



## Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals



# ELIMINATING POVERTY AND ENHANCING SUSTAINABILITY

Through Poverty- Environment  
Action's Integrated Approach

11 NOV 2021

11.00 am - 12.30pm EAT

With funding from



**Belgium**  
partner in development



**NORWEGIAN MINISTRY  
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**



**Sweden  
Sverige**

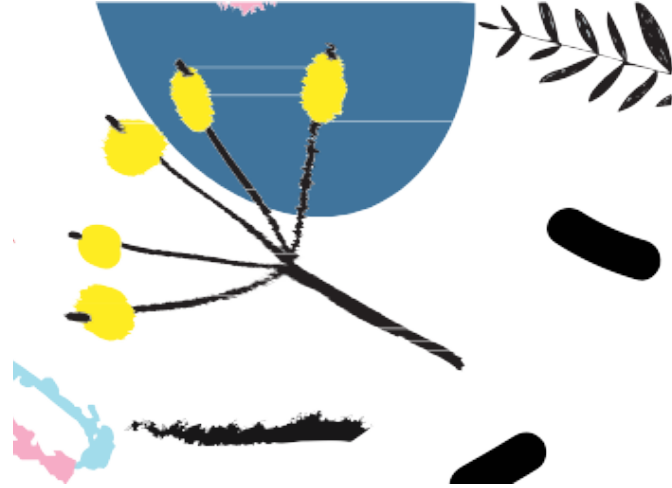


The PEA Webinar Series was organized with the support of UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals through the financial support of the Governments of Austria, Norway, Sweden and the European Union. It's contents are the sole responsibility of UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Governments of Austria, Norway, Sweden or the European Union.



# Program

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I   | <i>Welcome &amp; Housekeeping rules – Moderator:</i><br>• <b>Henry Ndede</b> , Senior Advisor-Strategic Planning, Ecosystems Integration Branch, UNEP                                                                                                       |
| II  | <i>Introduction and objectives of the webinar</i><br>• <b>Anne Juepner</b> , Co-manager, UNDP–UNEP Poverty–Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals                                                                                             |
| III | <i>Orientation – Evolution of Poverty–Environment Action Approach</i><br>– From Poverty–Environment Initiative (PEI) to Poverty–Environment Action (PEA)<br>• <b>David Smith</b> , Chief Economist: Africa Regional Coordinator, Poverty–Environment Action |
| IV  | <i>Presentation on the Poverty–Environment Action Integrated Approach – A new schematic</i><br>• <b>Steve Bass</b> , Senior Associate, International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED)                                                         |
| V   | <b>Q &amp; A</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |



|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>VI</b></p>  | <p><b>Polling:</b> <i>Mainstreaming challenges:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Steve Bass</b>, Senior Associate, International Institute for Environment &amp; Development (IIED)</li> </ul> <p>Ten challenges to integration have been identified in the policy paper. <b>Which top 3 challenges</b> do you think the revised Handbook should focus on, to be of most use in future to readers? [vote for 5 from below – no need to rank]</p> <p><i>Challenge to integration:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dominant paradigm/knowledge excludes p/e</li> <li>2. Fragmented institutions and processes</li> <li>3. Inadequate leadership for integration</li> <li>4. Lack of trust and political will to integrate</li> <li>5. Lack of formal policy space for p/e issues</li> <li>6. Gender and marginalized groups' exclusion</li> <li>7. Incomplete metrics and data</li> <li>8. Inadequate capacities and powers</li> <li>9. Lack of investment in integrated initiatives</li> <li>10. Lack of continued effort over time</li> </ol> |
| <p><b>VII</b></p> | <p>Next steps and closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kerstin Stendahl</b>, Chief, Ecosystems Integration Branch, Ecosystems Division, UNEP</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

# INTRODUCTION REMARKS

## MODERATOR: HENRY ODEDE

### Introduction and objectives of the webinar by *Anne Juepner*, Co-manager, UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals

