

Regional Poverty and Environment Initiative for the Asia Pacific

Briefing Note

Brief Description: The Regional Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI) in the Asia Pacific. PEI is a cross-cutting initiative of the Energy and Environment Practice Area in support of Immediate Objective 3 of the Global Cooperation Framework (Supporting Growth with Equity and Sustainability), and aligned with Service Line 1 of the Environment Thematic Trust Fund (Integrating Environment into National Development Frameworks). The regional PEI has been developed to support cross-sectoral and participatory approaches to integrating environmental concerns of poor and vulnerable groups into national planning and policy frameworks for poverty reduction. The purpose of this initiative includes three inter-related areas of support: (1) poverty-environment analysis and capacity assessment; (2) poverty-environment policy development; and (3) poverty environment indicators and monitoring. Work in each of these three core areas will be carried out in a number of initial focus countries in the Asia Pacific, and through regional and global-level analysis, advocacy and knowledge networking activities.

SITUATION ANALYSIS

1. Background and Context

At the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), world leaders reaffirmed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as a framework for action, and agreed to a number of new commitments and targets to further advance poverty reduction and sustainable development objectives. Sustained poverty reduction and the achievement of the MDGs in Asia, as elsewhere in the world, is linked strongly to sound and equitable management of the environment and natural resources. The Summit further highlighted the importance of poverty-environment linkages, and gave new impetus to global action in five priority areas that cut across the poverty-environment nexus and underpin the MDGs: Water and Sanitation, Energy, Health, Agriculture, and Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management (the WEHAB areas).

Across the WEHAB areas, a growing body of research and practical experience reveals many effective ('win-win') approaches to reducing poverty and improving the environment – in particular community-level interventions to protect and expand the environmental assets of poor and vulnerable groups. But these are often isolated successes, and there are significant policy and institutional barriers to their wider application. These barriers are linked to broader issues of governance (including power relations) and economic and social policy that strongly influence how the environment is managed and how benefits and costs are distributed – and often are beyond the control of environmental institutions. For environmental management to contribute fully to poverty reduction and the MDGs, a fundamental shift is needed to more holistic and people-centered approaches that build on poor people's priorities and capabilities; that effectively engage all stakeholders in addressing the root causes of environmental degradation; and that empower poor and vulnerable groups with the assets, rights and entitlements they need to improve their lives through sound environmental management.

The MDG framework directly addresses environmental concerns in Goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability), with global targets on mainstreaming the environment in country policies and programmes, reversing the loss of environmental resources, and improving rural and urban access to environmental services. The central challenge for environmental management is to ensure that progress towards the Goal 7 targets also contributes to achieving the other development goals, particularly the overarching goal of halving extreme poverty by 2015. Meeting this challenge calls for a new approach and broad-based commitment to integrating the environmental concerns of poor and vulnerable groups into mainstream development processes at local, national and global levels.

Table 1: The Millennium Development Goals and Poverty – Environment Links

<i>Poverty Goal</i>	
1. Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livelihood strategies and food security of poor households often depend directly on the health and productivity of natural ecosystems and the diversity of goods and ecological services that they provide. • Poor households often have insecure rights to land, water and biological resources, and inadequate access to environmental information, markets and decision-making – limiting their capability to protect the environment and improve their livelihoods and wellbeing. • Vulnerability to environmental shocks and stresses, such as natural disasters and the anticipated impacts of climate change, can undermine people's livelihood opportunities and coping strategies – and hence their ability to lift themselves out of poverty or to avoid falling into poverty.
<i>Gender and Education Goals</i>	
2. Achieve universal primary education 3. Promote gender equality and empower women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental degradation contributes to the increasing burden on women and children (especially girls) of collecting water and fuel-wood, reducing time for education or income-generating activities. • Women in particular often have unequal rights and insecure access to land and other natural resources, limiting their opportunities and ability to access other productive assets.
<i>Health Goals</i>	
4. Reduce child mortality 5. Improve maternal health 6. Combat major diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and sanitation-related diseases such as diarrhea, and acute respiratory infections primarily from indoor air pollution, are two of the leading causes of under-five child mortality. • Indoor air pollution and carrying heavy loads of water and fuel-wood adversely affect women's health, and can make women less fit for childbirth and at greater risk of complications during pregnancy. • Up to one-fifth of the burden of disease in developing countries is linked to environmental factors - primarily polluted air and water and lack of sanitation - and preventive environmental health measures are as important and at times more cost-effective than health treatment.

Source: [Global PEI](#)

Reversing environmental decline and making environmental management work for the poor is critical to achieving the MDGs, particularly the overarching goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. But this requires more effective approaches to, and strengthened capacities for, integrating poverty eradication and environmental management at all levels of action.

