



## PEI ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2011



The Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a global UN effort that supports country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national development planning. PEI provides financial and technical assistance to government partners to set up institutional and capacity-strengthening programmes and carry out activities to address the particular poverty-environment context.

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*Cover photos:* *Top*—land cleared for agricultural concessions (Silvia Jundt, PEI Lao PDR); *bottom*—Rubaya community celebrates integrated demonstration project in Rwanda (Mónica López, PEI).

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2011**



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Baobab trees in Malawi (PEI Malawi).

# PREFACE

**T**he joint United Nations Development Programme–United Nations Environment Programme Poverty-Environment Initiative (UNDP-UNEP PEI) continues to demonstrate the benefits of using the poverty-environment nexus concept to create tangible development outcomes for national policy makers and move towards improved policy implementation.

Evidence from our country programmes shows that institutional and political economy drivers affect decision-making, enshrining public sector policies that maintain “siloed” development approaches that contribute to ecologically unsustainable economic practices and inequality. Counteracting these tendencies in a number of countries benefiting from PEI support, we are pleased to see that the application of economic, ecological and social assessment tools—complemented with capacity development—is contributing to strengthened institutions to engage in policy and planning reforms. These reforms in turn contribute to integrating the rights and interests of the poor and other vulnerable groups, establishing fiscal and economic reforms to stimulate a greener and inclusive economy, and creating institutional frameworks for effective coordination, implementation and monitoring.

We are heartened that the external Mid-Term Review undertaken during 2011 positively assessed PEI’s progress and achievements, and made constructive recommendations to strengthen the programme’s efficiency and effectiveness. We have endorsed these recommendations and look forward to their implementation during 2012 and beyond.

Looking forward, we will strive towards a vision where national institutions have the capacity to successfully meet the implementation challenges of achieving inclusive, pro-poor and environmentally sound sustainable development. As the PEI matures, we need to learn lessons and continue to strengthen the capacity of counterpart ministries, agencies and civil society. By so doing, we will achieve transformational change that makes a real difference in the lives of poor and vulnerable people while ensuring the integrity of our ecosystems. And, in order to both support and move beyond purely technical, purely local solutions, national and global policy agendas will be needed that will help shape attitudes and responses.

With these ideals in place, it is with pleasure that we present the 2011 PEI Annual Progress Report, which provides a comprehensive overview of progress and achievements from the PEI scale-up programme. The report clearly shows that considerable results and outcomes have been made. PEI is increasingly recognized as a source of knowledge on poverty-environment mainstreaming and as a vehicle to deliver integrated development policies and approaches. This

recognition is demonstrated by the growing number of requests for support we have received. These requests reflect the wider applicability of the poverty-environment mainstreaming approach in efficiently and effectively putting in place key building blocks towards sustainable development.



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