- An integrated approach requires accessing the social and environmental impact of the development challenges, their links and designing actions to reduce the social and economic dimensions of poverty.
- An integrated approach to achieving sustainable development was called for in 1972 UN Conference- this is the 50th anniversary which provides inspiration and guidance in the work being done by PEA.
- The 2030 Agenda presents sustainable development as a synthesis of the 5 global challenges- People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships and called for integration to meeting the commitments to ensure benefits for the long term.
- Consistent calls for integration over 50 years but practically it's been more elusive.
- The work of the Poverty Environment Initiative and the Poverty Environment Action has revealed many successful approaches and lessons that will be explored in the webinar.
- Based on today's learnings and future anticipation, they wish to develop an updated Poverty Environment Climate Integration Framework that will:
  - a) Highlight the range of integrated policy goals that poverty environment mainstreaming serves including sustainable development, post COVID recovery & zero carbon development
  - b) Draw attention to the Integrated poverty and environmental outcomes sought in urban, rural and agricultural livelihoods and selected sectors
  - c) Organize their work so it fits directly into the main practical processes in the policy cycle and covers the main activities of mainstreaming poverty and environment in these processes

The webinar today will share learning to date in the PE approach, consider pressing imperatives to ramp up integration and gain participants' advice on an updated approach fit for meeting growing demands.

## OBJECTIVES

- To explore how PEA's integrated approach can tackle today's complex challenges notably contributing to inclusive green post COVID recovery and accelerating the achievement of the SDGs.
- To get participants' perspectives that will contribute to the updated and online 3rd edition of PE Action Mainstreaming Handbook.
- To welcome the sharing of participants who bring unique participant country experience on how to overcome challenges to implementing an integrated approach to achieve the SDGs.

## ORIENTATION

Evolution of Poverty-Environment Action Approach- From Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) to Poverty-Environment Action (PEA) *David Smith*, Chief Economist: Africa Regional Coordinator, Poverty-Environment Action

### Evolution of Poverty Environment mainstreaming over the years - challenges

- Africa is the starting point of PEA which started in 2005 as the Poverty Environment Initiative Pilot Phase and worked in 7 countries initially.
- Work started through environmental ministries- focus was more on environmental mainstreaming as opposed to the

original poverty environmental mainstreaming.

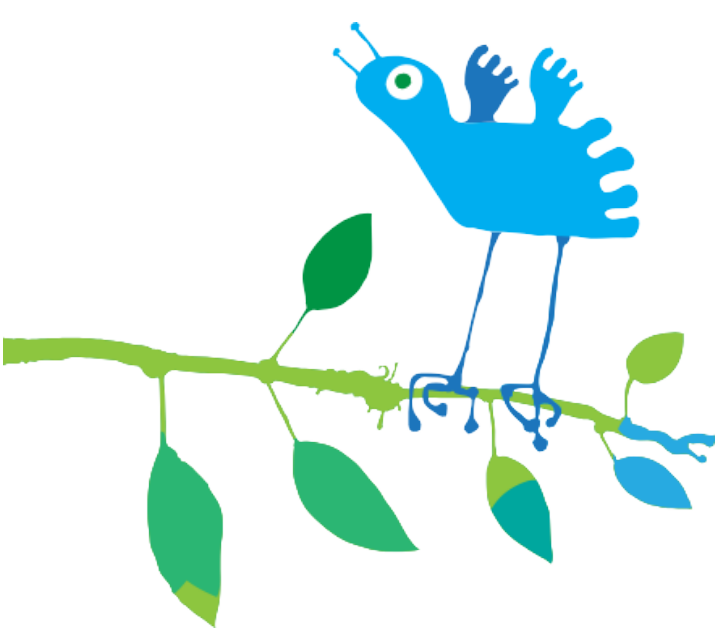
- Adopted a lighthanded approach, support provided for one year, used government focal points, which didn't work.
- There was a major restructuring process which evolved to jointly developed (government, UNDP & UNEP country offices) country programs 3–5 years of technical advisory based in the countries and supported by Nairobi.
- PE mainstreaming was a 9–10 year approach that was not easily welcomed by UNDP/UNEP top management who wanted a faster process as opposed to long term institutional change.
- The joint programming worked well as funds were channeled from UNEP to UNDP to governments.
- In terms of methodology, there was a move away from strict environmental tools to use both environmental and economic tools, more concentration on economics to show how the costs of and investment in sustainability which would bring economic benefits but there was not enough focus on poverty.
- A successful approach in influencing national development plans who understood economic language and tools the Ministers of Finance listened.
- The assumption that once sustainability was captured in national development plans that governments this would translate them to sub national budgets and plans didn't happen. It was assumed that the environment ministries would engage with planning and finance which wasn't the case.
- Next phase of PEI was to move the lead to Economics, Finance and Planning and to start engagement with the key sectors which would be far more influential. There was some resistance from the environment ministries.
- Engagement in key sectors like agriculture, energy, fisheries to translate the national PEI objectives into sector strategies and budgets– which continues to be a struggle.
- Because it was not a big project, they couldn't engage with all districts and focused on influencing 2 or 3 pilot districts to include poverty and economic mainstreaming while trying to mobilize funds from other development agencies and national governments with mixed success.
- There was need to support governments in vertical and horizontal coordination efforts– planning and implementation was aligned among the various levels.

