The Poverty-Environment Initiative is a global UN-led Programme working in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Europe that supports country efforts to achieve a greener and more inclusive development path. In Asia and the Pacific programmes are under way in Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Thailand, Lao PDR and the Philippines.

The Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) in Thailand

In the last decades, Thailand has achieved remarkable economic growth, but this has brought undesirable social and environmental impacts. Rising per capita consumption, industrialization and the intensification of agriculture has placed enormous strain on the natural resources base. The impact of this environmental degradation has particularly affected poor women and men, who rely more on the natural environment for sustenance, livelihood and general wellbeing.

The Poverty-Environment Initiative focuses on reducing poverty and increasing well-being of poor and vulnerable groups by supporting greener and more inclusive development plans and budgets. Led by the Ministry of Interior, PEI Thailand works in close partnership with other partners including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the National Economic and Social Development Board.
Inclusive planning and Integrated Ecosystem Assessments to enable Green Growth

Project time-frame: March 2010–December 2012

Promoting inclusive development Plans and Budgets in three Pilot Provinces
PEI Thailand has taken advantage of the national decentralization process and the recently declared policy entry point on area-based development planning as an entry point to integrate poverty and environment considerations into development plans and budgets. By working in three pilot provinces, namely, Samut Songkram, Nan and Khon Kaen, PEI Thailand aims at demonstrating that truly inclusive planning and budgeting processes, based on sound scientific environmental, social and economic data enables Green Growth and reduces sustainably poverty.

Using Integrated Ecosystem Assessments to influence policy making
UNEP’s Division of Environmental Policy Implementation and PEI have supported three Sub-Global Ecosystem Assessments that have demonstrated the value of ecosystem services to human well-being in the three Pilot Provinces. The findings are expected to influence future policies and provide local communities with a tool to advocate for a more sustainable development path.

Developing green growth indicators
Samut Songkram, Nan and Khon Kaen Provinces have been identified to demonstrate that a greener and more inclusive development path is possible. The Ministry of Interior will learn from this experience and identify ways to replicate it through key Green Growth indicators and other policy tools.

Building capacity of Provincial and Local Development planners for a greener development
Regional Environmental offices in Khon Kaen and Samut Songkram provinces provide technical support while the Provincial Administration Organization in Nan province is legally mandated to devise local development strategies.

Working strategically
Led by the Ministry of Interior, PEI Thailand is implemented in close collaboration with other partners including the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the National Economic and Social Development Board.

Available publications
- Khon Kaen Pilot Province quarterly newsletter
- Nan Pilot Province quarterly newsletter
- Technical Guidance Notes on SGA design, process, assessing conditions and trends and building scenarios together
- For more information, visit www.peithailand.org

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