



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

UNDP is the UN's development agency. It works with national counterparts on solutions to achieve the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015, one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) pledged to by world leaders. Access to energy services is essential to reduce poverty and reach the MDGs for which UNDP is the scorekeeper and campaign manager of the UN system.

UNDP is present in 166 countries, helping to find solutions to this challenge and attract and use aid effectively. Its energy activities worldwide help countries strengthen their capacity to achieve sustainable development, seeking out and sharing best practices, providing innovative policy advice and linking partners through pilot projects that help poor people build sustainable livelihoods.

At the country level, UNDP supports activities that can achieve the multiple social, economic and environmental benefits of sustainable development in support of national and global objectives. Activities focus on four services to countries:

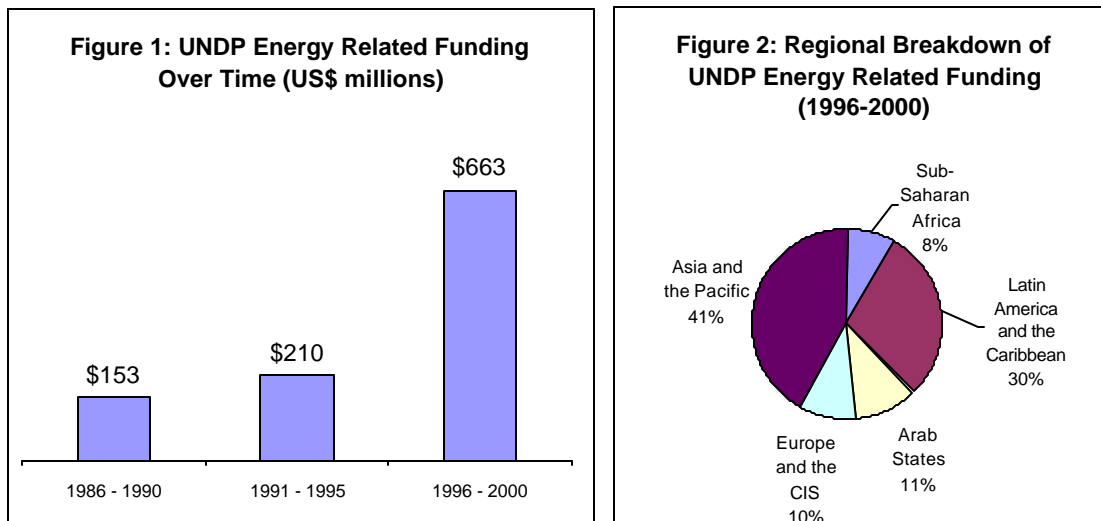
- Strengthening national policy frameworks to support energy for poverty reduction and sustainable development,
- Promoting rural energy services to support growth and equity,
- Promoting clean energy technology for sustainable development, and
- Increasing access to investment financing for sustainable energy.

UNDP is uniquely placed to build on its in-country presence and to provide integrated solutions to address complex poverty and equity issues related to the provision and utilization of energy services. The Common Country Assessments and the Country Cooperation Frameworks developed for each programme country offer a single window for identifying integrated solutions to energy and development bottlenecks. In combination with its role as coordinator for the UN system, UNDP is able to identify strategic entry points to enhance policy frameworks by building capacity, assisting with grants and, on a technical basis, initiating demonstration projects.

UNDP has a well-defined presence in sustainable energy issues in developing countries and countries with economies in transition due to its role as a Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Implementing Agency, as well as through its Thematic Trust Fund on Energy for Sustainable Development and its ability to coordinate funding for projects. UNDP is also the sole

Implementing Agency for the GEF funded Small Grants Programme, which provides grants up to \$50,000 for community-based climate change and related land degradation projects.

About 70% of UNDP's country offices report working on sustainable energy with the major areas of focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy planning. During the five-year period from 1996 to 2000, UNDP was involved with over 200 GEF and non-GEF energy projects - not including GEF Small Grants Programme projects. Over the same period, co-funding (63%) and the GEF (32%) provided the principal sources of funding for the US\$663 million UNDP energy portfolio. The trend in funding over time and the regional breakdown is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 respectively.



UNDP also works at the global level, providing advocacy and analysis for the development of energy related policies that will ensure sustainable development and stress the central and critical role of energy in supporting the social and economic aspects of sustainable development in addition to the environmental aspects.

For more information see <http://www.undp.org/energy/index.html> or contact:

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