

MALI

BASIC FACTS ABOUT PEI MALI

Timescale: Phase I-II 2005–2013; Phase III 2014–2017

Partners: The Ministry of Environment, Water and Sanitation, through the National Agency for Environment and Sustainable Development (AEDD), the Poverty Reduction Technical Unit of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, and the UNDP Country Office.

Focus: Strengthen the contribution of sustainable management the environment and natural resources to poverty reduction, sustainable economic growth and the achievement of the Goals Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and those of Mali beyond 2015.

MAINSTREAMING CONTEXT

Mali's economy relies heavily on the primary sector (agriculture, livestock, fisheries), which contributes to more than 44% of the GDP. However, numerous environmental constraints including low productivity and scarce rainfalls prevent the country from reaching its development and poverty reduction goals. Strategies for how to address the issue exist but few adequately reflect poverty-environment linkages. Following the military coup of 22 March 2012 and the armed conflict in the northern regions of the country, the development context that prevails in Mali has changed dramatically. At one level this has put more emphasis on addressing poverty and environment linkages as a means towards reducing sources of conflict but also affected delivery of PEI Mali.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Raise awareness on poverty-environment linkages and sustainable environmental management through studies focusing on strategic environment and economic assessments as well as public finance expenditure reviews, contributing to highlighting the costs of environmental degradation and benefits of remediation.

Enhance key national stakeholders capacities related to ecosystem assessments, green accounting and environmental fiscal reform.

Support integration of poverty-environment linkages into national and sector development plans and budgets, including the national development and poverty reduction plan 2012-2017 (Cadre Stratégique pour la Croissance et la Réduction de la Pauvreté (CSCR 2012-2017) and support the development of poverty-environment indicators and a data base management system to improve the poverty-environment monitoring system.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Approximately 95% of key sectoral policies relating to environment and natural resources (e.g. agriculture, health, mining, energy and transport) in the third CSCR (2012-2017) have been "greened" and the greening process is embedded in national coordination mechanisms through the formation of a pool of national experts along with the elaboration of a methodological guide for greening policy

processes. Legal arrangements for institutionalizing the use of a strategic environmental assessment for “greening” policy documents are at an advanced stage.

A [methodology guide](#) on the use of results-based indicators, relating but not limited, to poverty-environment aspects, to populate the CSCR database, established to monitor and track progress towards the implementation of PRSP objectives, have been developed

The government of Mali’s 2013 plan for sustainable recovery identified the integration of environment into policies and strategies as one of the 12 priority themes for immediate support. This was also mirrored in the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

Over 1,200 individuals from national and sub-national government institutions and civil society have improved their knowledge and capacity for poverty-environment mainstreaming in Mali.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance included an annex on poverty-environment to the finance law with the aim to secure budgets assigned to poverty-environment objectives following findings from a PEI supported economic assessment and [Public Environment Expenditure Review](#) (PEER). The economic assessment highlighted that natural resources and the environment contribute more than 40% to Mali’s GDP but conversely that the country loses 21% of its GDP every year due to unsustainable use of those resources. The PEER showed that despite the importance of environment and natural resources to the economy, the Ministry of Environment only receives 1% of the national budget and that budget allocations for environmental sustainability in general are irregular and unplanned.

LESSONS LEARNED

Working with planning and finance ministries is key to integrate poverty-environment linkages in planning and budgeting processes and the use of economic instruments is crucial to get non-environmental stakeholders involved in PEI activities.

Unavailability of poverty-environment data for monitoring progress is a great challenge which needs to be adequately addressed in order to better inform policies and budgets, and in particular through collaboration with national office of statistics and the ministry of economy and finance

The advent of political instability and civil strife hampers the ability of a national programme centred on influencing policy, planning and budgeting processes, yet offers opportunities for making meaningful contributions towards addressing affecting access and use of natural resources. This requires flexibility by project partners to redirect key project activities to respond to current and emerging needs.

WAY FORWARD

Strengthen the capacity of Government partners, in particular AEDD and the ministry of economy and finance, to support the implementation of priority initiatives of the CSCR at sub-national levels and across key sectors, through public financing and other innovative financing (e.g. climate finance) as part of sub-national development planning and implementation. .

Strengthen the capacity of Government institutions in the monitoring of the CSCR and sub-national development plans and budgets.