

Environmental tools in EC development cooperation

An analysis of country and regional environmental profiles



April 2009

Contacts



WWF European Policy Office
Avenue de Tervurenlaan 168, Box 20, B-1150, Brussels, Belgium
email: snicholson@wwfepo.org
website: www.panda.org/eu



FERN
Rue d'Edimbourg, 26, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium
email: info@fern.org
website: www.fern.org



BirdLife International / European Division
Avenue de la Toison d'Or 67, B-1060 Brussels, Belgium
email: europe@birdlife.org
website: <http://europe.birdlife.org>

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the many partners and civil society organisations who added inputs, reviewed sections and shared their comments with us. We would like to thank funders ICCO, WWF, FERN and RSPB (BirdLife in the UK), as well as others who have kindly given their time to comment and input.

Researched by: M. J. Mofolo

Contributing authors: Iola Leal Riesco, Tatiana Nemcova, Sally Nicholson, Joanna Phillips

Editor: Richard Wainwright

Designer: Daan van Beek

ISBN number: 978-1-906607-04-3

Cover photo: Wetland Management. Bhekepi Dlamini (40) says her life was very difficult when her husband died a few years ago. But since she started to cut common sedge (*Cyperus latifolia*) and work with the craft group Thubalethelihle (which means 'Our good opportunity' in Zulu), she has started to generate her own income by making conference bags from the wetland plants. Plants are mostly harvested in winter and allowed to dry. Republic of South Africa. Photo: Chris Marais/WWF-Canon

© FERN, April 2008.

This material is offered free of charge for personal and non-commercial use, provided the source is acknowledged. For commercial or any other use, prior written permission must be obtained from FERN. In no case may this material be altered, sold or rented.

Contents

List of abbreviations	4	Annexes	25
Executive summary	5	Annex 1 List of CEPs/REPs assessed	26
Introduction	7	Annex 2 Checklist to assess the quality of CEPs/REPs	27
Methodology	9	Annex 3 EuropeAid checklist to assess quality of CEPs	29
Findings and recommendations	11	Annex 4 Official ToR for CEP or REP report format	31
Issue 1 Lack of good environmental data	11	Annex 5 Brief overview of the CEPs/REPs and comments	39
Issue 2 Insufficient information on human capacity	12	Botswana	39
Issue 3 Inadequate analysis of governance and corruption	12	Burkina Faso	41
Issue 4 Insufficient analysis of laws, policies and institutions	13	Cameroon	43
Issue 5 Inadequate analysis of land tenure, the judiciary and legal systems	14	Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)	45
Issue 6 Poor inclusion of civil society, local communities, indigenous groups and gender issues in the consultation process	15	Dominican Republic	46
Issue 7 Lack of depth and knowledge in dealing with critical issues of climate change, environmental protection (including rehabilitation and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems), and waste management	17	Fiji	48
Issue 8 Failure to adequately address and analyse EC policies on fishing, forest governance and trade	18	Ghana	50
Issue 9 Insufficient awareness of EC tools and procedures for development assistance programming	20	Indonesia	52
Issue 10 Effective and appropriate recommendations and indicators often lacking and must be linked to EC programming and follow up	20	Ivory Coast	54
Conclusion	23	Kenya	56
		Liberia	58
		Malawi	60
		Mauritania	62
		Mongolia	64
		Niger	66
		Papua New Guinea	68
		Philippines	70
		Sierra Leone	72
		Tanzania	74
		Andean Community	76
		Central American Region	78

List of abbreviations

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
ALA	Asia and Latin America
CEP	Country Environmental Profile
CSP	Country Strategy Paper
DAC	Development Assistance Committee of the OECD
DCI	EC Development Cooperation Instrument
DRC	The Democratic Republic of the Congo
EC	European Community
EDF	European Development Fund
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
EUEF	EU Energy Facility
EUWF	EU Water Facility
FERN	Forests and the European Union Resource Network
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
GBS	Generalised Budget Support
GTZ	German Development Cooperation Agency
IBA	Important Bird Areas
IIED	International Institute for Environment and Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IWRM	Integrated Water and Resources Management
MEA	Multinational Environmental Agreement
NEAP	National Environment Action Plan
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
NIP	National Indicative Programme
NSSD	National Strategy for Sustainable Development
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCM	Project Cycle Management
PIRC	Public Research Interest Centre
REP	Regional Environmental Profile
RSPB	The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SIA	Strategic Impact Assessment
SPSP	Sector Policy Support Programme
SWAP	Sector Wide Approach
ToR	Terms of Reference
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature (Formerly World Wildlife Fund)

Executive summary

The European Union (EU) is the largest aid donor in the world, disbursing over half of total global Official Development Assistance (ODA). It is important then that the 2005 European Consensus on Development¹ states that ‘eradication of poverty in the context of sustainable development’ is the overarching objective of EU Development Cooperation. For development to be sustainable, it has to ensure that the building blocks of human wellbeing – natural resources, the environment, biodiversity and ecosystem services – are maintained.

The European Commission manages between one fifth and one sixth of the EU’s ODA, and the European Consensus requires that cross-cutting issues such as human rights, gender and the environment are mainstreamed throughout development cooperation. One of the tools designated by the European Commission to help ensure environmental considerations are taken into account when creating national and regional aid programmes is the environmental profile.

In 2007, BirdLife, FERN and WWF published ‘*Environmental Tools in EC Development Cooperation*’,² a report documenting the presence and public availability of tools necessary to facilitate public consultation and participation in environmental aspects of development cooperation, including environmental profiles, environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments.

This report follows on from this investigation and provides an analysis of 21 geographically-diverse country and regional environmental profiles in order to assess the quality and value of the information they provide. It was written by an independent expert completing a desk study of 19 Country Environmental Profiles (CEPs) and two Regional Environmental Profiles (REPs). The analysis has been further strengthened by contributions from partner organisations in some of the countries concerned. Countries chosen and the reasons for their inclusion can be found in annex 1.

Key recommendations coming out of the report include:

- Documentation, including environmental profiles, results of previous European Community (EC) evaluations, environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments, must be in the public domain and readily accessible (for example linked to Country Strategy Paper (CSP) web pages³). This will enhance both the collation of environmental data and public participation in environmental governance.
- Civil society should be involved in the development of environmental profiles so as to provide local knowledge and perspectives on the environmental situation and environmental governance.

1 The European Consensus on Development Official Journal of the EU (2006/C 46/01) www.ec.europa.eu

2 www.fern.org

3 http://ec.europa.eu/development/how/iqsg/documents_library_en.cfm?CFID=2756730&CFTOKEN=23020033&jsessionid=0806663febb31a53773

- Recommendations in the environmental profiles should focus on how environmental issues (including priorities and challenges/opportunities for implementation) can be most effectively addressed by EC cooperation, through programming and dialogue with governments. Recommendations should include consideration of the focal sectors and highlight the presence of any additional EC studies (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs)). They should also encourage the strengthening of institutions and civil society; suggest potential indicators; address coordination with other donors; include recommendations from previous evaluations and address coherence with other relevant EC programmes or agreements (e.g. sustainability of EC fisheries agreements or EC trade agreements).
- Climate change should be covered in much more depth, including the availability of impact data and gaps; short and long term adaptation priorities for the poor and the biodiversity and ecosystems on which they rely; and opportunities to support low carbon development.
- Land tenure issues should be given more attention. Deeper analysis should be provided on land tenure and on its impact on land users, in particular women and indigenous peoples, paying careful attention to the judiciary and legal systems that are in place. This is a necessary first step as these laws impact hugely on land use and environmental protection.

These suggestions should be used as the basis of future analysis of CEPs/REPs and guide future CEP/REP preparation, particularly their recommendations and indicators.

FERN, WWF, and BirdLife hope that this report will contribute towards improving the environmentally and socially just use and management of natural resources in countries where the EU provides development assistance.

>
 Talang Mamak people.
 Their trading way
 of life is threatened
 by forest clearance.
 Planting Petai trees
 produces edible pods.
 Rantaulangs Village,
 Bukit Tigapuluh,
 Sumatra Indonesia.

Photo: Mark Edwards/
 WWF-Canon





Introduction

The main tool to ensure environmental issues are integrated during EC programming is the **Country Environmental Profile (CEP)**.⁴ The programming phase is crucial for environmental integration because key decisions concerning the overall co-operation process are made that can be difficult to adjust in later phases. The CEP is used in the preparation of the EC strategies for cooperation with countries (known as CSP, and accompanied by a National Indicative Programme – or NIP, which defines the actions to attain the objectives set down in the CSP, for reference and to ensure policy coherence. A summary of the CEP must be annexed to the CSP.

The Commission website states that CEPs are ‘*A report that includes the analysis of the country’s environmental situation, current policies, institutional capacities and environmental cooperation experience with clear recommendations for the integration of the environment during CSP preparation.*’

A CEP is required for all beneficiary countries. EC staff is responsible for their development, often using consultants to undertake the studies. According to the EC Environment handbook,⁵ the profile will deliver the following results:

- An assessment of the state of the environment and key environmental factors and trends influencing the country’s development and stability.
- An assessment of national environmental policy and legislation, institutional structures and capacity, and the involvement of civil society in environmental issues.
- An assessment of the integration of environmental concerns in development policy and sectors with key linkages to environmental issues.
- An overview of past and ongoing international (including EC) cooperation in the environment sector.
- Recommendations and, as far as possible, guidelines or criteria for mainstreaming environmental concerns in cooperation areas.

In order to build on the 2007 WWF, BirdLife, FERN study ‘*Environmental Tools in*

⁴ For regions for which the EU has a specific programme for development cooperation, Regional Environmental Profiles (REPs) are developed.

⁵ <http://www.environment-integration.eu/content/view/166/229/lang,en/>

EC Development Cooperation, which documented the presence and public availability of tools necessary to facilitate public consultation and participation in environmental aspects of development cooperation, this report has been written to provide an analysis of the information in CEPs across 27 countries.⁶ It assesses the quality of information provided to see if the tools are able to do the job for which they are intended. The main bulk of this report is a series of recommendations to improve future profiles and therefore enable better incorporation of environmental issues into current and future EC programming.

Why does environmental mainstreaming matter?

Environmental mainstreaming (or integrating environmental issues into development programmes) is vitally important as many developing countries are rich in biodiversity and have significant natural resources and important ecosystems which deliver vital local and global services. Despite this, they are suffering varying degrees of environmental degradation. This degradation impacts on the poor first and worst; they often rely first hand on natural resources, ecosystem services and biodiversity – particularly in times of hardship, insecurity and when faced with external shocks.

Our analysis found significant gaps that we believe need to be addressed if CEPs and REPs are to be effective. These gaps are set out in full in the main report and a summary is outlined in table 1.

Table 1 Summary of identified gaps in the CEPs/REPs

1	Scarce environmental data (available and/or accessed) in many of the countries.
2	Insufficient statistical information on existing and required human capacity.
3	Inadequate analysis of the underlying problems of weak governance and corruption.
4	Insufficient analysis and proposals for effective environmental governance.
5	Inadequate analysis of how land tenure, the judiciary and legal systems influence natural resource use and protection.
6	Lack of depth and knowledge in dealing with significant issues, notably: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate change; • environmental protection, including rehabilitation and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems; • waste management.
7	Inadequate consultation of civil society, local communities and minority groups. This includes insufficient consideration of the important role such groups must play in natural resource management, protection of the environment and finding lasting solutions to combat environmental degradation.
8	Insufficient awareness of EC tools for delivering development assistance and control and evaluation mechanisms.
9	Failure to adequately address EC policies in areas such as fishing which can have a detrimental impact on marine ecosystems in some of the countries under review.
10	Lack of indicators to determine use and implementation of CEP/REPs in EC programming.

6 This includes both individual countries and countries included in regional analysis, or REPs.



Methodology

In order to decide upon which countries to base the analysis on, the following criteria were used: whether there was a good geographical spread across Africa, Caribbean, Pacific, Asia and Latin America, whether the commissioning NGOs had partners working in those countries, and whether their profile was available. A list of CEPs/REPs assessed can be found in Annex 1.

The analysis assessed both country and regional environmental profiles against a checklist of questions which including those presented in the '*EC terms of reference (ToR) for the development of CEPs and REPs*'.⁷ (See Annexes 2, 3 and 4 for checklists and official ToR for CEPs.)

Further work was done to provide a summary of each of the CEPs and REPs analysed, and the outcomes are shown in Annex 5. Each summary sets out key environmental conditions on the ground, underlying causes of environmental degradation and provides comments on recommendations made in the profile. Where we received them, they include input from partners working in the countries. Table 2 shows what the Commission suggests to be the main contents of a CEP.

7 See <http://www.environment-integration.eu/content/view/166/229/lang,en/>

Table 2: Main contents of a CEP, as set out by the Commission.⁸

Summary	Brief presentation of the main environmental problems, the main conclusions and recommendations.
State of the environment	An assessment of the state and trends of the environment in relation to development, including an identification of the main environmental problems to resolve or avoid. This section addresses the relationship between the environment and the social and economic situation, and more particularly between poverty and environment.
Environmental policies and institutions	A presentation of the main features of the institutional, policy and regulatory framework leading to the identification of weaknesses and constraints on the capacity to address main environmental concerns, including a review of the legislation and procedures regarding EIA and SEA. A review of the international obligations undertaken by the country in the area of environmental protection.
Environment in the main policies and sectors	An identification of links between the main government policies (overall development policy, PRSP, sector policies) and environmental sustainability issues, providing indications on the extent of existing environmental mainstreaming and SEA, with a special attention paid to the 'focal sectors' of EC intervention.
Analysis of aid	A description of past and ongoing aid from the EC and other donors in the field of the environment, incorporating lessons learnt from major evaluations. Assessment of opportunities to collaborate with other donors in pursuing common goals and seeking complementarities.
Conclusions and recommendations	Recommendations on how environmental issues can be most effectively addressed by EC cooperation, their relative priority and the implementation challenges. These must particularly address environmental aspects to take into account under potential focal sectors, including additional studies (such as SEA), capacity building/institutional strengthening, and potential indicators to be used in the NIP. These environmental integration measures may go along with recommendations concerning specific actions targeting the environment as a 'focal sector', i.e. having environmental improvements as the main objective.

>
Experimental farm,
Luangwa Integrated
Resource Development
Project. Chipata valley,
South Luangwa,
Zambia

Photo: Roger LeGUEN/
WWF-Canon





Findings and recommendations

There were many similarities between the CEPs that formed part of the research. For example, major drivers of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss included unsustainable land use change, overexploitation of natural resources, invasive species and pollution. These will exacerbate or be compounded by climate change. Common underlying problems include weak governance, corruption,⁹ land tenure issues, increasing urbanisation and high population growth. Many also suffer from a lack of available, empirically sound data and information on the state of the environment. In several countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, poverty is still increasing, and there are also those in which all these issues are or have been further exacerbated by civil war, instability and its aftermath.

Nonetheless, many of the countries have environmental laws, have ratified and participate in international environmental conventions and global agreements on sustainable development. Many have civil society and local community groups participating (to varying degrees) in environmental, social and economic issues. These similarities mean that, whilst not universal, our analysis of overarching gaps and recommendations will be relevant to most countries and profiles and should be considered with any future country or regional profiling work.

Our research also identified significant gaps in the CEPs and REPs. These are outlined below, along with background to the analysis and recommendations for addressing them.

Issue 1

Lack of good environmental data

Many of the CEPs highlighted lack of environmental data, for example on existing biodiversity, as one of the main problems. This included information on where biodiversity was being lost and what the causes of that loss were. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) was the worst case example, because of its long civil war.

⁹ Most countries covered by this analysis have corruption levels of over 150 (on a rank of 1-180, where 180 is highest corruption), according to the 2008 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index – http://www.transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/cpi

Several reports also stressed lack of and the need for effective in-country environmental indicators.

