

ENVIRONMENT & UNDP



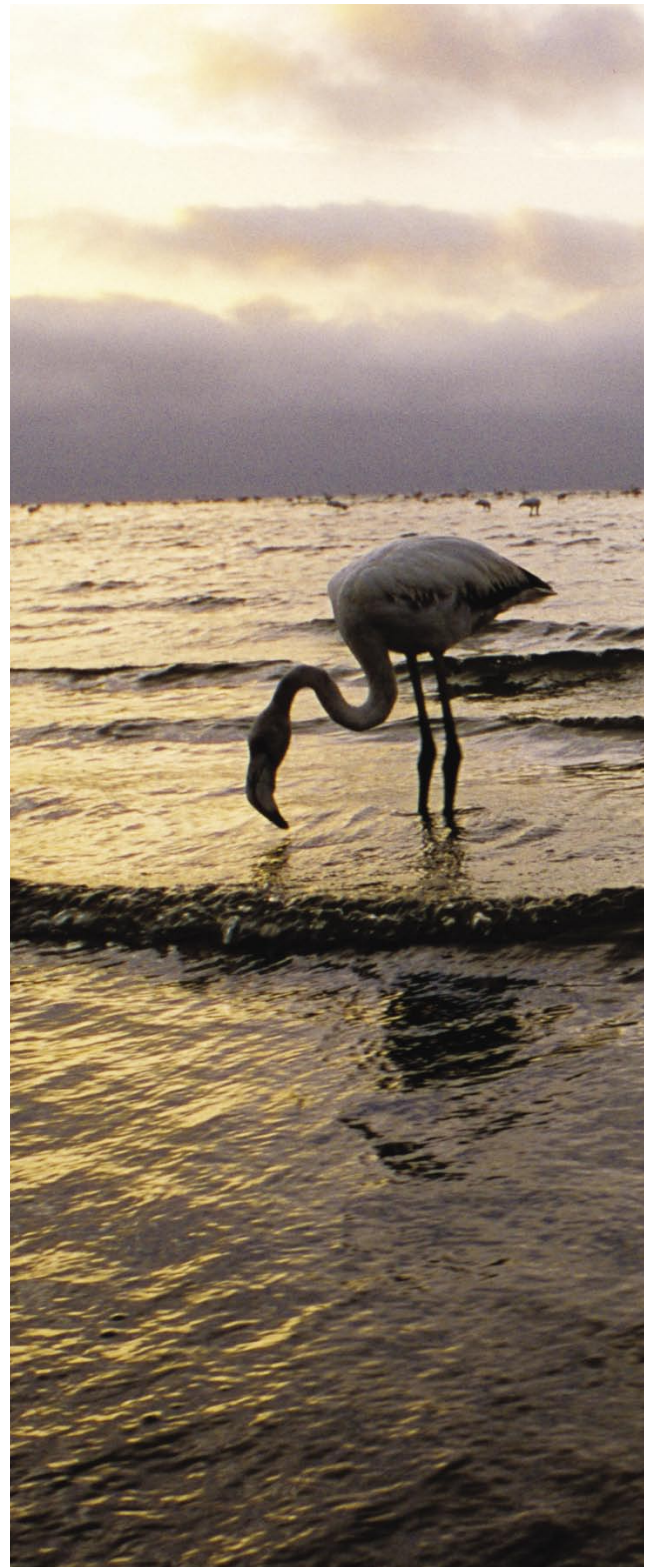
Environment & UNDP

Protecting and preserving the environment is a fundamental development issue. The most vulnerable people on the planet depend heavily on the earth to make a living, which means that fresh air, clean water, vibrant ecosystems and affordable, accessible and clean energy are among the critical components they need to build a better life for themselves. When the environment is degraded as a result of poor sanitation, air pollution or climate shocks, for example, vulnerable communities are hit first and hit hardest.

