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THEME 1:

UNDERSTANDING MAINSTREAMING POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT LINKAGE



MODULE 1:

INTRODUCTION TO MAINSTREAMING POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES



80 minutes



MODULE OVERVIEW:

This module introduces the concept of poverty-environment linkages mainstreaming. It explores the importance of the poverty-environment linkage and examines how environment contributes to livelihoods, resilience, health and economic development. It also explores the relevance of poverty-environment linkage to achieving the millennium development goals.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this module, participants will be able to:

- Describe the concepts of mainstreaming and mainstreaming poverty-environment linkage;
- Explain the importance of the environment to poor people and the socio-economic dimensions of a community; and
- Explain the contribution of the environment to poverty reduction and human well-being with respect the millennium development goals (MDG).



MODULE CONTENTS:

1. What is mainstreaming and poverty-environment linkages?
2. Import of environment to livelihoods, health and economic development
3. Contributions of environment to poverty reduction and well-being vis-à-vis MDGs



KEY WORDS AND CONCEPTS!

❖ **Poverty-environment mainstreaming:** It is the iterative process of integrating poverty-environment linkages into policymaking, budgeting and implementation processes at provincial and local government levels (municipal and barangay). It is a multi-stakeholder effort that entails working with government actors, non-governmental actors (civil society, academe, business and industry, general public and communities, and the media) and development actors.

❖ **Mainstreaming** is “the process of systematically integrating a selected value/idea/theme into all domains of the development plans and programs to promote specific (transposing ideas, influencing policies) as well as general development outcomes”

Mainstreaming involves an iterative process of change in the culture and practices of institutions. Mainstreaming the environment implies integration of environmental tools and approaches in the cycle of operations in order to bring about a better harmonisation of environmental, economic and social concerns.

❖ **Sustainable development:** Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It contains within it two key concepts: the concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.

❖ **Millennium development goals:** The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are a set of eight-time bound, concrete and specific targets aimed at significantly reducing, if not decisively eradicating poverty, by the year 2015. All 193 United Nations member states and at least 23 international organizations have agreed to achieve these goals by the year 2015. The goals are:

- Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger,
- Achieving universal primary education,
- Promoting gender equality and empowering women,
- Reducing child mortality rates,
- Improving maternal health,
- Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases,
- Ensuring environmental sustainability, and
- Developing a global partnership for development

❖ **Poverty** is now widely viewed as encompassing both income and non-income dimensions of deprivation—including lack of income and other material means; lack of access to basic social services such as education, health, and safe water; lack of personal security; and lack of empowerment to participate in the political process and in decisions that influence someone's life. The dynamics of poverty also are better understood, and extreme vulnerability to external shocks is now seen as one of its major features (UNDP, 1997).

❖ **Environment** refers to the living (biodiversity) and non-living components of the natural world, and to the interactions between them, that together support life on earth. The

