



# Making Progress on Environmental Sustainability

**Lessons and recommendations  
from a review of over 150  
MDG country experiences**

United Nations Development Programme

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The United Nations Development Programme is the United Nations' global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

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## FOREWORD

The Millennium Development Goals today serve as the framework for sustainable development by setting goals and targets that aim to tackle poverty and promote human development. Together, UNDP and UNEP have been working to support countries in sound environmental management and, in particular, on achieving MDG 7 on environmental sustainability.

UNDP's *"Making Progress on Environmental Sustainability: lessons and recommendations in over 150 country experiences"* documents the progress countries have made towards environmental sustainability. It is clear from this analysis that most countries are not yet on track to reach MDG 7 by 2015. It is also evident that throughout the world, countries are facing similar challenges both in tailoring MDG 7 targets and indicators to their national context, and in strengthening monitoring capacities and systems.

UNDP and UNEP believe that countries can make meaningful progress on environmental sustainability when they align MDG 7 targets and indicators with national development plans. This Report demonstrates that progress can be expedited when countries adopt the principle of environmental sustainability and then adapt targets, policies and programmes to their own specific ecosystem conditions and policy priorities. This publication highlights experiences from countries that have been successful in this and suggests methods for improving monitoring systems and tailoring the MDG targets and indicators.

The collaboration between UNDP and UNEP in launching this publication is part of our growing partnership which includes important joint programmes such as the Poverty and Environment Initiative which aims to scale-up investment and capacity development support for mainstreaming environment in country-led processes to achieve the MDGs. We are also working together to assist developing countries in adapting to climate change and improving their access to the Clean Development Mechanism.

This publication is intended to bring greater awareness of the lessons we are learning from countries around the world on viable approaches towards environmental sustainability and on ways to most effectively integrate this issue in national development strategies.

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- ⚙ *Ensuring Environmental Sustainability in the MDG Framework: A Review of Over 150 MDG Country Reports*
- ⚙ *Monitoring Country Progress Towards MDG 7: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability Practice Note*
- ⚙ *MDG-based National Development Strategy How-to-Guide, Module 1.2 Guidance on Tailoring the MDGs*

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Comments on this publication as well as additional contributions, particularly country experiences in adopting MDG 7 in their development policy and planning, are most welcome. Please contact Linda Ghanime ([linda.ghanime@undp.org](mailto:linda.ghanime@undp.org)).

## ACRONYMS

CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CFCs	Chlorofluorocarbons
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon dioxide
EEA	European Environmental Agency
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GHG	Greenhouse gases
JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LDC	Least Developed Country
LLDC	Landlocked Developing Country
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDGR	Millennium Development Goal Country Report
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NHDR	National Human Development Report
NO <sub>x</sub>	Nitrogen oxides
NSSD	National Strategies for Sustainable Development
ODS	Ozone-depleting Substances
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PPP	Purchasing power parity
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PSR	Pressure-State-Response (model)
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SO <sub>x</sub>	Sulfur oxides
SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulfur dioxide
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-HABITAT	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
WSSD	World Summit for Sustainable Development

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