As the UN's global network designed to help people meet their development needs and build a better life, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) advocates that being 'green' is not a luxury – it is a necessity for human development, and ignoring this reality would undermine any efforts to reach the internationally agreed Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

As a result, UNDP places the highest priority on effective environmental management in its development work. In its new Strategic Plan, energy and environment form one of four 'pillars', equal in importance with poverty reduction, democratic governance, and crisis prevention and recovery. UNDP's country offices are deeply involved in working to integrate environment into countries' development efforts.

UNDP's goal is to improve people's livelihoods and contribute to economic development through the improved management of the environment. It has identified specific measures to mainstream environmental issues into development planning; mobilize finance for improved environmental management; address increasing threats from climate change; and build local capacity to better manage the environment and deliver the services it provides, especially water and energy.



BOX 1. THE POVERTY - ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE

UNDP and UNEP have joined together in a unique partnership to help countries to integrate environmental issues into poverty reduction strategies and other development plans. Despite the high levels of investment in environmental management over the last 35 years, few national development plans really integrate environmental management into poverty reduction and growth strategies. This directly affects poor people who are heavily dependent on a healthy environment for their livelihoods. Good environmental management contributes to economic growth and increased well-being. Environmental degradation leads to increased impoverishment.

The UNDP/UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) helps countries to fully integrate environmental management in poverty reduction strategies and other development plans and into the implementation process that follows planning. Following a successful pilot phase, the PEI is now being scaled up around the world. During the pilot phase countries including Tanzania and Rwanda developed national processes that ensured that environmental issues were taken into consideration during the development of poverty reduction strategies. Planning, finance, environment and other institutions were considerably strengthened in their capacities to work jointly in the development of policy and environment agencies became much more active and successful in domestic policy-making.

In both Rwanda and Tanzania the budgets allocated to environment have been increased. The PEI is now working in a growing number of countries in Africa and regional programmes have been established serving Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean and a Europe and central Asia programme is being planned.



UNDP's country offices – delivering support where it is needed

UNDP is on the ground in 166 countries, working as a trusted partner with governments, civil society and the private sector to help them build their own solutions to sustainable development challenges. The environmental experts and advisors based in UNDP's extensive network of country offices work directly with national environmental authorities to help to strengthen national capacities to manage the environment, both within government structures and within civil society.

UNDP country offices help national and local governments identify, access, and manage funding from a variety of sources. Typically, UNDP country offices mobilize both UNDP and government funds to support the development of national environment programmes. Funding is also drawn from other sources, especially through partnerships with donors at the country level, and using funds from the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Since its inception in 1992, environmental investment flows through the GEF have been of vital importance in strengthening national capacities. The investment has permitted environmental authorities and civil and community groups to increase their involvement in environmental management. Environmental agencies in many poor countries owe their development to years of GEF support. UNDP's own GEF team has helped access the funding and provided the intellectual support needed to ensure that all UNDP country offices have strong platforms to support environmental agencies.

While national governments and donors have historically been the most important funders of environmental management, countries are increasingly able to access environmental financing from other sources – such as carbon markets and local Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes, particularly for water. UNDP country offices provide direct access to the technical know-how needed to support these innovations.

One example of a country office with an extensive environment programme is Morocco. Significant political and socioeconomic reforms are underway in the country to meet important development and environmental challenges. Poverty reduction is the overarching goal of development in Morocco, and is clearly reflected in its national policy as well as in planning frameworks such as the Economic and Social Development Plan and the

2020 Rural Development Strategy. The National Action Programme to Combat Desertification (NAP), adopted in June 2001, was developed to support the implementation of this strategy through an integrated approach to drylands development and a new generation of multi-sector programmes has since been launched to address rural development challenges.

An example is provided by the 'Programme d'Appui à la lutte contre la pauvreté, la désertification et les effets de la sécheresse' – PAL-PDS (Programme of support to the struggle against poverty, desertification and the effects of drought) project, which was designed as an integrated poverty/environment initiative promoting sound natural resource management in support of rural development and poverty alleviation. PAL-PDS was initiated following the NAP Validation Forum through a participatory process involving a wide range of stakeholders. The programme's overall budget was about US\$ 3.5 million, with 80 percent of the funding coming from national partners. The remainder was funded by UNDP and the government of Finland. UNDP's Drylands Development Center provided technical support and catalytic funding for programme formulation and implementation.