- Organizational culture factors were important for success for PE mainstreaming and aid development success in general. These included managing relationships with government partners and how their mandates would be supported by PEI.
- It's important to have ongoing lesson learning and adaptive management approach where there is willingness to adapt [important to mobilize donor funds], tactful persistence, and attention to detail at country level.
- Focus gradually increased to the poverty side of PE mainstreaming including highly innovative methodologies to measure multi-dimensional poverty linkages.
- Still struggling to influence government donor allocations to fully implement PE objectives in most African countries.
- Still struggling with reengagement with the private sector.
- PEI was successful in developing and applying an integrated approach taking an integrated social, environmental and economic approach to reflect the interlinkages between PE and SDGs.
- An integrated approach means working with economic and social, government and environmental stakeholders– everyone has a part to play which needs to be reflected in the work.

**DR. RAM PANTHA: Under Secretary and Head of Program Implementation Unit, Bharatpur on President Chure Terai Madhesh Conservation and Development Board, one of the National pride project in Nepal**

- Integrated approaches are a must to development and the Nepalese government has included many environmental integrated approaches in the Forest Policy.
- Climate change is headed by Ministry of Forestry and Environment and spearheads the 2019 National Climate Change Policy.
- SCWM Integration practices started in 1974 in the mountain and villages and practised land use planning, land productivity conservation, infrastructure protection, natural hazard protection, community soil conservation, community forests.
- Climate Change is integrated in the Forest Policy including climate change adaptation within the forests, enhanced





carbon stock projects.

- There is a list of successful Ecosystem Based Adaptation [EbA] projects currently being carried out in Nepal that started out in 2011.
- President Chure Conservation Program based on the 25 year Master plan but split into 5 year management plan, government has committed funding.

## DR RAM'S INTEGRATED APPROACH IN NEPAL (EcoSystem Management Sector)

### Nepal Salient Features

- It's a mountainous LDC Country in UNFCCC framework
- Covers 147516 sq. KM land area in Earth
- The highest Mt. Everest 8848+ Meters and Lowest 50+ Meters within 150 Km distance
- Diverse in Ecosystems (118 ecosystem types) and thus
- Diverse in Socio Cultural system
- Diverse in Economic perspectives based on the available alternatives and opportunities
- Integrated approaches is must to development
- Soil Conservation, Watershed Management and EbA programs/projects are examples of Integration at the beginning
- EbA programs / Projects are indivisible part of the Forests program/projects and Forest policy 2015
- National CC policy 2019 adopted by the Government – Lead by MoFE

### SCWM Practices in Nepal

- Formally started 1974 as a Govt. Dept. under Ministry of Forests

- Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation in 1981

#### Major Activities:

- Land use planning
- Land productivity conservation
- Infrastructure protection
- Natural hazard prevention
- Community Soil Conservation and Extension

- SCWM is the main initiator of the integration practices in Nepal

1. Trisuli integrated project – Nuwakot area
2. Khotre itram integrated project – Surkhet
3. Sagarmatha integrated project – Udayapur
4. Bering integrated project – Ilam and Jhapa
5. Karnali integrated project – Surkhet and mountain districts for Karnali
6. Rapti integrated project and etc – Dang and other districts

## Climate Change is Integrated in the Forest Policy 2015

1. Incorporated CC Adaptation within the Forests and Watershed Management, Food Security and Disaster prevention.
2. Adopted CC friendly local knowledge and Skills on Community Based Forests Management.
3. Enhance Carbon Stock approaches in Forests and Watershed Management activities.
4. Formation and policies and programs in accordance to the REDD+.
5. EbA is one of the major approaches for the Conservation activities.
6. CC Policy 2019 is one of the major Policies of MoFE (Now).

