National Sustainable Development Strategies

Arab State Regional Workshop on NSDS and indicators

Panel 2 Role of intergovernmental organizations in the region

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Outline of presentation

1. Who we are
2. What UNDP does in the region and how
3. Capacity development for environmental sustainability
4. Key regional programmes
UNDP

- UN's global development network
- Advocates for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.
- On the ground in 166 countries on solutions to global and national development challenges.
- UN's principal provider of development advice, advocacy and grant support
Perspective

- Tailored Strategies for sustainable development are country-based and country-owned systems
- Effective strategy: learning system to develop a shared vision and make progress towards sustainable development.
UNDP Focus areas

- Democratic governance
- Poverty Reduction
- Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- Energy and environment
- HIV /Aids

- Promoting cross cutting themes of Capacity development; knowledge networking; gender in development; human rights; ICT; human development statistics and report; south south cooperation
Capacity Development

The *process* by which individuals, institutions and societies develop abilities (individually and collectively) to perform functions, solve problems and set and achieve goals.

Capacity development takes place in every society primarily as an endogenous process.
Default Principles of Capacity Development

1. Don’t rush
2. Respect the value system and foster self-esteem
3. Scan locally and globally; reinvent locally
4. Challenge mindsets and power differentials
5. Think and act in terms of sustainable capacity outcomes
6. Establish positive incentives
7. Integrate external inputs into national priorities, processes and systems
8. Build on existing capacities rather than creating new ones
9. Stay engaged under difficult circumstances
10. Remain accountable to ultimate beneficiaries

UNDP, Ownership, Leadership and Transformation
Lessons learnt from Capacity 21

- National and local ownership
- Trust amongst stakeholders
- Role of national/local “champions”
  - Respected, committed and influential individuals.
- Limitations of “environmentalist” label
  - Need to integrate into all sectors of government
- Balance between process and product
  - Long term involvement with ups and downs
  - Continually growing and changing
- Participation takes time and resources
- Flexibility crucial
- Address concerns of various levels of stakeholders
- Role of local UNDP offices
  - Legitimize and raise profile of capacity building
  - Ensure that interventions are not overbearing
3.1 Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development
3.2 Effective Water Governance
3.3 Access to Sustainable Energy Services
3.4 Sustainable Land Management to Combat Desertification
3.5 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity
3.6 National/sectoral policy and planning to control emissions of ozone-depleting substance and persistent organic pollutions
SL 3.1 Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development in the Arab regions

- Sustainable management of environment and natural resources incorporated into poverty reduction strategies/key national development frameworks and sector strategies
- National Sustainable Development Strategies (NSDS) for integrating economic, social and environmental issues adopted and implemented
- Innovative financial mechanism for environmental services
- MDG 7 targets set and progress towards environmental sustainability demonstrated
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Moving from plans and documents to learning systems of governance

- 6 countries supported in developing NSDS
- 14 countries implementing NCSAs
- 11 countries supported in implementing NSDSs and integrating with PRSPs.
- Country specific targets set for MDG 7 in 5 countries so far
SL 3.2 Effective water Governance

- Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) -
- Promoting cooperation on regional and global water challenges -
- Local management of water resources and access to safe water supply and basic sanitation
- Adaptation to climate variability and change
- Gender mainstreaming in water governance - Toolkit
- Capacity development in IWRM

- Cap-Net networks, connects hundreds of water management institutions
SL 3.3 Access to Sustainable Energy Services

- Strengthen national policy frameworks to support energy services
- Promote rural energy services to support growth and equity with a special focus on women and energy
- Promote innovative technologies such as the fuel cell bus programme
- Increase access to new energy investment financing mechanisms (esp. related to Kyoto Protocol and CDM) to reduce climate change risks and promote sustainable development.
- GEF programmes help remove barriers to and promote adoption of renewable energy technologies
SL 3.4 Sustainable Land Management to Combat Desertification and Land Degradation

- Land Governance - Integrated Drylands Development Programme - 20 countries mainstreaming drylands development issues
- Drought preparedness and mitigation - Inter-agency policy on drought published and partnership with BCPR on drought/crisis linkages in Africa
- Land tenure reform - helping SADC establish a Land Reform Technical Support Unit
- Mainstreaming drylands issues into national development planning frameworks
- Promotion of innovative and alternative sustainable land practices and livelihoods - GEF focal area, new land degradation
Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Access and benefit sharing and traditional knowledge

Ecoagriculture

Millennium Development Goals - initiated and led process linking CBD 2010 targets to the MDG 2015 targets

Protected Areas

Public-private partnerships for biodiversity - supply chain partnerships with manufacturers and retailers of coffee and cocoa
UN Programming

Planning:
Country Programmes for each UN agency

Setting the UN priorities:
UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)

The Analysis:
UN Common Country Analysis (CCA)
NCSA of MEA in national policy

Outputs of the NCSA:

- Stock-taking of past and ongoing initiatives for capacity building
- Description of the stakeholder consultation process
- Three thematic profiles
- Crosscutting analysis
- Follow-up strategy and action plan

Key Principles:

- National ownership and leadership
- Multi-stakeholder consultation and decision-making
- Emphasis on linking global environmental obligations with national sustainable development goals
- Cross-institutional coordination and dialogue
- Cross-sectoral issues and synergies
- Three levels of capacity: individual, institutional, systemic
NCSA Activities

- UNDP is assisting 14 countries in the NCSA process in Arab States. 6 countries already started NCSA implementation.
- The NCSA Global Support Programme (1.8 M) is expected to start early 2005. The Programme will provide countries with methodologies and knowledge management mechanisms.
- An NCSA regional workshop will be organized around April 2005.
Examples of Other GEF Regional Programs

- Conservation of Wetland and Coastal Ecosystems in the Mediterranean Region
- Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
- Nile Transboundary Environmental Action Project
- Regional Projects - Participatory Management of Plant Genetic Resources in Date Palm Oases of the Maghreb
Knowledge management role

- Documenting and disseminating lessons learned from experiences
- Network Development
Sustainable Development Strategies
A Resource Book of good practice
Arab Human Development Report

Recommendations

1. Intergovernmental: enhancing the performance of the Council of Arab Ministers responsible for the Environment

2. Scientific effort: establishing new agencies not the best way to boost

3. NGO efforts key to public participation in the solution to environmental problems of the Arab world