Recommendations

The EC should support or work with partner countries to establish systems to collect data and use it effectively. In many of the countries, weak government and a lack of resources will make it difficult to achieve this. Solutions should therefore consider how to ensure long term monitoring capacity (especially financing and human capacity), by for example, establishing monitoring systems with governments, local communities and/or institutions of higher learning. For example, the BirdLife Partnership has NGO Partners in 86 of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) listed countries whose work is underpinned by biodiversity monitoring, data collection and analysis. Future work to prepare CEPs should outreach to NGOs and other organisations that use or collect environmental data and information.

Where the underlying problem is continuing instability, as in the DRC, this may obviously be difficult to achieve in the short term.

Issue 2

Insufficient information on human capacity

Most of the CEPs recommend capacity training and support in the countries reviewed. However, they fail to give adequate figures as to existing human capacity, ability of the beneficiary countries to provide training, or targets to aim for. Neither do they adequately analyse the reasons for lack of capacity.

Recommendation

Information on existing human capacity, including ability to provide training can and should be obtained by EC delegation staff, and targets for future training should be done in consultation with government, civil society and local communities. It is important that CEPs/REPs analyse other issues around capacity (such as civil service turnover, weak governance and corruption, including its impact on motivation and delivery, and brain drain due to economic conditions) and include recommendations as to how they can be addressed. Costing and financing should also be considered in order to facilitate proper planning.

Issue 3

Inadequate analysis of governance and corruption

This subject is discussed in some of the CEPs, but in such broad terms that it is difficult to make a proper assessment of the issue. An understanding of how widespread and deep corruption is in both the public and private sphere, will enable understanding of whether action is possible and how costly it would be to cooperation activities. Being

aware of underlying governance issues such as tribal or political rivalries, skills gaps and misguided projects or policies would also make it possible to make realistic strategies and plans.

Recommendation

Because information on governance and corruption is sensitive and often difficult for consultants to collect, this analysis would be best carried out by EC delegation staff. The EC should continue its measures to address appropriate environmental governance in development cooperation with partner countries.¹⁰ This is not enough though; clear strategies for tackling corruption and transparency are necessary and should include monitoring and evaluation of actions taken.

Issue 4

Insufficient analysis of laws, policies and institutions

Many of the CEPs analysed show that as well as having national laws and institutions to address environmental issues, many countries have ratified international environmental conventions. What they lack however is sufficient analysis of how existing environmental legislation is being implemented and how institutions are working together to deliver effective environmental governance. For example, whether legislation is effectively achieving its aims and whether this is in keeping with international agreements and conventions (including those linked to indigenous peoples and human rights).

Recommendation

In future, the EC should consider supporting governments to effectively deliver national and international environmental commitments and priorities including, where necessary, strengthening, harmonising or reforming legislation and institutions.

We would urge that any institutional or legal reforms should take place in full consultation with rights holders and stakeholders, and any process should help equitably address any power imbalances between environmental departments and others. Such imbalances can result in weakening of existing or new environmental or social protection laws, for example through pressure from commercial or vested interests in unsustainable development.

These complex issues cannot be addressed within the remit of a CEP alone. It is recommended that separate studies should take place where appropriate in each country, supported by legal experts, and fed back into CEP and CSP processes.

¹⁰ e.g. The European Consensus on Development 2005 (see above) and Resolution of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Kigali (Rwanda) 2007 www.europarl.europa.eu Note also Governance Communication http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/ACP_governance_profile_explanotev2_en.doc



^
Fishermen
returning from
the sea with their
catch. Zanzibar
Island, Tanzania

Photo: Martin Harvey/
WWF-Canon

Issue 5

Inadequate analysis of land tenure, the judiciary and legal systems

Most CEPs/REPs mention land tenure in passing, but its importance is not fully recognised. Land tenure issues impact hugely on natural resource use and environmental protection. Insecure and uncertain tenure is often the root cause of unsustainable and sometimes destructive natural resource use. Secure tenure is also important for the process of decentralisation as it provides certainty and security of ownership of the resources. Unresolved land tenure issues can fester for many years and in the meantime, frustrate attempts to achieve sustainable land use and development. A well documented example of this is Liberia.¹¹

11 'So Who Owns The Forest' Liz Alden Wily (2007) – www.fern.org

As well as this, an independent, effective and accessible legal system is necessary to support legislative measures for environmental protection. The judiciary provides protection and certainty, helps to maintain a check against the power of the state vis-à-vis the civilian population, and provides arbitration over conflicting claims. Although it is barely addressed in most of the CEPs/REPs, an independent, accessible judiciary that is timely in its deliberations is an indispensable part of a well functioning governance system.

Recommendation

Future CEPs/REPs should ensure deeper analysis of land tenure and its impact on land users, especially in relation to women and indigenous groups. Ensuring equitable distribution of land and secure land tenure will result in better protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

Future CEPs should also pay careful attention to the judiciary and legal systems that are in place. They should call for just appointments of judicial officers, and secure tenure of office. Another important point is to ensure that costs of litigation are not too high so that access to arbitration processes is available to all.

CEPs should also assess the present legal system, taking into account that many former colonies use received legal systems and laws which are alien and irrelevant to the people they are meant to serve.

Issues surrounding land tenure and judicial systems are complex and so would be best addressed by in-country independent studies supported by legal experts. Many legal issues which are not necessarily environmental, impact on environmental issues. For example, marital and inheritance laws can affect land tenure, and taxation can affect natural resource use and investment in infrastructure.

Issue 6

Poor inclusion of civil society, local communities, indigenous groups and gender issues in the consultation process

Whilst some of the profiles treat civil society issues well, others only mention it as an afterthought. Those in the latter category were written in consultation with only one or two civil society groups and, even where the government is weak, still call for support of government institutions while ignoring the need for civil society to be involved in increasing the government's accountability.

Analysis of the reasons why local society groups do not assume their role in governance and development is weak and the problems they face are not outlined. Often civil society loses key staff (known as *brain drain*, when staff move to international institutions offering higher salaries), are obstructed or persecuted by government, or do not have the financial capacity to sustain themselves. Even in countries such as Kenya, where there are strong civil society groups effective in environmental issues, few CEPs/REPs highlight

their programmes or impact. More importantly though, is the lack of recommendations outlining how civil society could be supported.

Another outstanding issue was that indigenous peoples' rights are not well covered by many of the environmental profiles. This is a dangerous omission for two reasons: first, indigenous communities are often better guardians of forests and ecosystems than government officials; second this is a breach of the EU obligation to address indigenous peoples' rights throughout its policies and programmes.¹²

Finally, whilst most CEPs/REPs mention gender in varying degrees, it is clear that in many countries, integration of gender in public and civil actions is not satisfactory. There is no analysis on why women continue to be marginalised in many activities. An understanding of gender roles, including reproductive health rights, in natural resource management and environmental protection is essential if the environmental profiles are to be effective tools for development cooperation and contribute to poverty reduction.

Recommendation

The EU must live up to the position outlined in its *'Environmental Integration Handbook'*.¹³ To ensure that civil society is an integral part of development cooperation, and especially that local communities are participants in and beneficiaries of environmental resource management, the following actions are recommended:

- Future CEPs/REPs should report on civil society's role in good governance and development and call for greater support to be given to effective and efficient civil society groups and local communities, including those that enhance governance.
- EC delegation staff should identify reliable and efficient groups that can form part of the development cooperation partnership and they should be mentioned in future environmental profiles.
- CEPs should critically look at whether cooperation assistance is too short term to support the sustainability of NGOs and other not for profit civil society groups.
- Future CEPs/REPs should analyse support for local communities, including amongst others, the attitude of donors to small community grants because small local community projects do not have the capacity to absorb large grants and work best when they start small and grow incrementally.
- A full assessment of civil society in many countries might not be possible within the remit of the environmental profiles and could be something for ongoing work by delegation staff. Initiatives by the EC to map and support non-state actors in partner countries have been around since 2003.¹⁴ There is currently a mapping exercise of civil society organisations underway for the EU-Africa strategy and the EC recommended roadmap for civil society consultation includes a mapping exercise. It will be important to look at the outcomes of these exercises when writing future CEPs/REPs.
- Indigenous peoples' rights should be properly addressed in all future CEPs/REPs. Particular attention should be paid to the laws and regulations relating to land distribution, land tenure, legal protection, obstacles to accessing the courts and whether

12 The European Consensus on Development – ibid p29

13 Environmental Integration Handbook for EC Development Cooperation – www.environment-integration.eu

14 Participation of Non-State Actors in EC Development Policy 2003 – Official Journal of the European Union C76/447 : www.eur-lex.europa.eu

there is effective implementation of existing protective laws.

- With regards to gender issues, profiles should include analysis of the level of participation of women in natural resource management at community level; obstacles to the inclusion of women in public and civil actions; and any initiatives taken to improve the participation of women in public and civil actions. This is particularly important in the light of EC initiatives to address gender issues.¹⁵

Issue 7

Lack of depth and knowledge in dealing with critical issues of climate change, environmental protection (including rehabilitation and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems), and waste management

Most profiles say very little about climate change, despite the fact that poverty reduction, climate change and biodiversity are intimately linked and should in many instances be tackled as an integrated problem. Major drivers of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss include unsustainable land use change, overexploitation of natural resources, invasive species and pollution. Changes to natural ecosystems can influence both climate change and people's ability to adapt or cope with its damaging impacts. Conserving and managing biodiversity can increase resilience, helping natural systems and vulnerable people cope with and adapt to a shifting global climate.¹⁶

The number of studies on climate change and policy documents being produced by various international organisations, including the EU¹⁷ is increasing. The rate of climate change has already exceeded the capacity of some species and ecosystems to adapt naturally, and is close to exceeding that of others. Further climate change will have increasingly significant direct impacts on biodiversity and this will mean an increased rate of species extinctions, leading to with the extreme negative consequences of losing the provision of services these species and ecosystems provide. This will have significant economic and ecological costs and the world's poor will be impacted first and hardest.¹⁸

All parties now involved in development programming should be aware that there can be unintended and undesirable environmental consequences of development programmes: roads often cut through otherwise undisturbed ecosystems and make poaching and other environmentally degrading activities easier; large dams can change ecosystems and result in flooding and loss of habitat and livelihoods; and the introduction of alien plant or animal species can have a negative effect on biodiversity.

Sources of pollution should also be an important aspect of CEPs and REPs. Pollution is a widespread problem in developing countries, although many polluting practices do not originate there but are instead exported to these countries. The siting of polluting industries within minority communities and/or poor countries is also a widespread

¹⁵ Participation of Non-State Actors in EC Development Policy 2003 – www.ec.europa.eu

¹⁶ Bio-diversity, climate change and poverty: exploring the links. Hanna Reid and Krystyna Swiderska, Feb 2008 -IIED

¹⁷ www.ec.europa.eu/climateaction, www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports, www.unfccc.int; www.worldbank.org; www.oecd.org etc

¹⁸ For example, IPCC 4th Assessment, Climate Safety, in case of emergency, Public Research Interest Centre (PIRC), 2008; Convention on Biological Diversity Ad Hoc Technical Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change.

problem. There are many factors which impinge on pollution and waste management such as production and consumption, both of which result in huge waste products that are a problem for developing and developed countries.¹⁹ The environmental profiles concentrate only on the obvious and fail to show a wider understanding of the problems and make recommendations accordingly.

As awareness of environmental problems grow, so do the processes which exist to tackle developmental and environmental issues. Examples include improving governance and strengthening institutions, through, for example, participatory rural management and integrated river basin and wetland management. The CEPs/REPs touch on some of these aspects, but not sufficiently, especially in the light of problems concerning water and food security. The need for poverty alleviation and the development of sustainable energy are critical issues in most of the countries under review.

Recommendation

There is a need for the CEPs/REPs to better address predicted impacts of climate change on people, natural resources and biodiversity. Up to date climate science should be taken on board in current programming, and up to date analysis should be used in future profiles, including appropriate recommendations for action. CEPs/REPs should explicitly articulate the important relationship between biodiversity and the ecosystem services on which we all depend.

CEPs and REPs should ensure that their recommendations take into account existing SEAs and EIAs. To ensure this is done well, recommendations should be written with national and international development and environmental experts, working directly with the EC, civil society and the government.

It is also important to note that the problem of pollution cannot be tackled by developing countries alone. As Europe, one of the greatest trading partners of developing countries, cleans up its own industries by ensuring it uses clean technology and non-polluting products, so solid waste (especially of the toxic kind) will become less of a problem for developing countries. EU companies' adherence to EU anti pollution laws should be highlighted in the profiles, especially with reference to exporting waste, setting up polluting industries or allowing polluting practices in developing countries.

Issue 8

Failure to adequately address and analyse EC policies on fishing, forest governance and trade

Fishing: Profiles of some of the countries mention EU vessels fishing in their territorial waters as putting a strain on their marine resources. There is, however, scant information on fishing policy, including any agreements between the EU and the countries in question. European governments struggle to regulate fisheries in EU waters and it is doubtful that

19 EU Waste Policy and Challenges for Regional and Local Authorities www.ecologic.de

poor, ill equipped and sometimes corrupt governments in partner countries will be able to do so. There is a real danger that the threat to marine biodiversity we now see in European waters, will be magnified around Africa and parts of Asia and Latin America with devastating consequences.

Forest governance: Several CEPs mention the bilateral Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs)²⁰ which some forest-rich countries have or are negotiating with the EU to combat the trade in illegal wood products. FLEGT is an initiative which has the support of most local civil society groups in timber producing countries as well as international environmental and human rights NGOs.²¹ Strengthening the rights of local communities is at the heart of this EU programme and so it may have important consequences for local communities affected by logging.

Trade agreements: The CEPs/REPs are virtually silent on trade between the EU and the developing countries. Trade and trade policy have in the past impacted profoundly on development and natural resource use, especially in developing countries which rely heavily on subsistence agriculture and raw material exports for income. Disquiet is often expressed about the trade demands made by the EU on developing countries.²² The EU is increasingly looking at the impact of trade on the environment,²³ but there is still a chasm between expressed goals in development cooperation and the impact of trade and economic policies.

Recommendation

Fishing: Future CEPs/REPs should clearly indicate and analyse fishing policies and agreements, including the actual and potential problems posed by EU and foreign fleets in developing countries, as well as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and what actions if any are being taken to address them.

Forest governance: Future CEPs/REPs should look into whether local communities are participating in the VPA negotiation process, including how their rights and concerns are being taken up in the agreements. They should also analyse the impact of this approach in the relevant developing countries, focusing on legal coherence and the cost and sustainability of regulatory institutions created at national and community level.

Trade agreements: Future CEPs/REPs cannot fully deal with trade issues, but they should show awareness of the issues and comment upon them where relevant. In particular, closer attention should be given to looking at whether specific trade policies, actions or agreements are in conflict with sustainable development goals. The use of Sustainability Impact Assessments (SIAs) of trade agreements, a tool developed with this aim, should be clearly analysed and their recommendations reflected in the CEPs/REPs.

20 http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/9interventionareas/environment/forest/flegt_en.cfm?CFID=2756730&CFTOKEN=23020033&jsessionid=0806663febbc31a53773

21 www.loggingoff.info

22 European Double Standards – Olivier Hoedeman (March 2007) – www.tni.org; Yes to Global Trade – But Protect our Planet (23.11.2006) – Friends of the Earth Europe – www.foeeurope.org/trade

23 www.ec.europa.eu/trade/issues/global/gsp/index_en.htm

Issue 9

Insufficient awareness of EC tools and procedures for development assistance programming

Analysis of past cooperation programmes and assessment of lessons learnt receives little treatment in most of the environmental profiles. Some do mention that the EC does not routinely carry out evaluations of past programmes,²⁴ others that there is limited evaluation. The EC is addressing this issue and it must be incorporated in future development programming.²⁵ Evaluations are necessary to show mistakes, challenges and failures, but they are also most important to outline successes upon which to build sound strategies and policies, as well as for building an institutional memory to maximise successes and avoid future failures. This is obviously a task that falls upon the EC.