The Challenge

Making environmental management more poverty-focused requires policy and institutional changes that cut across sectors and lie mostly outside the control of environmental institutions. More integrated and inclusive approaches are needed that build on the experiences and priorities of the poor, effectively engage all stakeholders in government as well as civil societies, and address the key drivers behind environmental degradation. This poses major challenges to countries and their development partners.

In describing their own poverty, the poor often highlight the crucial role of the environment and environmental change to their well-being and ability to control their lives:

- **Livelihoods** - the poor often depend directly on a diversity of natural resources and ecosystem services for their livelihoods, and therefore are the most severely affected when the environment is degraded or their access to natural resources is limited or denied;
- **Health** - the poor suffer most from unclean water, indoor air pollution and exposure to toxic chemicals, and environmental risk factors are a major source of health problems in developing countries; and
- **Vulnerability** - the poor are particularly vulnerable to environmental hazards (such as floods, prolonged drought and attacks by crop pests) and environment-related conflict, and have the least means to cope when they occur.

The multidimensional and dynamic nature of these poverty-environment linkages poses two fundamental challenges for environmental management - the need to manage and sustain the long-term capacity of the environment to provide the goods and services on which human development depends, and the need to ensure secure and equitable access by the poor to environmental assets and the benefits that they can provide.

These challenges are inextricably linked to broader issues of governance and economic and social policy that have a major impact on how the environment is managed and how poor and marginalized groups are affected. A growing body of research and practical experience reveals a range of largely untapped policy opportunities to reduce poverty through better environmental management – but there are significant and often deeply entrenched policy and institutional barriers to their widespread adoption.

A recent review of policy options to more effectively link poverty reduction and environmental management highlights four priority areas for sustained policy and institutional change as shown in the following figure.

Table 2: Policy challenges and opportunities in linking poverty-reduction and environmental management

<p>Improve governance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate poverty-environment issues into national development frameworks; • Strengthen decentralization for environmental management; • Empower civil society, in particular poor and marginalized groups; • Address gender dimensions of poverty - environmental issues; • Strengthen anti-corruption effects to protect the environment and the poor; • Reduce environment-related conflict; • Improve poverty-environment monitoring and assessment.
<p>Enhance the assets of the poor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen resource rights of the poor; • Enhance the poor's capacity to manage the environment; • Expand access to environmentally-sound and locally-appropriate technology; • Reduce the environmental vulnerability of the poor.
<p>Improve the quality of growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate poverty-environment issues into economic policy reforms; • Increase the use of environmental valuation; • Encourage appropriate private sector involvement in pro-poor environmental management; • Implement pro-poor environmental fiscal reform.
<p>Reform international and industrial country policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reform international and industrial country trade policies; • Make foreign direct investment more pro-poor and pro-environment; • Enhance the contribution of multilateral environmental agreements to poverty reduction; • Encourage sustainable consumption and production; • Enhance the effectiveness of development cooperation and debt relief.

Source: "DFID, EC, UNDP and World Bank, 2002. *Linking Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management: Policy Challenges and Opportunities*. World Bank, Washington, D.C.

These policy and institutional changes are mostly outside the control of environmental institutions. More cross-sectoral approaches are needed that integrate poverty-environment issues into mainstream development planning and resource allocation processes—including national poverty reduction and sustainable development strategies, macroeconomic policies and sector plans and budgets. This is necessary in order to forge a more coherent and effective response to poverty-environment issues, and to ensure that adequate domestic and external resources are being allocated and effectively targeted. Meeting this challenge will require more effective partnerships between the state, civil society, the private sector, development agencies and people living in poverty.

PART IB: STRATEGY

1. UNDP Support Rationale

UNDP's second Regional Cooperation Framework (RCF II: 2002-2006) in Asia and the Pacific region defines UNDP's support to inter-country collaboration in the region. Its overarching goal is poverty-reduction to achieve sustainable human development and focuses on three inter-related thematic areas: a) democratic governance for human development; b) environment and sustainable development; and c) globalization and economic governance. These three areas are linked through a focus on expanding choices and equitable opportunities for the poor, minimizing insecurities to their livelihoods, and empowering those who have been marginalized.

World Resources 2005 "*The Wealth of the Poor*" jointly published by UNDP, UNEP, World Bank and World Resources Institute makes a strong thesis that income from ecosystems (environmental income) can act as a fundamental stepping stone in the economic empowerment of the rural poor. However, many obstacles lie in the way for the poor to gain legal, financial and management capacity to use nature for wealth creation without depleting their fragile resource base.

