



Joint UNDP-UNEP  
POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE



# Integrating Pro-poor Development into Biodiversity Strategic Planning: Lessons from the UNEP-UNDP Poverty- Environment Initiative



*October, 2015*

# Outline of Presentation

1. PEI and our programmatic approach
2. Mainstreaming Poverty-Environment linkages
3. Country examples and experiences
4. Emerging lessons learned and best practices



# 1. PEI Programmatic Approach to Poverty-Environment Mainstreaming

## FINDING THE ENTRY POINTS AND MAKING THE CASE

- Conduct preliminary assessments (e.g. poverty, social and environmental assessments)
- Raise awareness and build partnerships (e.g. Implement communication strategies)
- Develop country-specific evidence (e.g. economic and poverty analysis of sustainable ENR management)
- Strengthen institutional capacities of stakeholders and coordination mechanisms

## MAINSTREAMING IN NATIONAL PLANNING AND BUDGETING PROCESSES

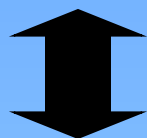
- Inform and influence national and sector planning and monitoring working groups
- Conduct expenditure reviews and prepare budget guidance notes
- Conduct strategic environmental assessment/poverty and social impact analysis of policies and plans
- Influence national monitoring systems (e.g. indicators and data collection and analysis)
- Strengthen institutional capacities of stakeholders and coordination mechanisms

## MAINSTREAMING INTO SECTORAL AND SUBNATIONAL PLANNING AND BUDGETING, MONITORING AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT

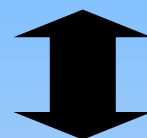
- Conduct strategic environmental assessment/poverty and social impact analysis/cost-benefit analysis of sector policies and plans
- Conduct integrated ecosystem assessments and climate change adaptation planning
- Influence monitoring systems (e.g. indicators and data collection and analysis)
- Influence budgets and financing options (economic instruments, expenditure reviews)
- Strengthen institutional capacities of stakeholders and coordination mechanisms

# 2. Mainstreaming P-E linkages: Key PEI Objectives

**Global**



**Regional**



**National**



**Local**

- To raise awareness about poverty-environment issues at the global level
- To mobilize and coordinate resources for poverty-environment initiatives

- To facilitate the exchange of information between regional organizations and national governments
- To enhance the capacity of regional organizations to address poverty-environment issues

- To build national capacity to develop policies which reflect poverty-environment needs
- To explore ways to strengthen environmental management mechanisms
- To promote policy coherence

- To provide technical support to undertake integrated assessments
- To support projects that restore ecosystems and improve well-being
- To explore ways local governance structure can be strengthened to manage ecosystem services
- To promote benefit-sharing strategies within local governments



# 3. Country examples:

## 3.1 Lao PDR

### The situation

- Investors took advantage of a **missing legislation** on foreign direct investment in Lao PDR in natural resources, leading to negative impacts on the poor and the environment.
- Consequences included **forced displacement**, and **lost access of communities to the surrounding forest**, the sources of their food and livelihood.
- The government could **not track on-going foreign investments** and the control or monitoring of foreign operations was minimal.



# 3.1 Lao PDR

## What PEI is doing in Lao PDR

- Together with PEI, the government is developing new guidelines for foreign investors to **improve the quality**, and not just the quantity, of foreign investment in the country.
- PEI **strengthened the communication** between the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and involved the Parliament strengthening its oversight function.
- Jointly carried out an **Integrated Ecosystem Assessment** to provide development scenarios for investments, build capacity, and ensure that biodiversity benefits and costs were fully included in decision-making.
- PEI also works to **toughen bottom-up development measures** by encouraging citizen involvement in environmental and social impact assessment procedures.

## 3.1 Lao PDR

### The Results

- A database through which planning officers are able to **monitor foreign investments** in all parts of the country.
- They are also equipped with an **Investment Monitoring Framework** to assess the economic, environmental and social impact of investment on a continued basis.
- The Government is now **reviewing** approximately one third of the investments coming into the country.
- Working with PEI the government is developing **new contracts, tighter conditions** and **more advanced monitoring system** to make investment work for its community as well as for the environment.

## 3.2 Malawi

### The situation

- **Declining fish stock** in Lake Malawi. Fisheries generate jobs for 400,000 people and livelihoods for 2 million. Fish provides up to 40% of the protein for the whole country.
- **Soil erosion** leading to **6% under-production** in agriculture and **rural poverty** for an estimated **1.88 million people**.





## 3.2 Malawi

### What PEI is doing in Malawi

- In January 2011 a study quantified and compared the **costs and benefits of sustainable and unsustainable natural resource management at 5% of GDP.**
- Analysis included (nature-based) tourism, forestry, agriculture/soil conservation, and fisheries.
- New perspectives: **wildlife** was shown to contribute **2.7% of GDP** (in previous official statistics it was 0%)
- The economic analysis showed the **links between investing in ecosystems and poverty alleviation** in a way that all government institutions understand the issues, advocacy was done through the national media.

## 3.2 Malawi

### The Results



- Evidence of **loss of US\$191 million** on natural resources or
- 5% of its GDP led to **government re-thinking on environment/poverty**, and significant **increases in public spending on these sectors** (US\$ 50 million per year in the new Development Strategy 2011-2016)
- Sectoral changes: **habitat restoration** introduced into policy on fisheries, and more stringent regulation of private sector in aquaculture
- New **monitoring stations** on the lakes of Malawi will track any changes to the water quality.

## 4. Lessons Learned

- I. It has been **easier to integrate Climate Change and poverty into national development plans**; but biodiversity remains marginalized (and under-valued)
- II. Carry out **Public Expenditure Reviews (PEER)** in the Environment Natural Resource (ENR) sectors and include biodiversity in these (BPIERs)
- III. Develop **budget guidelines** for Planning/Finance on how they can better include environmental sustainability including biodiversity, into macro & sector budgets, MTEFs, district planning etc.
- IV. Support key sector **policy & budgetary development processes** to ensure sustainability objectives operationalized

## 4. Lessons Learned (cont.)

- V. **Economic assessment tools and evidence** are needed to get the attention of decision-makers: biodiversity needs to feature in these
- VI. Should be linked to the social, environmental and economic benefits of **sustainable management of natural resources**, including access to and distribution of NR
- VII. Sustained **post-assessment follow-up**:
  - Repeated briefings & communications, M&E.
  - “Champions” as messengers
- VIII. Need to develop and present more **“positive” examples** on how biodiversity can create/sustain jobs and growth (e.g. India’s Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme)
- IX. Work as one UN and **mainstream biodiversity** through UNDAFs



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