Area of work	Issue	Recommendation
EIAs and SEAs, Monitoring and Evaluation	Most environmental profiles highlight the need for monitoring and evaluation of EC cooperation programmes both at EC level and at the level of implementation. At present, such monitoring and evaluation appears erratic and inconsistent. It is already a commitment of the EC to build monitoring and evaluation mechanisms into development programmes and projects.* The importance of good monitoring and evaluation in creating institutional memory to maximise successes and avoid future failures cannot be over-emphasised.	CEPs/REPs should clearly translate analysis of EIAs, SEAs and monitoring and evaluation into actions with appropriate indicators for success.
EC budget lines and financing facilities	The EC Terms of Reference for the environmental profiles required that recommendations made should be linked to EC budget lines and/or other financing facilities. The majority of the profiles did not do this. Overall there was a sense that consultants preparing the profiles were not very conversant with EC budget lines and other financing mechanisms. Ensuring recommendations fit within specific budgets should ensure a more focused and realistic approach.	Recommendations should be linked to budget lines by EC staff, taking account of: existing EC development assistance to the country; budget lines presently being used and possible new sources;** how non-state actors (especially local communities) are able to access funding; monitoring and evaluation systems.
	<p>* Environmental Handbook – ibid</p> <p>** For example, European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the Stability Instrument, the Thematic Programme for Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development Co-operation.</p>	

Issue 10

Effective and appropriate recommendations and indicators often lacking and must be linked to EC programming and follow up

Some of the environmental profiles provide good recommendations that can be carried out by the EC and highlight focal areas for action. More than often however, there are too many recommendations and no prioritisation, suggested time frame or logical

24 Regional Environmental Profile Andean Countries February 2005 p.33

25 Environment Handbook – ibid pp56, 65, 80; Evaluation of the Environmental Performance of EC Programmes in Developing Countries – www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/ProgrammingGuideforStrategyPapers – www.ec.europa.eu/development

chronology for their implementation. On top of this, no consideration is given as to how far reaching they might be, and there is no estimation of cost. A major concern is that the recommendations of several environmental profiles, as they stand, cannot be used by the EU in their development programming, this is particularly concerning as unsustainable solutions can exacerbate environmental issues which often harm the poorest most. An important role of CEPs/REPs is to provide tailor-made recommendations on how the environment should be integrated in EC country strategies.

The EC's ToR for consultants producing CEPs and REPS states that recommendations could include '*Proposals for environmentally-relevant indicators to be used in the NIP (National Indicative Programme) or to be considered during the formulation of a GBS [General Budget Support] or SPSP [Sector Policy Support Programme] (if relevant)*'.²⁶ With a few exceptions, indicators (where they were provided), were not well articulated or linked to EC programming. A few relied on existing indicators outlined in the Millennium Development Goals, but made very little connection between these and the recommendations made in the profiles. An appropriate set of indicators in CEPs/REPs would reflect the main environmental and sustainability concerns that can be influenced by EC support, especially in focal areas or through mainstreaming.

Also, as highlighted by Palerm, Ledant, Brinn (2006), where there is some idea of the aid delivery approach and financing modalities, indicators can be specifically tailored to these.²⁷ For example, in the case of General Budget Support (GBS), a key aspect is the definition of progress indicators. Although aid is spent according to national priorities and procedures, the EC promotes improvements in certain indicators, which could include environmental ones. Opportunities to integrate the environment into other sectoral indicators to ensure that economic growth is not achieved at the expense of the environment should also be sought.

CEPs/REPs are important tools for integrating environmental issues into EC development programmes so there is real need for the Commission to know if CEP/REPs and their recommendations are being effectively picked up and used in EC programming and support. Despite this, many of the environmental profiles do not include their own indicators to verify in future analysis whether the recommendations have been met.

Recommendation

Recommendations in the environmental profiles should focus on how environmental issues (including their relative priority and the challenges/opportunities for implementation) can be most effectively addressed by EC cooperation, including through programming and dialogue with governments.

Recommendations should also consider focal sectors and mainstreaming, and either highlight the need for or the presence of additional EC studies (e.g. EIAs, SEAs). They

²⁶ *General budget support* is budget support that is not earmarked for a specific sector of government spending. *Sector Policy Support Programme* is the financing mechanism supporting national sector programmes.

²⁷ As shown by Palerm, Ledant and Brinn (2006) in *Environmental Integration in EC Development Co-operation Programming, Experiences in the Use of Country Environmental Profiles* (http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/env_helpdesk_CEPs_en.pdf)

Harvested maize, the staple food of Africa. Irrigation started in Africa in 1932, at that time water flowed throughout the year but as the flow of the river had reduced it has become difficult for water to reach the end of the irrigation scheme. Deforestation in the Lake Bogoria area is a serious threat as it leads to a drop in the water table – therefore streams and swamps are drying out, Kenya.

Photo: Brent Stirton/Getty Images/WWF-UK

v

should also encourage the strengthening of institutions and civil society, suggest potential indicators, address coordination of environmental mainstreaming with other donors, and include recommendations from previous evaluations (including where environmental issues have *not* been taken into account, such as infrastructure projects without EIAs and where IWRM (Integrated Water Resources Management) has been ignored). They should also address coherence with other relevant EC programmes or agreements (e.g. sustainability of EC fisheries agreements or EC trade agreements).

An appropriate set of indicators reflecting the main environmental and sustainability concerns (linked to sectoral areas or mainstreaming) should be included in CEPs/REPs. These need to relate effectively to EC programming, and where known, chosen delivery approaches. They should also be linked to NIPs and wider EC development related performance indicators linked to a country or region, to help effectively mainstream pertinent environmental concerns.

Finally, the Commission should develop and publish suitable indicators showing effective use of the CEP/REPs and their recommendations, measured against action in mid term and end term reviews.





Conclusion

It is a very positive step that the EC is aiming to mainstream environmental issues into its development cooperation programme through CEPs and REPs. However, as this is the first time such a scheme has been tried, there have obviously been some limitations.

Key recommendations from this study to address these limitations include:

- Documentation, including environmental profiles, results of previous EC evaluations, environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments, must be in the public domain and readily accessible (for example linked to CSP web pages). This will enhance both the collation of environmental data and public participation in environmental governance.
- Civil society should be involved in the development of environmental profiles so as to provide local knowledge and perspectives on the environmental situation and environmental governance.
- Recommendations in the environmental profiles should focus on how environmental issues (including priorities and challenges/opportunities for implementation) can be most effectively addressed by EC cooperation, through programming and dialogue with governments. Recommendations should include consideration of the focal sectors and highlight the presence of any additional EC studies (e.g. Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs)). They should also encourage the strengthening of institutions and civil society; suggest potential indicators; address coordination with other donors; include recommendations from previous evaluations and address coherence with other relevant EC programmes or agreements (e.g. sustainability of EC fisheries agreements or EC trade agreements).
- Climate change should be covered in much more depth, including the availability of impact data and gaps; short and long term adaptation priorities for the poor and the biodiversity and ecosystems on which they rely; and opportunities to support low carbon development.
- Land tenure issues should be given more attention. Deeper analysis should be provided on land tenure and on its impact on land users, and in particular on women and indigenous peoples, paying careful attention to the judiciary and legal systems

that are in place. This is a necessary first step as these laws impact hugely on land use and environmental protection.

The recommendations above suggest areas to refocus on and, if taken on board, it is our belief that they will contribute towards:

- The promotion of an improved policy and strategy for mainstreaming environmental issues into development cooperation;
- Supporting dialogue with beneficiary countries;
- Prioritising action for ensuring development cooperation has a positive effect on the environment.

We believe the recommendations in the full report should be used as the basis of future analysis of CEPs/REPs and guide future CEP/REP preparation, particularly their recommendations and indicators. It is especially hoped that the EU will refocus its energies on strengthening the mechanisms for ensuring its development programmes are efficient and effective. By continually carrying out SEAs and EIAs and monitoring and evaluating its development programmes and processes, the EU will ensure that the many admirable policies it has committed itself to on poverty alleviation, democracy, human rights, climate change and the protection of the environment are carried forward.

Annexes

Women and girls carrying water and washed clothes near the Golini Community Nursery, Kwale District, near Mombasa. Golini community nursery was set up to grow indigenous trees that would help maintain the water supply to the village after deforestation was identified as the reason the water supply to the village was diminishing. Sustainable lifestyles, Kenya.

v

Photo: Brent Stirton/Getty Images/WWF-UK



Annex 1

List of CEPs/REPs assessed

Countries were selected for inclusion in this report on the basis of whether their profiles were available, whether the commissioning NGOs had partners working in those countries and the aim to ensure a good geographical spread across Africa, Caribbean, Pacific, Asia and Latin America.



CEPs

Botswana (ACP)
Burkina Faso (ACP)
Cameroon (ACP)
Congo (DRC) (ACP)
Dominican Republic (ALA)
Ghana (ACP)
Indonesia (ALA)

Ivory Coast (ACP)
Kenya (ACP)
Liberia (ACP)
Fiji (ACP)
Mongolia (ALA)
Malawi (ACP)
Mauritania (ACP)
Niger (ACP)

Papua New Guinea (ACP)
Philippines (ALA)
Sierra Leone (ACP)
Tanzania (ACP)

REPs

Andean Community (ALA)
Central America (ALA)

ACP Africa, Caribbean and Pacific country. Cooperation with these countries is defined under the Cotonou Agreement.

ALA Asia and Latin American country. Cooperation with these countries is defined under the Development Cooperation Instrument or DCI, EC Regulation No 1905/2006 of 18 December 2006, OJ of the EU L 378/41.

Annex 2

Checklist to assess the quality of CEPs/REPs

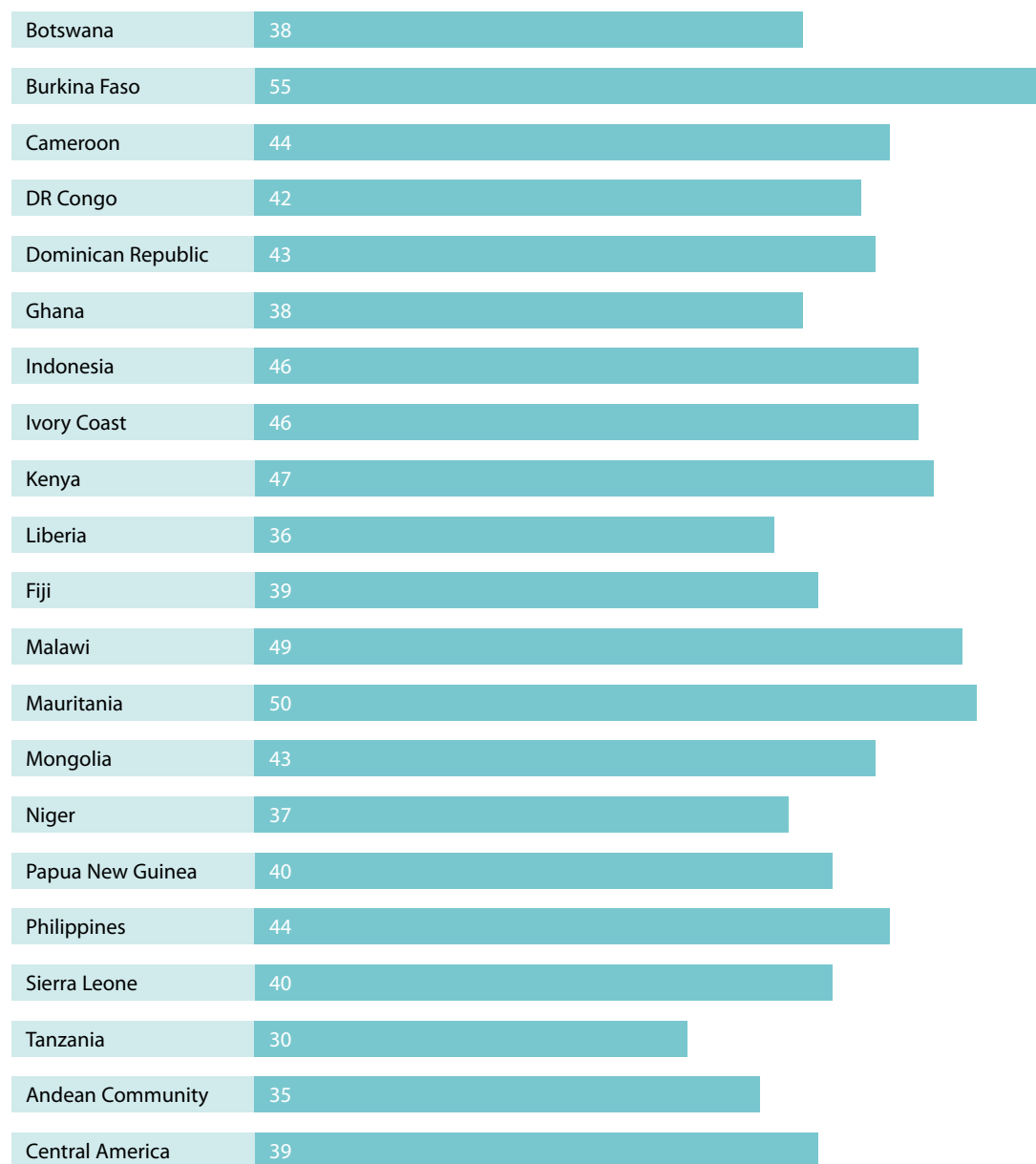
FERN/WWF/BirdLife CEP assessment criteria	
1. Structural – does the CEP conform to the recommended contents heading structure?	Score
1.1 Contains a Summary	0/1
1.2 Contains a section on the State of the Environment	0/1
1.3 Contains a section on Environmental policy, legislative and institutional framework	0/1
1.4 Contains a section on EU and other donor cooperation with the country from an environmental perspective	0/1
1.5 Contains a section on conclusions and recommendations	0/1
1.6 Is the length of the CEP between 30/40 pages?	0/1
<i>Max score = 6 (no weighting)</i>	
2. General appearance, presentation of information, absence of errors?	
2.1 Poor presentation and more than 2 typo errors readily apparent	1
2.2 Moderate presentation and at least 1 typo error readily apparent	2
2.3 Well laid out presentation no typo errors apparent	3
<i>Max score = 3 (no weighting)</i>	
3. Quality of summary? 1-3 x 2	
3.1 Poor summary content not easily related to the main text	1
3.2 Moderate summary content partially related to the main text	2
3.3 Comprehensive summary covering key parts of main text	3
<i>Max score = 6 (weighting x 2)</i>	
4. Quality of information?	
4.1 Minimal coverage, frequent factual errors and inconsistencies	1
4.2 Moderate coverage, some factual errors and inconsistencies	2
4.3 Comprehensive coverage, no factual errors or inconsistencies identified	3
4.4 Does the CEP assess the environmental trends with regard to their social and economic impact (e.g. threats to human health; human exposure to environmental disasters; conflicts and security; impact on poverty, differentiated impact on women and men, impact on vulnerable groups (including indigenous peoples); sustainability of resource use; cultural values)?	0/1
4.5 Does the CEP assess land tenure regimes and policies and their relevance in the context of sustainable development?	0/1
4.6 Does the CEP specify vulnerability to climate change?	0/1
4.7 Does the CEP assess national environmental policy and legislation, institutional structures and capacity, and the involvement of civil society in environmental issues?	0/1
4.8 Does the CEP assess the involvement of civil society in environmental issues?	0/1
4.9 Does the CEP identify biodiversity issues?	0/1
4.10 Does the CEP identify protected areas of all categories (please note in comments if IBA - Important Bird Areas are mentioned in the CEP/REP)?	0/1
4.11 Does the CEP identify the ratification of multilateral environmental governance?	0/1