The guiding principles and the lessons learned from PAL-PDS implementation (multi-sector coordination, flexible funding mechanisms, participation of the poor, and local facilitation services) are currently used to support the implementation of the new generation of programmes being conducted within the framework of the 2020 Rural Development Strategy and the National Human Development Initiative (the latest framework for human development activities in Morocco).



Environmental management for sustainable development

BOX 2. OZONE LAYER PROTECTION IN BRAZIL: Greening the foam production industry by replacing CFCs

UNDP's country offices are important agents in supporting efforts to reduce the use of chemicals that destroy the earth's ozone layer. At a time when virtually all polyurethane foam manufacturers used CFCs as blowing agents, UNDP was approached by the Brazilian chemical and equipment supplier, Poly-Urethane Industria E Comercio Ltda, with the idea of introducing a castor oil-based polyurethane CFC-free system to the Brazilian market.

In August 1994 the project 'Conversion of three companies to CFC-free technology in the manufacture of rigid polyurethane spray foam' was approved. The project, which depended on local technical support and coordination, marked a series of firsts for Brazil – the first MLF-funded ODS phase-out investment project to be implemented by UNDP in the country; the first approved group project – targeting conversion of three enterprises; and the first project to contribute to a reduction of global warming at a global scale.

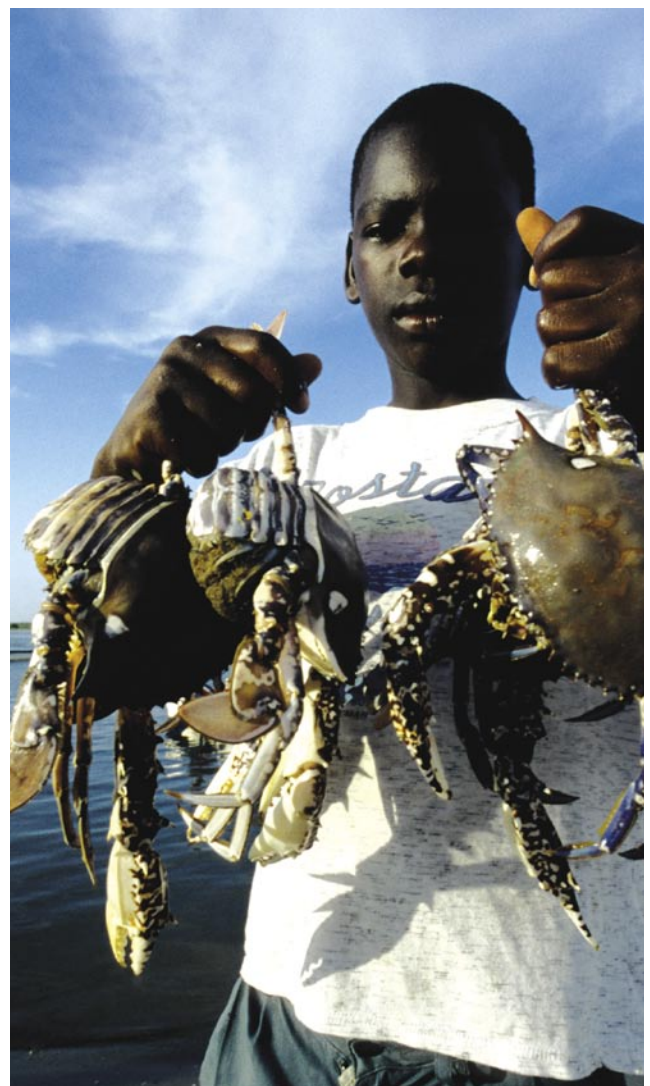
Poly-Urethane supplied standard petroleum-based polyurethane chemicals purchased from major international suppliers and blended to customers' specifications. In order to move away from CFCs to the new castor oil-based, CFC-free process, the company's existing dispensing equipment had to be replaced. In July 1997, when the project had been technically completed, the three enterprises were recognized as having reduced Brazil's CFC consumption by 72 tonnes per year.

