



Blossom Time

The UNDP–UN Environment
Poverty–Environment Initiative
2016 Annual Report





***Knowledge is like a garden;
if it is not cultivated, it cannot be harvested.***

– AFRICAN PROVERB



Preface

In 2016, the penultimate year of the joint United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)–United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) Poverty-Environment Initiative, we are witnessing the blossoming of the results of the Initiative while preparing the ground for new seasons of growth and change. This report captures our 2016 achievements as we gather the fruits of a more than decade-long effort to sow environmental sustainability into the field of development.

The year brought to new heights sustainable and equitable development for countries determined to sustain their natural capital and overcome poverty. We have worked with governments in the developing world to demonstrate how the integrated approach to reducing poverty and ensuring sustainable use of the environment and natural resources go hand in hand.

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the demand from countries for such an integrated approach has been heard throughout the global development community. The unique partnership of UNDP and UN Environment, demonstrated by the

Poverty-Environment Initiative, has become a leading example of how multiple social and environmental objectives can be secured by breaking down the silos of decision-making within government. The Initiative enriches environmental governance for the benefit of the poorest by providing a wide array of strategies, techniques and tools which governments can integrate into policy and implementation.

The Initiative exemplifies as well how strengthening the voices of those least often heard in the halls of power can bring benefits across the wide spectrum of society, from smallholder farmers suffering from climate stress to marginalized communities of waste pickers and urban slum dwellers.

In 2016, the Poverty-Environment Initiative supported 23 countries in four developing regions of the globe. This report highlights the work of the joint Global Programme to improve climate resilience of the poorest and to effectively implement pro-poor environment practices and a just transition to an inclusive green economy. It presents the kernel of a more effective means to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and should draw a wide audience to witness the “tree of sustainability’s” future growth.



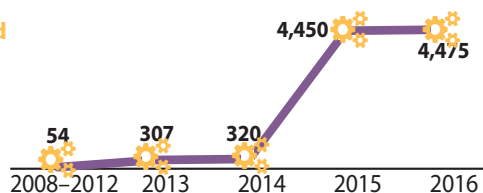
NIK SEKHRAN, Director for Sustainable Development
Bureau for Policy and Programme Support
United Nations Development Programme

METTE L. WILKIE, Director
Ecosystems Division
United Nations Environment Programme

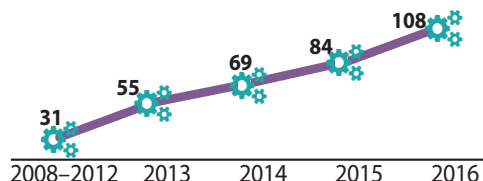


Achievements across the sustainable development spectrum

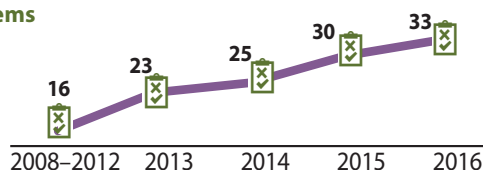
National and local policies and plans



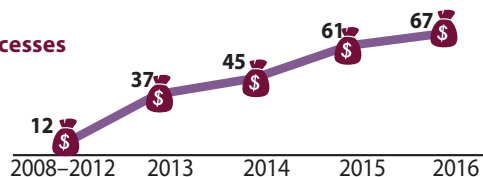
Sectoral policies and plans



Monitoring systems



Budgeting and expenditure processes



The Poverty-Environment Initiative has produced bountiful results through its systematic and integrative method of mainstreaming poverty-environment objectives into the heart of government policy and programmes. So far, in the 28 countries where it has been active since 2008, the Poverty-Environment Initiative has reaped:

- **47 national and 4,428 local policies and plans** in 22 countries
- **108 sectoral policies and plans** in 17 countries
- **33 monitoring and evaluation systems** incorporating poverty-environment indicators in 17 countries
- **67 national budgeting and expenditure processes** in 14 countries



Bhutan instils poverty-environment and gender and climate objectives countrywide

The Poverty-Environment Initiative helped form a multisectoral mainstreaming group at the central government level in 2010 and has since expanded this to the local level. In 2016, each of 20 districts established a local mainstreaming reference group. Action plans now ensure that objectives for gender, environment, climate disaster responses and poverty are reflected in national policies and plans and incorporated at the district level.



Malawi aims for policy coherence and sustainability in natural resources

Malawi applied approaches and tools to bring poverty-environment policy and budget coherence across the wildlife, irrigation, mining and agriculture sectors. Malawi modestly increased its budget allocation in 2016 by applying the revised budget guidelines. The Office of the President has ensured compliance with the guidelines, which helps balance agriculture production—key to poverty reduction—with environmental conservation.