### EbA Projects in Nepal

- EbA in Mountain Ecosystems (German Funding Agency) – 3 districts (2011–2016) : Uganda, Nepal and Peru
- EbA South (SCCF) – Nepal, Mauritania and Seychelles (first mover project) for Nepal
- EbA full phased project (LDCF funded)– 3 mountain districts (almost 5 Million)
- Urban EbA in Kathmandu Valley (LDCF) funded for Greening Kathmandu
- GEF funded Siwalik Mountain Ecosystem projects and many projects are in pipeline
- All projects have practices and provisions for the integrat-

ed approaches for the different sectors – no one is champion for all

- River system boundary is the main delineation line
- 4 institutions are accredited for the UN Agency
- Government of Nepal has its pride project: President Chure Conservation Program (government funded)

### **President Chure Conservation Program**

- Program based on long term Master Plan
- Activities based 5 years river system management plan
- Headed by political body – Chure board
- 5 Implementation units along the southern stretch of the country – 37 districts
- Government funded one of the national pride project in MoFE
- Every year budgeted Nrs. 1,500 Millions
- Integrated programs and activities (technically and institutionally) – 3 tiers of government

### **Presentation on the Poverty-Environment Action Integrated Approach – A new schematic**

*Dr. Steve Bass, Senior Associate, International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED)*

- Transition from Poverty Environment Initiative to Poverty Environment Action.
- Summarizing Dr Ram's presentation; the only way to manage soil, water and forest if we want local communities to benefit and global change is through an integrated approach which we can learn from the many years of the EbA experience.
- Summarizing David's presentation: PEA has been open to lesson learning, something the development business has to assess failure and success far more than it currently does; PEA offers over 16 years over 4 continents about the elusive integrated approach that has been called for over the last 50 years as a driver of sustainable development.
- Looking at the PEA experience on integration to see if there's enough to create new guidance.
- Present on a work in progress and seek participants' views on where to go.

### **Why we need an integrated approach?**

- To tackle these problems are linked at national and global levels {livelihood}.

- To tackle underlying system failures [poor governance, exclusion of environment or traditional world views].
- A need to shape ambitious holistic policies [green economy, sustainable development].
- To implement these holistic policies, but for it to be transformative you just don't need one type of solution.
- Consistent listed calls for an integrated [balanced, holistic] approach since 1972 Stockholm Conference that have not been routinely followed up.
- Evolution of poverty/development institutions- general trends towards PE integration – nature with people [e.g. a move from national parks with keep out signs to community based conservation projects], development alongside nature and people, SDGs have nature and people goals- an accommodation of poverty and environment within development institutions.
- Poverty Environment integration accelerates when they're painful, when siloed action frustrates progress, when the public becomes upset and start to campaign, a bit from international agreements, initiatives that offer tools, processes, capacity and country experience.

### **How has it accelerated integration? What has the PEA approach brought?**

- Programmatic approach to Poverty Environment integration- seek entry points to country's own decision-making processes [from development planning to budgeting], a deeper analysis [multi-dimensional poverty assessments].
- Improving the country processes by bringing in new actors

and tools in place which builds capacity and knowledge on a multi-disciplinary approach to think and act more broadly.

- A space and time to go through the change which has slightly linked institutions for a broader perspective.
- It has eventually led to an integration of different UN bodies working together and with development partners to support change from within a country over a decent time period.

