

UNDP: Environmental Mandate & Activities

United Nations Development Programme

Environmental mandate

UNDP focuses on building the capacity of developing countries to manage environmental change – capacity that is crucial to ensuring economic and social stability as well as sustained progress in eradicating poverty. Key elements of this capacity development effort address improved environmental governance, technological innovation and diffusion, and enhanced financing mechanisms. Together, these elements can empower developing countries to put themselves on a path to MDG-based strategies for reducing poverty while taking sustainability fully into account. Energy and Environment, one of five main UNDP Practice areas, is central to tackling the underlying factors of energy and environmental challenges in developing countries and to supporting the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Energy and Environment Group (EEG), an advisory group to the Practice, works to ensure that the integration of energy, environment and natural resource considerations into poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies is achieved. The Practice also gives importance to cross-cutting issues such as environmental governance, climate change, reinforcing poverty-reduction, environmental management links, and community-based approaches to development. Sound environmental management is critical to sustained poverty reduction and achievement of the MDGs. This reflects the important ways in which the environment is linked to the livelihoods, health, security and empowerment of people living in poverty – particularly women and children. The central challenge is to ensure that progress towards Goal 7 on environmental sustainability also contributes to achieving the other MDGs, particularly the overarching goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015.

Environmental activities

- Frameworks and strategies for sustainable development
- Effective Water governance
- Access to sustainable energy services
- Sustainable land management to combat desertification and land degradation
- Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity
- National/sectoral policy and planning to control emissions of Ozone Depleting Substances and Persistent Organic Pollutants
- Climate Change
- Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI)
- Capacity Development
- Mainstreaming Gender
- Community based approaches to sustainable development