Peru adopts national solid waste management plan with key poverty-environment objectives

Peru's new National Plan for Solid Waste Management, crafted with support from the Poverty-Environment Initiative, addresses several poverty-environment objectives, including the recovery and restoration of environmental, social and economic spaces degraded by dump sites; and measurement and monitoring of impact on sound environmental management, poverty reduction and the inclusion of women and youth empowerment.



Tajikistan integrates environmental sustainability and gender

Tajikistan's president has approved the National Development Strategy (2016–2030), which—for the first time—addresses environmental sustainability and gender issues as cross-cutting objectives, a central ambition of the Poverty-Environment Initiative. Poverty-environment objectives are now integrated in 64 of the country's 68 districts, with 94 percent of district development plans including such indicators.



Recycling for life

An estimated 4 million people make their living from informal recycling in Latin America and the Caribbean. Working in hazardous and unsanitary conditions, they make an important environmental contribution in communities that lack the means to undertake comprehensive solid waste management.

In Arequipa, Peru, three-quarters of the recyclers working in the formal and informal sectors are women. The Poverty-Environment Initiative, with support from United Nations Volunteers, is helping **transform the relationship here among waste collectors, communities and the environment.**

This initiative forms part of Peru's **Integrated Solid Waste Management for Sustainable Development and Inclusion programme**, which is supported by

the Poverty-Environment Initiative, the Ministry of Environment and the Municipality of Arequipa, in cooperation with the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion and the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Populations.

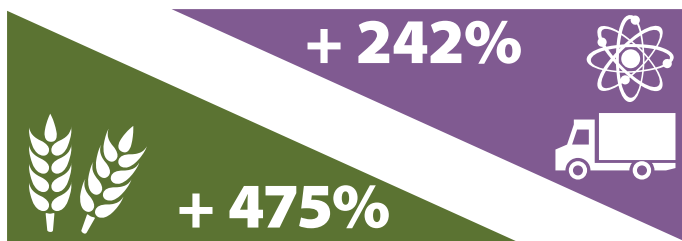
In total, the project has been working with 105 women from 10 associations in Arequipa. Through this **mutually beneficial arrangement**, residents sort their garbage and have it collected from their doors, while women no longer must travel to the informal dumps on the outskirts of the city to sort waste in hazardous and unsanitary conditions.

THE AREQUIPA PROCESS...



Investing in what counts—and investing in people

Working with UNDP's Governance of Climate Change Project, the Poverty-Environment Initiative undertook a Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review in two **Indonesian** provinces, which helped in prioritizing the needs of families that are extremely vulnerable to climate change. Local public expenditures on climate have since increased, as reviews for 2010–2013 at the local level have shown. For example, there has been a 475 percent increase in the agriculture and forestry sector in Jambi Province and a 242 percent increase in the energy and transportation sectors in Central Java.



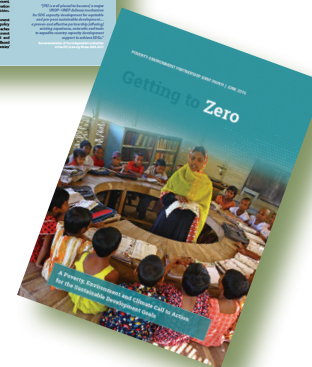
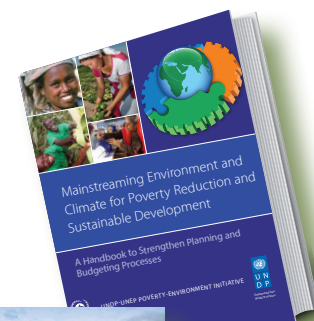
With support from the Poverty-Environment Initiative and the UN Capital Development Fund, **Mali** has integrated climate change into national planning processes. In the water, environment, urbanization and state land sectors, it has increased its budget proposals for poverty-environment activities by 13.8 percent between 2016 and 2017. At the subnational level, poverty-environment objectives are now included in the district development plans of Djéguéna and Sido. In collaboration with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, capacity-building sessions for staff from 15 local governments, women and youth organizations, farmers and traditional community and religious leaders reached 649 men and 411 women in the two districts.