4.12	Does the CEP assess the integration of environmental concerns in development policy and sectors with key linkages with environmental issues?	0/1
4.13	Does the CEP assess issues around environmental governance (e.g. transparency over allocation of natural resources, participation of civil society in environmental policy making and/or land use planning etc.)	0/1
4.14	Does the CEP refer to evaluations of previous environmental programmes?	0/1
<i>Max score = 14 (no weighting)</i>		
5. Quality and relevance of recommendations for programming? 1-11 x 2		
5.1	Poor recommendations, not useful in the context of EC programming	1
5.2	Moderate quality recommendations, of some use in the context of programming	2
5.3	Clear, relevant recommendations appropriate to the context of programming	3
5.4	Does the CEP include recommendations concerning the selection of the focal sectors and response strategies, based on environmental considerations?	0/1
5.5	Does the CEP include guidelines or criteria for mainstreaming environmental concerns in cooperation areas?	0/1
5.6	If mentioned: does the CSP makes proper use of the EC horizontal budget lines (i.e. horizontal budget lines are only mentioned as tools that provide distinctive added value to geographic programming and therefore to fund actions whose objectives cannot be achieved through geographic programming or actions that are, by nature, not fundable through Country or Regional Strategy Programmes. Bad use of the budget lines is to recommend them as a way to fund actions that could otherwise be supported through geographic programming)?	0/1
5.7	Does the CEP seek to achieve synergies with other donors?	0/1
5.8	Does the CEP include recommendations to undertake SEAs?	
5.9	Does the CEP include environmentally-relevant indicators to be used in the NIP (National Indicative Programme) or to be considered during the formulation of a GBS (General Budget Support) or SPSP (Sector Policy support Programme)?	0/1
5.10	Does the CEP include environmentally-relevant indicators to be considered during the formulation of a GBS (General Budget Support)?	0/1
5.11	Does the CEP include environmentally-relevant indicators to be considered during the formulation of a SPSP (Sector Policy support Programme)?	0/1
<i>Max score = 22 (weighting x 2)</i>		
6. Stakeholder's involvement		
Consultation		
6.1	No report of consultation	1
6.2	Limited report on consultation	2
6.3	Extensive report on consultation, including most relevant actors	3
6.4	Have environmental NGOs been consulted in the development of the CEP?	0/1
6.5	Have social NGOs been consulted in the development of the CEP?	0/1
6.6	Have indigenous peoples or community based organisations been consulted in the development of the CEP?	0/1
6.7	Have the appropriate government agencies for environment been consulted in the development of the CEP?	0/1
Language		
6.8	Is the CEP available in a national language?	0/1
Delegation's involvement		
6.9	Was the CEP made in-house (1) or developed by a consultant (0)?	0/1
<i>Max score = 9 (no weighting)</i>		
Total Max score		60

Annex 3

EuropeAid checklist to assess quality of CEPs

CEP quality assessment criteria	
1. Structural – does the CEP conform to the recommended contents heading structure?	Score
1.1 Contains a Summary	0/1
1.2 Contains a section on the State of the Environment	0/1
1.3 Contains a section on Environmental policy, legislative and institutional framework	0/1
1.4 Contains a section on EU and other donor cooperation with the country from an environmental perspective	0/1
1.5 Contains a section on conclusions and recommendations	0/1
<i>Max score = 5 (no weighting)</i>	
2. General appearance, presentation of information, absence of errors?	
2.1 Poor presentation and more than 2 typo errors readily apparent	1
2.2 Moderate presentation and at least 1 typo error readily apparent	2
2.3 Well laid out presentation no typo errors apparent	3
<i>Max score = 3 (no weighting)</i>	
3. Quality of summary? 1-3 x 2	
3.1 Poor summary content not easily related to the main text	1
3.2 Moderate summary content partially related to the main text	2
3.3 Comprehensive summary covering key parts of main text	3
<i>Max score = 6 (weighting x 2)</i>	
4. Quality of information?	
4.1 Minimal coverage, frequent factual errors and inconsistencies	1
4.2 Moderate coverage, some factual errors and inconsistencies	2
4.3 Comprehensive coverage, no factual errors or inconsistencies identified	3
<i>Max score = 9 (weighting x 3)</i>	
5. Quality and relevance of recommendations for programming? 1-3 x 4	
5.1 Poor recommendations, not useful in the context of EC programming	1
5.2 Moderate quality recommendations, of some use in the context of programming	2
5.3 Clear, relevant recommendations appropriate to the context of programming	3
<i>Max score = 12 (weighting x 4)</i>	
6. Stakeholder consultation? 1-3	
6.1 No report of consultation	1
6.2 Limited report on consultation	2
6.3 Extensive report on consultation, including most relevant actors	3
<i>Max score = 3 (no weighting)</i>	

Results of the checklists

Annex 4

Official ToR for CEP or REP report format²⁸

Note: explanations or sections to be completed according to individual circumstances are given in *italics*.

ToR for the preparation of the Country Environmental Profile of (Name of the Country)

1. Background

(Give a brief overview of the Country, its current socio-political situation, EC cooperation experience on the major environmental concerns and responses by the Government and/or other donors, the interest of the EC in integrating the environment in the CSP and the current timetable with respect to the programming process).

2. Objective

The main objective of the Country Environmental Profile is to identify and assess environmental issues to be considered during the preparation of a Country Strategy Paper, which will directly or indirectly influence EC cooperation activities *(Please adapt if the CEP is prepared at another stage)*. The Country Environmental Profile will provide decision-makers in the partner country and in the European Commission with clear information on the key environmental challenges, the current policy, legislative and institutional framework and the strategies and programmes (including those of the EC and other donors) designed to address them. This information will ensure that the EC cooperation strategies systematically integrate environmental considerations into the selection of focal sectors and cooperation objectives/strategies, and also establish the necessary environment safeguards for all cooperation activities undertaken in the Country. The Profile will establish the key linkages between the environment and poverty reduction. It will constitute an important source of baseline information and contribute to focusing political dialogue and cooperation with the Country on key areas of concern including sustainable development as well as raising awareness among policy-makers.

3. Results

The profile will deliver the following results:

- An assessment of the state of the environment and key environmental factors and trends influencing the Country's development and stability.
- An assessment of national environmental policy and legislation, institutional structures and capacity, and the involvement of civil society in environmental issues.
- An assessment of the integration of environmental concerns in development policy and sectors with key linkages with environmental issues.
- An overview of past and ongoing international (including EC) cooperation in the environment sector.
- Recommendations and, as far as possible, guidelines or criteria for mainstreaming environmental concerns in cooperation areas. These recommendations should support the preparation of the Country Strategy Paper/National Indicative Programme and include guidelines or criteria to be used for environmental mainstreaming in subsequent phases of the cycle of operations.

²⁸ The ToR were downloaded from the Environment Helpdesk's site on 21 July 2008.

4. Issues to be assessed

The following issues should be assessed:

(The sub-headings below are the same as the recommended profile format)

4.1 The state of the environment

This Chapter should identify the state and trends of key environmental resources or components in the country, including (as relevant), but not limited to:

Themes	Aspects
Mineral resources and geology	Mineral resources Geological risks (seismic, volcanic and related risks)
Land	Soil erosion and degradation Desertification Land use, arable land, losses due to urbanisation or infrastructure building
Water	Water regime Ground water Water quality
Air and climate	Air quality Potential climate changes and vulnerability
Forest, vegetation, ecosystems	Forest cover and volume Pastureland State of particular ecosystems (e.g. savannahs, mangroves, coral reefs)
Biodiversity, wildlife	Local status of globally threatened species/habitats Alien invasive species Fish stocks Species with special value
Landscape	Aesthetic and cultural value of landscape
Living conditions in human settlements	Air and water quality Sanitation Slums Health Vulnerability to disasters

Pressures explaining the main negative trends should be identified, as well as pressures contributing to global environmental problems, using the following table as a guiding checklist.

Themes	Possible aspects to consider
Mining, extraction of hydrocarbons	Extraction, treatment and transport of minerals and hydrocarbons
Water use and management	Water extraction (surface- and ground-water) Waste water discharges, water treatment Water use
Land management	Land use planning
Forest exploitation, hunting, fisheries, biodiversity	Forest extraction Forest and fisheries management practices Hunting and fishing activities, poaching Use of NTFP (non-timber forest products) Fires Introduction of alien species
Livestock raising	Overgrazing Rangeland management, use of fire, water management
Agriculture	Extension of agricultural land Shifting cultivation Intensification Irrigation and water use Pest control Agricultural practices
Energy production and use	Sources of energy Energy consumption Energy efficiency
Urbanisation, infrastructure and industry	Urban growth and sprawl, urban planning, dams, roads, major infrastructure, polluting industries, tourism
Waste disposal and management	Waste production Waste management Public behaviour and practices, existing systems, hazardous waste management
Atmospheric emissions	Emissions of greenhouse gases and ozone-depleting substances Air pollutants affecting local or regional air quality (point-source and non-point source emissions)

As far as possible the driving forces influencing these pressures should be identified, such as economic incentives, demographic pressure, access rights to natural resources and land tenure systems.

Environmental trends should be assessed with regard to their social and economic impact, including:

- Declines in economic production or productivity (e.g. agriculture, forestry, fisheries);
- Threats to human health;
- Human exposure to environmental disasters (e.g. floods, drought);
- Conflicts and security;
- Impact on poverty, differentiated impact on women and men, impact on vulnerable groups (including children and indigenous peoples);
- Sustainability of resource use;
- Cultural values.

This Chapter should lead to the identification of problems, described in terms of situations or trends that are undesirable due to their current socioeconomic consequences (e.g. falling productivity, health problems, natural risks, social crises, conflicts), their future consequences (e.g. decline in natural resources, cumulative pollution) or their contribution to global environmental problems.

If appropriate the consultant could refer to appropriate environmental indicators in order to establish a consistent basis both for comparisons among countries and for monitoring changes in the studied country. Attention should be paid to the MDG 7²⁹ indicators, and specific indicators related to the particular environmental issues of the country.

If appropriate, the information could be organised according to eco-geographical subdivisions with the scale (regional, national, local) of the issues indicated.

4.2 Environmental policy, legislation and institutions

A brief description and review should be provided of the strengths and weaknesses of the following aspects, with their associated evaluation criteria given for guidance:

Aspect	Evaluation criteria
Policies	<p>Existence of national policies, strategies and action plans for the environment, including possible National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) and National Environmental Action Plans (NEAP).</p> <p>Policy response to global issues, sustainability issues (depletion of natural resources), and specific environmental issues identified above.</p> <p>Policies on gender and environment.</p> <p>Consistency between policies.</p> <p>Environmental integration in sectoral and macro-economic policies and existence of SEA of policies or strategies (especially the PRSP if relevant).</p> <p>Important measures taken by the Government to solve environmental concerns.</p> <p>Effectiveness in achieving targets.</p>
Regulatory framework, including EIA and SEA legislation	<p>Ratification status and implementation of MEAs (Multilateral Environment Agreements) such as those concerning climate change, biodiversity and desertification.</p> <p>Adequacy of (current and in preparation) environmental legislation (including land tenure and land reform, access rights to natural resources, management of natural resources, requirements for environmental assessment such as for EIA and SEA, pollution control, development control).</p> <p>Provision and procedures for public participation in environmental issues.</p> <p>Effectiveness of legislation enforcement.</p> <p>Use of other (non legislative) instruments, e.g. 'green budgeting' (or Environmental Fiscal Reform) and market-based mechanisms, voluntary schemes (environmental management systems, environmental labelling, industry-government agreements).</p> <p>Potential impact of non-environmental legislation.</p>

29 See <http://www.undp.org/mdg/>

Institutions with environmental responsibilities	Identity, number and quality of institutions (involved in policy making, legislation, planning, environmental protection, monitoring and enforcement). Level of coordination and decentralisation. Strength and capacity of individual institutions. Influence on other institutions. Good governance practices. Capabilities, means, functioning of environmental services. Major NGOs, institutes or other organisations involved in environmental management or policy.
Public participation	Transparency and access to environmental information. Role of NGOs and civil society in environmental decision-making. Effective participation. Participation by women and traditionally less represented groups. Access to justice in environmental matters.
Environmental services and infrastructures	Protected Areas: number, areas, relevance, and effectiveness. Sanitation and waste treatment infrastructure. Disaster prevention systems. Emergency response mechanisms.
Environmental monitoring system	Relevance of selected indicators (with reference to MDG7). Measurement of the indicators: periodicity, liability. Integration in the general development indicators.

The analysis should both identify potential institutional/policy/regulatory causes of environmental pressures and the response by the government to solve the environmental problems.

4.3 Integration of environmental concerns into the main policies and sectors

The assessment should examine the integration of environmental concerns in the overall development policy and in sectors/areas that have key linkages with environmental issues and which might be identified for EC support, taking into account the focal areas of the current CSP. This section should examine whether there is a Strategic Environmental Assessment (or similar assessment) for the national development strategy or the Poverty Reduction Strategy and for the sectors. If an SEA exists, it should provide a brief description of it, including its main recommendations. The main legislation and institutional arrangements and measures of the sector which address environmental issues, especially those identified in section 4.1 should be examined.

4.4 EU cooperation with the Country from an environmental perspective

This section should review the past and current experience relating to development cooperation interventions with specific environmental objectives as well as the integration of environment into other cooperation areas, including the application of environmental integration procedures (preparation of SEA or EIA in EC funded programmes/projects). Where information is available the environmental impacts or potential risks of EU cooperation should be identified for the benefit of future programmes. The results of existing evaluations/reviews should be incorporated and lessons drawn for the future. The implications for the environment of budgetary support or sector wide approaches should be reviewed if these have been applied. The review should cover both geographical and thematic programmes.

4.5 Cooperation funded by other donors from an environmental perspective

This section should review the past and current involvement of other donors and their experience in the Country, and include a list of recent and planned projects/programmes with an environmental focus or

anticipated impact. Coordination mechanisms between donors and the EC with respect to the environment should be assessed.

5. Conclusions and recommendations

The key aspects of the state and trends of the environment in the Country, including policy/regulatory and institutional constraints and challenges, should be clearly stated. These may be presented in a matrix, crossing environmental concerns and the main sectors or policies.

Based on a comprehensive assessment of the available information and on consultations with stakeholders, recommendations should be made on how the Commission and the Government can better mainstream the environment into the next Country Strategy Paper, taking into account current CSP and any pre-identified options for the next one, including the anticipated focal sectors.

Recommendations should address (but not necessarily be limited to) the following:

- 1) Recommendations concerning the selection of the focal sectors and response strategies, based on environmental considerations. These recommendations should show how best to address the main environmental challenges identified by the CEP. This might be done by selecting environment as a focal area and/or, more frequently, through environmental safeguards in other areas. These may include, for example, proposals for institutional strengthening and capacity building (including the enhancement of the regulatory framework and enforcement capacities) or recommendations for initiating an appropriate Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), particularly in relation to SPSP and GBS programmes.
- 2) Opportunities to use EC horizontal budget lines (such as Environment and Tropical Forests) and facilities (EU Water Facility – EUWF and the EU Energy Facility – EUEF).
- 3) Opportunities for coordination on environmental issues with other donors, seeking to achieve complementarities and synergies in order to more effectively deliver development objectives.
- 4) Proposals for environmentally-relevant indicators to be used in the NIP (National Indicative Programme) or to be considered during the formulation of a GBS or SPSP (if relevant).

Individual recommendations should be clearly articulated and linked to the problems to be solved and grouped according to the sector concerned or institutional stakeholder. The relative priority of the recommendations and an indication of the challenges to their implementation should be given.

Any constraints to preparing the profile resulting from limited information should be described.

6. Work plan

The work plan should include but not necessarily be limited to the following activities:

- Consultations with EC country desk officers and other relevant officials, EC Delegation, the national environmental authority and a selection of national and local authorities, key international donors, plus key national and international civil society actors operating in the environmental field.
- Review of key documents and reports, including (*include here a list of key documents already identified by the EC Delegation*) previous Country Environmental Profiles (EC and others); the current EC Country Strategy Papers; evaluation reports, existing Strategic Environmental Assessments (particularly those concerning potential focal sectors), EIAs of EC funded projects; environmental literature, environmental policy, environmental legislation and regulations, information on monitoring and environmental performance indicators.
- Field visits to sites of key environmental concern and (if possible) the organisation of a national workshop

that national authorities, donors, experts and representatives of civil society should be invited to participate with the aim of clarifying and validating key environmental concerns.

- On the basis of the outline work plan and time schedule given in these Terms of Reference, a detailed work plan should be proposed.