Also, by establishing a local, ongoing demand for mamona (the local name for the castor oil plant), Poly-Urethane provided the impetus for its re-establishment on farms in the northern part of Minas Gerais state. By scaling up mamona production to industrial levels, approximately 4,500 farming families were kept employed and mamona use was considered as a base for the manufacture of other products. An additional and important advantage of using mamona is that the plants themselves absorb carbon dioxide, thereby reducing atmospheric greenhouse gas accumulations.

Working with a grant of US\$ 470,000, this project established partnerships that not only phased-out 72 tonnes of CFCs but also launched an ODS phase-out programme in the Brazilian foam industry, built local capacity, supported innovation, generated local jobs and economic benefits, and helped reduce global warming.

Any objective analysis of the ways that environment has been financed over the last 15 years reveals that although significant amounts have been invested in global environmental issues, much less has been allocated to the local environmental management that is vital to achieving globally agreed development goals, including poverty reduction. However, many new options for funding environmental management are becoming available, and in the near future it is likely that the environment will be seen as an important source of finance, rather than being seen as a set of issues that require continual external funding.

Great steps are being made around the world in recognizing the importance of maintaining ecosystems, the services they provide to communities, and the need to pay for their protection. UNDP is actively promoting Payment for Ecosystems Services (PES) schemes through a number of country offices.



BOX 3. PAYMENT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: Institutionalizing Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)

Around the world, widespread interest is emerging in markets and payment schemes that reward those who conserve or restore the ecosystem services provided by terrestrial, freshwater, and marine ecosystems, while providing a viable and sustainable source of livelihood for rural communities. A number of UNDP country offices are helping countries to put in place various forms of payment for environmental management. The National Grasslands Biodiversity Programme in South Africa for example seeks to mainstream biodiversity objectives into productive sectors such as agriculture, forestry, urban development and coal mining sectors – the main drivers of biodiversity loss.

UNDP sees payment for environmental management as an expanding area, and UNDP's aim is to contribute to a world-wide transformation whereby environmental management no longer depends on continued external funding, but generates its own resource flows.

UNDP GEF has launched a new initiative to establish institutional capacity for expanding systems of payments for ecosystem services to a scale sufficient to have a meaningful impact on global conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services while contributing to the achievement of the MDGs.

The initiative will establish a knowledge exchange system on PES known as the Ecosystem Marketplace. This will be available to all stakeholders throughout the world, and will become the world's leading source of information on markets and payment schemes for ecosystem services. Models, tools and best practice guidelines around institutional and policy development are to be developed, including 'Negotiating for Nature's Services', a reference guide for identifying, negotiating, and closing ecosystem service deals with private sector buyers, and 'Getting Started', a step-by-step manual for developing and implementing ecosystem service agreements, specifically for NGOs and communities. Systems for PES in agricultural landscapes will be delivered, partnerships with business will be promoted and new systems for PES in marine and coastal ecosystems will be developed.



Carbon trading – transferring resources to developing countries

A potential result of the unprecedented accord that has now been reached on the serious implications of climate change and the need for adaptation is that new and significant amounts of funding are becoming available to developing countries.

UNDP is responding to this challenge in two ways. First, it has established a partnership with UNEP to help least developing countries in Africa strengthen their capacities to participate in the CDM. This includes assistance in strengthening national institutions, training government officials and, most importantly, informing and building awareness in the private sector. Secondly UNDP has set up an innovative programme called the MDG Carbon Facility.

MDG Carbon is a dedicated facility, developed by UNDP to provide carbon project developers with a simple, cost-effective project management package for the preparation and implementation of CDM projects. It expands on the successful model of UNDP acting as a broker for GEF funds. Under the GEF model, UNDP has been facilitating access to GEF funding by governments, NGOs and the private sector, by providing a set of services including identification and screening of eligible project ideas, accessing project preparatory funding and supporting the implementation of the actual project. MDG Carbon will provide all of these services, as well as carbon-specific services such as facilitating validation and registration of Project Design Documents (PDDs) to the CDM Executive Board, monitoring, verification and facilitating access to carbon credit buyers.