This proposed initiative builds on recent and the concerted efforts within the Regional Bureau and UNDP as a whole to integrate environmental concerns into poverty reduction programmes. As part of May 2004 Asia Pacific Energy and Environment Practice Team Workshop held in 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand.¹ an action plan was prepared committing E&E focal points to a more effective engagement on poverty-environment issues at country level. As a result, a web-based discussion ensued including both E&E and Poverty focal points (Asia-Pacific Sustainable Livelihoods or AP-SL network). In March 2005, the most active participants in that network together with non-UNDP partners met to formulate a Concept Note for a Regional PEI. This concept note was tabled at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED5) convened by UN-ESCAP held in April 2005 in Seoul, Republic of Korea (see Annex 1).

The proposed PEI initiative also builds on the Global PEI, a cross-cutting programme of UNDP that aims to help countries develop their capacity to integrate the environmental concerns of poor and vulnerable groups into national planning and policy frameworks for poverty reduction. Of particular note are the activities supported by the Global PEI in two Southeast Asian countries, Cambodia and Vietnam (Annex 4).

PART IB: STRATEGY

2. UNDP Support Rationale

The Poverty and Environment Initiative builds on the strategic mandate of the UNDP as described.

1.1. UNDP's Second Regional Cooperation Framework

¹ This Workshop, sponsored by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific (RBAP), brought together some 70 participants representing 23 UNDP Country Offices (CO) from across the region, as well as from the Bureau for Development Policy Energy and Environment Group (BDP/EEG) – including Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Montreal Protocol Unit (MPU).

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1.2 Part of the Strategic Focus Area of the Regional Bureau of UNDP

This proposed initiative builds on recent concerted efforts by the Regional Bureau and UNDP as a whole to integrate environmental concerns into poverty reduction programmes. As part of May 2004 Asia Pacific Energy and Environment Practice Team Workshop held in 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand², an action plan was prepared committing E&E focal points to a more effective engagement on poverty-environment issues at country level. A web-based discussion ensued including both E&E and Poverty focal points (Asia-Pacific Sustainable Livelihoods or AP-SL network). In March 2005, the most active participants in that network together with non-UNDP partners met to formulate a Concept Note for an Asia Pacific Regional PEI. This was presented and tabled at the Fifth Ministerial Conference on Environment and Development (MCED5) convened by UN-ESCAP held in April 2005 in Seoul, Republic of Korea (Annex 1).

1.3 Global PEI

The proposed PEI initiative also builds on the Global PEI, a cross-cutting programme of UNDP that aims to help countries develop their capacity to integrate the environmental concerns of poor and vulnerable groups into national planning and policy frameworks for poverty reduction. The Global PEI has supported country-level activities³ through regional and global analysis, advocacy and knowledge networking activities, with an emphasis on South-South dialogue and experience exchange. Global activities that have been carried out over the past several years will be have supported and leveraged the initiation of a Regional Asia Pacific Regional PEI.

1.4 RCB's Energy and Environment Practice and RCC's Poverty Practice

The PEI also links with the focus areas of the Poverty Practice of UNDP's Regional Centre in Colombo (RCC) and the Energy and Environment Practice of the Regional Centre in Bangkok.

The RCC focuses on Pro-Poor Policy reforms and Local Poverty Initiatives that aim to identify and promote Pro-Poor macroeconomic policies, mechanisms for improvement of basic social services, expansion of poor people's access to productive resources.

² This Workshop, sponsored by RBAP, brought together some 70 participants representing 23 UNDP Country Offices (CO) from across the region, as well as from the Bureau for Development Policy Energy and Environment Group (BDP/EEG) – including Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Montreal Protocol Unit (MPU).

³ Initially the Global PEI worked in 5 countries (In the Asia Pacific region these are Cambodia and Vietnam) to support country Poverty-Environment programmes, based on principles of national ownership, national capacity development and stakeholder participation. The aim has been to enhance country-level capacity to formulate and implement a comprehensive country owned agenda for mainstreaming environment in poverty-reduction planning and resources allocation processes at national and sub-national levels.

The Energy and Environment Practice of the RCB focuses on assisting countries to engage multiple stakeholders on environmental concerns and issues, examining the root causes of environmental degradation, providing vulnerable groups with tools to improve their lives and ensuring that sustainable development in that environmental considerations are considered part of the mandates of national institutions and incorporated into policies and legislation.

These strategic areas of focus indicate that both the Regional Centers are well-placed to implement a joint Poverty and Environment Programme, to allow a multi-dimensional and holistic effort to influence policy planning. The collaboration between the UNDP Regional Centers will also serve as a key link between MDG and PRSP processes and the environment in serving the poor of the Asia Pacific region to fight poverty.