7. Expertise required

The proposed mission shall be conducted by a team of (two) experts who should have the following profile:

- Expert level I or level II with at least 10 years wide experience in environmental issues, including institutional aspects; international environmental policies and management; environmental assessment techniques and experience in rapidly assessing information and developing recommendations. He/she would be the team leader.
- Expert level II with 10 years experience and with an environment background complementary to the team leader.

In addition:

- Previous working experience in the Country or the region is requested for at least one team member;
- Experience in undertaking environmental analyses and preparation of development programmes would be an asset;
- Familiarity with Commission guidance on programming, country strategies, PCM, policy mix and integration of environmental issues into other policy areas is desirable;
- Experience of participatory planning processes and gender issues would be an advantage.

The experts should have excellent skills in ... and (knowledge of would be an asset). ... will be the working language although the final report must be presented in

8. Reporting

The results of the study should be presented in the Country Environmental Profile in the format given in Section 10 of these ToR. The draft profile, in (number) hard copies and electronic version (Microsoft Word), should be presented to (...) by (date) at the latest. Within (5) weeks, comments on the draft report will be received from the EC. The consultants will take account of these comments in preparing the final report (maximum 40 pages excluding appendices). The final report in (language) and (number) copies is to be submitted by (date).

9. Time schedule (example)

	Expert I	Expert II
Desk analysis, including briefing to the team leader in <i>(place)</i>	5	2
Field phase including travel and possible workshop	15	15
Report finalisation	3	2
Debriefing in <i>(place)</i> -not later than <i>(date)</i>	1	
Final report end <i>(date)</i>	1	1
Total days	25	20

10. Report format for a Country Environmental Profile

Standard Report Format for a Country Environmental Profile

Maximum length (excluding appendices): 40 pages.

The following text appears on the inside front cover of the report:

This report is financed by the European Commission and is presented by ... (*name of consultant*) for the ... (*National Institution*) and the European Commission. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the ... or the European Commission.

1. Summary

The summary should succinctly and clearly present the key issues described in the profile following the order of headings 2 to 5 given below. The Summary should not exceed 6 pages.

2. State of the environment

3. Environmental policy, legislative and institutional framework

- 3.1 Environmental policy
- 3.2 Environmental legislation and institutional framework
- 3.3 Integration of environmental concerns into the main sectors

4. EU and other donor cooperation with the Country from an environmental perspective

5. Conclusions and recommendations

6. Country Strategy Paper Environmental Annex Summary

Comprising the main issues presented in sections 2 to 4 above (excluding section 5) in not more than 4 pages.

7. Technical appendices

- I Environmental maps of the Country
- II Reference list of environmental policy documents, statements and action plans, and other relevant technical information.

8. Other appendices

- I Study methodology/work plan (1–2 pages)
- II Consultants' Itinerary (1–2 pages)
- III List of persons/organisations consulted with their affiliation and contact details (1–2 pages)
- IV List of documentation consulted (1–2 pages)
- V *Curricula vitae* of the consultants (1 page per person)
- VI Terms of Reference for the Country Environmental Profile

Annex 5

Brief overview of the CEPs/REPs and comments

Botswana

From a human development perspective, Botswana is one of the success stories of Africa. The country is fairly arid, although it has important wetlands (notably the Okavango delta, the world's largest inland delta that empties its waters onto the sands of the Kalahari Desert). Although Botswana has worked hard over the years to protect these and other areas in the country, there appears to be some ongoing degradation. The main cited cause of degradation is overgrazing. There are no other major environmental issues raised in the environmental profile apart from threats from natural hazards such as drought and possible impact from climate change. The CEP provides good information but is weak on assessment and analysis of the situation in the country.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Botswana (July 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: due to fuel wood collection, overgrazing, bush fires, soil erosion, some pollution from the mining industry, agricultural expansion, irrigation, possible contamination with persistent organic pollutants and other chemicals, including chemicals used in agriculture, silting.

Air pollution and climate change problems: There are no major air pollution problems, but Botswana is vulnerable to drought arising from climate change.

Natural hazards such as floods, earthquake tremors (often not very serious), some locust infestations, drought and bush fires are mentioned.

Biodiversity: loss of wildlife due to illegal hunting, loss of habitat and drought

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Poverty
- Lack of (human, financial and infrastructural) capacity
- Insufficient statistical data due to absence of monitoring systems
- Weak civil society

Recommendations in the CEP

- Capacity building and support to enable implementation of environmental programmes (e.g. to deal with climate change) and data management (human, financial and infrastructural)
- Harmonisation of environmental policies, legislation, regulations and institutions for delivery of environmental programmes
- Development of legislation to deal with pollution, especially persistent organic pollutants and with genetically modified organisms and their use in Botswana.

Comments on the CEP

Indigenous peoples: The CEP does not mention the situation of the Baswara (the hunter-gatherer peoples of southern Africa), even though it has been a contentious issue in the past few years³⁰ and is one recognised by the EC.³¹

Data: There is insufficient data concerning capacity both in government and civil society (e.g. number of foresters in the country) to enable an informed analysis of the situation within the country.

On participation of non-state actors: The CEP asserts that the Government of Botswana worked with NGOs and other non-state actors in formulating its programme for development for the next aid programming cycle for the country. With reference to environmental concerns, there is no indication whether there are any joint government and civil society fora to work on these issues, how often they meet, how many consultative meetings, workshops or conferences were held, etc. There is therefore insufficient information to support the claim that is made.

Recommendations

The recommendations contained in the CEP are fair but could be improved by concrete suggestions.

- There is no mention of reforestation as a means to combat deforestation or to meet fuel needs, or of agro-forestry as a means of meeting fodder needs to alleviate soil degradation from overgrazing.
- The indicators are very limited and could be improved e.g. reforestation targets, percentage increase of reservoirs, percentage increase of wildlife, percentage decrease of migration from rural areas to urban areas over a given period, etc. It should be recognised however that these issues would be largely dependent upon the government's own national economic development planning.

30 Development-Botswana: Of Tourists, Bushmen – and a Borehole, www.ipsnews.net

31 Republic of Botswana – European Community : Country Strategy Paper and National Indicative Programme for the period 2008-2013 p. 7

Burkina Faso

This is a good CEP with a strong assessment and analysis of the issues relating to the environmental policies and laws of Burkina Faso and the challenges concerning their implementation. The importance of monitoring and impact and strategic assessments is clear and includes ways for assessments to be formulated. Importantly, the CEP also looks at the EU, whether it monitors and carries out assessments for its programming, and also donors' preference for infrastructural support. It notes that that the EC is not geared to dealing with the provision of small grants to local communities. It also highlights the need for longer term support to be given to most programmes, with proper monitoring and evaluations during and after the support comes to an end. There is a good set of indicators which are well linked to the recommendations. The possible responses and the recommendations themselves are good and relevant.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Burkina Faso (September 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, charcoal, clearance of land for agriculture and mining and mining pits (especially small scale mining), pressure from overgrazing, unsuitable farming practices, unsustainable extraction of wood, bush fires, soil erosion, silting, high water use by humans, agriculture, industry and mines, over fishing, very high population density in some areas exacerbating pressure on land and water, and lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining and industrial) contaminating land and water.

Marine habitat and Wetlands: clearing of mangroves for human habitat, fuel wood and charcoal production, silting and pollution of estuaries and coast from degraded land, and illegal and unregulated fishing.

Air pollution: in urban centres due to burning of fuel wood and polluting vehicles

Natural hazards (partly from climate change) such as floods, mudslides, storms, desertification and drought.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Poverty
- Lack of (human, financial and infrastructural) capacity
- Weak governance
- Instability and some lack of security
- Health issues (HIV/AIDS, malaria and water borne diseases)

Recommendations in the CEP

- Integration of environmental issues in EU policies and mechanisms of delivering development assistance while ensuring that strategy and impact assessments are programmed into the EC project cycle.
- Integrate environmental issues in sector support.
- Streamline donor cooperation and develop a joint assistance strategy.
- Support infrastructure and environmentally friendly sustainable development(in energy, transport, water and sanitation, waste management) while ensuring the integration of environmental issues.
- Support government institutions, good governance and decentralisation and community/local groups to play an effective role in development and environmental management (education, training and capacity development in general).

- Support the harmonisation of regional environmental agreements and their implementation at national level as well as support for regional studies of the state of the environment and environmental development programmes especially in relation to the basin of the river Niger.
- Ongoing support for successful programmes.

Comments on the CEP

Civil society: There is no indication of how many civil society groups were interviewed in elaborating the CEP.

Cameroon

The CEP for Cameroon is informative but not very comprehensive when it comes to assessment of why progress failed to be made in some areas e.g. ratification of some of the signed international agreements. There is a sense that the environmental profile skirts around some issues (especially the failure to draw implementing regulations for some existing environmental legislation) and consequently it raises more questions than it answers.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Cameroon (April 2004)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, clearance of land for agriculture, mining and human settlements, some illegal logging, forest fires, soil erosion, silting, over fishing of lakes, high water use by humans, agriculture, industry and mines, very high population density in some areas exacerbating pressures on land and water, lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining and industrial) polluting land and water.

Pollution of coast and marine environment: mining, human and industrial effluent and solid or fluid waste dumped directly into rivers, clearing of mangroves, sand and gravel excavation, disappearance of coconut palms and construction of private homes and tourist complexes too near the shore.

Air pollution: in urban centres (especially around the peripheries) due to burning of fuel wood, and polluting vehicles (old and without clean engines).

Natural hazards: water borne diseases and mudslides exacerbated by huge population density in urban areas, poor sanitation, waste disposal and urban planning, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, poisonous gases escaping from volcanic lakes.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity mainly from clearing of land for agriculture, human settlements, animals hunted for bush meat, firewood collection and an attitude that people are entitled to use natural resources as they wish.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Weak governance
- Poverty
- Very high population density in urban areas

Recommendations in the CEP

- Financial and capacity building of government institutions that deal with environmental issues (e.g. le Programme Sectoriel Forêts et Environnement, the Secretariat Permanent à l'Environnement etc. to deal with biodiversity management and FLEGT).
- Support government to finalise and improve pending and old legislation as well as planning and monitoring and evaluation of implemented programmes.
- Support the creation of new units within government ministries to deal with the environment similar to ones which were at one time set up for corruption.
- Management of water resources and provision of clean water and sanitation, better health care services and prevention of water borne diseases and parasites.
- The EU should amplify its cooperation in environmental programmes in order to protect gains made in the last ten years of its involvement.

Comments on the CEP

Capacity: Present capacity in government is not fully elaborated as to actual numbers of staff and infrastructure available in the relevant ministries dealing with the environment.

Evaluating past assistance: The underlying issues leading to government failure to ratify some international treaties, draw up regulations and implement programmes are not explored.

Recommendations

The recommendations call for further support of state institutions without first calling for an assessment of previous support, even though it is implied in the CEP that there are issues concerning implementation by government. In the light of these implementation difficulties, and without further addressing sustainability and ownership, the call for the EU to amplify its cooperation in environmental programmes in order to protect gains made in the last ten years of its involvement implies an open ended commitment and is laying the ground for failure.

Indicators: There are indicators referred to under the UN Human Settlements Programme (known as Habitat).³² However there are no indicators relating to the recommendations made or even an attempt to relate the UN Habitat indicators to specific programmes in the CEP.

Land tenure: Although the CEP mentions that some lands are held by the state and some by local communities, it does not expound on the land tenure system. Considering the ongoing land claims of indigenous peoples and local communities in Cameroon³³ this is an area that needs clarifying when considering commercial as well as local community use of natural resources.

Indigenous peoples: There is no mention of Cameroon's indigenous peoples despite there being issues concerning their access to forest reserves.³⁴

Judiciary: The judiciary as an important arm in governance is not mentioned and therefore, enforcement of environmental protection laws cannot be assessed. This is due to existing weaknesses in the judiciary system.³⁵

³² *ibid* p.118

³³ Land, Rights and Policy – www.forestsmonitor.org
Promoting Natural Resources Management by Indigenous Communities in the Ngovayang Forest – www.landcoalition.org

³⁴ Protecting Baka pygmies access to forest resources in Southeast Cameroon, 07.08.08 – WWF – www.panda.org

³⁵ Legal Compliance in the Forestry Sector – Case Study Cameroon – www.fao.org

Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

With a civil war that has lasted over nine years, the DRC is the epitome of lost opportunities and immense degradation brought about by conflict. Poverty is extreme, there is huge displacement of people, almost all infrastructures have been destroyed and rehabilitation has to be done from scratch. With arguably some of the richest natural resources in the world, DRC is a blatant example of the resource curse. The CEP catalogues the failures, problems and threats and the potential that exists if only lasting peace, stability and good governance could be achieved. Because of the long conflict, there is very little data available and the CEP relies on estimates from information dating over twenty years or more.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) (January 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, clearance of land for agriculture, mining and human settlements, some illegal logging, forest fires, soil erosion, high use of water by humans, agriculture, mines and industry, over fishing of lakes, very high population density in some areas exacerbating pressures on land and water, and lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining and industrial) contaminating land and water.

Air pollution: in urban centres due to burning of fuel wood and polluting vehicles (old and without clean engines).

Pollution of coast and marine environment: largely from petroleum refinery plants at the Congo delta causing damage to mangroves and pollution of the coastline.

Natural hazards: water borne diseases and mudslides exacerbated by huge population density in urban areas, poor sanitation, waste disposal and urban planning.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity mainly from the civil war, people being displaced and having to rely on natural land products for survival, animals being hunted for bush meat and forests coming under pressure from firewood collection.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- The civil war and continuing instability
- Weak governance
- Poverty
- Very high population density in urban areas

Recommendations in the CEP

- Provision of food security in urban and rural areas.
- Provision of clean water and sanitation, better health care services and prevention of water borne diseases and parasites.
- Fighting pollution from mining and industry to improve health.
- Contribute to the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity especially in the Congo river basin.

Comments on the CEP

Civil society: There is no indication that civil society groups were consulted in drawing the CEP.

Indicators: There are no indicators for implementation of the recommendations.

Judiciary: The judiciary, as an important arm in governance, is not mentioned so enforcement of environmental protection laws cannot be assessed.

Dominican Republic

Unlike the other cases studied, the CEP of the Dominican Republic was prepared on behalf of the World Bank and therefore does not exactly follow the Terms of Reference of the other CEPs. (This is not necessarily a failing as use of comprehensive CEPs prepared by other donors can be effective and contribute towards donor harmonisation.) The CEP is informative and makes good recommendations on how to tackle environmental issues in the country. Worth noting, in comparison to other countries that form part of this desk review, the Dominican Republic is the only country where deforestation has virtually halted after the government introduced legislation and incentives to combat deforestation.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Dominican Republic (June 2004)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: clearance of land for agriculture, mining and human settlements, soil erosion, silting, high population density in urban areas exacerbating pressures on land and water, lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining and industrial) and poor agricultural practices, and chemicals and pesticides degrading of soils and water.

Coastal and marine resources: pollution from human, mining, industrial and agricultural effluent and chemicals, damages of coral reef from tourist activity and from pollution also affecting fishing.

Air Pollution: in urban centres due to polluting vehicles, generators and fuel burning power stations.

Natural hazards: water borne diseases, drought, floods, and hurricanes.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity mainly from clearing of land for agriculture, and human settlements.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Weak institutions and high turnover of government staff after elections affecting capacity and continuity.
- Incomplete legislation and some lack of coherence, cooperation and coordination between the institutions which deal with the various aspects of the environment (water, land, air) and conflicting aims in some others.
- Lack of a proper policy framework for dealing with environmental management.
- Poverty and lack of financial resources to devote to environmental issues.
- High population density in urban areas.

Recommendations in the CEP

- Strengthening the Secretariat for Environment and Natural Resources.
- Developing a coherent policy framework environmental management, water and waste management.
- Developing a coherent institutional framework for environmental management, water and waste management.
- Capacity building of all institutions involved in environmental management especially with respect to data collection, monitoring and evaluation.
- Decentralisation of some environmental management tasks to local communities and offering incentives and capacity to enable them to perform the allocated tasks.