MDG Carbon's services are made available to project proponents on a cost-recovery basis. Since most project developers in low-income countries find it difficult to advance the necessary funds for PDD development, validation and registration by the CDM Board MDG Carbon can advance these costs, which are then recovered in installments.

The MDG Carbon Facility aims to leverage carbon finance for the developing world where it has the potential to produce significant benefits. It has two main aims: i) to increase access to carbon finance for a wider range of developing countries, and ii) to promote emission reduction projects which contribute strongly to the MDGs.

In June 2007, following a global tendering process, UNDP selected Fortis Bank as its partner for the Facility's initial portfolio of emission-reduction projects under the Kyoto Protocol. Collaboration between UNDP and Fortis has created a 'one-stop-shop' for the development and commercialization of emission reduction projects. UNDP's role is to provide project development services, while Fortis commits to purchase the carbon credits that each project will generate. UNDP recently reached preliminary project agreements for four emission reduction projects taking place in Uzbekistan, Macedonia, Yemen and Rwanda.



The Facility aims to contribute to a transformation in developing countries from a pre-market to a fully market-enabled environment for investment and development of emission reduction projects. Once market capacity has been developed in a particular country and a critical mass of emission-reduction projects that also contribute to achieving the MDGs has been established, UNDP will exit that market, having achieved its market development and MDG objectives.



BOX 4. THE CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM: Reducing emissions in developing countries

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) of the Kyoto Protocol permits carbon projects to be undertaken in developing countries. Carbon trading under the CDM framework is now generating US\$5 billion in revenues annually and the global carbon market is doubling in size every year. From UNDP's perspective, this rapidly expanding market offers considerable potential to augment the flow of ODA, Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding, private investment, and 'clean' technologies transfer for the developing world.

However, a fundamental problem with today's carbon market is that the region that arguably stands to lose most from climate change, sub-Saharan Africa, has actually gained the least from carbon trading.

There are only 46 confirmed CDM projects in the whole of sub-Saharan Africa, and the region accounts for just 2.6 percent of global CERs. Registered CDM projects are found in only four sub-Saharan countries: South Africa, Tanzania, Nigeria and Uganda. Thirty-eight sub-Saharan countries have yet to benefit from any CDM project activity, including 21 that have incurred the expense of establishing a Designated National Authority (DNA), the institution which vets and monitors national CDM projects and which must be set up before a country qualifies for CDM assistance.

UNDP is therefore enhancing the capacity of developing countries to access the CDM by building awareness and technical understanding of carbon finance. A regional CDM capacity development initiative is already up and running in Eastern and Southern Africa and similar regional initiatives are being established in Latin America and Central Asia. These initiatives are being implemented jointly by UNDP and UNEP Risoe Centre as part of the 'UNDP-UNEP Partnership on Climate Change'.

The GEF – financing environmental projects for sustainable development

The GEF has been a major financier of environment for almost 18 years. UNDP is one of the three implementing GEF agencies, and supports projects in biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, persistent organic pollutants and ozone layer depletion. In 2007, the GEF approved US\$ 333 million for UNDP projects, which enabled UNDP's environment team to leverage an additional US\$ 1,723 million in co-financing from governments and other partners.

In its work as a GEF partner, UNDP administers a US\$ 2.48 billion climate change portfolio (GEF funding around US\$ 675 million). Over the past year UNDP has increased its work with the GEF to ensure that climate change adaptation measures are assessed and integrated into economic and social decision-making, particularly for natural disaster management.

Work in protected areas (PAs) is the largest area of activities in the GEF biodiversity portfolio. UNDP has registered significant achievements including the creation of 154 new PAs covering 9.95 million hectares. Key UNDP objectives have been to establish effective PA management, unleash the economic potential of PAs and mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into the use of productive land within and adjacent to PAs networks.

