

25. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

25.1 Energy Policies and Actions

UNDP supports energy activities to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development objectives at the local, national and global levels. The work aims to:

- Strengthen national policy frameworks to support energy for poverty reduction;
- Promote energy services to support growth and equity with specific focus on the situation of women;
- Promote clean energy technologies to mitigate climate change; and
- Increase access to investment financing for sustainable energy.⁴³⁶

Through an integrated development approach, UNDP works to help create policy frameworks, develop local capacity and provide knowledge-based advisory services for expanding access to energy services for the poor.⁴³⁷

UNDP's activities focus on the upstream enabling environment and policies needed to support energy options for sustainable development addressing economic, social and environmental goals simultaneously. Downstream activities concentrate on integrated energy solutions addressing social, economic and environmental objectives to address poverty and promote sustainable development. Actions taken at the local level to promote sustainable energy options also support global sustainable development goals, generating win-win outcomes in environment and development.

Energy Priority 1: Strengthening national policy frameworks

UNDP efforts in this priority area focus on incorporating sustainable energy considerations into three types of policy dialogue: macro-economic reform, energy sector reform and sustainable development planning.

Energy Priority 2: Promoting rural energy services

UNDP efforts in this priority area focus on heating, cooking and electricity needs in rural areas to support household and productive activities. UNDP assistance will focus on energy efficient options through both conventional and renewable energy.

Energy Priority 3: Promoting clean energy technology

UNDP efforts in this priority area will support the introduction and adaptation of low emissions technologies such as modernised biomass, solar photovoltaics, wind, hydrogen, etc., that can support economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability.

Energy Priority 4: Increasing access to financing for energy

UNDP will focus on support to enhance developing countries' ability to attract investment financing for sustainable energy options.⁴³⁸

⁴³⁶ <http://www.undp.org/energyandenvironment/about.htm>

⁴³⁷ <http://www.undp.org/energy/>

⁴³⁸ <http://www.undp.org/energy/priorities.htm>

Programmes/Projects by UNDP on energy sector

Energy and environment are essential for sustainable development. The poor are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and lack of access to clean, affordable energy services. These issues are also global as climate change, loss of biodiversity and ozone layer depletion cannot be addressed by countries acting alone. UNDP helps countries strengthen their capacity to address these challenges at global, national and community levels, seeking out and sharing best practices, providing innovative policy advice and linking partners through pilot projects that help poor people build sustainable livelihoods.⁴³⁹

Before 1990, programmes focused primarily on support for energy sector planning, promotion of energy efficiency, and rational management of conventional energy, including oil, gas and electricity. The expansion of UNDP's energy programme during the 1990's reflected a transition toward sustainable energy initiatives, with more of a focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy planning.⁴⁴⁰

Examples of the programmes/projects include Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP) and Programme on Capacity Building to Reduce Key Barriers to Energy Efficiency in Russian Residential Buildings and Heating Systems, which are discussed in detail in section 25.5.

UNDP and the Climate Change

UNDP is committed to support developing countries in responding to climate change concerns as part of their overall sustainable development efforts. UNDP works with developing countries to create integrated solutions to social, economic and environmental challenges, with a primary focus on improving the lives of those living in extreme poverty.

With its widespread country offices, UNDP has established a unique position as a long-term, trusted partner to developing countries and is well-placed to share its sustainable development expertise and provide assistance to national governments in addressing climate change in ways that are compatible with their own particular domestic development and poverty reduction agendas.⁴⁴¹

In particular, in 1998, there was the implementation of the UNDP Climate Change Programme, which aims to recruit professional to strengthen in-house working capacity on climate change to begin implementation of the UNDP Climate Change Strategy. The work of the professional will assist UNDP in achieving its goal by positioning it as a key UN agency to support activities.⁴⁴²

⁴³⁹ <http://www.undp.org/energyandenvironment/>

⁴⁴⁰ <http://www.undp.org/energy/enprojs.htm>

⁴⁴¹ <http://www.undp.org/climatechange/intro01.htm>

⁴⁴² Referenced to the global project list on energy by UNDP,

<http://www.energyandenvironment.undp.org/indexAction.cfm?module=Library&action=GetFile&DocumentID=5845>

25.2 Environmental Evaluation/SEA in UNDP

In the early 1990s, UNDP introduced the Environmental Overview (EO) approach as an SEA-like approach to support programming processes. The EO represents an innovative procedural form of SEA in the development context, and that the characteristics of the EO conform to many of the emerging principles for effective SEA, but it is no longer in use. Many UNDP country offices have adopted its underlying principles in their programming practices and these are also captured in the current version of the UNDP programming manual⁴⁴³ and in other guidance. UNDP programming is the process of assessment and analysis, objective setting, strategy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and allocation of resources in support of national development.⁴⁴⁴

In 2004, UNDP published the "UNDP Environmental Mainstreaming Strategy"⁴⁴⁵ which outlines the history and background of environmental mainstreaming initiatives and activities in UNDP as well as opportunities and lessons learned from environmental mainstreaming in policy, programming and operational processes.