Advocating with the right tools

The Poverty-Environment Initiative crafts, tailors and shares a variety of practical tools—including **guidelines, accounting mechanisms, expenditure review methodologies, indicators, trainings and knowledge products**—to help countries achieve results. Our internationally recognized knowledge products are models for the integrated achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Initiative has made its mark globally:

- At the September 2015 UN Summit on Sustainable Development, where its flagship handbook was cited in an interactive dialogue
- At the February 2016 UN Environment Global Forum on Integrated Approaches to Delivering the Sustainable Development Goals at National and Regional Level, where the Initiative presented its integrated approach to SDG implementation
- At the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in May 2016, where the UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment was launched, to which the Initiative contributed a case study
- At the July 2016 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, where the Initiative signed and launched the Poverty Environment Partnership's *Getting to Zero* call to action



Growing the tree of sustainability

HARVESTING:

Transforming institutions
and creating policy coherence ✿
Increasing public and private investments in
Sustainable Development Goal implementation
✿ Creating new legal frameworks and compliance
mechanisms ✿ Fostering community
participation ✿ Strengthening social
inclusion and increasing
legitimacy

WATERING

THE SEEDS: Crafting
communication strategies ✿
Advocacy through briefing notes
and policy papers ✿ Conducting
trainings and building
capacity

PLANTING THE SEEDS:

Uncovering economic, ecological
and social evidence ✿ Conducting policy
research ✿ Undertaking cost-benefit analyses
✿ Integrated ecosystem assessments ✿
Legal, political, economic and poverty and
environmental assessments ✿ Strategic
environmental and social impact
assessments

BLOSSOMING:

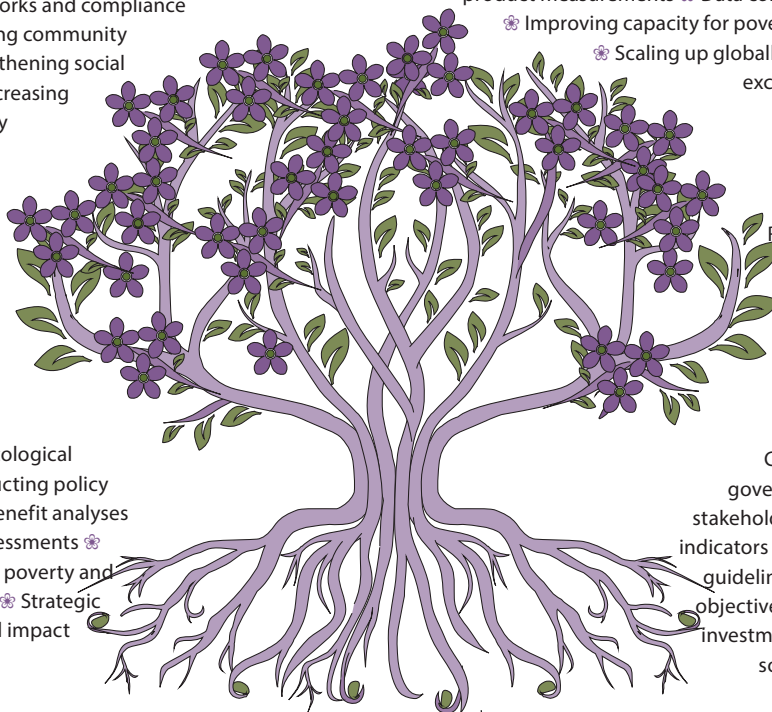
Improving understanding of poverty-
environment-climate nexus ✿ Breaking down sector silos
✿ Nourishing integrated policy implementation ✿ Institutionalizing
government coordination mechanisms ✿ Going beyond gross domestic
product measurements ✿ Data collection for informed decision-making
✿ Improving capacity for poverty-environment mainstreaming
✿ Scaling up globally through South-South
exchange

TENDING THE BRANCHES:

Sensitizing monitoring systems
to mainstreaming objectives ✿
Revising national budgeting and financial
management processes ✿ Adopting
private investment guidelines and
sustainable investment
contracts

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS:

Consulting with the poor, non-
governmental organizations and other
stakeholders ✿ Creating poverty-environment
indicators ✿ Developing planning and budgeting
guidelines ✿ Instilling poverty-environment
objectives in policies and in development and
investment plans ✿ Defining environmental,
social and economic safeguards

