

A. AFRICA

With reference to your draft profile please find some information related to equivalent of Polish National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS).

1. Programmes and policies effective in land and rural development:

Polish MFA channels funds to Africa mostly through **Small Grants Fund** which proved to be very effective in reducing rural poverty. The Small Grants Fund co-finances mostly small-scale assistance projects which have positive effects on everyday life of local communities, especially in rural areas. They focus on rural water supply and sanitation, health sector support including projects of rural health systems and strengthening of HIV/AIDS prevention and human resources development. In majority of cases Small Grants Fund's projects are being carried out by **Polish Catholic Missions** present in African countries. Polish missionaries in Africa are present within Catholic Missions scattered throughout Africa continent. They are said to be very effective in providing aid in African countries. Polish aid can not be perceived within the framework of systematised programme. This kind of funds within the scope of land and rural development and poverty reduction combine large number of elements mentioned in the draft profile, e.g. empowerment of the poor, including women and indigenous people; equitable access to education, health and other basic services; improving access to modern energy services, clean water and sanitation; health infrastructure improvements, urban and rural; childhood vaccination programs; measures in combating HIV/AIDS.

By improving equitable access to education and health we mean either restoring and enlarging already existing school buildings and hospitals or building new ones. Small Grants Funds is also used to supply education centres and hospitals with necessary medical equipment, medicines or education materials. Often water supply systems are installed to provide health or education centres with potable water. Some missions provide also childhood vaccination programs. Some projects focus on providing measures in combating HIV/AIDS, e.g. by organising workshops in high schools about AIDS prevention.

Financial means from Small Grants Fund subsidise also projects aimed at empowerment of the poor, including women and indigenous people by e.g. providing vocational training for the most vulnerable.

In 2006 the total amount of aid provided by Small Grants Funds to Africa was estimated at about 972.068 USD.

2. Strategies for the investment of natural resource revenues in sustainable development.

Polish National Geological Institute in Warsaw has run the project based on bilateral Agreement between Poland and Angola concerning co-operation in geology, co-financed by the Polish MFA.

It is a long-term project focused on enhancing the capacity of Angolan Geological Institute (Instituto Geológico de Angola (IGEO) in Luanda by introducing modern methods of geological cartography. IGEO is a public institution under the supervision of the Ministry of Geology and Mining.

The co-operation has began in 2004 and is due to be continued and increased in the following years. Since Angola is rich in minerals and other commodities, to have in IGEO professional staff is of huge importance for Angola's future.

In 2006 Polish National Geological Institute in Warsaw has supported geological research, development of mining and crude oil processing, by training 2 Angolan specialists in the field of environmental geology, laboratory workshops and petrology in Warsaw. The training included all stages and procedures related to collecting and preparing samples for geochemical examination as well as identifying and labelling elements, chemical substances. They also learnt how to use laboratory equipment in order to examine minerals and rocks. Four other trainees took part in geological cartography and hydrogeology training. The training included preparation of Angola's mineral commodities' maps.

Polish National Geological Institute has many ideas about pursuing its support for IGEO in the years to come, it includes providing it with necessary and expensive equipment; providing students and specialists with relevant training.

3. Enhanced effectiveness in management and use of Official Development Assistance

In 2006 the main aim of Polish foreign assistance was reduction of poverty and fulfilment of other **Millennium Development Goals** in the countries receiving Polish assistance.

The total ODA amounted 0,09 % of GNI – about 300 million USD. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland - *Polish Aid* administered approx. 27 million USD from the total ODA amount.

Apart from the MFA, **the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Ministry of Finance** participate also in the Polish development assistance system.

The Ministry of Science and Higher Education provides educational assistance in the form of scholarships. The activities of the Ministry of Finance include mainly providing financial assistance in the form of preferential loans, being a part of tied aid, and debt relief for developing countries.

In the framework of poverty eradication in 2006 Polish MFA was also active in **providing financial resources into global programs and initiatives for African countries.**

4. Improvements in scientific and technical education and skills training, e.g. Scholarships

Large part of Polish assistance to Africa consists of scholarships for students. The Bureau of Academic Recognition and International Exchange, an agency under the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, co-ordinates scholarship programs.

In 2006 Polish MFA organised training for young diplomats from developing countries. 24 young diplomats were invited from developing countries and countries of transition. Some of them came from African countries: Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Angola and Togo.

In the academic year 2006/07 - 13 students from Africa are studying in Poland at the cost of the Polish government.

The majority of the students granted scholarships for master courses. International students in the academic year 2005/06 came from the Republic of the Congo, Libya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Tunisia, Zambia and Senegal.

Lp	Country	students
1	Republic of the Congo	1
2	Libya	1
3	<u>Nigeria</u>	1
4	Rwanda	2
5	Tunisia	6
6	Zambia	1
7	Senegal	1
Total amount		13

5. Major constraints and challenges:

Annuality of budget and lack of multi-annual funding are the major constraints within Polish development system. At present the project cycle has to be completed within one calendar year. In order to overcome this acute problem Poland has to change its law and pass a new one, for it will guarantee a **multi-year financial framework**, which will automatically allow multi-year financial activities. Right now the project cycle has to be completed within one calendar year. With one year funding it is difficult in strategizing, programming financial strategies.