

FAST FACTS

United Nations
Development Programme



Environment, Energy and UNDP

If there is continued economic and population growth without new technologies and drastic changes in how resources are used, our planet will be unable sustain the global economy. Some experts warn of a possible collapse at current levels of production and consumption, as climate change leads to less food and clean water as well as an increase in diseases and extreme weather-related events.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that 75-250 million people across Africa could face water shortages by 2020; crop yields could decrease by 30 percent in Central and South Asia; and agriculture fed by rainfall could drop by 50 percent in some African countries by 2020. If temperatures rise above two degrees Celsius in sub-Saharan African, an additional 600 million people in the region could face hunger, new epidemics of mosquito-borne diseases as well as additional agricultural losses of up to US\$26 billion by 2060.



Women participating in the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem project. Photo: Claudio Velasquez Rojas/UNDP.

In light of the global economic crisis, countries have an opportunity to break the carbon cycle and jump-start their economies by investing in low-carbon green growth. UNDP is a leader in this regard, helping to accelerate the transformation of developing economies onto more sustainable pathways, increasing access to cleaner energy and reducing the risks from climate-related disasters through improved adaptation and better crisis prevention and management.

MATTERS OF FACT

- **120** countries assisted by UNDP in 2008 on environment and sustainable development.
- **US\$408** million disbursed to more than **2,729** projects in 2008, 24 percent of which had already produced their intended outcomes by the end of 2008, while 68 percent were reported to be on track.
- **US\$1.6** billion invested by UNDP between 2004-2007 in protecting and preserving the environment.
- **85** countries have tailored MDG targets on environmental sustainability following UNDP support.
- UNDP's global ozone layer protection programme prevented the release of over **63,000** tonnes of ozone depleting substances in more than 100 countries through **1,900** projects.
- **9,000** non-governmental and community projects funded by the UNDP-managed GEF Small Grants Programme.

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 to build sustainable livelihoods. The organization's work in this area focuses on four priorities:

1. Mobilizing finance to improve environmental management and help 'green' developing economies
2. Addressing the increasing threats from climate change;
3. Building local capacity to better manage the environment and deliver clean and sustainable water and energy;
4. Building environmental issues into the foundations of all development planning.

Working together for a better environment

UNDP is working closely with other UN bodies and international agencies to ensure that developing countries get the support they need and our environment gets the protection it deserves. 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, with \$3 billion from 32 donor countries between 2006–2010. Additionally, through their joint Poverty-Environment Initiative, UNDP and UNEP are working together to help countries integrate environment issues into their poverty reduction strategies.

UNDP Expenditures on Environment 2004-2007 by Source of Funds	
<i>US\$ millions</i>	
Global Environment Facility	760.7
Montreal Protocol Trust Fund	104.0
Regular Resources	181.8
Programme Countries	391.9
Others Donors (excl. GEF and MP)	143.4
Total	\$1,581.8

Funding for UNDP's environment and sustainable development work comes from a variety of sources. Figures for 2008 are not yet available.

UNDP in action

UNDP is **harnessing the benefits of carbon markets for developing countries**: In Honduras, UNDP and Fortis Bank are implementing a project with Energia Renovable Hondupalma (ERH) to capture biogas from agricultural effluents that would otherwise be released into the atmosphere and use it to generate electricity as well as substitutes for fossil fuels. Similar projects, that are also being created and implemented through the UNDP's MDG Carbon Facility, are now in the works in Uzbekistan, El Salvador and 15 other countries. The MDG Carbon Facility, a one-stop shop for project assessment to mobilize private sector financing for developing countries through the global carbon markets, screened a total of 160 projects in 31 countries in 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, UNDP manages a portfolio worth \$500 million to assist more than 100 countries to meet the aims of the Protocol. As a result, 63,000 tones of ozone depleting substances have been eliminated from the atmosphere. Working with the Cuban government, UNDP helped to convert manufacturing plants of metered dose inhalers used for asthma treatment. A lack of access to CFC-free technologies could seriously jeopardize the availability of medications but, as a result of this project, more than 1.1 million Cubans who suffer from asthma will benefit from the new technology and products. UNDP provided Cuba with equipment and technical assistance, helped identify public-private partnerships and supported the government on a national awareness campaign to inform doctors of the new products and, as a consequence, educate the patients.

UNDP is helping nations to **adapt to the impact of climate change**: with a \$92 million grant financed by the Government of Japan, UNDP has established a programme

on climate change adaptation in Africa. The programme is currently working with 21 countries to help develop the methodologies, approaches and mechanisms to face the reality of climate change today along with future threats.

UNDP is working to create **new green technologies**: In collaboration with the Chinese national government, the municipal governments of Beijing and Shanghai, and the private sector, a UNDP GEF project is helping to catalyze the cost-reduction of fuel-cell buses (FCBs). In Beijing and Shanghai, UNDP and GEF are assisting the public transit companies to obtain and operate 6–9 FCBs. In the demonstration phase, a reduction of 31.98 tons of CO₂ emissions was reported in Beijing after the installation of 1 FCB. One H₂ refilling station was built in Shanghai and put into service in 2007.

UNDP is supporting governments **in preparing for future disasters**: In Indonesia, UNDP, in partnership with the United Kingdom, is bringing international experiences and expertise to strengthen and expand the government's regulatory and policy-making capacity for disaster risk reduction. This includes teaching local populations how to build flood-resistant house, how communities can prepare for disasters and how to plan for evacuations. The project also introduces credit programmes for people who want to renovate their houses so that they can withstand severe weather conditions.

UNDP is working to **protect international waters**: UNDP-GEF support has led to 11 Strategic Action Programmes for the improved protection and management of waters, seven of which are already being implemented. Among many other successes, the programmes in 2006 led to the establishment of the world's first two Large Marine Ecosystem Commissions, the Benguela Current and the Guinea Current. UNDP-GEF's currently active International Waters portfolio totals about US\$200 million in GEF grant funding and leverages an additional \$470 million in co-finance.

UNDP is **preserving biodiversity**: UNDP's \$2 billion portfolio on biodiversity conservation, supported by the GEF, has helped to establish 127 newly protected areas covering 10 million hectares in 50 countries and to mainstream biodiversity into economic production practices in another 33 countries. Sixty-one percent of these biodiversity projects have taken measures to help people adapt to climate change and 90 percent are helping to eradicate extreme poverty.

For more information, visit:

www.undp.org/energyandenvironment

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