1.5 UNDP's Partnership and Strategic Focus Areas

World Resources 2005 "The *Wealth of the Poor*" jointly published by UNDP, UNEP, World Bank and World Resources Institute makes a strong argument that income from ecosystems (environmental income) can act as a fundamental stepping stone in the economic empowerment of the rural poor. However, they note that significant obstacles lie in the way for the poor to gain legal, financial and management capacity to use nature for wealth creation without depleting their fragile resource base.

1.6 UNDP's Integrated Package of Services & Support to MDG Based National Development Strategies

Several activities planned under the Regional Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) can be directly devoted to assisting the MDG – based National Development Strategies and the Integrated Package of Services. The linking of MDG1 and MDG7 (Ensure Environment Sustainability) is essential, and is a potential area of collaboration between the RCB and RCC through the PEI.

The central challenge is to ensure that country progress towards the achievement of MDG 7 also contributes to achieving MDG 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger), and vice versa that poverty reduction strategies do not adversely impact and undermine the environment and natural resources that the poor rely upon for their livelihoods. This calls for the integration of the environmental concerns of poor and vulnerable groups into mainstream development processes at local, national, and regional levels. PEI can contribute by providing substantive inputs to key activities outlined in the document prepared by the RCC on MDG Support, such as: establishment and work of thematic working group (on poverty and environment); needs assessment of interventions and capacity required to meet the MDGs; Poverty assessment / analysis / mapping; support to preparation of MDG-consistent Poverty Reduction Strategies; and backstopping on an as-need basis.

3. Focus of the Asia Pacific Regional PEI

The proposed PEI builds on the key strategic areas of focus of the UNDP as detailed in the previous section.

2.1 Overall Focus

The overall objective of the initiative is to establish a regional community of practice in Asia-Pacific to strengthen the capacities of country stakeholders, UN Country Teams and other partners on integrating poverty-environment issues into poverty reduction policy, planning and implementation frameworks. In this initial phase, it is necessary to understand the P-E linkages in programs currently implemented by UNDP in the

region, with a focus on key resources such as land, water and the conservation of ecosystem services to enhance the livelihoods of the poor. It is also essential to map the existing P-E activities at country and regional level, and obtain an indication of the interest that exists within COs to link these to a larger regional programme. Building of partnerships and networks constitutes a significant key area for the future programme, and these include those at grassroots level, as well as at national and regional level and encompasses government agencies, NGOs and particularly Civil Society organizations.

2.2 Specific Focus Areas

During the programme formulation process, key activities have been planned for the PEI and will be carried out by the RCB's Energy and Environment Practice group in close consultation with the Poverty Practice in the RCC. These activities will follow a sequential or step-by-step process, where outputs from one activity will feed into the next. Where relevant and valid, special emphasis has been given with regard to issues of climate change and gender. Furthermore, during the course of the implementation, we will also seek collaboration with the Access to Justice (A2J) and Governance practice teams in the RCB for technical support to COs when and where it arises, especially in areas including decentralization, A2J, and issues with regard to indigenous groups.

Component 1: Poverty - Environment Analysis and Capacity Assessment

Activities under this area of output focus on improving the knowledge-base on poverty-environment linkages and policy lessons in the Asia Pacific region with specific focus on previous and on-going work of the country-offices in the region. Findings from these activities will provide information on potential entry points of the PEI in the existing programmes of the COs while highlighting major gaps and weaknesses that could be addressed in capacity development, training, as well as other potential activities to be carried out under the fully fledged programme.

Country-Office Mapping of Poverty-Environment Linkages

The UNDP country offices in the Asia Pacific region already have been engaged in various activities with Poverty-Environment linkages. A web-based mapping exercise has been circulated among the poverty and environment focal points of the 25 COs in the Asia Pacific (Annex 6). The outcomes from this will be finalized in close consultation between the Colombo and Bangkok Regional Centre's Poverty and Energy and Environment Practices. Findings from the Regional Energy for Poverty Programme's (ReP PoR) Gap Analysis workshop⁴ that was held in Bangkok in August 2005 (Annex 3) will complement this PEI mapping exercise.

Building Communities of Practice: National Workshops

National workshops have been planned in Bangladesh and Bhutan, Cambodia and other selected countries (TBD) to bring together participants from government and non-government agencies, civil societies, representatives from bilateral agencies as well as interested private sector agencies to dialogue on Poverty-Environment issues and linkages in those respective countries. These workshops will provide a space to share lessons learned and good practices on both past and present P-E related activities (Annex 2).

⁴ REP-PoR will be organizing its first focal points meeting next week at the Amari Watergate Hotel. The main purpose of this meeting is to plan the execution of the Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis exercise at the country level, in order to collect baseline data and identify priority areas where REP-PoR will need to focus on over the next 2 years. 15 COs will be participating in this meeting, represented by the CO focal points and national consultants.

