

Energy and Environment

The world community has still not made the fundamental transition to a development pathway that will provide the human community with a sustainable and secure future.

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Providing affordable energy services and caring for the natural environment are central to any sustainable plan to reduce poverty. Today, two billion of the world's people still lack electricity and depend on traditional cooking fuels. Others find progress blocked by environmental obstacles—lack of clean water and sanitation, disappearing farmland, or the threat of whole island nations disappearing when global warming causes oceans to rise.

With partners throughout the UN system, UNDP is a leader in bringing energy and environment issues to global prominence and designing responses to meet developing countries' needs. In 2000, UNDP launched the **World Energy Assessment: Energy and the Challenge of Sustainability** with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the World Energy Council. This report is a pathbreaking new assessment of the links among energy policies, poverty and development, and points to ways government and business can work together. With additional support from the UN Foundation, UNDP participated in the production of **World Resources 2000-2001: People and Ecosystems—The Fraying Web of Life**, a report documenting the capacity of stressed ecosystems to support human life.

With tools such as these, UNDP expands the agenda for international cooperation on environment and energy and advises governments on the policy choices that will put the best new ideas into action. UNDP brings environment and energy into its programmes to address poverty reduction. It helps developing countries combine strong economic growth with responsible environmental protection. UNDP support enables its partners to meet the environmental challenges of a rapidly-urbanizing world by providing clean

water, city services and sanitation. And UNDP programmes promote innovative, clean and renewable energy solutions.

In **Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda** UNDP works with farmers to control erosion, improve water quality, and safeguard the environment and then uses the farmers' own innovations to share experiences and influence national agriculture policies.

UNDP energy projects support government policy reform and help provide new technology for affordable, renewable energy. A pilot renewable energy project for poor, remote communities in **Central America** connected 100,000 poor rural families using solar, biomass, small hydro and other renewable energy sources. In its next phase, this UNDP project will bring electricity to two million off-grid poor families in Central America.

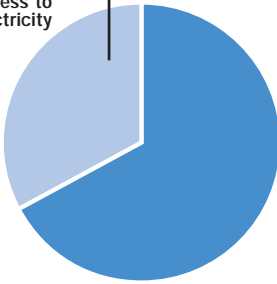
UNDP is a key partner in environmental programmes that cut across the UN system.



ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

Total world population: 6.08 billion

2 billion people in developing countries—one-third of the world's population—have no access to electricity



Source: World Energy Assessment Report 2000

Through the **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**, UNDP is helping 100 countries to fight climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions without slowing their pace of growth. In **Ethiopia**, UNDP and GEF have promoted the use of traditional local crops, in the process strengthening the country's Bio-Diversity Research Institute and encouraging farmers to create local bio-diversity banks, even as the crops make their incomes more secure. GEF-UNDP programme funding has amounted to \$1.2 billion in the last 10 years; and leveraged a further \$1.7 billion of funding from other sources. These projects have served as a powerful incentive for a policy change at the national level.

With the **UN Office to Combat Desertification and Drought**, UNDP helps countries fight desertification and plan ahead to prevent drought and famine. And UNDP supports implementation of the **Montreal Protocol** protecting the earth's ozone layer by sponsoring projects in 64 countries to eliminate 5,667 tonnes per year of ozone-depleting chemicals.

Without the protection of natural resources, and plans for using them sustainably, developing countries have little chance of overcoming poverty. Modern energy services too are central to providing job opportunities, health care, and infrastructure to improve opportunities and living standards. Through advocacy and advice, linking global goals to local action, and helping mobilize resources for technology, UNDP is helping to meet the environmental and energy challenges for development. ■

In Egypt, UNDP helps promote the use of alternative sources of energy.

