

# Policy Recommendations for ACP Countries

## Invest in environmental protection for poverty eradication

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- Institutions and policies must be put in place to ensure that pro-poor investment in environmental assets yield sufficient economic benefits.
- Governance systems should enable poor people to access, develop, manage and benefit from those environmental assets that are key to their livelihoods, health and security.
- Environmental monitoring and assessment should be strengthened to better gauge the contribution of environmental assets to wealth creation and pro-poor growth.

## Raise pro-poor environmental priorities in the programming of the 10th EDF

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- The 10th EDF's 22 billion Euro budget and the current programming exercise represent an important political commitment by the EU towards a new course of cooperation with ACP countries.
- A new generation of Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) is being developed under the 10th EDF programming process. With its significant budget increase, the 10th EDF provides new opportunities for ACP countries to address natural resource management challenges, while at the same time eradicating poverty and stimulating economic growth.
- A strong message should be sent to the next ACP-EC Council that the proposed financial package must include sufficient resources for natural resource management challenges.

## Strengthening the environmental focus within the CSPs

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- ACP Governments have an opportunity to re-orientate their CSPs to protect the natural asset base of the poor, not only to generate income, but as well, to increase well-being and eradicate poverty.
- ACP Governments can highlight their environmental priorities in the development of country environmental profiles and environmental assessments in CSPs and in the use of strategic environmental assessments of priority sectors.
- Empowering civil society to participate in decision-making especially in terms of setting CSP budget priorities may also help to identify important environmental challenges.
- Spending ministries could develop strategies specifically aimed at managing the environment to reduce poverty and develop stronger institutional links with environment ministries.

## Consider the importance of a healthy environment on poverty eradication

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- The World Bank maintains that environmental assets make up a larger share of national wealth in developing countries, making the protection of natural capital absolutely critical for poverty eradication.
- According to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the poor are most vulnerable to the degradation of their environment.
- Indeed, many of the regions facing the greatest challenges in achieving the MDGs also face significant problems of ecosystem degradation.
- The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment maintains that the loss of services derived from ecosystems is a significant barrier to the achievement of the MDGs.

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by :

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption



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Key sources: UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, UNEP African Environmental Outlook, UNDP/UNEP PEI PEP Papers: <http://www.acep-programming.eu> FAO, World Bank, 1998 Panda symbol WWF - World Wide Fund For Nature (Formerly World Wildlife Fund) - "WWF" and "living planet" are Registered Trademarks. design: meter+unendlich communication



*According to the UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, the planet's natural assets must be seen as part of the fight against poverty*



## The Environment: Key for Economic Growth and Development in the ACP

Opportunities for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to eradicate poverty more effectively through environmental protection

### Poverty eradication and economic growth depend on the environment

The poor derive much of their livelihoods from natural resources. 1.1 billion people worldwide depend on forests for their livelihoods.

Environmental assets provide 25% of wealth in low-income countries. Yet environmental assets per person are four times greater in the OECD.

Environmental investments for poverty eradication are an important boost to economic growth, especially for such regions as Africa, where 92% of all export earnings are environment-based.

97% of natural disaster deaths occur in developing countries, making the poor especially vulnerable.

### New political commitments for environment and poverty eradication

Article 32 of the Cotonou Agreement requires the EU to integrate environmental considerations into all aspects of development cooperation.

The EU's new development policy elevates environmental protection to the same political footing as economic and social development.

The EU has significantly increased the resources for the 10th European Development Fund (EDF): 22 billion Euro for the period 2008-2013. This money could go a long way toward poverty eradication, economic growth and environmental protection in the ACP.

The seventh Millennium Development Goal (MDG 7) requires all governments to take steps to reverse the loss of environmental resources.

### A new partnership era of EU-ACP development cooperation

The Cotonou Agreement represents an important new approach in the EU's development cooperation with the ACP region.

ACP countries now have greater opportunities to shape their own path towards poverty eradication and economic development.

The current aid programming exercise under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) also sets a new course in cooperation, especially through the new Country Strategy Papers (CSPs).