These workshops will be convened in collaboration between the RCB and RCC and the key focal points in the Environment and Energy and Poverty Practice clusters. Within the RCC and RCB, the planning of these meetings will also be carried out in consultation with the Gender team, to ensure that aspects related to women are well represented. The workshops will also include international participants from Cambodia, Laos, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mongolia and others to be determined.

Development of a Fully-Fledged P-E Programme: Regional Workshop

It is proposed that a Regional Workshop is convened towards the end of the initiative phase of the PEI, which will bring together UNDP's Energy and Environment and Poverty focal points in the UNDP Bangkok and Colombo Regional Centers, the Country Offices, as well as among the network of partners, including Civil Society representatives identified in the course of the previous activities. Together they will participate in the formulation of the full-scale P-E programme. Other activities, studies and outputs from other programmes⁵ in both the UNDP's Bangkok Regional Centre, as well as the Colombo Regional Centre will also serve as inputs into this planning process, while ensuring that all aspects of the programme are planned in a manner that takes into consideration issues related to gender, especially women, who often make up a large proportion of the poor and vulnerable groups in many of the countries in the Asia Pacific.

Component 2: Regional Knowledge Products and Services

A key feature of the initiative phase of the PEI will be to build-up a knowledge resource-base to support analysis, advocacy, and knowledge networking on poverty-environment issues. These will contribute to the development and spread of practical approaches, methods and tools for poverty-environment analysis and mainstreaming. Activities under this component will also include improving access to advisory services⁶ to strengthen the capacities of country stakeholders and UN country teams on integrating poverty-environment issues into poverty reduction planning and policy frameworks.

Thematic Policy Studies

Several policy studies covering different key focus areas of UNDP's on-going work are proposed. These will be carried out in several different countries in the region to gain a broad regional perspective, as well as to determine country-specific lessons-learned, issues and potential areas of future interventions. Within all of these studies, cross-cutting issues such as gender and climate change adaptation will be given special focus where they play a significant role within poverty – environment issues and linkages. Co-funding these studies with the corresponding programmes will be explored. Issues of gender and climate change will be addressed within all of the studies listed below. USD 10,000 has been specifically set aside to hire consultants providing gender and climate-change-related input who will work closely with the study teams.

⁵ Examples of such activities include the Oil price study under the Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction, case studies implemented under the Regional Environmental Governance Programme and the Regional Indigenous People's Programme's study on Indigenous People and Natural Resource Management. Inputs from ongoing initiatives such as the UN-Energy (the inter-agency mechanism on energy), and from those of other UN bodies such as UN-ESCAP and UNEP will also be incorporated into the planning process

⁶ This will especially focus on the advisory services available in the RCB and RCC within the E&E, Governance (including A2J, decentralized governance and indigenous peoples), Poverty, as well as those that fall within the cross-practice areas. Within the course of the planned PEI activities, advisory services will be sought among these practices when the need arises.

Study Title & Brief Synopsis

1. Environmental and natural resource issues faced by Indigenous Peoples in national policy planning

To carry out a study on the participation of indigenous peoples in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) formulation processes and other poverty-related policies in Bangladesh, Bhutan and Laos. Particular focus will be given to issues they face in natural resource management.

2. Land degradation, water and energy in the poverty-environment nexus

Population growth, income growth, and rapid urbanization are increasing demands on key resources such as water and land. This study will examine how land and water, one of the most important components for food production, continue to be threatened by land degradation as a result of deforestation, overgrazing, poor management and unsustainable crop and livestock production systems. This study will examine how threats to the most valuable land and water resources for agriculture can be addressed from the perspective of the Poverty-Environment nexus, looking at natural resource management tools of sustainable land use, forestry, biodiversity and ecological protection. The PEI national workshop in Bhutan highlighted issues related to generation of hydro-power in Bhutan and Laos, where inequities among local communities were generated as a result of energy being sold to richer neighbors.

3. Urban environmental issues and poverty

This study will examine key PEI issues related to the delivery of urban environmental services (water supply & sanitation, solid waste management, and decentralized energy provision) to the poor at the local level through inclusive partnership arrangements (public-private-civil society).

4. Macro-economic linkages in sustainable environment planning

This study will analyze the linkages between macroeconomic policies, environment degradation and poverty reduction. In particular, there is a need to examine the issue of how environmental degradation could be addressed through fiscal and other macroeconomic policies. Some of these issues include environmental auditing of national planning / strategies / PRSP documents, development of green national accounting (Green GDP, i.e., environmentally sensitive GDP calculations) and Bhutan's Gross National Happiness rather than Gross National Income.

5. Generation of sustainable alternative livelihoods

Natural resources and biodiversity are threatened by unsustainable and destructive harvesting of resources by poorer and more vulnerable groups. This study will examine how alternative income generation techniques can move the poor away from their dependence on the environment, while using sustainable

management techniques aimed to protect and improve their natural resource base.