Environmental mainstreaming refers to the integration of environmental considerations into core institutional thinking and decision-making. UNDP's environmental mainstreaming approach involves integrating sustainability objectives into poverty reduction practices, building internal and external capacities, promoting regional environmental strategies, enhancing environmental soundness and sustainability of UNDP policies, programmes and operational processes, and improving the quality of environment programmes in achieving broader socioeconomic and human development goals.

The main challenge to environmental mainstreaming is finding a strategic nexus and compatibility between development priorities and environmental management objectives where tradeoffs can be addressed pragmatically. Environmental mainstreaming is about capitalising on potential opportunities that benefit both environmental mainstreaming involves an integration process to pursue environmental policy interests in coordination with other development policies and programmes. A strategic approach to environmental mainstreaming, such as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), of polices and programmes influences the earliest stages of planning and decision-making processes and helps to bring rationality to decision-making and to build a traceable chain of evaluation and decision-making.⁴⁴⁶

To conclude, UNDP has no specified requirement for its country partners to conduct environmental assessments. UNDP mainly assists country partners in applying SEA to

⁴⁴³ Programming policies are currently under the "User Guide on Programming for Results" by the Results Management section of the UNDP, which can be found at <http://content.undp.org/go/userguide/results>. The full version of UNDP programming manual can be found at http://www.undp.kz/script_site.html?id=147#81

⁴⁴⁴ Extracted from the "Strategic Environmental Assessment: A sourcebook and reference guide to international experience", Barry Dalal-Clayton and Barry Sadler, 2004, http://www.iied.org/Gov/spa/documents/SEABook/Chapter4_Oct04.pdf, pages 126-127

⁴⁴⁵ UNDP Environmental Mainstreaming Strategy, A strategy for enhanced environmental soundness and sustainability in UNDP policies, programmes, and operational processes, 2004, <http://www.undp.org/fssd/docs/envmainstrat.doc>

⁴⁴⁶ Extracted from the UNDP website, <http://www.undp.org/fssd/priorityareas/envmainst.html>

improve the quality of the poverty reduction strategy process and drawing lessons from these experiences.⁴⁴⁷



Power house in rural area⁴⁴⁸



Solar panel for village houses⁴⁴⁹

⁴⁴⁷ Referenced to the web links under UNDP regarding Sustainable development strategies topics, Mainstreaming -
<http://www.undp.org/fssd/priorityareas/sea.html> and SEA -

<http://www.undp.org/fssd/priorityareas/envmainst.html>

⁴⁴⁸ Source: <http://www.redp.org.np/photogallery.php>

⁴⁴⁹ Source: <http://www.redp.org.np/photogallery.php>

25.3 Environmental Evaluation/SEA on Energy Policies and Actions in UNDP

While UNDP has no specified requirement for its country partners to conduct environmental assessments, it assists country partners in applying SEA for policies, programmes and operational processes including those in energy sector, so as to improve the quality of the poverty reduction strategy process. Details should refer to section 25.2.

A summary table for the energy policies and actions and SEA status in UNDP is presented in **Exhibit UNDP-1**:

Exhibit UNDP-1 Summary of Energy Policies and Actions and SEA status in UNDP	
(a) Energy Policies and Actions	
Energy Policies and Actions	Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthening national policy frameworks ● Promoting rural energy services ● Promoting clean energy technology ● Increasing access to financing for energy Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP) ● Programme on Capacity Building to Reduce Key Barriers to Energy Efficiency in Russian Residential Buildings and Heating Systems
Guidance/Legislations in Energy	N/A
(b) Environmental Evaluations / SEA Status in Energy Policies and Actions	
Type of Assessment	SEA
Requirement Mechanisms	Administrative
Legislation for Environmental Evaluation / SEA	N/A
Applications	Policies, Plans and Programmes

25.4 Analysis and Conclusions

UNDP supports energy activities to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development objectives at the local, national and global levels. There is a transition towards sustainable energy initiatives, with more focus on energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy planning. UNDP also plays an important role dealing with climate change. It shares its sustainable development expertise and provides assistance to national governments in addressing climate change.