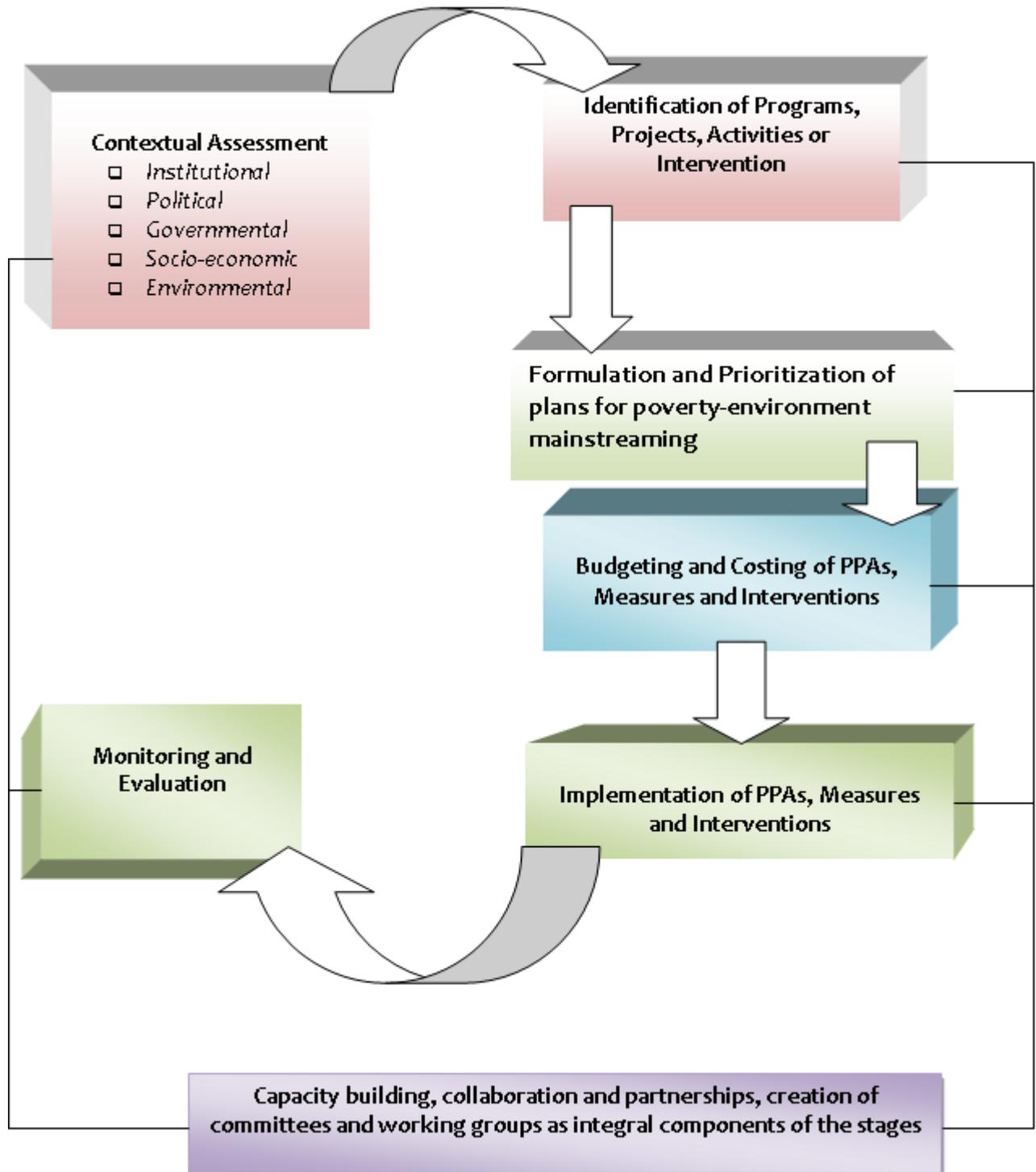
environment provides goods (natural resources) and services (ecosystem functions) used for food production, the harvesting of wild products, energy, and raw materials. The environment is also a recipient and partial recycler of waste products from the economy and an important source of recreation, beauty, spiritual values, and other amenities.

❖ **Poverty-environment linkages** are dynamic and context-specific—reflecting both geographic location and scale and the economic, social, and cultural characteristics of individuals, households, and social groups. Different social groups can give priority to different environmental issues. In rural areas, poor people are particularly concerned with secure access to and the quality of natural resources— arable land and water, crop and livestock diversity, fish and bush meat resources, forest products and biomass for fuel. For the urban poor, water, energy, sanitation and waste removal, drainage, and secure tenure are key concerns.

Poor women regard safe and physically close access to potable water, sanitation facilities, and abundant energy supplies as crucial aspects of well-being, reflecting women’s primary role in managing the household (Brocklesby and Hinshelwood, 2001; UNDP and EC, 2000).

(Source: DFID, EC, UNDP and the World Bank (2002). *Linking Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management: Policy Challenges and Opportunities*. Washington, DC.USA: The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank.)