6. Inequality and the poverty-environment nexus

To gain an in-depth understanding of how reducing inequalities through the redistribution of assets and income at national level could be an important policy tool for inducing poverty-reducing growth and encouraging sustainable development. It will also serve to determine how the pursuit of growth policies that undermine the natural resource base of the poor can further socio-economic inequities, and thus may not be considered pro-poor growth or encourage sustainable development.

The planning and implementation of the studies as well as finalization of the outcomes will be done in close consultation between the Poverty and Energy and Environment clusters of UNDP's RCB and RCC.

Practical Tools and Approaches for Poverty- Environment Linkages: Trainer / Primer

Using the outcomes from the other activities planned for this initiative, it is proposed that a team of poverty / environment focal points from the RCB, RCC and selected UNDP COs provide inputs to develop a training manual or primer⁷ that will provide a set of guidelines and tools that will be used to create a practical, on the ground (and gender sensitive) understanding of how environment issues can be incorporated into poverty planning and vice versa. This Primer will be prepared in close collaboration with the RCC and highlight any aspects of relevance to the MDG project.

Component 3: Advocacy and Knowledge Networking

One of the key aims of the PEI will be to facilitate advocacy and knowledge networking activities to facilitate learning and knowledge-sharing with a focus on supporting the application of policy and institutional innovations for more integrated approaches to linking poverty-reduction and environmental management.

Training and Capacity Development

Significant value has been identified in cross-country visits and exchange. Also, under the global PEI, several PEI-related activities have already been carried out. To further enhance and support the knowledge base, experience and capacities of country office focal points in the region, selected poverty and environment focal points will visit countries in Africa in which global PEI activities have already been carried out. It is hoped that learning from these activities will further enable practical application of PEI at the national and local community / civil society level in those selected countries. Furthermore, it is proposed that the PEI will contribute to MDG capacity requirements and advocacy of poverty-environment linkages in the preparation of MDG conscious poverty reduction strategies, and will work with the RCC in packaging lessons learnt through MDG-based costing.

Networking and Partnership Strategy

Within and in parallel with all of the activities described above, discussions are on-going with different key strategic partners such as the ADB, UNEP, UN-ESCAP and the IUCN – World Conservation Union. Further partnerships will be explored with ASEAN, SAARC, World Bank, DFID, United Nations University (Tokyo) as well as its Institute of Advanced Studies, ECO-ASIA which is a network of Environment Ministers from Asia Pacific countries that is being promoted and managed by the Japanese government, as well as other agencies, regional, national and community level, with special focus on local NGOs and Civil Society Organizations. In all of the above activities, there will be also emphasis on possible partnerships with the private sector, including strategies for co-funding and resource mobilization for the PEI. Under the RCC's "Support to MDG Based National Development Strategies", thematic working groups will be established. Under this the PEI will collaborate with the RCC to enhance aspects related to the environment in MDG planning and bring them into the developing PEI networks.

⁷ It is proposed that this primer includes the development of appropriate poverty-environment (and gender-sensitive) indicators for measuring how environmental conditions impact the livelihoods, health and vulnerability of the poor, and to strengthen national poverty monitoring and assessment systems, building on those already developed by under the Global PEI programme.

Part II: PEI RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK

The results and resources framework for the PEI, including outputs and major areas of activity, is presented in the table below. The budget figures reflect the total project budget as presented in section V.

