

Progress in accelerating global actions for a world without poverty and implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027): UNEP, June 2019

UNEP is contributing to the third decade on poverty eradication with three main programs, namely the joint UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative (which ended in December 2018 and is continued through Poverty-Environment Action for SDGs), TEEB and PAGE. Sweden will also carry out an assessment of UNEP's contribution to poverty eradication which we will share with you once available.

The Poverty Environment Initiative has worked for one decade in 23 countries to support poverty-environment and climate mainstreaming into national and local policies and plans, sector strategies and budgeting processes. We mainstreamed 24 national and 4214 local policies and plans, 93 sectoral policies and plans and 84 budgeting and expenditure processes by end of 2018 and helped establish 56 monitoring and evaluation systems (the full final PEI report will be available soon on our website www.unpei.org).

In September 2018, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) launched **Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals 2018-2022**. We are extending the previous Initiative's strategy along three complementary lines:

- Aligning public and private finance and investments with poverty, environment and climate actions to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Deepening countries' efforts to integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication into development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems.
- Broadening South-South cooperation, partnerships and knowledge-sharing about how selected countries can use integrated tools for sustainable development.

Poverty-Environment Action will work directly with the Ministries of Finance and Planning, Environment and Natural Resources as well as line ministries in nine developing countries - Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda and Tanzania - to prevent environmental degradation that especially harms the poor and the vulnerable. Additionally, technical assistance will be available to other interested countries and learning will be ensured through South-South exchange.

The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB) is a global initiative focused on "making nature's values visible". Its principal objective is to mainstream the values of biodiversity and ecosystem services into decision-making at all levels. It aims to achieve this goal by following a structured approach to valuation that helps decision-makers recognize the wide range of benefits provided by ecosystems and biodiversity, demonstrate their values in economic terms and, where appropriate, capture those values in decision-making. For more information, see: <http://www.teebweb.org/about/unep-teeb-office/>

TEEB has three main areas of work: TEEB for Agriculture and Food (TEEBAgriFood), Ecosystem Accounting, and TEEB Country Studies.

TEEB for Agriculture & Food study, led by the TEEB Office, will seek to bring together economists, business leaders, agriculturalists and experts in biodiversity and ecosystems to provide a comprehensive economic evaluation of the 'eco-agri-food systems' complex, and demonstrate that the economic environment in which farmers operate is distorted by significant externalities, both negative and positive, and a lack of awareness of dependency on natural capital. The TEEBAgriFood Evaluation Framework was awarded the prestigious IFAO/FOAM Organics /World Future Council Vision Award – termed the "Oscar for best policies" – see <http://www.fao.org/agroecology/slideshow/news-article/en/c/1157015/>. TEEBAgriFood is now being applied in over a dozen countries.

TEEB is partnering with the UN Statistics Division to apply the statistical standard on ecosystem accounting agreed by the UN Statistical Committee, i.e. the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting Experimental Ecosystem Accounting (SEEA-EEA), in Brazil, India, China, South Africa and Mexico. TEEB is concerned with mainstreaming the values of ecosystems and biodiversity but we cannot manage what we do not measure. SEEA-EEA is critical as it

is an agreed standard, with statistics being collected by the same agencies that provide GDP data. Valuation and policy mainstreaming is currently being applied across the five countries – for instance in evaluating the Chinese eco-compensation policy.

TEEB Country Studies identify the ecosystem services that are vital to meeting the country's policy priorities and makes recommendations on how these services can be integrated into policies. These recommendations depending on the country context, can include policies for poverty alleviation, subsidy reform, land use management, protected area management, securing livelihoods, investment in natural infrastructure restoration and national accounting to include natural capital. Examples include the assessment of socio bosque in Ecuador, hydro in Bhutan, and the 'Big Results Now' policy of agricultural intensification in Southern Tanzania.

The Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE) was launched in 2013 as a response to the call at Rio+20 to support those countries wishing to embark on greener and more inclusive growth trajectories.

PAGE seeks to put sustainability at the heart of economic policies and practices to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and supports nations and regions in reframing economic policies and practices around sustainability to foster economic growth, create income and jobs, reduce poverty and inequality, and strengthen the ecological foundations of their economies.

PAGE brings together five UN agencies – UN Environment, International Labour Organization, UN Development Programme, UN Industrial Development Organization, and UN Institute for Training and Research – whose mandates, expertises and networks combined can offer integrated and holistic support to countries on inclusive green economy, ensuring coherence and avoiding duplication.

PAGE represents a mechanism to coordinate UN action on green economy and to assist countries in achieving and monitoring the emerging Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 8: "Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all."

PAGE inspires, informs and enables countries at various stages of their policy development. The Partnership inspires governments and stakeholders to engage in the reframing of economic policies. PAGE informs the policy process through technical support and analysis at both, the macro-economic and sectoral levels. By building the capacity of key individuals and institutions, PAGE enables countries to put a greener and more inclusive economy into action.

How is PAGE meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and especially SDG No 1?

By focusing on the transition towards inclusive greener economies, PAGE is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in many ways, especially with SDGs related to the economy, jobs, the environment and climate change, and partnerships.

PAGE provides a mechanism for SDGs implementation and monitoring:

- PAGE informs the policy cycle, bringing state-of-the-art knowledge and practice on the economics of sustainability to policy makers' fingertips. By drawing expertise from different UN agencies and operating largely at the country level, PAGE can deliver a critical mass of support for the SDGs in an integrated manner.
- PAGE outcomes—such as stakeholder engagement, knowledge generation and sharing, and capacity development—are all essential ingredients for achieving the SDGs.
- PAGE connects plans for IGE with sources of financing and investment, thus serving as a vehicle to deliver SDGs at the country level.
- PAGE monitors its impact against a set of expected results, indicators and targets with identified sources of verification, which can be used and adapted to monitor progress in SDG implementation. The technical assessments it supports and by monitoring its own progress against a logical framework, PAGE establishes baselines from which progress in SDG implementation can be assessed.

For more information, see <http://www.un-page.org/>