



# UNDP-UNEP POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT INITIATIVE (PEI) IN UGANDA

## What is the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)?

To ensure that pro-poor economic growth and environmental sustainability are at the heart of our economic policies, planning systems and institutions in least developed countries, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have joined hands to implement the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI).

The PEI is a global UN programme that assists countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Europe to integrate poverty-environment linkages into national and sub-national development planning, from policymaking to budgeting, implementation and monitoring.

In Africa, PEI is underway in Botswana, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Malawi.

## Importance of environment and natural resources sector in Uganda

The economy of Uganda and the development of the country strongly depend on the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment. While the contribution of agriculture, forestry and fisheries to GDP is falling (21 % in 2008) as other sectors (Industry and Services) come up, over 85 % of the population of Uganda live in rural areas and are highly dependent on environment and natural resources for income and subsistence. In addition, over 90 % of the Uganda's exports and 94 % of the energy requirements in terms of firewood and charcoal for domestic use are contributed by the natural resources sector.

However, the environment and natural resource are under threat from natural and man-made drivers

of change including; poverty, unsustainable use of resources, rapid population growth, urbanization, agricultural expansion, industrialization and the impacts of climate variability among others. These changes are causing adverse impacts on national priorities such as; economic growth, the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), national security (including food security) and women empowerment among other goals.

It is worth noting that investment in sustainable environment and natural resource management has high returns and is a pre-condition for economic growth, poverty reduction, attainment of MDGs, a healthy population and prosperity for all.

## Basic facts of PEI Uganda

Overall goal: To contribute to poverty reduction and improved well-being of poor and vulnerable groups through mainstreaming of environment into national development processes.

### Objectives at country level:

- Inclusion of environmental sustainability as a central objective in national development strategies, such as poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSPs), MDG implementation plans or equivalents;
- Increasing national budget allocations towards the environment;
- Building the long-term capacity of the government to integrate environmental concerns into the design and implementation of development plans.

## Main activities of PEI Uganda

The programme aims at strengthening government capacity to integrate environmental sustainability concerns into policy, planning and budgeting processes at both national and local levels. More specifically, three

key processes into which the programme sought to integrate environment are:

- i. the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP, which was Uganda's PRSP up to 2008) implementation and review processes at both national and local government levels;
- ii. the Budget Framework Papers (BFPs) and budgeting processes at both national and local government levels;
- iii. selected District Development Plans (DDPs) and their related budgets.

**During Phase I the main activities carried out were:**

- Review of the existing poverty reduction policies, plans and programmes and projects for their adequacy in addressing environmental concerns, identifying gaps and suggesting recommendations for improved environmental mainstreaming;
- Country report on ecosystems, their services and linkages to human well-being;
- An integrated ecosystem assessment in Lake Kyoga catchment;
- Training of civil society organizations on poverty and environment linkages;
- Micro projects at the local level demonstrating the importance of the poverty-environment linkages for poverty reduction and human wellbeing.

Focus of phase II of the PEI in Uganda has been on mainstreaming environment into the PEAP revision process with the aim of including poverty-environment linkages into the new National Development Plan, which was launched by the President in April 2010. Furthermore PEI Uganda has carried the following activities in Phase II:

- Engagement in the national budgeting process to achieve increased budgets for environmental interventions for various sectors and supporting health, agriculture, tourism, trade and industry sectors to integrate poverty-environmental concerns into sectoral policies and plans.

- Facilitation of formulation of district environment policies and integration of poverty-environmental concerns into district development plans and related budgets in three pilot districts;
- Support to local level innovative activities demonstrating poverty-environment linkages and communication of best practices to influence policy and decision making;
- Evaluation and identification of best practices and lessons learned from local level activities;
- Public-awareness raising activities through production of TV and radio programmes on the poverty linkages;
- Integrated ecosystem assessment follow-up through the Sub-Global Assessment (SGA) approach start-up mid 2009.

**Implementation arrangements**

Since 2005, the Government of Uganda (GOU) through the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), in partnership with UNEP has been implementing a Poverty and Environment project that is part of the global UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative (PEI). Phase I of PEI Uganda was completed early 2007 and phase II commenced in August 2007 and was scheduled to end December 2008, however the programme was extended for one year.

PEI Uganda is led by NEMA in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development (MFPED); other key partners include the National Planning Authority (NPA), the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industries and Fisheries (MAAIF), the Ministry of Health (MOH); the Environment and Natural Resource Sub-sector Working Group and Local Government in the focus districts (Butaleja, Masindi and Nakasongola).

Donors for the PEI Uganda programme are Belgium and Norway (through UNEP). Total budget for Phase I (2005-2006) was USD 220,401 and the budget for Phase II is USD 369,086.

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