Service Line 3.1. – Framework and Strategies for Sustainable Development

<p>Intended Outcome: <i>Sustainable management of environment and natural resources incorporated into poverty reduction strategies / key national development frameworks and sector strategies.</i></p>			
<p>Outcome indicator as stated in the Country Programme Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and target. Outcome Indicators: Number of countries in which environmental concerns of poor and vulnerable groups are addressed in: (1) Poverty diagnosis; (2) National poverty reduction strategies / PRSPs, sectoral policies and plans, and budgetary frameworks; and (3) Poverty monitoring systems.</p>			
<p>Applicable MYFF Service Line: This initiative cuts across two key areas of work within the UNDP: namely environment and poverty. It will give special consideration to issues of women as poor and vulnerable groups require focus with the incorporation of gender – related strategies in place.</p>			
<p>Partnership Strategy: At country level, poverty-environment programmes will provide a comprehensive framework for mobilizing stakeholders and catalyzing partnerships around a country-owned poverty-environment agenda, leading to improved harmonization and coordination of interventions and joint programming on priority poverty-environment issues. Regional and global analysis, advocacy and knowledge networking will engage a range of partners through formal agreements and collaborative activities – including governments, regional organizations, national and international NGOs, and other centers of excellence. The Poverty-Environment Partnership will provide a key entry point for interaction with bilateral and multilateral development agencies. Already, discussions with partners such as UNEP, UN-ESCAP, ADB and IUCN have been on-going, with further efforts being directed at working with and mobilizing potential partners both at regional, national and community level.</p>			
<p>Project title and ID: RAS/xx/xxx Regional Poverty and Environment Initiative for the Asia Pacific</p>			
Intended Outputs	Output Targets for (2005-06)	Indicative Activities	Inputs
<p>1. Poverty-environment analysis and capacity assessment to improve the knowledge base on poverty-environment linkages and policy lessons from effective community-level interventions, and to assess institutional capacity needs for linking poverty reduction and environmental</p>	<p>1.1 Project outputs and activities actively linked to ongoing national initiatives throughout project duration, and reflect priorities at country-level.</p>	<p><u>Mapping Exercise</u> 1.1.1 Undertake literature / project / capacity building program review undertake a survey and data-gathering exercise in full consultation with key focal points, practice teams and global PEI coordinator for feedback 1.1.2 Codify lessons and good</p>	<p>1.1.1.1 International consultants 1.1.1.2 Poverty and Environment focal points in both the UNDP Colombo and Bangkok Regional Centers and the UNDP COs in the Asia Pacific 1.1.1.3 Gender focal points in RCC and RCB 1.1.1.4 RCB's E&E and RCC's Poverty policy advisors 1.1.1.5 Publication costs 1.1.1.6 Dissemination costs</p>

<p>management.</p>		<p>practices from country-level experience, and to address key thematic and cross-cutting issues Cross-country dialogue and experience exchange on priority poverty-environment issues 1.1.3. Identify organizations working in activities related to poverty-environment interventions, both at regional and national levels as part of the network 1.1.4 Feed results and recommendations for key areas of action into a comprehensive Programme document to be prepared for a fully fledged P-E programme.</p>	
	<p>1.2 Studies feeding into strategies for formulation of the P-E programme and debated and discussed at national multi-stakeholder forums and incorporation of lessons learned from studies into the creation of a fully-fledged P-E programme and in support of the UNDP's Integrated Package of Services. Studies completed and fed into policy debates at national, regional and global levels.</p>	<p><u>National and Regional Policy Studies</u> 1.2 Identification of specific sectors for review directly related to PEI. So far the areas that have been identified are as follows: 1) Land Degradation, Water & Energy (with GEF and ReP-POR) 2) Indigenous Peoples (with RIPP) 3) Urban environmental issues and poverty, with Public and Private sector partnerships (with PPPUE) 4) Alternative sustainable livelihood generation (with RCC) 5) Inequality issues (RCC to lead)</p>	<p>1.2.1.1 International consultants 1.2.1.2 Poverty and Environment focal points in both the UNDP Colombo and Bangkok Regional Centers and the UNDP COs in the Asia Pacific 1.2.1.3 Gender focal points in UNDP 1.2.1.4 RCB E&E and RCC's Poverty policy advisors 1.2.1.5 RCB and GEF programme teams 1.2.1.6 Focal points in the Pacific islands consulted on climate change and land related issues 1.2.1.7 International and national travel / DSA 1.2.1.8 Publication costs 1.2.1.9 Dissemination costs</p>

		<p>6) Linkages between macro-economic policies, environment degradation and poverty reduction and using 'green' fiscal tools to address issues of environmental degradation⁸ (RCC to lead).</p> <p>(Some of these studies will be co-funded with the relevant programmes in the RBAP and with the RCC). Within all of these studies cross-cutting issues such as a gender and climate change issues will be included as part of the study where relevant.</p>	
<p>2. Regional communities of practice to support the documentation and sharing of lessons, good practices and case studies in participatory approaches to poverty-environment analysis, policy development and monitoring.</p>	<p><u>1.3 Partnership building, networking, knowledge and information sharing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential partners and networks from government, non-government, bi-lateral and civil society agencies identified; • Dialogue between these partners and UNDP carried out; • Good practices and win-win strategies for the understanding of P-E identified, share and documented in a information database; • Thematic areas, gaps and capacity needs identified 	<p><u>1.3.1 National Meetings (Bangladesh, Bhutan and Cambodia)</u>⁹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of poverty-environment linkages (including review of existing studies and information on poverty-environment linkages) and assessment of capacity development needs. • Poverty-environment policy development, including multi-stakeholder dialogue and strengthening institutional capacity to mainstream environment into poverty reduction planning and policy processes. 	<p>1.3.1.1 International consultants 1.3.1.2 Poverty and Environment focal points in both the UNDP Colombo and Bangkok Regional Centers and the UNDP COs in the Asia Pacific / Global PEI Coordinator 1.3.1.3 Gender focal points in UNDP 1.3.1.4 RCB E&E and RCC's Poverty policy advisors 1.3.1.5 Poverty and Environment focal points in the UNDP COs in the Asia Pacific 1.3.1.6 Representatives from government agency ministries such as environment, finance, economics and planning and other line ministries 1.3.1.7 Representatives at both national level and international level agencies such as UN organizations and NGOs and CSOs, as well as potential private sector partners 1.3.1.8 Meeting and venue costs</p>