FRAMEWORK on MAINSTREAMING POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES in LOCAL PLANNING and MANAGEMENT





SESSION PLANS:

SESSION 1.1
MAINSTREAMING AND POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT LINKAGE



80 MINUTES

Activity 1.1.1

Questioning and pre-assessment of participant’s knowledge

Before fully getting into the substance of the training, use this activity to build anticipation for the content and to gauge how much your audience knows about mainstreaming, poverty-environment mainstreaming so you can tailor your delivery accordingly.

Method	Process	Time	Materials
Questioning Discussion Quiz	<p>a) Before starting the discussion, ask the participants a few simple questions about mainstreaming; poverty-environment linkage. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>What do you think mainstreaming is?</i> - <i>What have you heard about poverty-environment linkage?</i> - <i>What is the relationship of the environment to the following: livelihoods, health and economic development?</i> - <i>How does the environment contribute to the achievement of the MDG?</i> <p>b) Ask all your questions and tell participants to write their answers to their handbook (Participants’ Handbook), where the same questions can be found.</p> <p>c) Do not impress upon them that the questions are a formal test of their knowledge. You want to engage them and get them thinking about what they already know.</p> <p>d) Tell them that 10 minutes will be given to do the task.</p> <p>e) Inform you will ask some volunteers to share their answers later. Proceed to Activity 1.1.2</p>	20	Flipchart marker

Activity 1.1.2

Power Point Presentation [by facilitator]/or Expert Presentation

This activity introduces participants to the basics on mainstreaming poverty-environment linkages and the relationships of environment to socio-economic conditions. Use this session to clear up any misconceptions about poverty-environment linkages that participants might have.

This activity can be tailored to local conditions; if an expert is available to talk to your group, they may be invited to do so. If there is no local expert available, you, the facilitator, can use PowerPoint presentation slides prepared for this module along with the accompanying script. If an expert is available, however, it would be a good idea to share with her/him the PowerPoint presentation developed for this module so s/he will have a clear idea of the minimum information that is expected to be covered.

Method	Process	Time	Materials
Presentation	<p>a) Start presenting Power point slides found at the Tools and Approaches.</p> <p>Familiarise yourself with the presentation and notes in advance of the session. If there is a Resource Person on the topic, arrange that s/he gets his/her presentation in advance. If there is a Resource Person, introduce him/her and his/her organisation as well.</p> <p>b) Tell participants that copies of the materials are also found in the Participant’s Handbook. Otherwise, copies of the handouts will be made available to them after the sessions. Remind them to answer the exercise found in their handbook intended for the session, and inform them that some volunteers would be asked to share their answers to the group.</p>	40	<p>PowerPoint slides, laptop computer, multimedia projector and screen</p> <p>Handouts</p>
Discussion	<p>a) After discussion of the power point slides/ presentation, solicit the participants’ questions and feedback to the presentation.</p> <p>b) When everything has been clarified, request volunteer-participants to share their answers to their questions and make corrections or comments on their answers.</p> <p>c) End the module by summarizing the points.</p>	20	

SUMMARY POINTS

- ❖ Poverty-environment linkages are dynamic and context specific, reflecting geographic location, scale and the economic, social and cultural characteristics of individuals, households and social groups. In particular, the sex and age of the head of household (male or female, adult or young person) are key factors influencing poverty-environment linkages.
- ❖ Poverty-environment linkages can be positive or negative, creating virtuous or vicious circles for environmental preservation and poverty reduction.

- ❖ While trade-offs may be necessary, poverty-environment mainstreaming aims at achieving the best balance between environmental preservation and poverty reduction for the benefit of the poor and long-term environmental sustainability.



TOOLS and APPROACHES:



Tool 1: Some Data on Poverty-Environment Linkages in the Philippines

“Addressing environmental issues that matter to the poor is critical to sustained poverty reduction and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. . . . But this requires a more “pro-poor” and integrated approach—linking action at local, national, and global levels.”

