

*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



UNDP AND UNEP SUPPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS ONE UN



The Delivering as One United Nations agenda aims at providing development assistance in a coordinated way at the country level, to ensure faster and more effective development operations, and accelerate progress to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In the field of environment and sustainable development, UNDP and UNEP collaborate extensively together and with governments, NGOs and other UN agencies to support countries in achieving results that simultaneously promote human development and sound environmental management.

By recognizing and combining their complementary strengths and capacities, UNDP and UNEP are increasingly strengthening their joint engagement, accomplishing significant results and impact on the ground. Successful models of this joint programming, as highlighted here, offer lessons and renewed optimism for One UN approaches that best serve the needs of Member States and effectively respond to the pressing challenges of our time, centred around poverty reduction, climate change resilience and supporting governments in delivering the future we want.



Photo: © UNDP

UNDP-UNEP POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

UNDP and UNEP jointly launched the **Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)** in 2005 to support country-led efforts to integrate poverty-environment objectives into national and subnational development planning, policy-making, budgeting, implementation and monitoring. The overall aim is to bring about lasting institutional change and to catalyse key actors, including central ministries of planning, finance, environment and relevant sectors such as agriculture, to increase investment in pro-poor environmental and natural resource management. In 2013, UNDP and UNEP launched a new phase of PEI (2014–2017) which continues to build upon previous results and expands into a total of 28 countries across Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Latin America. Results include the following.

“...the experience and results of PEI represent policy, capacity and institutional building blocks for an inclusive green economy, and provide both lessons and inspiration for those countries and stakeholders who strive for a prosperous, socially just and sustainable future.”

— Achim Steiner, UNEP Executive Director, 2013

- **Bangladesh.** With PEI support, poverty-environment-climate issues are now integrated into key national and sectoral planning documents including the ‘Sixth Five-Year Plan 2011–15’ and the ‘Perspective Plan (2010–21).’ A PEI-supported Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review (CPEIR) enabled the government to draw attention to current and required levels of investment across sectors, and to ensure that money spent for climate change adaptation and mitigation is allocated more effectively. The CPEIR recommendations have helped the government develop climate change budget codes, and it is taking steps to implement sophisticated national and local climate fiscal frameworks to increase transparency and accountability surrounding climate change-related expenditures.

- **Rwanda.** With PEI support, the government has improved capacities of planning and finance agencies and sector ministries to make informed budget allocations and investment decisions in managing natural resources sustainably for development. Rwanda is now implementing integrated sectoral planning with the support of an innovative sustainable financing mechanism, the National Climate and Environment Fund (FONERWA), endorsed by Rwanda’s parliament and operationalized in 2012. Improved sector engagement and greater overall awareness have led to an increase in Rwanda’s expenditures on the environment and climate change—from 0.4% of the national budget (2005–2008) to 2.5% (2008–2012). FONERWA operationalization will help ensure that this increased level of expenditure is sustained.
- **Uruguay.** PEI brought together the Planning and Budget Office, the Ministry of Social Development, and the Ministry of Housing, Land Planning and Environment to reframe Uruguay’s Packaging Law created in 2004 to promote the reduction, reuse, recycling and recovery of disposable packaging. The revised law has a focus on social inclusion; as a result, waste recyclers are now recognized by national law, guaranteeing them rights to decent working conditions, stable salaries and social protection.



PEI Uruguay: Waste recyclers at a recycling plant; photo: © PEI.

INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMY PARTNERSHIPS

UNDP, UNEP and sister agencies and partners are engaged in several global initiatives and joint programmes aimed at responding to country demand for transitioning towards more inclusive and green economies; these include the following.

Supporting a Green Economy Transition in Developing Countries and LDCs: Building towards Rio+20 and Beyond

is a joint programme of UNDP, UNEP and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) initiated in 2012. It contributes to three outcomes related to sustainable development: (1) enhanced political engagement and public support mobilized for the Rio+20 Conference and its follow-up, (2) capacities built and advisory services strengthened on inclusive green economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, and (3) support for inclusive green economy approaches integrated as a key element of One UN Country Team programming. Through a series of global, regional and country-level advocacy, knowledge exchange and technical tool training events, the programme has increased awareness and understanding of inclusive green economy approaches. In 2012, it provided technical support to Bangladesh, Benin, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mozambique, Rwanda, the Sudan and Yemen. Since 2013, it has focused on supporting national green economy assessments, policy frameworks, and measurement systems in Bangladesh, Colombia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mozambique and Rwanda.

The **Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP)** was established in 2012 by the Global Green Growth Institute, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Bank and UNEP; it now also includes UNDP, among 30+ partners. The GGKP is a global partnership of organizations, research institutes and think tanks that identifies and addresses major knowledge gaps in green growth theory and practice. By encouraging collaboration and world-class research,



it offers practitioners and policy makers the policy guidance, good practices, tools and data necessary to support the transition to a green economy.

The **Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)**, initiated in 2013, responds to Rio+20's call for the UN system to support countries interested in pursuing green economy policies. It brings together the expertise of five UN agencies—the International Labour Organization (ILO), the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and UNDP and UNEP—to assist 30 countries by 2020 in their efforts to embark on more inclusive green economy pathways. The programme's main objective is to create enabling conditions for national inclusive green economies by (1) enabling countries to formulate and adopt inclusive green economy policies, (2) strengthening capacity of national partners to finance and implement such policies, (3) developing and making accessible globally relevant tools and training programmes, and (4) creating and sharing knowledge for country-level applications. Initial PAGE work is under way in Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Mongolia, Peru and Senegal.

