

FAST FACTS



United Nations Development Programme

*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

UNDP and Environment and Energy in Africa

Human security and environmental stewardship are two sides of the same coin. People living in Sub-Saharan Africa, and especially the poor, depend on the region's environment, biodiversity and ecosystems for basic necessities such as energy, food and shelter. Environmental degradation, associated with rapid urbanization, industrialization and economic development, will place increasing stress on livelihoods across the region. For instance, Africa accounts for over half of global deforestation, while experts warn that two thirds of arable land on the continent may be lost by 2025. The most vulnerable suffer a double burden: They are more affected by environmental degradation and less resilient towards its resulting threats such as unclean water, indoor air pollution from unhealthy cooking and poor sanitation.

Climate change will accelerate environmental degradation and exacerbate its impacts on human development: Africa will be the continent hardest hit by climate change because it faces more severe climatic consequences than other regions – including extreme weather events –, its economies rely on climate-dependent sectors such as agriculture and its adaptive capacities are limited.



The key challenge for the region will be to make human development truly sustainable for a billion Africans and generations to come. Such a development path must succeed

MATTERS OF FACT

- Almost **45 per cent** of those who lack access to energy live in Sub-Saharan Africa, making up 69 per cent of the region's population.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimates that by 2020, **75-250 million** people across sub-Saharan Africa could face water shortages, and rain-fed agriculture could contract by 50% in some African countries.
- Africa accounts for over half of global deforestation, while experts warn that two thirds of arable land on the continent may be lost by 2025.
- The most vulnerable Africans suffer a double burden: They are more affected by environmental degradation and less resilient towards its resulting threats such as unclean water, indoor air pollution from unhealthy cooking and poor sanitation.

Africans, while at the same time protecting the environment in which human development can thrive. This entails slowing down environmental degradation, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, safeguarding ecosystems and managing land, forests and water sustainably.

UNDP in action

Access to Energy: Energy is central to sustainable development and poverty reduction efforts. UNDP's efforts in energy for sustainable development support the achievement of universal access to modern energy for the poor and enhanced quality, security and affordability of modern energy.

For example, UNDP is leading a vast programme that is providing energy services for 3.5 million rural dwellers in seven countries of **West Africa**. Thanks to the installation of diesel and biofuel stations in rural communities, the initiative has helped to reduce the time women and girls devote to domestic chores by two to four hours a day. This is enabling them to go to school or to raise revenue from other activities.

In **Mali**, UNDP installed solar power in communities located 120 kilometres outside the capital city of Bamako, providing energy for cooking, irrigation, solar drying and food-grade ice production. The scheme is benefitting 30,000 people and

providing additional revenue for women and youths, many of which are in charge of these activities. In **Rwanda**, UNDP worked with Manna Energy Ltd., a social enterprise, to install solar-powered surface water treatment systems in rural communities, serving schools, hospitals and the public. Local residents now have a close-at-hand source of reliable, clean water, which will improve health outcomes and school attendance.

UNDP has also been helping regional institutions like the Economic Community of West African States and the East Africa Community to foster legal arrangements and policies that can ensure that energy services are delivered to the broader population, the majority of whom have no access to grid connection.

Supporting countries so they can tackle poverty and the environment as two sides of the same coin:

We support countries so they can build the strategies, institutions and mechanisms necessary to achieve development paths that are environmentally sustainable, while promoting economic growth, boosting human development and reducing poverty.

As part of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative, UNDP is working with twelve African countries to mainstream environmental activities into poverty reduction and MDG strategies. In **Malawi**, the initiative funded an evaluation of the costs of unsustainable natural resource management in forestry, fisheries, wildlife and soils, informing the country's growth and development strategy for 2011-2016. The government aims to spend US\$ 59 million over that period on environmental and climate change programmes.

UNDP's advocacy and programme support is helping to protect the 160-kilometre Selous-Niassa Wildlife Corridor in **Tanzania** and Mozambique, by engaging some 50,000 people in sustainable income-generation activities, such as beekeeping and fish farming. This initial project has resulted in the inclusion of environmentally sustainable income-generation activities in all district plans within the Corridor.

In **Namibia**, a vast project funded by the Global Environment Facility is protecting a network of natural reserves, enhancing management of encompassing 20 game parks and nature reserve sites and covering almost 14 percent of the country's land area. In addition, a strong community-based wildlife conservancy programme has been established, creating livelihoods for rural people through employment and income generating activities.

Helping countries and communities to achieve green paths to development: UNDP is mobilizing knowledge and expertise to help countries embark on new growth trajectories designed to be more socially inclusive, as

well as responsive to poverty reduction and economic diversification objectives.

In November 2011, with technical and financial support from UNDP and the British Development Agency DFID, **Ethiopia** developed a strategy for green growth over two decades, aiming for middle income country status by 2025 while at the same time keeping greenhouse gas emissions constant.

In **Lesotho, Gabon and Liberia**, UNDP has been working with municipal institutions to boost public waste management while creating jobs for young urbanites. In **Nigeria**, more than 50,000 rural dwellers, 65% of them women, have been trained to use organic fertilizers and farming methods in areas where soils were poor and depleted.

Climate change: UNDP helps African countries and regional institutions to tackle climate issues. We build the capacities of decision-makers and institutions so they can attract and implement climate funding. We help public institutions to include adaptation in their development plans and communities to become climate-resilient. UNDP also supports countries so they can minimize the risk of climate-related disasters.

Under a \$92 million Africa Adaptation Programme (AAP), UNDP supported 20 countries across the region to develop integrated and comprehensive climate change adaptation actions and resilience plans, building capacity to design, finance, implement and monitor long-term and cost-effective adaptation policies and plans. In **Niger**, a parliamentary network on climate change, environment and sustainable development has been established with technical advice from UNDP. UNDP has also helped **Mali** to establish a national executing agency with direct access to the international Adaptation Fund.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, we contribute to a large UN programme that aims to preserve the world's second largest tropical forest. The UN Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) creates a financial value for the carbon stored in trees, resulting in carbon offsets for standing forests.

Between 2010 and 2012, UNDP partnered with the Government of **Ghana** to bolster disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at the district level. The scheme supported the national disaster reduction agency to establish hazard maps in those five districts with high flood and drought risks, as well as locations for safe havens and evacuation routes. For more information, please visit <http://web.undp.org/africa>



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