Comments on the CEP

Capacity: There is no specific data as to capacity in the government departments dealing with the environment as a result of which a better assessment of capacity cannot be made.

Land tenure: There is no indication of what the land tenure system is in the Dominican Republic.

Judiciary: The judiciary as an important arm in governance is not mentioned so enforcement of environmental protection laws cannot be assessed.

Indicators: There are no indicators proposed for the recommendations made.

Non-state actors: There is no indication that non-state actors were interviewed in preparing this environmental profile.

Fiji

This CEP was carried out as a desk study drawing mainly on documents available at the time of drafting on Fiji's environmental legislation and policy. It is therefore not as comprehensive as the other CEPs that form part of this review.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Fiji (September 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, clearance of land for agriculture, mining and human settlements, some illegal logging, forest fires, soil erosion, silting, high water use by humans, agriculture, mines and industry, high population density in some areas exacerbating pressure on land and water, and lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining and industrial) causing contamination of land and water.

Pressure on coastal and marine environment: clearing of mangroves for human habitat, fuel wood, silting and pollution of estuaries and coastal waters from degraded land, extraction of coral, illegal and unregulated fishing, use of poisons in fishing and over fishing.

Natural hazards such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones and drought.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity from the above activities, from mono culture plantations and the introduction of alien species with potential hazards of pests and diseases.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Weak governance
- Lack of education
- Lack of cohesion in environmental legislation, policy, strategy and actions for delivery as well as competing and conflicting instruments and institutions for delivery
- Instability and brain drain in the past
- Inherent vulnerability to natural and human made problems due to Fiji's small size, relative isolation, widely dispersed islands and large proportion of low lying land

Recommendations in the CEP

- Improve safe water supply and sanitation and availability of renewable energy.
- Improve livelihoods through sustainable and environmentally friendly fishing and agriculture.
- Education.
- Implement the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan.
- Capacity building and formulation of integrated policies and programmes to deal with environmental issues.
- Develop policies, plans and programmes that will build tourism while protecting the culture, environment and natural resources with environmental impact assessments (EIAs) integrated into such policies, plans and programmes.
- Promote NGO and civil society participation.

Comments on the CEP

- Data is limited on actual existing capacity in both government and civil society
- The recommendations are not specific enough
- There are no indicators for implementation of the recommendations
- There is insufficient information about nature reserves or protected lands in the country
- NGOs were not consulted in preparing this CEP

Ghana

There is good information on the state of the environment in Ghana in this CEP. It is however rather long, repetitive and a bit inconsistent in some areas.³⁶ Bird life diversity, habitat as well as threats to bird life are well covered in the environmental profile. Ghana is a country that is rich in biodiversity and natural resources but which is facing increasing poverty of some of its people with increased risks to biodiversity and natural resources.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Ghana (August 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, charcoal, clearance of land for mining and mining pits (large and especially small scale), illegal logging, slash-and-burn agricultural practices, bush fires, soil erosion, silting, very high population density in some areas exacerbating pressure on land and water, and lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining and industrial waste).

Pressure on coast and marine environment: clearing of mangroves, fuel wood and charcoal production, silting and pollution of estuaries, wetlands and coast from degraded land, extraction of sand, and unregulated fishing.

Pressure on wildlife and biodiversity: from the above practices, as well as killing of animals for bush meat.

Air pollution and global warming problems from releases of greenhouse gases and CFCs from unregulated vehicle, industrial, waste incineration and mining emissions.

Natural hazards such as dwindling rainfall.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Poverty
- Lack of (human, financial and infrastructural) capacity
- Weak government and lack of transparency
- Poor participation of civil society
- High unemployment

Recommendations in the CEP

- Capacity building and support to enable implementation of environmental programmes (human, financial and infrastructural)
- Development and harmonisation of environmental policies, legislation and institutions
- Greater use of EU financial instruments
- Assistance with implementation of environmental programmes

³⁶ Country Environmental Profile of Ghana: PARTICIP GmbH Consultants for Development and Environment – 2006 pp 8,15,19 dealing with employment capacity of the agricultural sector and pp 24 & 30 dealing with reforestation

Comments on the CEP

Participation of non-state actors: only one international environmental NGO was interviewed even though a very long list of local NGOs is provided. The extent of participation of NGOs in national policy formulation and implementation is not well highlighted.

Data: Very good data in general, however it is not specific as to human and institutional capacity of the ministries dealing with environmental issues.

Land tenure systems: Although the CEP touches on problems relating to land tenure systems, it doesn't mention what these systems are or fully treat their impact on environmental issues.

Recommendations

- There are good recommendations but they are too many and are not prioritised. Some specific programmes which would lend themselves to easy implementation (e.g. reforestation, introduction of fuel efficient stoves) are recommended, but they are peppered throughout the document and do not stand out for consideration.
- Some important projects that have been implemented with success in the past are not recommended for rolling out nationwide (e.g. dedicated forest areas and wildlife sanctuaries which are managed by local communities with a stake in the resources).³⁷
- The CEP highlights some serious problems in implementation of policies and enforcement of laws³⁸. They point at weaknesses of an inefficient public service that go beyond under funding, but there are no clear recommendations on how to address the problems.

³⁷ ibid pp 25 and 29

³⁸ ibid p14

Indonesia

The environmental problems of Indonesia are immense. They include serious environmental degradation and loss of biodiversity, a high rate of deforestation making it the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world,³⁹ a large population that depends largely on agriculture and natural resources for livelihoods and serious governance problems. The CEP describes the challenges well. A fair number of NGOs were involved in its preparation, reflecting their importance in environmental protection programmes.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Indonesia (July 2005)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Heavy deforestation especially for palm oil plantation.

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, charcoal, clearance of land for agriculture, mining and human settlements, illegal logging, forest fires, soil erosion, silting, pressure on water for human, industrial and agricultural needs, very high population density in some areas exacerbating pressure on land and water, and lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining and industrial) contaminating land and water.

Pressure on coast and marine environment: clearing of mangroves for human habitat, fuel wood and charcoal production, silting and pollution of estuaries and coastal waters from degraded land, extraction of sand, illegal and unregulated fishing and overfishing.

Air pollution and global warming problems from releases of greenhouse gases and CFCs from unregulated vehicle and industrial emissions and forest fires.

Natural hazards such as floods, landslides and drought.

Serious loss of habitat and biodiversity from the above activities.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Weak governance
- Lack of education
- Rapid population growth and high population density
- Lack of cohesion in environmental legislation, policy, strategy and actions for delivery as well as competing and conflicting instruments and institutions for delivery

Recommendations in the CEP

- Improve governance and judicial reform
- Support environmental education
- Support trade and investment as tools to give incentives to change attitudes towards protection of the environment
- Devise programmes with nation-wide levels of implementation rather than project level
- Safeguard earlier EC investments in existing programmes such as the Leuser eco-system, the Berau Forest Management Project and the South and Central Kalimantan Production Forest Project, while exercising caution in the selection of voluntary partners in forestry related activities.⁴⁰

³⁹ Palm Oil: www.greenpeace.org.uk/forests/palm-oil

⁴⁰ Country Environmental Profile Indonesia – p 53

Comments on the CEP

Indigenous peoples: The recognition of indigenous peoples' land rights is of major importance in Indonesia and directly linked to the unsustainable use of natural resources, especially as their rights are constantly being infringed for logging or plantation purposes.⁴¹ The EC has recognised this problem and tried to support it through its Small Grant Programme for Operations to Promote Tropical Forests⁴² and its FLEGT programme.⁴³ The issue is barely mentioned in the CEP and needs more treatment than it is given.

Non-state actors: The CEP gives good information on the role of non-state actors which is quite positive and supported by donor partners. More information would be beneficial on successful programmes carried out by non-state actors.

Indicators: the indicators given are too general and not specific to the recommendations made.

Evaluation of EU assistance: There is no indication that the EU carries out evaluation on its own programmes with Indonesia, especially with reference to the environment as a cross cutting theme. Such information is necessary.

Recommendations

- The recommendations are not comprehensive enough as to detail, ways of implementation, possible costing etc.
- There ought to be consideration as to whether successful programmes by non-state actors should be rolled out across the country.
- There ought to be consideration of whether programmes to rehabilitate degraded land preferably by local communities and with guarantees of benefit and secure land tenure can be rolled out across the country. Such programmes have been implemented in the past and lessons ought to be learned from successful ones and replicated nationwide.⁴⁴

41 Request for Consideration of the Situation of Indigenous Peoples in Kalimantan, Indonesia, under the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's Urgent Action and Early Warning Procedures: Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination Seventy-First Session 30 July –18 August 2007 – www.2.ohchr.org

42 www.sgptf.org

43 www.ec.europa.eu/development

44 rehab: review of forest rehabilitation initiatives: lessons from the past Indonesia brief – www.cifor.cgiar.org/rehab

Ivory Coast

The CEP of the Ivory Coast is clear, informative and contains good recommendations. This is a country which used to be very rich in natural resources and biodiversity. The CEP brings into clear focus the devastating effects of armed conflict on development and infrastructure and how it impoverishes a country. From being one of the most prosperous countries in Africa, conflict has reduced Ivory Coast to one of the poorer and more unstable countries. The paper also highlights the need for simplicity of legislation and structures towards environmental protection. It notes that with the instability which still prevails, the environment is not a priority of the people or the government or (at the time of drawing up the CEP) even that of the donor community.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Ivory Coast (August 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, charcoal production, clearance of land for agriculture, mining and human settlements, some illegal logging, forest fires, soil erosion, silting, damage from artificial dams built across rivers, very high population density in some areas exacerbating pressures on land and water, lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining and industrial) and poor farming practices contaminating land and water.

Pollution of coast and marine environment: mining, human and industrial effluent and solid or fluid waste dumped directly into rivers, use of mangroves for fuel, use of poison in fishing, and over fishing by EU fishing vessels.

Air pollution: in urban centres due to burning of fuel wood and polluting vehicles (old and without clean engines).

Natural hazards: water borne diseases and mudslides and landslides exacerbated by degraded soils.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity mainly from clearing of land for agriculture, human settlements, animals hunted for bush meat, firewood collection.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Weak governance
- Too many institutions dealing with the environment resulting in confusion
- Poverty
- Very high population density in urban areas
- Instability following the civil war of 2002

Recommendations in the CEP

- Building social cohesion with projects/programmes to improve the standard of living and reduce regional disparities, evaluation of the crisis, good governance and transparency.
- Support water management, sanitation and waste disposal legislation and infrastructure.
- Support family planning and other measure to reduce population growth.
- Simplify structures and legislation dealing with the environment and ensure that the environment is at the heart of planning and is a cross cutting theme in all government sectors.
- Support decentralisation and local management of natural resources and capacity building, as well as support for local planning and management agreements to improve cohesion.

Comments on the CEP

Capacity: There are no precise figures to indicate current capacity in either government or civil society to deal with environmental issues or even infrastructural capacity. The educational and research institutions are good although they lack funding.

Civil society participation: There is no indication that civil society groups were consulted in the preparation of this CEP.

Indicators: Although indicators are mentioned and looked at within the CEP, it is in the context of previous legislation in Ivory Coast or those of the International Environmental Sustainability Index (2005).⁴⁵ These are not linked to the recommendations made and neither are there any indicators given with respect to such recommendations.

Land tenure: There is some reference to state owned lands and to those in the control of farming co-operatives, but the land tenure system is not addressed.

Judiciary: The judiciary as an important arm in governance is not mentioned so enforcement of environmental protection laws cannot be assessed.

EU fishing: There is no recommendation made to examine the role of EU fishing vessels in the territorial waters of the Ivory Coast even though a concern about over-fishing by foreign vessels is raised in the CEP.

⁴⁵ Profil Environnemental de la Cote d'Ivoire – Rapport final, Aout 2006 – pp 47-48

Kenya

The Kenya CEP is informative although a bit long (the summary alone is 10 pages). Some information could have been compressed and it could have been less repetitive. Like Ghana, this is a country that is rich in biodiversity and ecosystems, but where poverty and inequality are on the rise. These and other issues such as corruption and poor land use pose great risks for biodiversity and the conservation of natural resources.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Kenya (April 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, charcoal, clearance of land for agriculture and mining and mining pits (large and especially small scale), pressure from overgrazing, unsustainable and illegal extraction of wood, soil erosion, extraction of sand from river beds, silting, very high population density in some areas exacerbating pressure on land and water, lack of waste management (human, pesticides, commercial, mining and industrial) and bad agricultural practices contaminating land and water.

Pressure on coast and marine environment: clearing of mangroves for human habitat, fuel wood and charcoal production, silting and pollution of estuaries and coast from degraded land and illegal and unregulated fishing.

Natural hazards such as floods, landslides and drought.

Threats to biodiversity: from the above activities and from growth of the tourism industry which has impacted on forests (deforestation for construction), increase of solid waste and some degradation of wildlife ecosystems.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Poverty
- Lack of (human, financial and infrastructural) capacity
- Weak governance
- Instability and some lack of security
- Health issues (HIV/AIDS, malaria and other tropical diseases)
- Diseases affecting both wildlife and domestic stock (e.g. foot and mouth and rinderpest)

Recommendations in the CEP

- Integration of environmental issues into the EC project cycle management.
- Incorporate environmental issues in sector support.
- Streamlining of donor cooperation and the development of a joint assistance strategy.

Comments on the CEP

Non state actors: only one NGO was interviewed for this CEP even though there are a considerable number of environmental and social NGOs active in Kenya. This is unsatisfactory. The CEP in general shows a bias in favour of government in delivery of environmental programmes even though the consensus is that involvement of local organisations is crucial as stakeholders and beneficiaries from such environmental programmes. Because of this bias, the environmental profile says very little about the work done by NGOs such as the Green Belt

Movement and their impact or the possibility of replicating them nationwide.

Data: This CEP gives good, but partial, information on the capacity of the government. It gives specific numbers of employees of the National Environment Management Authority (known as NEMA) as well as staff dedicated to environmental impact assessment, enforcement and compliance. However an overall picture is not given of the country's capacity to provide training, capacity in civil society etc.

Recommendations

The recommendations address limitations in government at the level of legislation and human and financial capacity. They also address issues relating to donor assistance. However they fail to include decentralisation of environmental programmes to local communities even though this is an important aspect of environmental protection and such programmes already exist in Kenya (the Green Belt Movement, NatureKenya, Maji Na Ufanisi and the SIDA Vi Agroforestry Programme amongst others).

Liberia

The quality of information in the CEP for Liberia is good. Although a bit lengthy, it highlights the problems faced by Liberia as it emerges from many years of civil war and tries to establish lasting peace, deal with demobilising ex-combatants, and attempts to address issues relating to poverty, unemployment and development. In this scenario, it is stated that the environment and natural resource sectors are not considered a priority by the government.⁴⁶ Despite these problems, Liberia is rich in biodiversity and ecosystems. Their coastal and marine ecosystems, rivers, lakes, marshes, grasslands and forests contain numerous species of plants, birds, mammals, reptiles and insects. The role played by civil society in the development process is described well.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Liberia (December 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, charcoal production, clearance of land for mining and mining pits (especially from small scale mining), illegal logging, slash-and-burn and other poor agricultural practices, forest fires, soil erosion, pressure on land and water due to agricultural and mining activity and to high population density in some areas, lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining, industrial and agricultural), effluent seeping into water systems and silting.

Pressure on coast and marine environment: clearing of mangroves for fuel wood and charcoal production, silting and pollution of estuaries and coast from degraded land, sand mining, beach erosion and illegal fishing.

Air pollution and global warming problems from releases of green house gasses and CFCs from unregulated vehicle, industrial, waste incineration and mining emissions.

Natural hazards such as floods, landslides and drought and forest fires.

Biodiversity: Loss due to the above activities and hunting.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Poverty
- Lack of (human, financial and infrastructural) capacity
- Weak government
- Instability
- Embryonic civil society groups, prone to corruption

Recommendations in the CEP

- Development and implementation of policies and programmes for economic and social reconstruction aimed at alleviating poverty and building social cohesion and peace.
- Development of data systems and assessments of the ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources.
- Development of comprehensive legislation, plans and actions to deal with environment related issues (water, land, forests, pollution, waste management etc).
- Development of comprehensive mining legislation and regulations which will include environmental protection and waste management.
- Capacity building and support to enable implementation of environmental programmes (human, financial and infrastructural).