FACTS FACTS FACTS

- An estimated two-thirds of the Philippine population depends directly on natural resources for a living – the agriculture and fisheries sectors alone contributing 20 per cent to GDP and directly employing about 40 per cent of the labor force. Among these, the poor rely most heavily on the natural environment to sustain basic livelihood needs:
 - Subsistence municipal fishing accounts for only 34 per cent of the value of all fishing production (the *total* fisheries contribution to GDP in 2008 was only 2.4 per cent) yet it constitutes 50 per cent of the dietary protein requirements of coastal communities.
 - Forestry and hunting sustain the livelihoods of 44,000 families and forest products made up 1.44 per cent of total export value in 2005.
 - Small-scale mining has been both environmentally disastrous and created unhealthy livelihoods, particularly the illegal or underground sectors.
- We can also look at poverty/environment links in terms of the sectors in which people find their livelihood – the poorest being fishermen and small farmers, with some alarming problems among informal miners too.
 - Fishing is the poorest sector, with a 49.9 per cent poverty incidence in 2006. In terms of regional poverty incidence, ARMM registered the second highest poverty incidence of fishermen at 65.6 per cent in 2006, Region IV-B registered 4th at 52.6 per cent and Region IX ranked 6th at 50.1 per cent
 - *The second poorest sector is small-scale farmers, with a poverty incidence of 44 per cent in 2006. Most poor farmers live in the uplands, where the soil is not suited for commercial farming. ARMM topped the poverty incidence of farmers at 62.3 per cent, followed by Region IX at 54.7 per cent and Region X at 54.3 per cent. ARMM and Region IX, both*

located in Western Mindanao, again registered the highest poverty incidence for the farmers

- *Mining is a growing occupation with poverty and environmental implications.* Small-scale unregulated small-scale mining activities destroying the environment and creating significant health hazards to miners. Since mining control is devolved to the LGUs, many DENR policies do not apply in practice to small-scale miners.

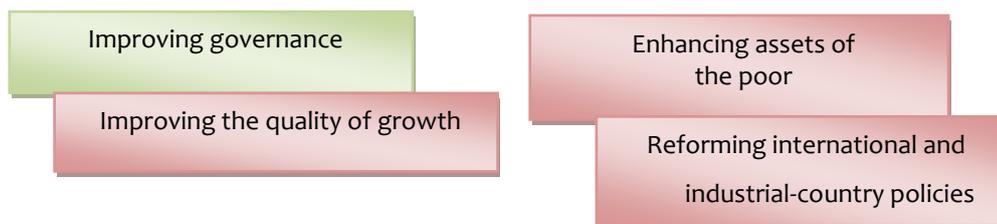
Source: Ella Antonio, Steve Bass, and Donna Gasgonia. (2012) *Philippines experience, lessons and challenges in environmental mainstreaming*. UK: International Institute for Environment and Development.

- In the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002), a report entitled *Linking Poverty Reduction and Environmental Management Report* drew out the link between poverty and environment – equitable management of environment is integral to eradicate poverty, to achieve the MDGs, hunger, reducing child mortality, combating major diseases and ensuring environmental sustainability. Highlighted were the four priority areas for sustained policy and institutional change:
 - **Improving governance** to create a more enabling policy and institutional environment for addressing the poverty-environment concerns of the poor, with particular attention to the needs of women and children.
 - **Enhancing the assets of the poor** to expand sustainable livelihood opportunities and to reduce the poor’s vulnerability to environmental hazards and natural resource–related conflict.
 - **Improving the quality of growth** to promote sound environmental management and protect the environmental assets and livelihood opportunities of the poor.
 - **Reforming international and industrial-country policies** to address the poverty and environment concerns of developing countries and the poor.



Tool 2: Four Priority Areas for Sustained Policy and Institutional Change

Priority AREAS:



Focus: Improving governance

Integrate poverty-environment issues into national development frameworks by addressing the environmental concerns of the poor in nationally owned poverty reduction strategies and related macroeconomic and sectoral policy reforms, so that they can become national sustainable development strategies.

Strengthen decentralization for environmental management by integrating poverty-environment issues into sub-national policy and planning processes and sectoral investment programs.