⁹ The location for these meetings in both South and South – East Asia will serve to complement geographically the on-going Global PEI activities that are already being carried out in Cambodia and Vietnam. These two countries have been chosen because of their on-going innovative work on P-E linkages. In order to provide a wider capture, national partner organizations from other countries will be invited to the meetings in Thimphu and Dhaka, especially those from South-East Asia and the Pacific.

	<p>and incorporated into the broader Poverty-Environment programme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building of capacities and training on P-E related activities initiated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize national preparatory / consultative / scoping meetings to analyze data gaps and new and emerging issues as well as capacity assessment needs with full participation of stakeholders; • Support national meetings geared towards assisting UNDP COs and government and non-government agencies in the assessment of ongoing grassroots initiatives at national level • Distil lessons learned of implementation for replication • Create a network of partners at both national level and international level, including resource persons / training institutions who could provide an on-going service; and • Identification of specific sectors for review based on assessment of good practices at national level 	<p>1.3.1.9 National and international travel / DSA</p>
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	<p>A training manual (mode of presentation to be determined – i.e. web-based, booklet, short-film etc.)</p>	<p><u>1.3.2 Training and Capacity Building Primer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify resource persons and training institutions who can provide an on-going service Training / capacity building exercises to be undertaken at national level in selected countries Training manual produced (mode of presentation to be determined) 	<p>1.3.2.1 Global PEI Coordinator 1.3.2.2 International consultants 1.3.2.3 Poverty and Environment focal points in selected countries in the region 1.3.2.4 RCB E&E policy advisors 1.3.2.5 RCC Poverty policy advisors 1.3.2.6 Representatives from government agency ministries 1.3.2.7 Representatives at both national level and international level agencies such as UN organizations and NGOs, CSOs and private sector organizations 1.3.2.8 Meeting and venue costs 1.3.2.9 National and international travel / DSA</p>
	<p>A programme document for the consideration of RBAP and other potential partners and donors prepared using inputs from UNDP and non-UNDP networks</p>	<p><u>1.3.3 Regional Poverty and Environment Workshop</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of potential partners both within UNDP and other external agencies Partnerships and networks solidified Draft programme document prepared for review at the workshop Workshop convened, planned programme focus presented, discussed Inputs from workshop incorporated into the programme document Programme document finalized and submitted for approval 	<p>1.3.3.1 Global PEI Coordinator 1.3.3.2 International consultants 1.3.3.3 Poverty and Environment focal points in selected countries in the region 1.3.3.4 RCB E&E policy advisors 1.3.3.5 RCC Poverty policy advisors 1.3.3.6 Representatives from government agency ministries 1.3.3.7 Representatives at both national level and international level agencies such as UN organizations and NGOs, CSOs and private sector organizations 1.3.3.8 Meeting and venue costs 1.3.3.9 National and international travel / DSA</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strong network of partners at regional, sub-regional, national and local community level created for further collaboration on PE activities. 	<p><u>1.3.4 Partnership and Networking Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of organizations with potential for key strategic partnerships at regional, national and local level 	<p>1.3.4.1 Focal points in potential key partner organizations 1.3.4.2 Global PEI Coordinator 1.3.4.3 Policy Advisors in UNDP's RCB and RCC: E&E and Poverty 1.3.4.4 Focal points in other programmes in UNDP</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential co-funding partners / donors identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informal and formal discussions carried out Formalization of partnership and resource mobilization among interested partners and UNDP 	<p>including GEF</p> <p>1.3.4.5 National and international travel / DSA</p>
	<p>Capacities, experience and knowledge of Poverty and Environment focal points in initial PEI countries developed</p>	<p><u>1.3.5 Capacity Development and Training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of focal points for cross-country visits to countries in which global PEI activities have been conducted Exchange visits carried out Experience and ideas gained from cross-country visits to feed into further programme development and training of other UNDP staff, as well as partners. 	<p>1.3.5.1 Poverty and Environment focal points in initial PEI UNDP COs.</p> <p>1.3.5.2 Global PEI Coordinator</p> <p>1.3.5.3 Focal points in countries visited on exchange</p> <p>1.3.5.4 National and international travel / DSA</p>