- Development of hydro-electric power to replace fuel wood energy.
- Close monitoring and evaluation of all programmes and actions that touch upon environmental issues.

Comments on the CEP

Data on capacity: No figures are given on the number of NGOs and other non-state actors in the country which deal with environmental issues. Neither are any figures given on the actual capacity in government or educational institutions regarding delivery of environmental programmes. This type of information is critical for the formulation of appropriate recommendations.

Judiciary: The CEP does not consider the situation of the judiciary as a means of law enforcement and arbitrator in disputes relating to environmental issues. An assessment of the state of the judiciary is important, for example; how respected, independent and accessible it is and how strong are the supportive structures for enforcement. An effective judicial system is important for the protection of all, especially the vulnerable in society who most depend on natural resources.

Recommendations

Liberia faces many challenges and has limited resources to deal with them. Prioritisation is therefore key. The ToR of the CEPs state that the environmental recommendations should be coherent with the priority development goals. There are concerns with the recommendations in this CEP that:

- They are not prioritised to indicate those for urgent attention and the impact their implementation would have on Liberia's key development objectives as a point of reference;
- They are not specific in suggesting projects or programmes which could be carried out.
- There is no indication of how cross cutting themes could be integrated into the different activities of state institutions as well as non-state actors.
- The recommendation for hydro-electric dams does not mention and discuss some of the environmental and social concerns associated with construction of large dams.
- There are no indicators for the recommendations.

Malawi

This is a good CEP with a strong set of recommendations. Malawi is a land-locked country but it has substantial fresh water resources (namely Lake Malawi, the most southerly lake in the East African Rift valley system and ninth largest in the world) which are under threat. Birdlife diversity, habitat as well as other threatened species are also well covered.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Malawi (August 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, charcoal, clearance of land for mining (not too much) and agriculture, illegal deforestation, bush fires for clearing agricultural lands, soil erosion, silting, very high population density in some areas exacerbating pressure on land and water, and lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining and industrial) contaminating land and water.

Air pollution: from burning of fuel wood and from polluting vehicles.

Pressure on fresh water lakes and wetlands: silting and pollution of lakes and wetlands and spawning areas for fish, unregulated over fishing, grazing livestock in wetlands resulting in damage of eco-balance and biodiversity.

Diseases and pests and loss of biodiversity related to monoculture plantations as well as depletion of soil nutrients and soil erosion.

Pressure on wildlife and biodiversity: from the above practices as well as killing of animals and birds for consumption.

Air pollution and global warming problems from releases of greenhouse gases and CFCs from unregulated vehicle, industrial waste, bush fires and dust particles in the atmosphere from erosion.

Natural hazards: Droughts and severe storms the results of which are exacerbated by inappropriate land use (e.g. severe floods and landslides).

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Poverty
- Lack of (human, financial and infrastructural) capacity
- Weak government and lack of transparency
- Complicated legislation and institutions for involved in environmental protection.
- High population density (105 persons/km²)
- Health and resultant low life expectancy

Recommendations in the CEP

- Simplify legislation and institutional framework and ensure application of existing laws.
- Use Sector-Wide Approach⁴⁷ and Sector Budget Support⁴⁸ in programmes that touch on environmental issues.
- Strengthen the Environmental Affairs Department and give it a higher profile.

⁴⁷ Sector-Wide Approach (SWAP) is an approach to international development that brings together governments, donors and other stakeholders within any sector.

⁴⁸ Sector Budget Support consists of a transfer of funds to the recipient government national treasury to be used in pursuit of an agreed set of sector (i.e. environment, health, infrastructure etc) objectives.

- Clarify the roles and tasks of stakeholders, the Government of Malawi, NGOs, community based organisations, private sector, donors etc. in assistance programmes.⁴⁹
- Education and capacity building and support (human, financial and infrastructural) to enable implementation of environmental programmes and to include programmes to reduce population growth.
- Promote and support decentralisation and rural development (to include land reform).
- Support proper waste management practices for industries and private sectors.
- To develop standardised nationwide key indicators for environmental monitoring.⁵⁰
- Specific to the EU:
 - Prioritise implementation of concrete environmental field action and focus attention of the Government of Malawi on addressing sanitation and waste management problems.
 - Ensure environmental issues are taken into account in all focus sectors and ensure integration of environmental performance indicators, monitoring and evaluation.
 - Support income generation in Public Works Programmes and the provision and sharing of information across the departments of the Government of Malawi.
 - Facilitate the use of other EU financing instruments outside the EDF.

Comments on the CEP

Data: Problems in availability of central data were highlighted in this CEP, although a good effort was still made to get it from various sources. More precise data concerning capacity is necessary to assess the needs and measures required to address them. This includes NGOs.

Land tenure: The environmental profile refers to land tenure but it is not complete. It mentions customary land tenure but no other systems that might exist and it notes an ongoing project to support implementation of Malawi Land Reform.⁵¹ It would be good to have more information on the situation in order to form a better picture of the issues and how land rights are affecting communities and the environment.

Judiciary: Although there is mention of the judiciary it is not sufficient to enable an assessment of the capacity of the judiciary to deal with environmental related issues (e.g. arbitration in land disputes, enforcement of environmental legislation etc).

Challenges: The environmental profile alludes to the difficulties that some stakeholders face in accepting decentralisation. More specific information on who such stakeholders are and the nature of their difficulties would be useful in order to assess what action to take to effectively implement decentralisation and support environmental management at local level.

Malawian NGOs in 2005 prepared a comprehensive document on challenges and recommendation for implementation of environmental policies. It seems that their work has not been used in drawing the CEP for Malawi. (*Country comments – source BirdLife*)

⁴⁹ Country Environmental Profile for Malawi: Mrs B Halle, Mr J Burgess Consortium AGRIFOR Consult 2006 – p 12

⁵⁰ *ibid* p 54

⁵¹ *ibid* p 80

Mauritania

The CEP is informative if somewhat long and repetitive. It does however indicate quite clearly the provenance of the recommendations made – i.e. whether they were from government and donors or from government, donors and civil society. Comments are also made on some of the recommendations, specifically in reference to the constraints to their implementation. This is a system worth following. Despite these positive points, there are too many recommendations. The CEP does not benefit from the consultant's own advice on which recommendations should be prioritised.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Mauritania (June 2007)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, charcoal production, clearance of land for agriculture, mining and human settlements, soil erosion caused by wind and water, silting, damage from dams built across rivers and invasive species such as the water hyacinth, high population density in some areas exacerbating pressures on land and water, lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining and industrial) and poor agricultural practices and pollutants contaminating land and water. Coastal and marine resources: pollution from human, mining, industrial and agricultural effluent and chemicals, over fishing, harbours used as depository for boat wrecks, and threat of oil spill from off shore drilling.

Air pollution: in urban centres due to burning of fuel wood and polluting vehicles (old and without clean engines).

Natural hazards: water borne diseases, desertification, drought, floods, threat from global warming (rising sea level).

Loss of habitat and biodiversity mainly from clearing of land for agriculture, human settlements, hunting, firewood collection and competition for resources.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Weak governance
- Too many institutions dealing with the environment resulting in confusion and lack of cohesion
- Poverty
- High population density in urban areas
- Some instability occasioned by conflict between pastoralists and agriculturists

Recommendations in the CEP

- Simplify and harmonise legislation and structures dealing with the environment
- Capacity building of government and local communities
- Full implementation of decentralisation
- Provision for full impact assessments in all programming
- Inclusion of well defined indicators in all programming

Comments on the CEP

Capacity: There is no specific data as to capacity in the government departments to deal with the environment and so assessment of capacity could be improved.

Land tenure: There is mention in passing of land owned by the state, some privately owned and some that seems to be owned by local communities. But there is no indication of what the land tenure system is in Mauritania or how it is reflected in the use of natural resources.

Judiciary: The judiciary as an important arm in governance is not mentioned so enforcement of environmental protection laws cannot be assessed.

Mongolia

An informative and yet concise CEP, though unfortunately quite short on recommendations. Mongolia is home to the last natural prairies of Eurasia as well as wetlands which are particularly important for bird life. These resources have not enjoyed protection and proper development in the past. For many decades, the country relied heavily on animal husbandry. This has suffered greatly in recent years due to failing rainfall, loss of grazing land and poor management of range land. As people have lost their livelihood, there have been big influxes to urban areas. However, there are not many employment alternatives to animal husbandry and the high rate of urbanisation and unemployment now poses new challenges for Mongolia.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Mongolia (May 2005)

Environmental issues identified

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, clearance of land for mining and mining pits (large and especially small scale), over grazing, illegal logging, soil erosion, silting, very high population density in some urban areas exacerbating pressure on land and water, lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining, industrial).

Air pollution and global warming problems: releases of greenhouse gases and CFCs from use of coal as a fuel, unregulated vehicle emissions, industrial, waste incineration and mining emissions.

Natural hazards: extreme weather conditions, sandstorms, pest infestation of forests, animal diseases, forest fires.

Biodiversity: loss and threat due to the above.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Poverty
- Lack of (human, financial and infrastructural) capacity
- Weak government, corruption and lack of transparency
- Poor participation of civil society

Recommendations in the CEP

- Capacity building and support to enable implementation of environmental programmes (human, financial and infrastructural).
- Legislative and institutional revision and harmonising (forestry, water resources, mining and urban sector).
- Reforming land tenure system.
- Promoting transparency, information dissemination and civil society participation.

Comments on the CEP

Assessment of past and current development assistance: The CEP gives good information about the programmes already being carried out by the EU and other development partners. Some reviews have been carried out, and some information can be gleaned from the CEP on successes and failures of some of the programmes. However a proper assessment and analysis of this information is lacking. There is therefore no clear picture of the successes and failures or priority areas to focus on going forward.

Indicators: There are no indicators for the recommendations and their implementation.

Judiciary: There is no information on the judiciary and its impact on the environment vis-à-vis arbitration, law enforcement and protection of rights.

Recommendations

- There is insufficient data on existing environmental capacity especially in government and the capacity of the country to provide necessary training.
- The CEP assesses the weaknesses of government very well, but there are no recommendations aimed at strengthening non-state actors, especially environmental and social NGOs and local communities.
- There is good information in the CEP on the various programmes being carried out by other development partners in Mongolia. However there are no recommendations on how the EU can co-operate and co-ordinate with other partners to carry this forward e.g. German Development Cooperation Agency (GTZ) is already dealing with the land tenure system.
- Specific challenges to the implementation of the recommendations are not given.

Niger

This is a comprehensive and informative CEP that highlights the environmental and other challenges facing Niger and offers some recommendations for dealing with them. Although mainly arid and semi-arid, the country still has important ecosystems (lake Tchad, river Niger and its tributaries, marshes, underground aquifers and forests) and biodiversity. It provides particularly important habitat for migrating birds. The CEP gives a good account of the various community groups and their participation in natural resource management.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Niger (April 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, charcoal production, clearance of land for agriculture, mining and human settlements, some illegal logging, forest fires, soil erosion, silting and damage from dams built across rivers, introduction of invasive species such as water hyacinth, high population density in some areas exacerbating pressures on land and water, lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining and industrial) and poor farming practices (poor pesticides and chemical use) degrading land and water.

Air pollution: in urban centres due to burning of fuel wood and polluting vehicles (old and without clean engines).

Natural hazards: water borne diseases, desertification, drought.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity mainly from clearing of land for agriculture, human settlements, hunting, firewood collection.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Weak governance
- Too many institutions dealing with the environment resulting in confusion and lack of cohesion
- Poverty
- High population density in urban areas
- Some instability due to conflict between pastoralists and agriculturists

Recommendations in the CEP

- Strong environmental strategic evaluations to be carried out in all programmes under the Strategy for Rural Development.
- Capacity building of local communities within the decentralisation framework to enable them to discharge their responsibilities.
- Improve information access and support groups that deal with dissemination thereof.
- Put in place monitoring system for all means of energy provision and use.
- Fight against pollution.
- Health and sanitation education and sensitisation especially of rural communities.
- Putting protected areas under same network to benefit from economies of scale. It suggests that the support to 'W' National Park (a major national park in Niger around a meander in the River Niger shaped like a 'W') could be part of this system.

Comments on the CEP

Capacity: The number of forestry agents is mentioned (845 in 2003) as well as research and educational institutions, and operational local and international NGOs. But there is no indication of what capacity exists in government or the capability of the various educational institutions to meet the capacity needed.

Land tenure: There is mention in passing of land owned by the state, some privately owned and some that seems to be owned by communities. There is also mention of degradation of ancient forest systems. But there is no indication of what the land tenure system in Niger actually is and therefore no analysis of such system.

Judiciary: The judiciary as an important arm in governance is not mentioned so enforcement of environmental protection laws cannot be assessed.

Indicators: Indicators are mentioned in the context of the Strategy for Poverty Reduction as well as within various projects and programmes. However no indicators are suggested with regards to the recommendations made or in the context of future EU programming.

The CEP fails to mention population growth as an underlying problem. It neglects the problems of desertification which is expanding northwards due to rain-fed agriculture (millet and sorghum) beyond the sustainable limit due to population pressure. This is also leading to encroachment into traditional semi-arid seasonal grazing grounds of semi-nomadic Twareg and nomadic Fulani pastoralists and hence conflict. Poaching is also not mentioned anywhere. Again, corruption and non-enforcement of environmental laws is a problem. The 'Eaux et Forêts' department is weak and lacks capacity. (*Country comments* – source BirdLife)

Papua New Guinea

The CEP of Papua New Guinea is fairly detailed but throws up more questions than answers. Issues of governance and land tenure are complex and impact greatly on environmental matters. It is one of the few countries in the world where there has not yet been substantial exploitation and degradation of natural resources. The gridlock resulting from the traditional land tenure system has protected Papua New Guinea from rapid exploitation of its natural resources. At the same time, this delay in moving from traditional to modern systems also poses challenges in formulating and implementing policies and programmes for the sustainable management and use of such resources. The challenges are therefore enormous to forge the right path forward. The recommendations outlined in the paper are in line with the position of the EU – to support local communities' participation in the management of natural resources. There has also been good participation of civil society groups in drawing up the CEP.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Papua New Guinea (February 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: clearance of land for mining (limited) and agriculture, illegal logging, mono-culture plantations, soil erosion, silting, and lack of waste management in urban areas (human, commercial, mining and industrial) contaminating land and water.

Pollution of and pressure on marine life: pollution from mining, industrial and human effluent and tailings, over fishing, illegal fishing and some use of dynamite fishing.

Pressure on wildlife and biodiversity: from the above practices.

Air pollution and global warming problems: possible vulnerability to global warming and changing global weather systems.

Natural hazards: landslides, cyclones, earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Poverty
- Lack of (human, financial and infrastructural) capacity
- Weak government and lack of transparency
- Complicated land tenure system and institutions involved in environmental protection

Recommendations

- Environmental issues to be taken into account in the main focus of poverty alleviation and improved livelihoods.
- Ensure focus of development assistance is towards landowners and local communities.
- Support the Rural Coastal Fisheries Development Programme.
- Support the Mining Sector Support Programme.
- Implementation of programmes should follow the guidelines of the EU ECO-Forestry Project⁵² and the guidelines of the community based program on fisheries run by Conservation International.⁵³

⁵² www.delpng.ec.europa.eu

⁵³ Community-based Coastal and Marine Conservation in Milne Bay Province – www.undp.pg.org

Comments on the CEP

Papua New Guinea raises unique challenges for EU development cooperation because of its land tenure system (97 per cent of land held under customary tenure), weak government and so far low exploitation of natural resources. The CEP exhibits some confusion on how best to tackle issues. It seems they would often be addressed at national government level, but this is not possible in the case of Papua New Guinea because of the land tenure system and inability of government to exercise control throughout the country. This is assessed as having both slowed down what could otherwise be rapid exploitation of Papua New Guinea's natural resources and hindered implementation of programmes. Largely, the recommendations seem to fall on the side of working with landowners and local communities, which is in line with the position of the EU.