Empower civil society, in particular poor and marginalized groups, to influence environmental management policy and planning processes at all levels by expanding public access to environmental information, decision-making, and justice.

Address gender dimensions of poverty-environment issues by ensuring that they are fully integrated.

Strengthen anti-corruption efforts to protect the environment and the poor by improving legislative and regulatory frameworks and oversight mechanisms, by increasing the penalties for violators, and by ensuring effective mechanisms for feedback from communities to enforcement agencies.

Reduce environment-related conflict by improving conflict resolution mechanisms in the management of natural resources and biodiversity and by addressing the underlying political and economic issues that affect resource access and use, including the role of corruption.

Improve poverty-environment monitoring and assessment by strengthening government and civil society capacity to monitor environmental change and how it affects the poor, by integrating poverty-environment indicators into national poverty monitoring systems, and by building capacity to apply monitoring and assessment results to poverty-environment policy formulation and implementation.

POVERTY, ENVIRONMENT AND POVERTY-ENVIRONMENT LINKAGES: Definitions

Poverty is now widely viewed as encompassing both income and non-income dimensions of deprivation—including lack of income and other material means; lack of access to basic social services such as education, health, and safe water; lack of personal security; and lack of empowerment to participate in the political process and in decisions that influence someone's life. The dynamics of poverty also are better understood, and extreme vulnerability to external shocks is now seen as one of its major features (UNDP, 1997).

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Tool 3: What is Poverty-Environment Mainstreaming?

- An iterative process of integrating poverty-environment linkages into policymaking, budgeting and implementation processes at national, provincial and municipal levels.
- It is a multi-year, multi-stakeholder effort that entails working with government actors (local chief executives, heads of offices, finance and planning bodies), non-governmental actors (civil society, academe, business and industry, general public and communities, and the media) as well as development actors or champions.
- **Poverty-environment mainstreaming** is defined as integrating poverty-environment linkages into local development planning processes for poverty reduction and pro-poor growth- such as PRSPs. MDS or growth strategies. It involves establishing the links between environment and poverty and identifying the policies and programs to bring about better pro-poor environmental management. It is targeted at influencing local government plans, budget processes, sector strategies and local level implementation—reflecting the need to integrate the valuable contribution of environmental management to improved livelihoods, increased economic security and income opportunities for the poor which is largely overlooked in government policy making processes and in the wider debate about development priorities.



Tool 4: Environment’s Contributions to Livelihoods, Resilience, Health and Economic Development

LIVELIHOODS

- Ecosystems provide services including
 - **provisioning services** such as food and freshwater,
 - **regulating services** such as the regulation of climate and water and air quality,
 - **cultural services** such as recreation and aesthetic enjoyment, and

- **supporting services** needed to produce all other ecosystem services such as soil formation) on which poor people rely disproportionately for their well-being and basic needs.
- Populations also depend on the environment to earn incomes in sectors such as agriculture, fishing, forestry and tourism, through both formal and informal markets.
- Livelihoods can be sustainable or not, depending on the way the environment is managed.

RESILIENCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

- Poor people are more vulnerable to natural disasters such as floods and storms, the effects of climate change and other environmental shocks that threaten their livelihoods and weaken food security.
- Improving the ways of managing the environmental resources (such as forests) increases the resilience of poor people and their livelihoods to environmental risks.

HEALTH

- Health risks among poor people are due largely to environmental conditions
- Environmental risk factors, such as exposures to chemicals and indoor air pollution from household solid fuel use, play a role in more than 80 per cent of the diseases regularly reported on by the World Health Organization.
- Globally, nearly a quarter of all deaths and of the world's total disease burden can be attributed to the environment.
- Improved health from better environmental conditions would also contribute to improvements in livelihoods, economic development and resilience to environmental risks.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Environmental quality contributes directly and indirectly to economic development and employment.
- The contributions are particularly important in rural areas in such sectors as agriculture, energy, forestry, fisheries and tourism.



