



UNDP-UNEP POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI) IN BOTSWANA

What is the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)?

The Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) is a joint programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) working in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Europe. The programme works with government to integrate pro-poor environmental considerations into national and district planning processes. PEI Botswana is led by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment Wildlife and Tourism (MEWT). Other key partners include the Ministry of Agriculture, Office of the President and the Ministry of Minerals Energy and Water Resources.

Poverty and Environmental Initiative (PEI) Botswana

PEI Botswana aims to support the integration and harmonisation of sustainable renewable natural resource management in national, sectoral and district level policy planning and budgetary processes. In particular it aims to develop awareness and promote action to tackle key environmental problems and their socio-economic impacts in order to support delivery of the Government of Botswana's (GoB) Vision 2016 and National Development Plan 10 (NDP10) which, as over-arching goals, intend to support economic growth and diversification and eradicate poverty. In addition PEI will provide some support to assist the GoB in responding and adapting to climate change by enhancing the knowledge base on the socio-economic impacts of climate change. Phase 1 of PEI will run from 2010 to 2011 with an anticipated second phase to follow in 2012.

An Institutional Analysis undertaken by PEI Botswana identified a number of causes of environmental degradation including: low awareness and dialogue amongst key decision-makers, the media, civil society and

private sector on the role of environmental management in contributing to growth and poverty reduction; responsibility for environment fragmented across many government departments; limited environmental mainstreaming across government; poverty dimensions of environmental management poorly understood; and limited awareness and planning for climate change across the breadth of government.

PEI Botswana will assist the GoB in tackling the challenges summarised in the Situation Analysis by supporting activities to achieve the following key results:

Economic evidence of the impacts and costs and benefits of both environmental degradation and climate change generated and disseminated

Not all stakeholders and key decision-makers in Botswana are aware of the costs that environmental degradation imposes upon society and the economy nor, the corollary, the benefits that could accrue through improved management of renewable natural resources. The PEI Botswana will support economic analysis which will present key environmental issues in social and economic terms that are comprehensible to decision-makers. The economic analysis will demonstrate the contribution of natural resources to the achievement of NDP 10 objectives and poverty eradication goals. The results of the economic analysis will be used to promote an integrated planning approach by decision makers to incorporate poverty-environmental issues into the planning and budgeting processes.

National capacity to integrate and coordinate PE issues in national, sector and district level policies, plans, budgets and monitoring systems enhanced

Integration and harmonisation of poverty-environmental (PE) issues at institutional level and across key policies

and plans is currently weak. This results area will strengthen the capacity of sector ministries and departments to integrate PE issues in order that they support delivery of those sector priorities through sustainable management of key environmental assets. It will include support for sector policy reviews as well as capacity strengthening for cross-Ministry policy coordinating and review committees such as the Natural Resources Technical Committee. This will also include support for analysis of current expenditures on PE interventions and the potential to innovatively finance future PE interventions and include them in budgets as well as monitoring and evaluation of PE interventions to assess their contribution to growth and poverty goals. Strengthening capacity at district level to integrate PE issues in planning, budgeting and monitoring processes is key if PE issues are to be better mainstreamed and ultimately benefit the poor. The preparation of District Development Plans and associated programmes and budgets will be a key mechanism to support delivery of policies and plans with a PE focus.

Knowledge and awareness of PE and CC linkages by policy and decision-makers, civil society, the private sector and the media increased

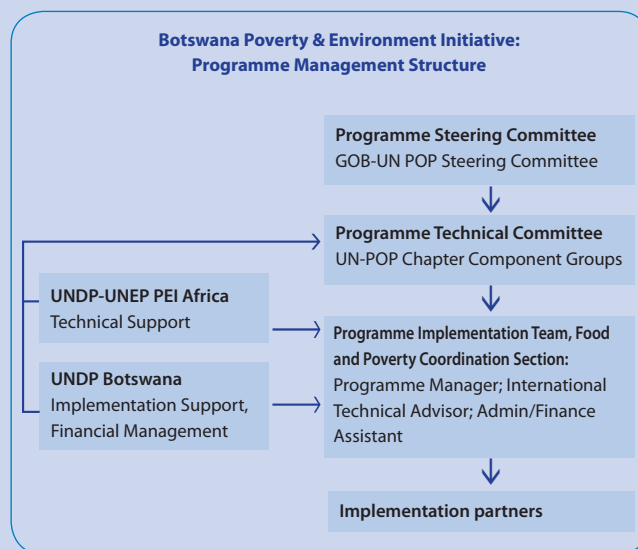
The institutional analysis highlighted that many important stakeholders have limited understanding of the links between environment, growth and poverty and that such knowledge is limited to a few technical experts. PEI Botswana will aim to support a wider debate and dialogue on such links, drawing on the evidence developed during the economic analysis of natural resources, in order to influence discussions regarding policies, plans and budgets on the role that environmental and climate issues play/could play in supporting growth and poverty reduction. A communication strategy will be implemented to create awareness amongst stakeholders on the importance of integrating poverty environmental issues into the planning and budgeting processes.

Poverty and environment issues integrated in key national development frameworks

Targets in this area would be support for integration of PE linkages in overarching national development frameworks including NDPIO and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD). Support will be provided for the development of evidence based inputs to key national development frameworks and in preparing for a comprehensive mid-term review of the NDP 10 (2012/2013) and enhanced integration of sustainable utilization of environment and natural resources across national development priorities.

Application of integrated approaches, tools, methodologies and assessments for mainstreaming environment in policies and plans for promoting growth and poverty reduction enhanced

Internationally there exists considerable experience in applying innovative tools and techniques to strengthen understanding of, and integration, of PE dimensions in policy, plan and budget making and PEI Botswana will support development of capacity to apply tools and methodology for integrated assessment.



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