Philippines

A comprehensive study and analysis of the environmental situation of the Philippines is provided in the environmental profile. The CEP emphasises the importance of trade as part of the development package to ensure sustainability and states that this should not be forgotten when programmes (including community-based ones) are being formulated. It also highlights the need to ensure that communities are consulted and their views taken on board in the formulation of programmes. Above all it throws light on the dilemmas faced by donors when programmes fail, especially programmes concerning governance and institutional reform at government level. There is also a useful and practical set of recommendations which could be implemented by the EC.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Philippines (August 2005)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Heavy deforestation: only 8 per cent of the original forest cover is left and loss still continues at 2 per cent per year.

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, clearance of land for agriculture, mining and human settlements, some illegal logging, forest fires, soil erosion, silting, high water use by humans, agriculture, industry and mines, high population density in some areas exacerbating pressures on land and water, and lack of waste management (human, commercial, mining and industrial) contaminating land and water.

Pressure on coast and marine environment: clearing of fish farming, silting and pollution of estuaries and coastal waters from degraded land, extraction of coral, illegal and unregulated fishing, use of poisons in fishing and over-fishing.

Natural hazards such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, volcanic eruptions and drought.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity from the above activities, from monoculture plantations and the introduction of alien species with potential hazards of pests and diseases.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Weak governance
- Lack of education
- Lack of cohesion in environmental legislation, policy, strategy and actions for delivery as well as competing and conflicting instruments and institutions for delivery
- Instability
- High population density and population growth

Recommendations in the CEP

- Ongoing political dialogue between the EC and the government of the Philippines on prioritising environmental integration in all government activity.
- Assurance at all times by the EC that development cooperation instruments (i.e. CSPs) as well as other contact missions ensure that environmental issues are integrated in all sectors of cooperation and of government.
- That the EC puts environmental issues at the centre of dialogue with all civil society groups.

- That the EC continues to work closely with performing and proven NGOs, other civil society groups and enterprises.
- That there should be greater coordination between donor partners and that the EC should support the formalisation of such coordination.

Comments on the CEP

Civil society: Although the CEP highlights the important role which NGOs play in the Philippines, there is no indication that any were consulted in drawing this CEP.

Sierra Leone

Overall, an informative CEP on the state of the environment, it gives detailed information with a fairly comprehensive set of recommendations. Sierra Leone is rich in ecosystems (coastal and marine ecosystems, forests, rivers, fresh water swamps, savannah woodlands) and biodiversity (mammals, birds, reptiles and insects). The country has also suffered from a civil war in the recent past and the environmental profile highlights the current and potential threats and to the country's biodiversity and ecosystems.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Sierra Leone (September 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, charcoal, clearance of land for mining and mining pits (large and especially small scale), illegal logging, slash-and-burn agricultural practices, forest fires, soil erosion, silting, very high population density in some areas – exacerbating pressure on land and water and lack of waste management (i.e. human, commercial, mining, industrial and hospital waste effluents).

Pressure on coast and marine environment: clearing of mangroves for human habitat, fuel wood and charcoal production, silting and pollution of estuaries and coast from degraded land, extraction of sand and illegal and unregulated fishing (mainly large foreign vessels).

Air pollution and global warming problems from releases of greenhouse gases and CFCs from unregulated vehicle, industrial, waste incineration and mining emissions.

Natural hazards such as floods, landslides and drought, forest fires.

Biodiversity: Threat to biodiversity from the above and due to hunting.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Poverty
- Lack of (human, financial and infrastructural) capacity
- Weak government, corruption and lack of transparency
- Instability
- Poor participation of civil society

Recommendations in the CEP

- Capacity building and support to enable implementation of environmental programmes (human, financial and infrastructural)
- Development and harmonisation of environmental policies and legislation
- Greater use of EU financial instruments
- Greater integration of environmental issues in EU development assistance in Sierra Leone

Comment on the CEP

Participation of non-state actors: there is very little information about local non-state actors, especially NGOs and there is no indication that NGOs (environmental and social and both local and international) were consulted in drawing this CEP.

Data: Very good general data on Sierra Leone. However it is not specific as to human and infrastructural capacity of the main ministries dealing with environmental issues (except in the case of the National

Commission on the Environment and Forestry known as NACEF, which has seven principal members of staff).⁵⁴ Also there is no indication of the number of non-state actors engaged in environmental issues. As a result, deficiencies in human and infrastructural capacity cannot be fully assessed.

Land tenure systems: Beyond a brief mention of insecurity in land tenure systems in urban areas due to illegal or unregulated settlements, as well as the recommendation that land tenure systems ought to be studied, there is no information on current land tenure systems. Accordingly there is no assessment of their impact on environmental issues.

Judiciary: There is no mention of the judiciary and the important role it can play in environmental protection through enforcement of laws and rights.

Indicators: There are no indicators in the CEP for the recommendations and their implementation.

Recommendations

- Due consideration is not given to existing institutions and strengthening them instead of creating new ones. For instance, the work to be done by Sierra Leone's National Commission on the Environment and Forestry can be done by environmental officers in existing ministries under the coordination of the vice president, a situation that exists in other countries.
- The recommendations are not sufficiently prioritised and there are not enough actual programmes for implementing them.
- Quite a few of the recommendations are not streamlined and if anything their implementation would increase the layers of bureaucracy in a government which is already weak. For instance, the full implementation of all international agreements to which the country is a signatory does not appear feasible in the near future.
- Insufficient weight is put to bottom-up solutions and greater involvement of village groups in their own poverty reduction policies and strategies.

54 Country Environmental Profile (CEP) Sierra Leone: Leslie Blinker, Consortium Parsons Brinckerhoff – September 2006

Tanzania

Tanzania has important ecosystems, including grasslands, forests, lakes, rivers and river basins and coastal and marine areas. It is one of the richest biodiversity hotspots in Africa and globally. The environmental profile gives good information on the threats to these ecosystems, focusing mainly on human activity induced threats.

SUMMARY: Country Environment Profile of Tanzania (April 2006)

Environmental issues identified in the CEP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: fuel wood collection, charcoal production, pressure on and pollution of land and water due to agriculture and animal husbandry, mining (especially artisanal mining), commercial and industrial activity and very high population density in some areas, illegal logging, deforestation, draining of marshes for agriculture, forest fires, soil erosion, unplanned settlements, poor waste management (human, commercial, mining, industrial and agricultural), silting, and introduction of exotic species (e.g. water hyacinth).

Pressure on coastal and marine environment: silting and pollution of estuaries and coast from degraded land and mining, industrial, agricultural and human effluent, extraction of sand, use of dynamite and poison in fishing, human settlements, unregulated tourism and unregulated deep sea fishing.

Air pollution and global warming problems from releases of green house gases and CEFs from vehicles (especially in urban areas), industry, mining road and construction industries. Not yet a very serious problem but requires attention to prevent it becoming one.

Natural hazards such as floods, drought and cyclones.

Biodiversity: loss of biodiversity from above activities, excessive exploitation of some species (e.g. elephants and rhinos), fragmentation and loss of ecosystems linkages.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Poverty
- Lack of (human, financial and infrastructural) capacity
- High population density in urban areas
- Weak government, corruption and lack of transparency
- Instability
- Inadequate participation of civil society

Recommendations in the CEP

- Capacity building and support to enable implementation of environmental programmes (human, financial and infrastructural)
- Implementation of existing environmental legislation
- Development of a National Environmental Action Plan

Comments on the CEP

Non-State Actors: The CEP states that there was participation of all stake holder groups of non-state actors in drawing up the profile.⁵⁵ This statement cannot be assessed without more information as to who these stakeholders were and how many were environmental and/or social groups. Similarly while there is some mention of NGO participation in policy and other public activities, the depth of this participation cannot be assessed on the basis of the information provided.⁵⁶

Data: The CEP highlights the problem of data paucity in Tanzania.⁵⁷ This is a justified criticism, but it loses sight of the fact that some important, relevant data can be obtained without too much effort (e.g. number of operating environmental NGOs in the country, number of personnel working in the forestry department).⁵⁸

Land tenure: This topic is not addressed at all in the environmental profile except for one line in the recommendations which mentions that land tenure systems must be studied. Information on this issue should be easily available. There is no indication in the CEP why it has not been obtained and assessed.

Assessments, recommendations and indicators: Because of the omissions outlined above, there is no adequate assessment of capacity with respect to government or civil society, or participation of civil society in environmental policy and implementation issues. The recommendations made are not comprehensive and lack detail. There are also no indicators for any of the recommendations.

The CEP should mention that wildlife conservation depends on conserving wildlife outside protected areas. Currently there is no effective policy framework for rural communities to really benefit from wildlife on their lands – benefits from exploitation accrue mostly to government with the result that there is widespread illegal hunting. Creation of legislation for Wildlife Management Areas has not resolved this.
(Country comments – source Birdlife)

The CEP fails to identify some important environmental issues such as overfishing in both marine and freshwater habitats. Overgrazing and overstocking are implied but not explicitly mentioned. Soil fertility is widely decreasing. Poisoning of top predators and scavengers is disrupting ecological webs. The CEP does not mention over-exploitation of wildlife through poaching and illegal trade. The rush for biofuels (Jatropha, Croton, sugarcane, sunflower, oil palm etc.) is exacerbating pressure on land. Underlying issues should include rapid population growth as an underlying factor increasing pressure on natural resources.
Government capacity: Tanzania is an extremely corrupt country, ranked 102nd in the world in the 2008 Transparency International Corruption Perception Index. This is particularly problematic in the wildlife sector where issuing of hunting licences is deeply corrupt. (Country comment – source BirdLife)

55 Country Environment Profile United Republic of Tanzania April 2006 p. 37

56 ibid pp 13, 26

57 ibid p.26

58 ibid pp 23-24, NGOs such as Community Forest Conservation Network, Division of Environment (Vice President's office)

Andean Community

This REP gives the regional environmental profile of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (the latter has since left the Andean Community). Of these five countries, Bolivia is the only one which is landlocked. They share the characteristic of having the Andean mountain range running through the countries, as well as sharing the basins of some of the biggest rivers in the area (including the Amazon). The REP provides some of the best political analysis of the environmental situation in these countries, highlighting the interplay between governance, poverty and education and how they affect behaviour on the ground. More importantly however, the REP makes it clear that the regional approach in the Andean countries faces major constraints because of conflicting political and economic interests and expected outcomes from proposed programmes.

SUMMARY: Regional Environment Profile of Andean Community (February 2005)

Environmental issues identified in the REP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: from deforestation for agriculture, mining and human settlements, pollution from mining, human, commercial and industrial effluent contaminating land and water, soil erosion from the aforementioned activities, and silting and solid waste disposal in land and water.

Coastal and marine resources: pollution from human, mining, industrial and agricultural effluent and chemicals, damages of coral reef from tourist activity and from pollution also affecting fishing.

Air pollution: in urban centres due to polluting vehicles, generators and fuel burning power stations.

Natural hazards: water borne diseases, drought, floods. Susceptible to global warming leading to receding glaciers not replenishing lakes and aquifers.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity mainly from clearing of land for agriculture, human settlements.

Indigenous forest peoples: under pressure in their lands. Although recognised as having the right to their lands, they are often under pressure from illegal activities even by governments (illegal logging, mining and prospecting activity). Weak governance results in lack of protection.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Weak governance (corruption and ignorance)
- Weak institutions and local communities (ignorance and lack of education)
- Lack of a proper policy framework for dealing with environmental management
- Poverty and lack of financial resources to devote to environmental issues
- High population density in urban areas

Recommendations in the REP

- Support the creation of a shared vision of sustainable development in the region through the creation and support of regional networks to disseminate information, and carry out educational and political campaigns to integrate sustainable development into economic growth and social justice programmes.
- Support governance and poverty reduction programmes by supporting decentralisation and participatory local community management of natural resources, ensuring they benefit equitably in any gains, ensuring the integration of sustainability and environmental protection into all programmes (even of a commercial nature) and supporting capacity building of all institutions, especially regional and local institutions.

- Support river basin management.
- Establish multi-purpose environmental information systems.

Comments on the REP

Civil Society: there is no indication that any civil society groups were interviewed in drawing up this REP.

Land tenure: although ownership of land by governments, private persons and indigenous peoples is mentioned, there is no indication of what the land tenure systems are in the Andean countries and how they affect the use of natural resources.

Indicators: there is no outline of indicators for the various recommendations made.

Judiciary: there is no indication of what the judiciary systems are in the Andean countries, their strengths and capacity to arbitrate in land issues.

Indigenous peoples: although the plight of indigenous peoples is mentioned in the REP there are no recommendations on how their situation could be addressed.

Central American Region

This REP covers Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Honduras. It is a balanced and informative REP which describes some of the difficulties of working at a regional level and notes that in some cases it would be better to have two or three neighbouring countries forming bilateral agreements on issues of common interest as far as the environment is concerned. It also advocates further studies on specific topics of importance such as land tenure issues (in some areas, tenure can also be bestowed on the basis of land use or occupation, resulting in lack of land planning),⁵⁹ marine ecosystems and coral reefs, and climate change. More detail should also be collected on convergence and discrepancies concerning the different countries in the region.

SUMMARY: Regional Environment Profile of Central American Region (February 2005)

Environmental issues identified in the REP

Degradation of land and water ecosystems: from forest conversion for agriculture, mining and human settlements, pollution from mining, human, commercial and industrial effluent contaminating land and water, soil erosion from the aforementioned activities, silting, and contaminated soils and water from use of agricultural chemicals.

Coastal and marine resources: pollution from human, mining, industrial and agricultural effluent and chemicals, damages of coral reef from tourist activity and from pollution also affecting fishing.

Air pollution: in urban centres due to polluting vehicles.

Natural hazards: water borne diseases, drought, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

Loss of habitat and biodiversity mainly from clearing of land for agriculture, and for human settlements.

Underlying issues exacerbating and hampering resolution of above issues

- Weak governance
- Weak institutions and local communities (ignorance and lack of education)
- Poverty and lack of financial resources to devote to environmental issues
- High population density in urban areas (especially El Salvador)
- Inability to reach consensus in some areas due to different interests of all the countries involved

Recommendations in the REP

- Support sustainable water supply and sanitation.
- Support capacity and education of both government and civil society institutions on sustainable use of natural resources. This is especially important to change the mentality of seeing environmental integration as a cost rather than a benefit.
- Support programmes which strengthen regional cooperation, especially legal and institutional development initiatives which have a regional perspective.

Comments on the REP

Land tenure: although ownership of land is alluded to, there is no indication of what the land tenure systems are in the Central American region or how they affect environmental issues.

Indicators: there is no outline of indicators for the various recommendations made.

Judiciary: there is no description of the judicial systems in the Central American Region, in particular with respect to enforcement of environmental law.

Indigenous peoples: Despite the high percentage of indigenous peoples, there are only limited references to indigenous peoples and issues affecting them.



BirdLife International is a global Partnership of conservation organisations that strives to conserve birds, their habitats and global biodiversity, working with people towards sustainability in the use of natural resources. The BirdLife Partnership operates in more than 100 countries and territories worldwide, many in developing countries. BirdLife International is represented in 42 countries in Europe and is active in all EU Member States. <http://europe.birdlife.org>



FERN is a European NGO that campaigns for greater environmental and social justice. FERN's main focus is on the impact of the policies and practices of the European Union on forests and forest peoples. www.fern.org



WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature. The WWF European Policy Office contributes to the achievement of WWF's mission by helping shape European policies impacting on the European and global environment. www.panda.org/eu

Resourced by:

FERN, the Forests and the European Union Resource Network, Brussels, Belgium

WWF, World Wide Fund for Nature (Formerly World Wildlife Fund),
Brussels, Belgium

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the UK Partner of BirdLife International (Registered Charity England and Wales no 207076, Scotland no SC037654)

ICCO, Interchurch Organization for Development Cooperation, Utrecht,
The Netherlands