Poverty and Environment

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The "GDP of the poor"



- The sustainability of the environment is now understood to be complementary and necessary to "end poverty in all its forms everywhere."
- Ecosystem services and other non-market goods make up between 50 and 90% of the total source of livelihoods among poor rural and forest-dwelling households worldwide—the socalled "GDP of the poor".
- Economic development and poverty reduction strongly depend on improving management of the environment and natural resources, the "natural capital" of the poor.

Poverty-environment linkages



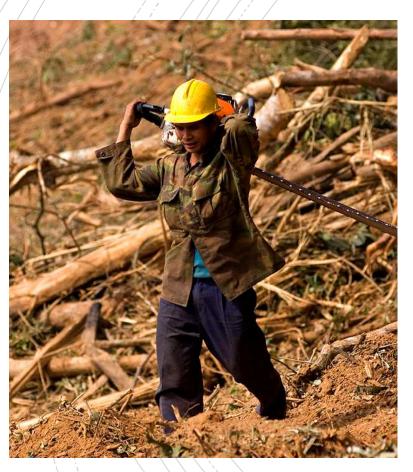
- I. Eradicating poverty remains a major challenge for Least Developed Countries: in 10 years poverty will become more concentrated in the more fragile Least Developed Countries facing conflict and climate stress. Natural capital makes up 36 per cent of the wealth of low-income countries.
- II. Inequality harms growth, poverty reduction and ecosystem sustainability: poor and marginalised groups are disproportionally dependent on ecosystem services. Moreover, poverty falls disproportionately on women.

Poverty-environment linkages



- III. Poverty-environment, climate and gender mainstreaming can help eradicate poverty, reduce inequality and combat environmental degradation: economic development and poverty reduction strongly depend on improving management of the environment and natural resources.
- IV. The integrated approach to poverty reduction and environmental sustainability can support Governments to design both the process and content of Sustainable Development Goal implementation: by taking pro-poor, gender-responsive environment and climate issues into the heart of economic decision-making, in particular, national and subnational planning and budgeting processes.

Lessons learned



- 1. Making the case using consultative research and integrated evidence
- 2. The use of a rights based approach can help address discrimination/exclusion and access to natural resources as well as benefit sharing
- 3. Poverty-environment and climate mainstreaming tools can strengthen understanding of linkages and policy coherence

Lessons learned



- 4. National coordination mechanisms, political leadership and mainstreaming of budgets are components of a successful integrated approach
- 5. Fiscal policy reform to attract investments for poverty-environment objectives and end perverse incentives

Thank you!



Poverty-Environment Initiative

