

## Lessons from Tanzania on Mainstreaming Environment into the New Poverty Reduction Strategy<sup>1</sup>

Tanzania is developing its second poverty reduction strategy (PRS II) for implementation starting in 2005. This new PRS is very different from the first in that it is strongly outcome focused and has deliberately set out to mainstream cross-cutting issues, including environment, as integral to the strategy and not as an 'add on'. This was in response to a recognition by the Government of Tanzania, national stakeholders and development partners that environment, and other important cross-cutting issues were not well addressed in the first PRS, and that attention was essential to the achievement of sustainable poverty reduction and growth. A very important feature of the development of PRS II has been national ownership and the implementation of extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders on the content and focus of PRS II. The strategy also makes explicit mention of achieving WSSD actions, and is seen as a means to achieving sustainable development.

With this increased focus on cross-cutting issues – environment, HIV/AIDs, gender, employment, governance, children, youth, elderly, disabled and settlements – the challenge was how these should be prioritised and how these should actually be mainstreamed into the PRS. Key questions to be answered were:

- ◆ What impacts do cross-cutting issues have on vulnerability, poverty reduction, economic growth, and achievement of the MDGs?
- ◆ What should be the priority cross-cutting issues for the new PRS, and what is the

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**1. Case study provided by David Howlett, Poverty Environment Adviser, Poverty Eradication Division, Vice President's Office, PO Box 9182, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. [david.howlett@undp.org](mailto:david.howlett@undp.org)**



justification for their inclusion and contribution to the new PRS outcomes and targets?

- ◆ What policies and policy changes are required to address the cross-cutting issues?
- ◆ What actions on the ground are required to address cross-cutting issues, who should undertake them, what sectoral guidance is needed, and what co-ordination mechanisms and monitoring mechanisms are required?

### MAINSTREAMING ACTIVITIES

To support the mainstreaming of environment the Government of Tanzania developed a programme in the Vice President's Office with UNDP.<sup>2</sup> This programme has three main elements:

- ◆ **Knowledge** – increased understanding on poverty-environment linkages. This has included studies on policy links on poverty-environment; the first public expenditure review on environment to establish the levels, trends and distribution of environmental expenditure and revenue; the potential use of Strategic Environment Assessment in poverty reduction in Tanzania; and, environment and vulnerability from the participatory poverty assessment.
- ◆ **Data** – use of environment/livelihoods data in the PRS and local level planning, to determine the impacts of policies and plans on poverty and environment issues. This has already included the addition of a preliminary set of poverty-environment indicators to the national poverty monitoring system. Linked to the new PRS a major study is underway to further refine this indicator set and to link this to routine data collection and reporting on the MDGs. To obtain a national baseline environment and livelihoods key questions were included in the 2003 agricultural survey, and these will be included in the environment module of the Tanzania Social Economic Database (TSED).
- ◆ **Capacity building** – at national and local levels better to address poverty-environment issues in interventions. This has included support to the development of the new Environmental Management Programme to protect environment and protect people's livelihoods; the establishment by Government of an Environment Working Group with broad membership with the aim to promote the integration of the environment into development policies; and plans to help ensure the sustainable use of natural resources for poverty reduction.

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## The Tanzanian Poverty Reduction Strategy: Clusters and Outcomes

### Cluster 1: Growth and Reduction of Income Poverty

#### *Broad outcomes:*

- ◆ Broad based and equitable growth is achieved and sustained

### Cluster 2: Quality of Life and Social Well-being

#### *Broad outcomes:*

- ◆ Quality of life and social well-being, with particular focus on the poorest and most vulnerable groups improved
- ◆ Inequalities in outcomes (e.g. education, survival, health) across geographic, income, age, gender and other groups reduced

### Cluster 3: Governance and Accountability

#### *Broad outcomes:*

- ◆ Peace, political stability, national unity and social cohesion deepened
- ◆ Democracy and political and social tolerance
- ◆ Good governance and the rule of law
- ◆ Accountability of leaders and public servants

## ENVIRONMENT AND THE NEW PRS

The focus of the mainstreaming efforts has been to develop interventions that will help achieve the goals and targets under three clusters of broad outcomes (see Box). This is a very important aspect of the mainstreaming process as it focuses thinking on how environment contributes to the PRS outcomes and goals rather than trying to get environment into the PRS for its own sake. For example Cluster 1 includes a goal of *promoting sustainable and broad-based growth* with a target to achieve GDP growth of 6-8 per cent by 2010. To achieve this the new PRS has interventions on the sustainable management of catchments to ensure water and energy services are provided for the economy and to support people's livelihoods. Another goal on *reducing income poverty of men and women in rural areas* includes interventions on increasing livelihood/employment from natural resource use, and a greater share of benefits from wildlife, forests and fisheries to local communities.

Under the second cluster the PRS has a specific environmental goal of *improving sanitation and shelter in urban/rural areas, and reduced environmental risk*. This has a target on reducing environmental pollution levels and on vulnerability from droughts and flooding under which there are strategies on pollution control and prevention, sanitation and solid waste management, and also on issues of desertification and drylands. Interventions on environmental pollution are also expected to make contributions to the second goal of a *reduction in infant, child and maternal mortality, morbidity and malnutrition*.



Importantly, environment interventions are also expected to make contributions to the achievement of goals under Cluster 3 on governance and accountability. For example, there will be interventions on access and control over environment and natural resources and reduction in corruption in natural resource sectors (e.g. illegal logging).

### TEN STEPS TO SUCCESS

Tanzania is now making real progress on environment mainstreaming – although challenges still remain to implement the interventions defined by the new PRS and to develop operational guidance on environment mainstreaming at the local and sectoral levels. The ingredients to success in Tanzania are the strong recognition that environment matters and the development of ten practical steps to mainstreaming:

1. Strong national group of stakeholders to champion environment.
2. Increased awareness on why environmental issues are of crucial importance to poverty reduction and achievement of MDGs.
3. Greater understanding of, and increased analytical work on, the links between poverty and environment including the contribution of environment to growth, livelihoods, government revenue, and importance to achievement of many of the MDGs.
4. Establishment of a cross-sectoral forum to work on environment that is led by government.
5. Review and strategic assessment of policies, plans and programmes for impact on environment and poverty.
6. Assessment of the levels of public expenditure on environment against contributions to growth and poverty reduction, and policy objectives.
7. Integration of environment issues and appraisal into planning processes, particularly at the local level (village and district).
8. Integration of multi-lateral commitments and opportunities on environment (e.g. Climate Change Convention) into national policies and strategies
9. Strengthened environmental management capacity of government, non-government and private sector, and development of sectoral guidelines on mainstreaming
10. Inclusion of poverty-environment indicators in local and national monitoring systems – including the PRS.