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Why the Cotonou Agreement must address environmental protection

Opportunities for ACP countries to influence the 10th EDF programming process

Environment is essential for economic growth

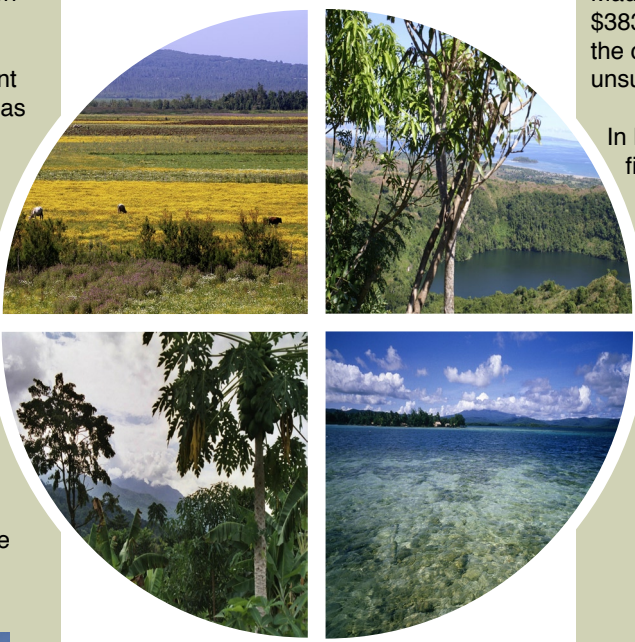
Over 70% of Africa's population depend on natural resources for their livelihoods.

92% of all export earnings on the continent originate from primary commodities such as agricultural, mineral, marine, and forest products.

Globally, the Earth's 3.4 billion hectares of forest support livelihoods of 90% of the world's 1.2 billion poor people.

According to the Millennium Task Force for MDG 7, in many parts of the world, poor households secure up to 100% of their income from fishing, a resource that supplies 16.5% of the animal protein consumed worldwide -- significant because under-nutrition accounts for 30% of deaths in the developing world.

Ecosystem services are vital for human well-being



**Provisioning services:** food, freshwater, firewood, bio-chemicals, genetic resources.

**Regulating services:** water, climate and disease regulation, and water purification.

**Cultural services:** recreation and ecotourism, educational, and spiritual.

**Supporting services:** soil formation, nutrient cycling, and supporting biological production.

UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005

The costs of environmental degradation are high

Madagascar's per capita GDP slid from \$383 in 1960 to \$246 in 2002 as a result of the conversion of biodiversity-rich forests to unsustainable low-yield agriculture.

In Mauritania employment in octopus fishery dropped 64% in 5 years as a result of over-fishing and over capacity of foreign fleets.

Land degradation in Africa keeps the increase in food production at only half the rate of the increase of population from 1970-1990 (1.4% and 3.0%, respectively).



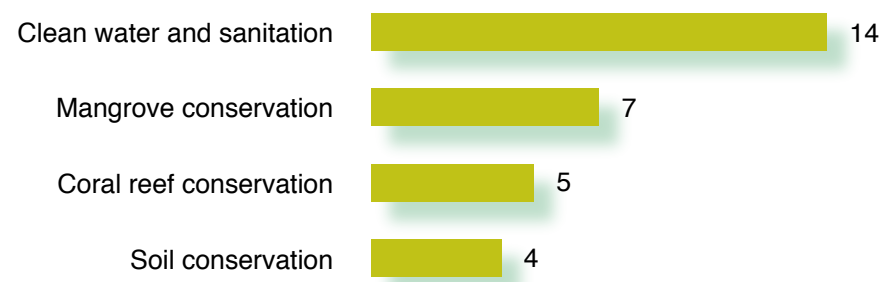
Water sanitation-related diseases and pollution-related respiratory diseases are two of the leading causes of under-five child mortality



Time spent collecting water and fuel can reduce time available for schooling

"Africa has come to approach the environment in a fundamentally new way – from seeing environmental issues as a constraint to development, to regarding the environment, if properly managed, as an opportunity for economic growth and development." UNEP's Africa Environmental Outlook (AEO)

Environmental investments have promising rates of return (up to the following rates of return per US\$ invested)



