

Integrated Planning & Sustainable Development: Challenges and Opportunities

Synthesis Report





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Terraced rice paddies near a Red Zao village; outside of Sapa, Lao Cai province, northern Vietnam.
Photographer: Tran Thi Hoa, 2002

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Foreword

Agenda 2030 provides an unheralded opportunity to address the persistent challenges facing the world, including poverty, growing inequalities, and environmental degradation. Through it, world leaders have committed to addressing the economic, social and environmental issues standing in the way of sustainable development.

Efforts to reduce poverty remain challenging, despite some progress since 1990, including advances made as countries pursued the Millennium Development Goals. Income gaps, coupled with insecure livelihoods and unreliable services, increase the prospect of people falling below poverty lines and into poverty traps. Employment growth is lagging behind population growth, and gender gaps in employment and wages remain. The livelihoods of many of the world's poor depend directly on ecosystem goods and services and natural resources. Unless environmental degradation is curtailed, poverty, inequality and instability will likely deepen, and growth will not be durable.

Fundamental shifts in development models are needed to address these challenges and foster a prosperous and more secure world. Advancing the 2030 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals requires deeper transitions to more resource-efficient, resilient forms of growth that bring social, economic and environmental benefits over the medium and longer term. This requires a focus on the rights of poor and vulnerable groups, including women, to secure access to decent work, livelihoods and basic needs, including food, water, sanitation and shelter, and to benefit from a healthy environment. There is a need to decouple development from environmental destruction, and to protect and restore ecosystems and the goods and services they provide that underpin development.

Inclusive, green economy and green growth policies are key to these poverty eradication and sustainable development objectives. Many countries are already investing in greener economic policies that reduce poverty and advance more resilient, environmentally sustainable growth.

This Synthesis Report on **Integrated Planning & Sustainable Development—Challenges and Opportunities**, and the eight country studies on which it draws, have been prepared through the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), with funds from the European Commission. The report illustrates the many different sustainable development pathways that countries are pursuing in line with national priorities and contexts. Its country-based evidence and non-prescriptive findings for policymakers and practitioners highlight the need for integrated and coherent development policies, while illustrating a range of inclusive green economy solutions. As such, this report represents an important addition to the global community's demand-driven resources for advancing the 2030 Agenda.



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Overall management of the report was led by UNDP: Tim Scott and Usman Iftikhar guided and contributed to the report throughout all stages of its design and drafting; initial conceptual thinking came from George Bouma and Shantanu Mukherjee; and there were core contributions from Maria Cruz Gonzalez, Massimiliano Riva, and Sarwat Chowdhury, particularly during later stages of drafting.

The report draws on eight country studies prepared by the following consultants, government experts, and UNDP Country Office staff:

- Bangladesh: Dr. Md. Abul Basher and Ms. Farha Deebea Sufian, consultants; Alamgir Hossain, UNDP.
- Ethiopia: Dr. Wassie Berhanu, consultant; James Wakiaga and Fekadu Terefe, UNDP.
- Kenya: Prof. James Ole Kiyiapi, consultant; David Githaiga, Timothy Ranja and Zeinabu Khalif, UNDP.
- Kyrgyzstan: Dr. Elena Kim, consultant; Ms. Lyubov Ten, Minister of Economy and Industry; Ms. Kanykei Orozbaeva, Department of Sustainable Development and Environment Statistics; Kumar Kylychev and Roza Choibaeva, UNDP; and Gulnara Abdykalykova, UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative.
- Peru: Mario Bazán, lead author with Gonzalo Alcalde, Fernando Romero, Jorge Chávez and Herbert Wagner; James Leslie, Maria Eugenia Mujica, Jorge Álvarez and Andrea Estrella, UNDP.

- Rwanda: Charles Mugabo, consultant; Sophie Nyirabakwiye, Bernardin Uzayisaba, Denis Rugege and Yoon Kyung Lee, UNDP.
- Tajikistan: Alisher Nazirov, consultant; Nargizakhon Usmanova, UNDP.
- Vietnam: Vu Xuan Nguyet Hong and Dang Thi Thu Hoai, consultants; Bakhodir Burkhanov, Koos Neefjes, Richard Marshall and Pham Thu Lan, UNDP.

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