every euro spent on development benefits both people living in some of the world's poorest countries, and EU citizens themselves. [\[More\]](#)



Transitions

Poverty-Environment Facility bids farewell to George Bouma, Paul Steele and Koen Toonen

In 2014, the Poverty-Environment Facility bid fond farewells to George Bouma, former co-Director of the Poverty-Environment Initiative, Paul Steele, former Regional Advisor of Poverty-Environment Initiative Asia Pacific, and Koen Toonen, former Regional Coordinator of the Poverty-Environment Facility. George has become Team Leader, Sustainable Development, at the UNDP Regional Office for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States in Istanbul, Turkey. Paul has joined the International Institute for Environment and Development, in London, UK, as the Institute's Chief Economist. Koen has been appointed Deputy Director, MDF Training and Consultancy (MDF) in Hanoi, Vietnam.

... and welcomes two new staff members

The Facility also welcomed last year Poverty-Environment Initiative's new co-Director, Anne Juepner, and Programme Officer Michael Stanley-Jones.

Anne Juepner is based at the UNDP Global Policy Centre for Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification (GPC-RED) in Nairobi, and serves as the Centre's Director. She brings over 20 years of international development experience with technical expertise in the areas of sustainable livelihoods, natural capital and ecosystems management, and drylands development. She has served as Coordinator of the Drylands Development Centre's Nairobi Office since 2011. Anne is a German national and holds a Master's degree in Engineering from the Technical University of Freiberg (Germany). She is currently pursuing her PhD at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi (Kenya).

Michael Stanley-Jones joined the Poverty-Environment Facility in August 2014 as programme officer responsible for communications, knowledge management and outreach. He is based at the Poverty-Environment Facility at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi. His most recent position was as Public Information Officer with the UNEP Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in Geneva (2009-2014). Michael served as Environmental Information Management Officer with the Aarhus Convention Secretariat at

UNECE and managed the Aarhus Clearinghouse for Environmental Democracy (2004 to 2009). Michael is a native of Solano County, California. He holds a Master's degree in Political Science from The Claremont Graduate University in Claremont, California.

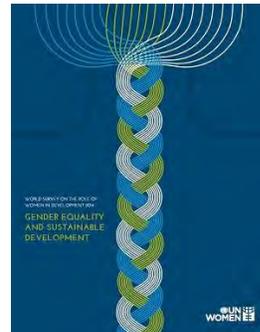
Publications & Resources



[Green Recovery and Reconstruction Training Toolkit \(GRRT\)](#)

American Red Cross and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

The Green Recovery and Reconstruction Toolkit (GRRT) is a training program designed to increase awareness and knowledge of environmentally sustainable disaster response approaches.



[The World Survey on the role of women in development 2014: Gender equality and sustainable development](#)

UN Women



[Poverty-Environment Initiative Programme Support in Malawi](#)

Poverty-Environment Initiative Africa



[Global Multidimensional Poverty Index Winter 2014/2015 MPI highlights briefing](#)

Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative

The recently updated Global MPI now covers 110 countries in total, which are home to 78 per cent of the world's population. Of this proportion, 30 per cent of people (1.6 billion) are identified as multidimensionally poor.



[Environmental and Gender Impacts: Pilot evidence from Rwanda](#)

The World Bank Development Research Group



[MDG Progress Reports - Africa: The MDG Report 2014: Assessing Progress in Africa Toward the Millennium Development Goals](#)

African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the

African Union Commission (AUC) and the
United Nations Development Programme
(UNDP)

Videos



[Indonesia tracks spending on Climate Change mitigation \(English\)](#)



[Sherubtse college builds "the future we want" in Bhutan \(English\)](#)



[Indonesia tracks spending on Climate Change mitigation \(English\) \(Short\)](#)



[Dejando el botadero: Dos historias de cambio \(Leaving the dump: Two stories of change\) \(Spanish\)](#)

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Please send your contributions to Michael Stanley-Jones (michael.stanley-jones@unep.org).

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