UNDP projects in the GEF International Waters focal area cover more than 20 international water bodies including large marine ecosystems, lakes and river basins, and shared aquifers in over 100 countries. Recent accomplishments include the formal establishment of a commission through which Namibia, Angola and South Africa now manage the Benguela Current LME. In the UNDP/World Bank Lake Chad basin project, a US\$ 13 million trust fund was recently established to finance demonstration pilots to address competing water uses.

UNDP-GEF activities in land degradation are vital to overarching development goals, including MDG attainment. UNDP supports programmatic, integrated interventions such as the planned UNDP/WB operations in India, joint UNDP/ADB Central Asian Countries Initiatives for Land Management (CACILM) interventions in central Asia and a multi-partner investment programme that supports the NEPAD agriculture and environment programme in sub-Saharan Africa.

UNDP conducts cross-cutting work for GEF on ozone depleting substances (ODS), persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and the mainstreaming of Sound Management of Chemicals (SMC). UNDP's global ozone layer protection programme includes more than 100 countries, 1,900 projects and over US\$ 500 million of funding. When fully implemented, these projects will have prevented the release of over 63,000 tonnes of ODS. Other accomplishments in chemicals have included: a survey which will help develop a financial model and schedule for HCFC phase-out in developing countries; an initiative with UNEP, which will build on the mainstreaming successes of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI) by integrating SMC into national development plans in Uganda and Zambia, soon to be expanded to eight more countries.

UNDP also manages a number of corporate programmes for the GEF including the Small Grants Programme, and the GEF National Dialogue Initiative. The GEF Small Grants Programme has funded more than 9,000 non-governmental and community organization projects designed to benefit the environment, enhance local livelihoods and produce social benefits around the world.

Adapting to the effects of climate change

It is now recognized that climate change may cause devastating impacts in developing countries, who can least afford the investment needed to counter its effects. Fortunately, the international community has now recognized the urgent need to support poorer countries and funds for climate change adaptation are beginning to flow. Since climate change will affect all aspects of development, adaptation measures must involve all government sectors, the private sector and communities.

UNDP gives the highest priority to supporting climate change adaptation, and is uniquely positioned to help to integrate climate change adaptation into national development policies, including poverty reduction strategies. UNDP works with the UN system on climate change issues and has assisted nearly 30 countries in preparing their National Action Plans for Adaptation (NAPAs) and more than 100 countries have received assistance for the preparation of national communications. These national reports and communications provide vital data for drawing up adaptation programmes and an excellent platform for initiating follow up action.

UNDP is rapidly increasing its capacity support on climate change to developing countries. An important first step has been to train senior Country Office staff in climate change and so far 200 Resident Coordinators and Country Directors have received training. As a result, many UNDP country offices are now working closely with national governments to develop long-term climate change adaptation programmes.



BOX 5. MULTI-FUNCTIONAL PLATFORMS IN WEST AFRICA

Access to modern energy services in rural areas of sub-Saharan Africa is well below 5 percent, which compromises the region's development prospects. Since the mid-90s, UNDP has been supporting multifunctional platform (MFP) initiatives in West African countries, which provide villagers with mechanized power to handle tasks that would otherwise be handled by women and girls. Such tasks include milling and husking sorghum, millet, maize and other grains, normally done with a mortar and pestle or a grinding stone. The MFP, a diesel or biofuel engine that can power a variety of equipment and which operates as a self-sustaining village enterprise, takes these domestic tasks and mechanizes them, to create profitable economic activities. MFPs can also generate electricity for water pumping, refrigeration and lighting, which help provide clean water, improved healthcare and education services.

The benefits of MFPs are already proven. In Mali, for example, eight hours of manual work crushing 10 kilograms of shea nuts yields 3.5 kilograms of butter in comparison to 4.5 kilograms produced in four and half hours using MFP mechanization. In rural villages, access to mechanical power has allowed women to earn an additional US\$ 0.32 per day – a tiny amount by industrialized standards, but a huge increase in income for those living in poverty.

