

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Environment, Energy and UNDP

The increasing degradation of ecosystems and the growing impacts of climate change urgently call for a new development paradigm. Without drastic changes in production and consumption patterns, our planet will not be able to sustain the global economy. Experts warn of the collapse of entire ecosystems at current levels of production and consumption exacerbated by climate change, leading to less food and clean water, an increase in diseases, and ultimately, worsened conditions for the world's poorest people. Energy is also a test case to see whether the world can really bring together the economic, social and environmental pillars of development.

Sound and equitable management of the environment is integral to inclusive growth, and achieving the MDGs, in particular to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, reducing child mortality, and combating major diseases. Every year, two million people—mostly women and children—die as a result of indoor air pollution from household use of traditional biomass fuels and coal. Malnutrition, an important contributor to child mortality, is often more due to unsafe water, bad sanitation and disease than to insufficient food production.



Photo: Shezad Noorani

Rio+20 reaffirmed the need for adopting integrated approaches which advance social, economic, and environmental objectives simultaneously. UNDP is a leader

MATTERS OF FACT

- Over 150 countries receive UNDP support on environment and sustainable development.
- 85 countries have integrated environmental and climate change considerations into national or sub-national development plans and programmes since 2008.
- Over 10 million people, mostly rural poor, have gained access to modern energy services through UNDP-supported projects over the past decade.
- Since 1991 the UNDP- Global Environment Facility (GEF) Unit has invested over USD 4 billion in grant funding matched with over USD 9 billion in co-financing into the sustainable development priorities of 146 countries.
- Since 1991 UNDP has assisted 116 countries to access a total of US\$ 650 million in funding from the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol to eliminate ozone depleting chemicals.
- Since 1992, 14,500 initiatives in 125 countries have been funded by the GEF Small Grants Programme and implemented by UNDP, making it the world's largest environmental effort dedicated to civil society and community organizations.

in helping accelerate the transformation of developing economies onto more sustainable pathways, increasing access to clean water and energy, protecting ecosystems, managing hazardous waste, and reducing the risks from climate-related disasters through improved adaptation.

UNDP's Comprehensive Response

UNDP helps countries strengthen their capacity to address environmental and energy challenges at global, national and community levels, by seeking out and sharing best practices, providing innovative policy advice and linking partners through projects that help people in developing countries build sustainable livelihoods. The organization's work in this area focuses on three priorities:

1. Building the economic, social, and environmental pillars of sustainable development into development planning;
2. Mobilizing finance to improve environmental management and help developing economies become greener and more inclusive;
3. Helping governments and communities adapt to a

changing climate and manage their environment in a sustainable manner that benefits all, focusing on underserved populations.

Working together for a better environment

UNDP is working closely with other UN bodies, international agencies and civil society to ensure that developing countries get the support they need for sound environmental management. Along with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Bank, UNDP is one of the main implementing agencies of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the world's largest fund for protecting the environment. Through their joint Poverty-Environment Initiative, UNDP and UNEP are working together to help countries integrate environment issues into their poverty reduction strategies. UNDP is also working with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) and UNEP to implement the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) in developing countries. Within the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), UNDP has supported the formulation of joint UN guidelines for mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate change in country programming.

UNDP in Action

UNDP is working to **promote universal access to affordable, clean and modern energy services** and has supported over 2,500 energy projects in over 150 developing countries. In Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Senegal and Uganda, for example, some 3.5 million people have benefited to date from access to mechanical power generated by over 2,300 multifunctional platforms for water pumping, agro-processing, and other income-generating uses. The UN General Assembly designated 2012 as the "International Year of Sustainable Energy for All" and UNDP is leading country-level engagements as part of this initiative.

UNDP is **promoting low-emission, climate-resilient development** and is helping nations adapt to the impact of climate change. With a \$92 million grant financed by the Government of Japan, the Africa Adaptation Programme has supported 20 countries to develop the methodologies, approaches and mechanisms to face the reality of climate change today along with future threats. UNDP is also supporting mitigation actions, attracting investment in renewable energies, promoting energy efficiency and providing technical assistance to help local actors overcome barriers to access global carbon markets. For example, in Rwanda, Manna Energy Limited and the UNDP MDG Carbon Facility announced

the registration of the world's first UN Clean Development Mechanism carbon program for water treatment, enabling the deployment of community scale water treatment systems for thousands of the country's rural residents.

UNDP is **preserving biodiversity** through a vast portfolio of over 500 projects with a value of US\$ 5 billion. Over 2,000 protected areas have been established or strengthened in 85 countries, covering 272 million hectares.

UNDP is **supporting water governance reforms** in developing countries through its Water and Ocean Governance Programme (WOGP), incorporating a human rights-based approach. By assisting countries to develop capacities and implement integrated approaches to water resources management and development, UNDP has supported water governance reforms in 60 countries since 2008.

UNDP is **protecting the ozone layer**. As one of the implementing agencies of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, and of the GEF, since 1991 UNDP has managed a portfolio worth US\$ 650 million to assist 134 countries to meet the aims of the Protocol. As a result, nearly 68,000 tonnes of ozone depleting substances have been eliminated from the atmosphere.

UNDP **works with local communities** across thematic areas, including biodiversity and ecosystem services, land, water, energy, community-based adaptation to climate change, and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. For instance, UNDP is working with local and indigenous communities in management of biodiversity and ecosystems through the Equator Initiative, by fostering an enabling environment for community action, developing the capacity of initiatives to scale-up their impact, recognizing the success of initiatives, and creating opportunities and platforms to share knowledge and good practice.

For more information, visit:
www.undp.org/environment/

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Resilient nations.*