Tool 5: Cases of Poverty-Environment Linkages

Samples of Poverty-environment Linkage

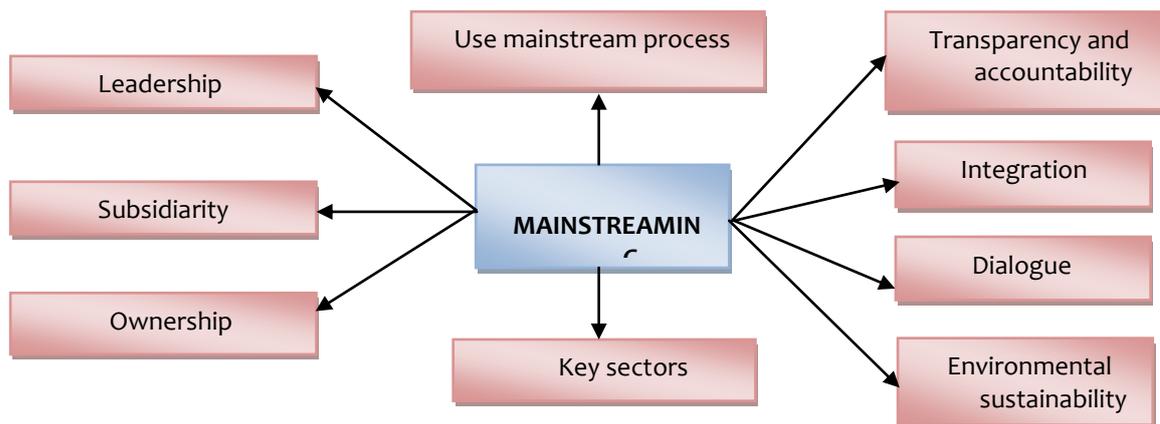
Selected facts and figures on poverty-environment linkages are listed below. The extent or span and diversity of these examples emphasize the important contribution the environment makes to human well-being and poverty reduction.

- In Bangladesh, more than 95 per cent of the population rely on solid fuels, such as charcoal and firewood, for their energy needs.

- In Bolivia, over 80 per cent of the people living in rural areas are poor, making them particularly vulnerable to the environment on which their livelihoods rely.
- In Burkina Faso, 92 per cent of the active workforce are employed in agriculture and fisheries, and hence depend for their well-being on the sustainable management of these resources.
- In Latin America and South-East Asia, 100 per cent of the poor living on less than \$1 per day are exposed to indoor air pollution.
- In Central Viet Nam, following disastrous floods in November 1999, poor households were the slowest to recover and were unable to afford labor to clear their fields and return to agricultural production.

Source: UNDP et al. 2005.

Tool 6: Principles for Effective Mainstreaming



Leadership – the mobilization and creation of political will and awareness at the highest ‘mainstream’ levels possible, engaging with ‘champions’ who can trigger and institutionalize the necessary processes.

Integration – a ‘two-way’ approach where environment and development approaches are integrated with mutual respect and adjustment – not a one-way environmental ‘push’.

Key sectors – a strong focus on economic sectors, notably those that are able to act soon and/or are facing key drivers for effective environmental inclusion.

Dialogue – a wide range of means for making voices heard and for cooperation open to all levels and sectors, using recognised norms such as prior informed consent – and not restricted to technical issues.

Ownership – the entire mainstreaming process should be under the full responsibility of the local government or locality in question – and not by external interests.

Subsidiarity – decisions concerning the integration of environment development should be taken at the lowest possible level of public authority closest to the population concerned.

Use mainstream processes – use existing national, sectoral or local analytical/planning process as far as possible – rather than attempt to run special ‘environment’ processes.

Transparency and accountability – information is made available on environment-development links and dynamics, on decisions made and reasons why.

Environmental sustainability – the process needs to be informed of relevant environmental processes, potentials, stresses and limits.

POINT OF EMPHASIS: Not surprisingly given the institutional change nature of environmental mainstreaming, they are structured mainly around principles of good governance.