About two million rural people are already benefiting from the services of MFPs in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali and Senegal. Building on this success, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), with support from UNDP, adopted a regional energy access policy in 2006, which included a target of providing over 200 million of the regional rural population with mechanical power for agricultural processing. To realize this goal, UNDP is currently assisting several countries in developing national investment programmes that enable the scaling-up of MFPs nationwide.

BOX 6. THE DRYLANDS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE: Targeting nearly half the world's poor

The UNDP Drylands Development Centre (DDC) recognizes that achieving sustainable development in the drylands has worldwide implications for reducing poverty and hunger and achieving the MDGs. Over 40 percent of the Earth's surface is made up of drylands which provide homes to an estimated 2.3 billion people, a billion of whom depend on the dryland's natural resources for their livelihoods. People living in drylands account for close to half of the world's poor and it will be impossible to achieve the MDGs if their lives are not improved.

Underlying factors, such as climatic and ecological conditions, inappropriate policies and lack of suitable institutional arrangements; and physical challenges, such as poor infrastructure and lack of economic opportunities, combine to make poverty the greatest challenge in the drylands. However drylands also have important assets including its people who are well-adapted to the environment's hardships. Drylands people have high cultural diversity, heritage values and indigenous knowledge systems – including medicinal uses of plants, trees and shrubs, systems of water harvesting, cultivation practices, climate forecasting and livestock management.

The DDC has been supporting drylands development for the last 36 years. UNDP recognizes that drylands development is multi-faceted, and requires action on several fronts,

including policy and legislation, capacity building and strengthening, water management, gender, social services, and others.

In response to some of these challenges, the DDC launched a new framework programme in 2002, the Integrated Drylands Development Programme (IDDP). This programme, which is now being implemented in 19 countries in sub-Saharan Africa and the Arab States combines three approaches to drylands development: mainstreaming of drylands development issues into national policy and planning frameworks; reducing vulnerability of poor populations to climatic shocks, especially drought; and improving local governance of natural resources management. The programmes under implementation combine policy analysis with institutional capacity building and concrete interventions at national and local levels.

For example, Benin is mainstreaming environment and drylands issues into its Poverty Reduction Strategy (Strategic Document for Poverty Reduction) through a process known as 'Greening the PRSP'. This involves the promotion of policy measures targeted to mainstream environment in plans, programmes and projects to ensure environmental sustainability. Uganda is also mainstreaming drylands issues into its District Development Plans and Budgetary Frameworks while Morocco is strengthening its national institutional frameworks and capacities for poverty reduction and natural resources management in its dryland areas.

Support to Africa's Regional Economic Communities in scaling up access to energy

UNDP has been working with regional organizations to develop regional energy policies that emphasize the need for energy for the poor. However the existing gap between current initiatives and programmes and the challenge of expanding energy access clearly indicates that business-as-usual will not allow such expansion of modern energy services.

There is a need for common action and the creation of an efficient and effective modality for regional cooperation among member states of ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) and EAC (East African Community).

UNDP has therefore been supporting ECOWAS and EAC in the design and implementation of regional strategies for access to modern energy services. At the national level, UNDP has supported the establishment of national multisectoral consultation groups by governments with representation from sectors such as Health, Education, Rural Development, Environment, Forestry, Economy and Finances, Planning, Energy, Water/ Hydraulics, and Integration.

The current round of the UN Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD) deals with Agriculture, Rural Development, Land, Drought, Desertification and Africa. UNDP's Drylands Development Centre will lead UNDP's contribution to CSD on these topics by providing information on the extensive relevant policy work that UNDP has carried out on the themes and the considerable involvement of country offices in issues central to CSD discussions.

Putting partnerships at the centre of environmental programmes

UNDP puts partnerships at the centre of all aspects of its work supporting MDG attainment. Partners include other UN agencies, country governments, donors, international financial institutions, the private sector, foundations and civil society organizations and regions and local authorities.