## Lessons from the PEI/ PEA Integration; Challenges and Good Practice

- Dominant development paradigm doesn't include poverty and environment- focus working on economic case but PEA has introduced the idea that other disciplines have something to say including knowledge traditions.
- Fragmented and siloed institutions and processes- PEA has tried to make bridges to link and strengthen their coordination.
- Leadership gap- PEA has started with ministries with a coordinating mandate particularly Ministry of Finance and Economy but have found and developed other forms of cross cutting mandates.
- Lack of trust and political will – PEA has embedded its technical assistance working across government rather than being partisan bringing poverty environment diplomacy. More can be done to understand power structures, incentives].
- No formal policy space to address these linked issues- PEA has worked with the different forums and participatory approaches to bring in new actors.
- Practical challenges on assessment, data and capacity.
- Exclusion of gender and poor groups, – PEA has tried to address poverty in a multi- dimensional way and trying to empower the groups through the integration process.
- Unintegrated metrics and data – PEA has introduced metrics drawing in economic evidence of its costs and

benefits.

- Inadequate capacities- PEA has been able to mobilize different capacities over the long term so that people can learn from one another. More can be done to build the community of practice.
- Lack of investment in integrating initiatives – PEA has done a bit on the fiscal triangle [green funds, budget guides,] which has attracted more funding.
- Lack of continued effort on integration initiatives last 1 to 2 years.

## The policy cycle as an organizing framework for integration

- This framework opens up different stakeholders will look at this from their own perspective and the idea of integration to more people who are then able to see one another.
- There's a lot to be learned from other groups.
- In the policy cycle, there are many tasks to be completed. PEI/PEA has given many tools and insight yet there is more than can potentially be learned from others.
- What has been missing or needs more attention include political economy analysis, inclusive dialogue methods from other initiatives, innovations on modelling on environment/developing links, full fiscal triangle of borrowing, taxing and spending, learning the practical field lessons about what is needed so as to know how best to promote it, what collective action can be done to address the collective problems, business and accountability systems, linked crisis in the poverty environmental threshold before we reach there.

### Participant Question:

***After all these years and all the efforts, why is it still challenging to integrate? Where is the gap? For the last 50 or 60 years, the environment has been on focus with many institutions created and a lot of money mobilized, scientific knowledge and research available and political good will, yet the environment is still deteriorating and***

## ***more people are still falling into the poverty trap. Why?***

- It's a collective active problem- it takes time , what can individuals or small countries do to make a difference?
- What makes environment real is its effects on people. PEA is valuable because it sees the environment through the eyes of people and poor groups.
- Social movements are growing – there is need to feed them with evidence about what can be done so that they can be positive.
- No one makes change by top down policies- PEA mobilizes both societal demands and top down policies.

### **Polling: Mainstreaming challenges: Steve Bass, Senior Associate, International Institute for Environment & Development (IIED)**

- 71% placed fragmented institutions and processes as their top challenge while dominant paradigm was polled as the least challenge.
- The poll results suggest that it's around institutions, processes, political will and trust, capacities and powers – it's practical about organizations and their mandates, how they relate.
- With the growing crisis, there is a movement towards public sector reform that is more integrated.
- There's need to focus on public administration so they understand how to address the issues arising.
- The main challenge with the integrated approach is how to address the whole complicated and comprehensive agenda. We don't do all of this but we can begin to understand a bit more about all of it and adjust mandates.
- That the gender and marginalized groups issue is also a big challenge points suggests that people are starting to look at traditional governance approaches and it needs to be explored more.
- This poll will help structure the handbook in a more practical approach.

## **Closing Remarks by Kerstin Stendahl**

- David highlighting that we have to adjust the processes that haven't worked.
- Dr Ram highlighting the specificities of a mountainous country like Nepal and the challenges in mainstreaming.
- Thank you to Steve for not shying away from the challenges while recognizing the strengths PEI/ PEA brings and the unique approach it is.
- It's good to come together and reflect on what needs to be done.
- Trying to provide the tools and arguments and the Handbook will be key.
- PEA will be wrapped up come end of 2022- there needs to be a legacy and sustainability platform for the products, tools and capacities that have been grown as a result.
- Thank the donors for much trust and support even when we recognized the approaches weren't the ones to take and allowing them to try again.
- Connect to the wider landscape of the UN- note that the Secretary General's Common Agenda Report reaffirms leave no one behind and protect the planet. PEA alleviates poverty and brings people along in the protection of the planet, bring the women along and build the trust in the multi-lateral system, which has been clearly articulated in the webinar.