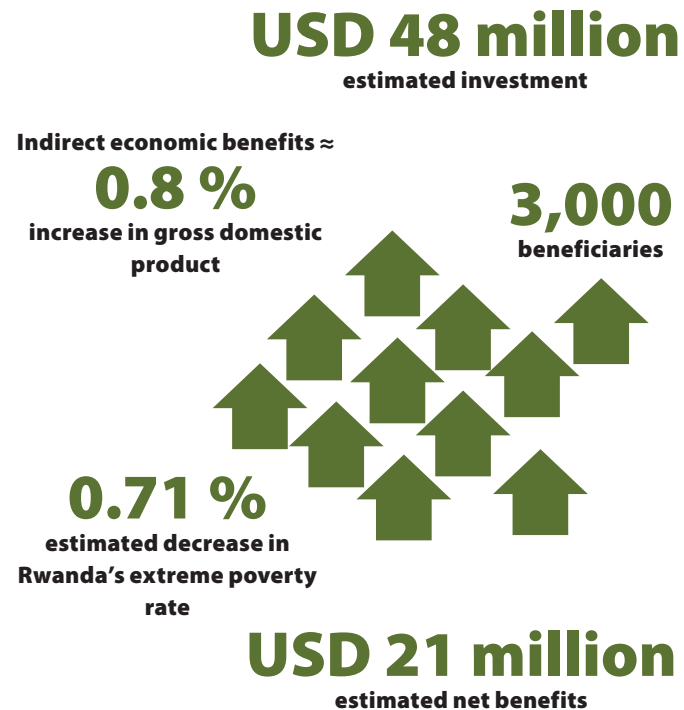




Integrated approach makes for sustainable development

The success of the Rubaya green village in **Rwanda**, completed in 2011 and consisting of 43 houses and a school, and featuring rainwater harvesting, a water storage and supply system, and a biogas system providing clean fuel for households and manure for farming, led the government to require all districts to have at least one green village. Green villages improve food security, increase household income, decrease deforestation and save each household an average of nearly three hours per day in water collection and two hours per day in firewood collection. They also use terracing to reduce erosion, improve agricultural productivity and increase resistance to natural disasters.

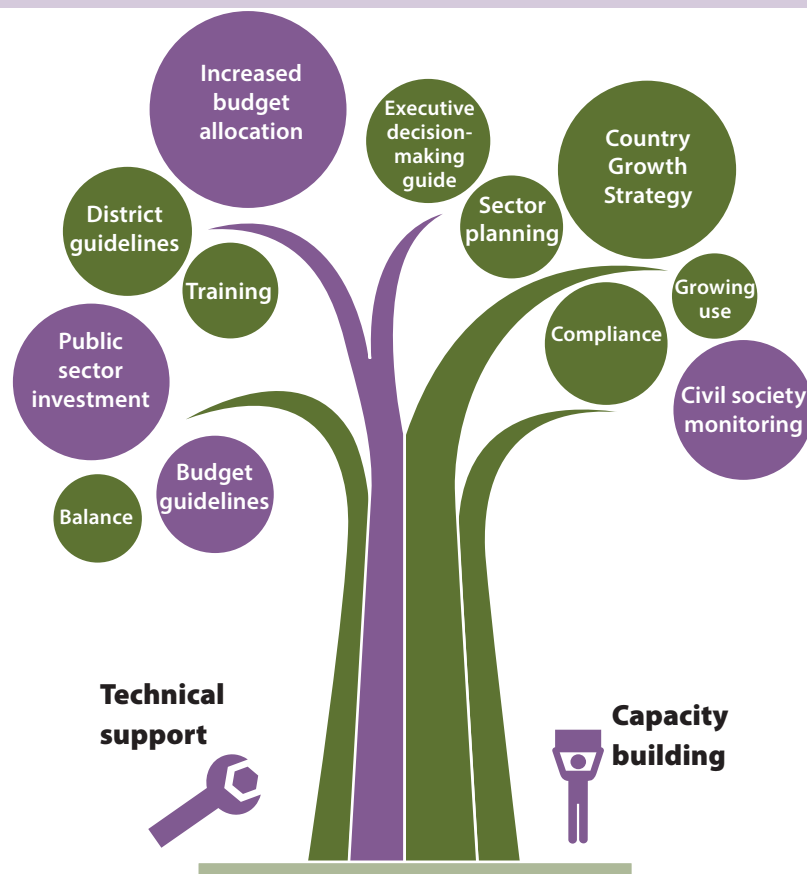
Today, there are 7 such villages, and the Poverty-Environment Initiative in 2016 completed a cost-benefit analysis to project the impact of 30 green villages.



Institutionalized approaches and tools

In 2016, **Malawi** institutionalized poverty-environment approaches and tools previously developed to ensure poverty-environment policy and budget coherence across several sectors and districts in which the Poverty-Environment Initiative worked. This included a detailed annex on environmental sustainability and natural resource mainstreaming in Malawi's *Guide to Executive Decision-Making* to show how decisionmakers and policymakers can better integrate pro-poor and sustainable environmental management into all stages of the public planning cycle.