UNDP's on the ground project activities are often supported by partnerships. Notable projects working with private sector partners include UNDP's work with Rainforest Alliance to encourage consumer support for certified coffee grown on biodiversity-friendly farms. Partners include McDonald's Europe, Tchibo, Kraft Foods and Whole Foods. In South Africa, sustainable wildflower picking is being supported locally by SA-based grocers Pick 'n Pay and in international markets by UK-based Marks & Spencers and the Better Flower Company. In Tanzania Coco-Cola is supporting a project's PES initiative encouraging community stewardship of protected areas.

UNDP has also helped attract partners, both large and small, to ecotourism development. The vast majority of tourist operations are conducted by small or medium sized enterprises (SME) but in Botswana, which targets the higher end of the tourism market, prestigious operators including Okavango Wilderness, Orient Express, Desert and Delta, and Kerr & Downey are helping support the Biokavango project by contributing to the development of ecotourism.

In the Danube 17 private sector partners in industries as diverse as alcohol production, fish processing, textiles, meat rendering and processing, pesticide, sugar production, chemical and petrochemical production, mechanical and railway rolling stock repair and reconditioning have worked with UNDP to implement more than 230 cleaner production measures which will contribute to a cleaner environment and save the participants around US\$ 1.3 million per year. Similarly, the diamond mining, oil and gas companies operating on the coast of South Africa, Namibia and Angola are supporting efforts to manage the transboundary resources of the Benguela Current LME, by helping mitigate the negative environmental impacts that their industries cause.

In Asia, an international waters programme working in 11 countries has formed a broad cooperative base of over 100 partners including the International Tanker Owners Federation, Asia Pacific Forum of Environmental Journalists, City University of Hong Kong



and the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association.

A particularly successful operational partnership within the UN system has been the UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) – a joint programme to help countries mainstream poverty-environment links into national development planning processes, such as PRSPs and MDG Achievement Strategies.

To date, the PEI has been supported by the European Commission and the Belgian, Norwegian and British governments. Other donors such as Denmark, Ireland and Sweden have recently provided additional financial support and the PEI is discussing partnerships with a number of other bilateral and multilateral donors. Based on the success of the programme in nine African and Asian countries the programme is now being significantly scaled up to other countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

With its vast network of country offices, its experts in New York and all regions of the world and its access to funds and knowledge, UNDP is a unique source of environmental support for development. The examples given above are a very small sample of the work that UNDP does all around the world.

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Did you know?

UNDP's global ozone layer protection programme includes more than 100 countries, 1,900 projects and over US\$ 500 million of funding. When fully implemented, these projects will have prevented the release of over 63,000 tonnes of ODS.

UNDP has registered significant achievements in its protected areas activities, including the creation of 154 new PAs covering 9.95 million hectares.

A partnership between UNDP, China's Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Commerce, China International Centre for Economic and Technical Exchange (CICETE) and Coca Cola is investing around US\$ 6.8 million to improve water access and sanitation in schools and communities in four water-stressed provinces – Sichuan, Heilongjiang, Xinjiang and Liaoning.


UNDP and the Dutch-Belgian finance group Fortis have announced details of the first projects to take place under MDG Carbon Facility. Methane capture projects will be financed in Uzbekistan, Macedonia and Yemen and a renewable energy project will be supported in Rwanda

Six hundred new, sustainable rural agro-enterprises – designed to boost the productivity and income of low income women farmers – will be established in Burkina Faso, Mali and Senegal with the help of a US\$ 19 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The project hinges around the use of the multifunctional platform, a diesel engine that can power a variety of equipment and tools.

Confectionery manufacturers Cadbury will partner with UNDP in a bid to improve the sustainable livelihoods of a million farmers in cocoa-growing communities in Ghana, India, Indonesia and the Caribbean. Cadbury will provide seed funding of US\$ 1 million, rising to US\$ 10 million by 2010.

UNDP works with local communities through a number of programmes. The Equator Initiative is a partnership that brings together the United Nations, civil society, business, governments and communities to help build the capacity and raise the profile of grassroots efforts to reduce poverty through the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. UNDP manages the GEF Small Grants Programme on behalf of the GEF family, and has funded more than 9,000 non-governmental and community organization projects designed to benefit the environment, enhance local livelihoods and produce social benefits around the world.





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