The Poverty-Environment Initiative is a global UN-led Programme working in Africa, Asia and the 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 Nepal

Natural resources such as forests, agricultural lands, biodiversity and water resources are the livelihood base of almost 90% of Nepal’s population. Altogether, they represent almost 40% of the country’s GDP. While in the last decades considerable progress has been made in poverty reduction, unsustainable use of these natural resources has resulted in widespread environmental degradation now threatening to undermine development progress. The Poverty-Environment Initiative supports central and local governments to integrate environmental, poverty and climate challenges in planning and budgeting processes to achieve a greener, more inclusive and more sustainable development path. The support is already bringing out a positive impact on decisions taken at the local level to promote the development of sustainable rural infrastructure. The two main partners of PEI Nepal are the National Planning Commission and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development.
Greening Development Plans and Budgets
PEI supported National Planning Commission to integrate poverty-environment issues in the Three Year Plan (2010-2013) and created an advisory group of multi-disciplinary experts “The Environment Learning Leadership Group” to promote a greener development path.

At the local level, PEI provides technical support to the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development and the selected District Development Committees and Village Development Committees to integrate pro-poor climate and environment priorities into local level planning and budgeting processes with a particular focus on rural infrastructure.

Promoting inclusive investments
PEI is currently reviewing key central multi-year investment projects to examine if poverty and environmental considerations have been properly integrated into the project design and implementation.

Creating local capacity to develop sustainable rural infrastructure
PEI examined the rural road sector’s state of expenditure and its governance and various recommendations were made that led to the development of a Rural Road Master Plan to ensure ecological and inclusive rural road construction methods.

Strengthening Climate finance mechanisms
A Climate Public Expenditure and Institutional Review was completed to strengthen climate financing in Nepal. As a result, a climate indicator has been integrated into budgeting process.

Working strategically
The two main partners of PEI in Nepal are the National Planning Commission and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development.

Available publications
- Current Practices of Revenue Generation from Natural Resources
- Policy brief on rural road management published in Nepali and English
- Resource book on “Poverty and Environment”
- Revised Village Development Committee / Municipality / District Development Committee Annual Planning Guidelines that include poverty, environment and climate change considerations
- Climate Public Expenditure & Institutional Review
- The Future for Climate Financing in Nepal

For more information
United Nations Development Programme
Environment Energy and Climate Change Unit
UN House Pulchowk
G.P.O BoX 107, Kathamandu Nepal
Telephone (977-1)5523200,Ext 1093 / 1024
Fax (977-1)5523986,
Email: registry.np@undp.org
http://www.undp.org.np

Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
Local Governance and Community Development Programme
Email: lgcdp@wlink.com.np
Telephone: (977-1) 4200282
Fax: (977-1) 4200326

National Planning Commission
Strengthening Planning and Monitoring Capacity of NPC
Email: spmc@spmcnepal.gov.np
Telephone: (977-1) 4200069
Fax: (977-1) 4200075

http://www.unpei.org
www.flickr.com/photos/peiasiapacific/
www.youtube.com/user/peasiapacific