When comparing with Hong Kong, the city's energy policy objectives are based on the secure supply of energy, and the minimisation of environmental impact in the production and use of energy. There were actions to promote energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energies and to tackle the global problem of climate change in Hong Kong.

Regarding the provisions of Environmental Evaluation/SEA in the UNDP, EO approach was firstly considered as an SEA-like tool to support programming processes of the UNDP in the early 1990s. Although EO is no longer current within UNDP, many UNDP country offices have adopted the EO principles in their programming practices. Since 2004, the UNDP Environmental Mainstreaming Strategy identified a strategic approach to environmental mainstreaming, such as SEA, of policies and programmes which influences the earliest stages of planning and decision-making processes, and helps to bring rationality to decision-making and to build a traceable chain of evaluation and decision-making.

While UNDP has no specified requirement for its country partners to conduct environmental assessments, it assists country partners in applying SEA for policies, programmes and operational processes including those in energy sector, so as to improve the quality of the poverty reduction strategy process.

At present, there are both statutory and non-statutory systems in Hong Kong for PPP projects in Hong Kong. While the statutory requirements govern primarily large scale development projects (i.e. over 20 ha of area or population over 100,000), the administrative counterpart has been applied to land use planning, transportation and sectoral PPP. It may be a logical next step to consider:

- Combining the administrative requirements into the statutory system; and
- Providing further specific SEA requirements under the category of energy.

25.5 Examples of Energy Policies/Actions or their Environmental Evaluation/SEA

Example UNDP-1	Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP) ⁴⁵⁰
Description of the Programme	The REDP was initiated in August 1996 as a joint programme between Government of Nepal (GoN), the UNDP and the World Bank. It complements the rural electrification objective of the Tenth Five Year Plan Government of Nepal by promoting micro hydro schemes, solar, wind energy and biogas technologies. It adopts holistic approach by linking rural electrification with rural economic activities and ultimately impact positively on livelihood of the rural people. Decentralised and participatory planning, decision making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation activities are basic pillars for the success of the programme.
Objectives of the Programme	<p>The overall objective of REDP is to enhance rural livelihoods through the promotion of rural energy systems, specifically micro hydro, for the sustainable development and poverty alleviation.</p> <p>To achieve the goal the programme is targeted to install 125 to 150 new MH systems and provides service to about 30,000 new households.</p> <p>The programme objective complements the Tenth Plan goal of increasing hydroelectricity generation capacity to 800 MW by 2008 and rural electrification.</p>
Outcome of the Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● REDP has provided support in carrying out decentralised energy planning that will culminate in the preparation of long term and short term district energy development plans and programmes. ● One of the focus areas of REDP is capacity building at three levels - center, district and grassroots. REDP has established Human Resource Development Center for the capacity building at all three levels. ● Under research and development, REDP is supporting development of appropriate rural energy related technologies in general and micro hydro in particular. ● REDP has incorporated various environment management activities under its Natural Resource Management component. ● One of the priorities of REDP is the documentation and dissemination of information about its experiences. All of the programme activities including problems encountered and successes achieved are documented and disseminated in the form of internal, updates, reports, newsletter and various publications.

⁴⁵⁰ <http://www.redp.org.np/introduction.php>
<http://www.redp.org.np/phase1/press/activities.html>

Example UNDP-2	Programme on Capacity Building to Reduce Key Barriers to Energy Efficiency in Russian Residential Buildings and Heating Systems ⁴⁵¹
Description of the Programme	This programme started in 1998 and ended in 2004. The development objective of the programme is to provide sustainable and replicable models to overcome barriers to the implementation and realisation of energy efficiency improvements and energy conservation in residential buildings and heating systems in Russia. In particular, the project will develop a prototype system for consumption-based metering and billing that will create new incentives for investments in energy efficiency. It will study and demonstrate the technical, economic, institutional and geographical feasibility of developing autonomous (building-level) heat supplies. The programme will also develop the skills to conduct the economic and financial analysis required by private and public investors interested in energy efficiency.
Outcomes of the Programme	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Conceptual and legal framework for consumption-based metering and billing service developed. (2) Autonomous boilers installed at three apartment buildings. (3) Ownership and maintenance model for the autonomous heat supply sources established; local normative acts aimed at establishing new models of operation and maintenance for municipal property prepared; Prerequisites created for development of competitive market in the field of autonomous heating. (4) Project results allowed development of recommendations for the Russian Government on how to reform municipal heat supply.

⁴⁵¹ <http://www.undp.ru/index.phtml?iso=RU&lid=1&cmd=programs&id=23>