PARTNERSHIPS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE

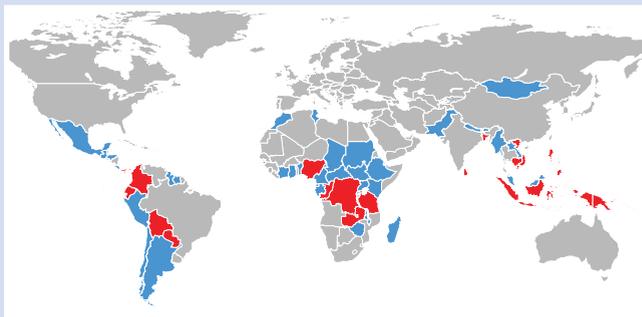
Recognizing climate change as one of the major development challenges, UNDP and UNEP collaborate on a number of initiatives that support countries build their capacity to plan, finance and implement climate change action on the ground.

The **UN Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD)**, a joint initiative of UNDP, UNEP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), was launched in 2008 to support country REDD efforts through national REDD+ strategies that transform forest sectors to contribute to human wellbeing and meet climate change mitigation and adaptation aspirations.

- **DR Congo** is the REDD+ flagship in Africa and a world pioneer. Its REDD+ Strategy was adopted as state policy in 2012. In 2013, a National REDD+ Fund became operational, serving as an innovative financing mechanism linking national policy with international finance. REDD+ indicators were integrated in the national Economic Governance Matrix, a political framework that sets the governance development deliverables agreed upon by government and the international community.
- In **Zambia**, the escalating loss of forest cover has had a serious effect on poverty and increased food insecurity. With support from the UN-REDD Programme, 10 provincial forest monitoring laboratories have been established and equipped with tools for forest monitoring; these will provide near real-time spatial data on deforestation and forest degradation to inform national reporting.
- **Indonesia's** forests comprise 60% of the country's land area, making it the third largest tropical rainforest area in the world. Its rainforests are also among the world's richest in terms of biodiversity, and cover

“The beauty of the REDD+ initiative is that it will now pay to keep the world's forests, with their rich biodiversity. The resources which flow from keeping them can be put at the service of development.”

— Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, REDD+ Conference, 2010



The UN-REDD Programme supports national REDD+ readiness efforts in 53 partner countries spanning Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America.

a significant proportion of the planet's tropical deep peat. Since its inception in 2009, the programme has worked with relevant government agencies, NGOs/CSOs, academics and the private sector at the national level and in the pilot province of Central Sulawesi, where a multi-stakeholder REDD+ Working Group is active. The programme has been instrumental in developing decrees, a methodology for reference emissions levels and a national forest inventory database.

The **Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Support Programme** is a joint initiative of UNDP, UNEP and the World Resources Institute (WRI) to support countries in strengthening their national capacity to access the GCF, which is expected to become the main global fund for financing climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in developing countries. The GCF was established by a decision of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties in 2010 to become the new operating entity of the convention's financial mechanism. The GCF Readiness Support Programme initially will prepare nine countries—including Benin, Colombia, El Salvador, Fiji and Ghana—to efficiently and effectively plan for, access, manage, deploy and monitor financing through the GCF.

The **National Communications and Biennial Update Report Global Support Programme** is a Global Environment Facility (GEF) programme implemented by UNDP and UNEP to support non-Annex I Parties in preparing quality national communications and biennial update reports for the UNFCCC. When it becomes operational in the second half of 2014,



Photo: © Thomas Omondi

the programme is expected to deliver three outputs: (1) strengthened technical and institutional capacities of non-Annex I Parties to report on national communications and biennial update reports, consistent with national development plans and UNFCCC objectives; (2) national systems/frameworks of documenting procedures and processes for reporting under the UNFCCC; and (3) high-quality and timely reporting by non-Annex I Parties. Countries will receive technical assistance on greenhouse gas inventories, mitigation and related topics.

In 2013, UNDP and UNEP established the **National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP)** to assist least developed countries (LDCs) with their respective country-driven efforts to advance the NAP process. The goal of the programme is to facilitate effective medium- to long-term planning for adaptation to climate change. It represents a collaborative effort of a number of agencies and entities involved in the programme in various capacities: FAO, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Global Water Partnership (GWP), the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD), UNDP, UNEP, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), UNITAR and the

World Health Organization (WHO). The support provided draws from over 20 years of experience and technical expertise in helping countries—especially LDCs—foster sustainable climate-resilient development and ensuring that adaptation measures are environmentally sound and sustainable in the long term. Thus far, requests for assistance have been received from 26 LDCs in Africa and Asia. The programme's activities will be expanded to non-LDCs after September 2014.

The global **Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA) in Mountain Ecosystems Programme** looks to strengthen the capacity of countries that are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts; build ecosystem resilience for promoting EBA options; and reduce the vulnerability of communities, with particular emphasis on mountain ecosystems. A partnership of IUCN, UNDP and UNEP, and supported by the German government, it is being implemented in Nepal, Peru and Uganda. The initiative has four components: (1) development of methodologies and tools for EBA decision-making in mountain ecosystems, (2) application of methodologies and tools at the ecosystem level, (3) implementation of EBA pilots at the ecosystem level, and (4) making the case for EBA at the national level. UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre has completed the first two components, with vulnerability impact assessments (VIAs) undertaken in all pilot sites. UNDP and IUCN are implementing Component 3, working with community-based organizations and local and regional governments to pilot EBA measures in one region in each country. This involves building on "no-regrets" measures implemented in the pilot sites and learning from the VIA results to design and implement further EBA measures that tackle the reduction of specific community vulnerabilities to climate change. Component 4 is being undertaken in all three countries to make the case to national and subnational government and other central players that ecosystem-based approaches be considered as a key element of strategies for climate risk management, as well as broader development and poverty reduction strategies and financing mechanisms.



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