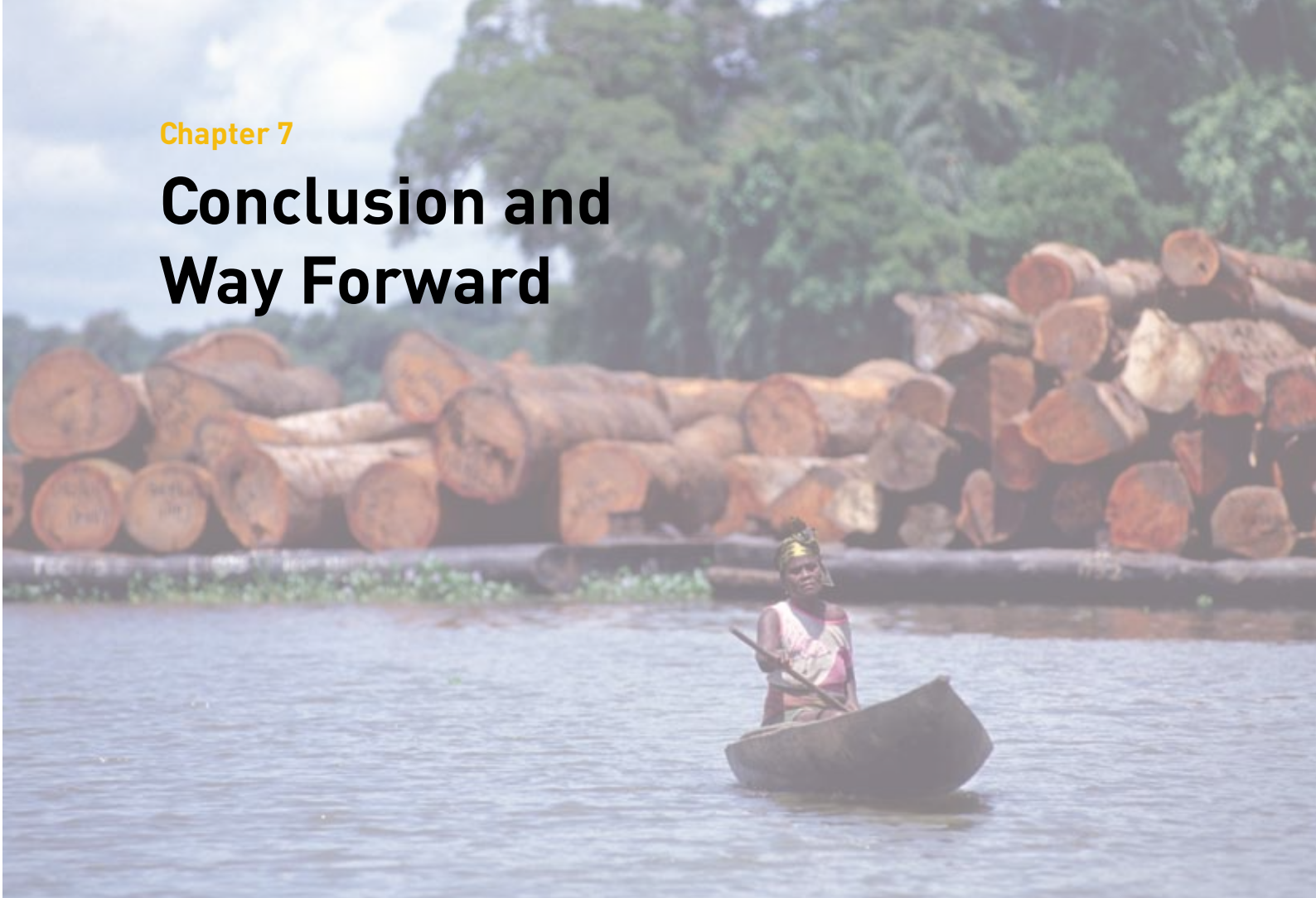


Conclusion and Way Forward



Based on experience to date, successful poverty-environment mainstreaming requires a sustained programmatic approach adapted to national circumstances. The framework proposed here consists of three components, each of which involves a set of activities for which a range of tactics, methodologies and tools can be used:

- **Finding the entry points and making the case** is concerned with setting the stage for mainstreaming, i.e., understanding the poverty-environment linkages and the governmental, institutional and political contexts in order to define pro-poor environmental outcomes on which to focus, find entry points into development planning and make the case for poverty-environment mainstreaming.
- **Mainstreaming poverty-environment linkages into policy processes** focuses on integrating poverty-environment issues into an ongoing policy process, such as a PRSP or sector strategy, based on country-specific evidence.
- **Meeting the implementation challenge** aims at ensuring poverty-environment mainstreaming into budgeting, implementation and monitoring and the establishment of poverty-environment mainstreaming as standard practice.

The programmatic approach recommended in this handbook should be viewed as a flexible model to help guide the choice of activities, tactics, methodologies and tools to deploy to address a particular country situation.

The approach also provides a flexible **framework for ongoing and future work** in the area of poverty-environment mainstreaming. In close collaboration with their partners,

UNDP and UNEP plan to build on this handbook, and other guidance documents, in three areas:

- **Analytical work** that can support poverty-environment mainstreaming, such as institutional and capacity needs assessments, integrated ecosystem assessments, economic analyses, strategic environmental assessments, costing and budgeting
- **Poverty-environment mainstreaming from the perspective of a specific environmental issue**, such as climate change, sound chemicals management, sustainable land management, sustainable consumption and production, and water resource management
- **Poverty-environment mainstreaming targeted at priority development sectors** such as health, agriculture, fisheries, land management, forestry, water and sanitation, transport and energy, industrial development, trade and education

Because efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national development planning are ongoing in an increasing number of countries, the wealth of experience and lessons learned on poverty-environment mainstreaming will rapidly and exponentially accrue. To keep information current, UNDP and UNEP plan to update this handbook and to provide related guidance and technical support materials. For linkages to related documents produced by the UNDP-UNEP PEI team, please visit www.unpei.org.

It takes time and sustained effort to move poverty-environment concerns to the centre of development planning and implementation. But champions in many countries are making significant progress: environment agencies typically operating on the periphery of development have found entry points into national policymaking processes, the contribution of the environment has been systematically integrated into PRSPs, economic arguments have been used to convince decision-makers to increase investment and key sector agencies have factored poverty-environment linkages into their programmes at the subnational level.

By continuing this work, practitioners can help ensure that the environment and natural resources are managed in a way that reduces poverty, promotes sustainable economic growth and helps achieve the MDGs.