Source: Bass S., 2006, Environment for the MDGs, An IIED Briefing: Making poverty reduction irreversible: development implications of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment

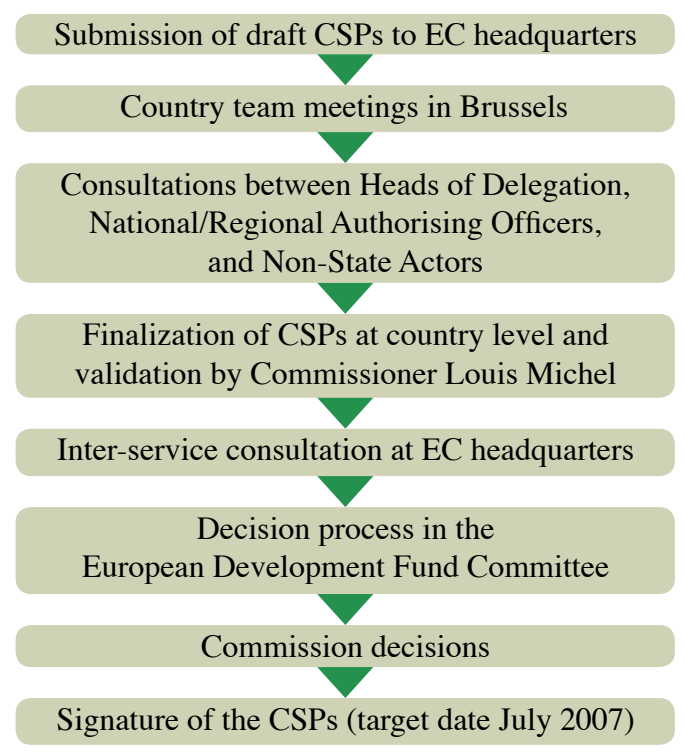
Opportunities for ACP countries to influence the 10th EDF programming process

The *UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment* emphasises that **natural assets** must be seen as part of the **fight against poverty**. Many of the **regions facing the greatest challenges** achieving the **MDGs** must also cope with **severe ecosystem degradation**. It asserts that **development policies** aimed at reducing poverty that **ignore the impact** of our current behaviour on the natural environment may well be **doomed to failure**.

The programming cycle under the 10th EDF

The 10th EDF programming cycle was launched by a series of Regional Seminars in ACP countries. Marking a new approach in European development cooperation, ACP countries had opportunities to highlight their key priorities.

The actual programming process will include the following key phases (note that the timing of each will vary from country to country):



Significant resources for the 10th EDF

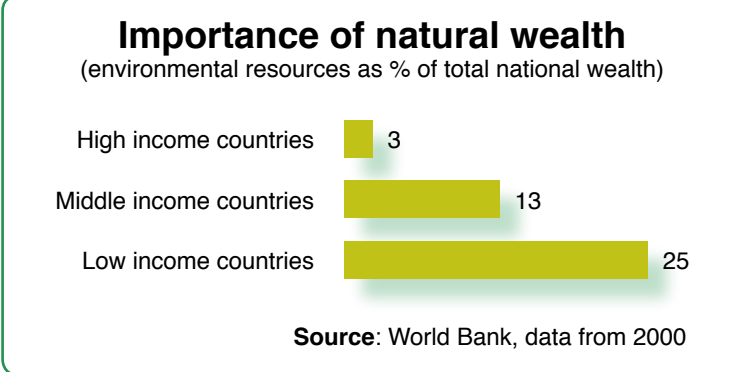
In June 2006, the ACP-EC Council of Ministers held its annual meeting and decided on a financial package for the 10th EDF in the amount of 22 billion Euro for 2008-2013.

The European Commission's proposals represent a 35% increase from the 9th EDF.

There are several concrete steps that ACP countries should take

Consult with the local authorities and non-state actors throughout the programming dialogue. Their views and contributions will be important for identifying environment and poverty priorities and initiatives to be included in the CSPs.

Ensure that the European Commission Delegations consult with civil society during the programming exercise. The delegation is expected to play a facilitator role.



Artisanal fisheries depend on a healthy resource base



Natural resources and livelihoods are intertwined