In 2016, Malawi's wildlife, irrigation, mining and agriculture sectors used the annex when drafting their policies and sector strategies. The guide has thus helped ensure a balance between agricultural production—vitally important for poverty reduction—and environmental conservation in the national agriculture policy.

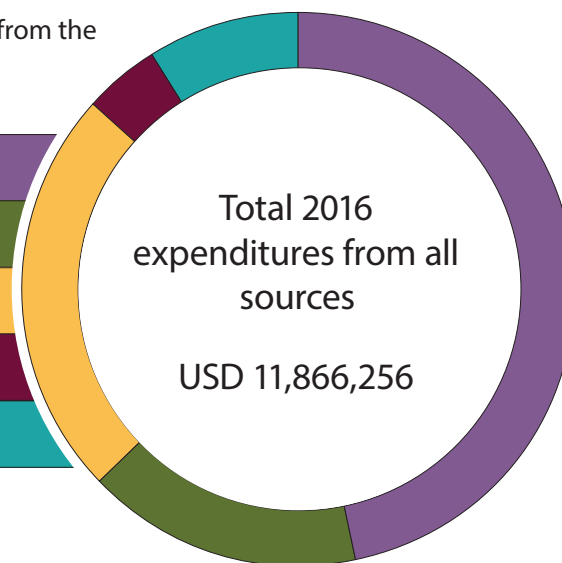


2016 financial data

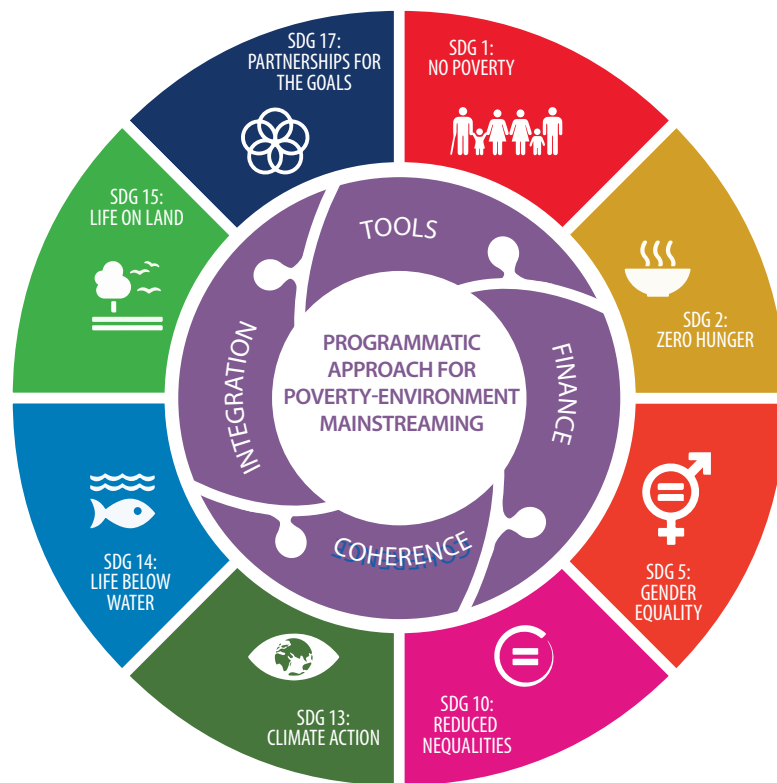
Total 2016 expenditures against global funds from donors amounted to approximately USD 6.1 million. Total expenditure in 2016 against all resources was almost USD 12 million. Thus, **every dollar from global donors catalysed nearly USD 1 for poverty-environment mainstreaming** at the country, regional and global levels.

The Poverty-Environment Initiative currently enjoys financial support from the Governments of Norway, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the European Union. In 2016, total contributions from these donors amounted to USD 7.218 million, resulting in a USD 11.9 million programme in 2016, including core contributions from UNDP and UN Environment, catalytic contributions and government contributions.

Donor contributions	USD 5,560,456
UN Environment contributions	USD 1,895,037
UNDP contributions	USD 2,829,903
Catalytic contributions	USD 547,334
Government contributions	USD 1,033,526



Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals



In January 2018, a new 5-year global programme, Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals, will be launched as the successor to the Poverty-Environment Initiative. It will help countries:

- Strengthen and implement more coherent **policies, plans, regulations and investments** to support poverty-environment objectives
- Promote quality **investments that engender environmental sustainability**, climate resilience and livelihoods, contributing to poverty elimination
- Employ **innovative approaches and tools** adopted by regional and global institutions in support of poverty-environment nexus for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals