

25. UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)

25.1 Water Resources Management Policies and Actions

Water Governance refers to the range of political, social, economic, and administrative systems that are in place to develop and manage water resources and the delivery of water services at different levels of society. It comprises the mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which all involved stakeholders, including citizens and interest groups, articulate their priorities, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences.

UNDP's Water Governance Programme is currently providing assistance to member countries on different levels through the following areas:

- Local management of water resources, water supply and sanitation
- Integrated water resource management
- Addressing global and regional water challenges
- Water and climate change
- Gender mainstreaming
- Capacity development for effective water governance³⁹⁵

Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)

UNDP promotes an IWRM approach in national development frameworks for effective, sustainable and equitable uses of water. This approach advocates a move towards a more integrated and coordinated water development and management process. The solution to current and future crises will not for the most part be found in new and extraordinary technological advances or supply oriented approaches. Instead, they will be found through changing the way we use and manage water. UNDP is also involved in Dialogue for Effective Water Governance, which aims to bring stakeholders together to examine the political processes that drive water governance systems. This creates a platform for conflict resolution, negotiation, social learning and collective decision making.³⁹⁶

Besides, the concept of gender mainstreaming has been trying to provoke in IWRM. The Resource Guide on Gender and Water Management has been developed to assist practitioners in mainstreaming gender within the context of IWRM. The resource guide consolidates available materials and gives a quick guide to access existing information.³⁹⁷

³⁹⁵ Extracted from the webpage of UNDP, http://www.undp.org/water/about_us.html

³⁹⁶ Referenced to "Water Resource Management", from the website of UNDP,

<http://www.undp.org/water/priorityareas/resource.html>

³⁹⁷ <http://www.undp.org/water/crosscutting/gender.html>

Water and climate change

There is increasing evidence that global climate change and climate variability will affect the quality and availability of water supplies. It is therefore essential for policy makers to take these factors into account when designing new instruments, tools and institutions to provide sustainable livelihoods to the poor within the framework of national planning.³⁹⁸

³⁹⁸ Referenced to the UNDP website, <http://www.undp.org/water/crosscutting/climate.html>

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 manual³⁹⁹ 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.⁴⁰⁰

In 2004, UNDP published the “UNDP Environmental Mainstreaming Strategy⁴⁰¹” 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 policies 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.⁴⁰²

To conclude, UNDP has no specified requirement for its country partners to conduct

³⁹⁹ 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

⁴⁰⁰ 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

⁴⁰¹ 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>

⁴⁰² Extracted from the UNDP website, <http://www.undp.org/fssd/priorityareas/envmainst.html>

environmental assessments. UNDP mainly assists country partners in applying SEA to improve the quality of the poverty reduction strategy process and drawing lessons from these experiences.⁴⁰³



Brazil ⁴⁰⁴



Using the Blue Nile as a water source ⁴⁰⁵

⁴⁰³ 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>

⁴⁰⁴ Source: http://www.undp.org/publications/annualreport2006/promoting_human_development.shtml

⁴⁰⁵ Source: <http://www.et.undp.org/energy/undpimpact.htm>

25.3 Environmental Evaluation/SEA on Water Resources Management 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 related to water resources management, so as to improve the quality of the poverty reduction strategy process. Details should refer to section 25.2.

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

Exhibit UNDP-1 Summary of Water Resources Management (WRM) Policies and Actions and SEA status in UNDP	
(a) WRM Policies and Actions	
WRM Policies and Actions	Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrated water resources management Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● N/A
Guidance/Legislations in WRM	N/A
(b) Environmental Evaluations / SEA Status in WRM 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

WRM Policies

UNDP's Water Governance Programme is currently providing assistance to member countries on different levels through areas, like local management of water resources, water supply and sanitation, integrated water resource management and so on.

Unlike a country or city, the UNDP is an institution providing loans for borrowers or giving support to improve their water resources according to their own WRM policies. No direct comparison is made between Hong Kong's WRM policies with that of the UNDP.

EE/SEA

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 related to water resources management, which has high relationship with climate change problem.

While in Hong Kong, there are both statutory and non-statutory systems for PPP projects. 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.

25.5 Examples of Water Resources Management Policies / Actions or their Environmental Evaluation/SEA

Example UNDP-1	UNDP – Publicis Water Alert Campaign
Description of the Campaign	<p>Overcoming the crisis in water and sanitation is one of the great human development challenges of the early 21st century. Success in addressing that challenge through a concerted national and international response would act as a catalyst for progress in public health, education and poverty reduction and as a source of economic dynamism.⁴⁰⁶</p> <p>On 10 November 2006, the United Nations Development Programme and Publicis Italy launched this campaign to make more people in the world to be aware the fact that one in six people in the world lacks proper access to safe drinking water. Together with the 2006 Human Development Report, another report named “Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis” was released by UNDP on 9 November 2006.⁴⁰⁷</p> <p>The Water Alert campaign comprises four print advertisements designed pro-bono by the Milan based agency of Publicis (English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, German). Newspapers and magazines in rich countries are invited to join the water challenge by publishing them free-of-charge.⁴⁰⁸</p>
Mechanisms of the Campaign	Newspapers and magazines in the developed world are invited to join the water challenge by publishing free of charge the campaign’s four print advertisements, designed pro bono by the Milan-based agency of Publicis.
Expected Outcome of the Campaign	The campaign is expected to gain support for universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation. ⁴⁰⁹

⁴⁰⁶ Extracted from “About the Global Water Crisis” from the website of UNDP, <http://www.undp.org/wateralert/aboutthecrisis.shtml>

⁴⁰⁷ Extracted from “About the Water Alert Campaign” from the website of UNDP, <http://www.undp.org/wateralert/>

⁴⁰⁸ Extracted from “Download the ads” from the website of UNDP, <http://www.undp.org/wateralert/ads.shtml>

⁴⁰⁹ Extracted from “About the Water Alert Campaign” from the website of UNDP, <http://www.undp.org/wateralert/>