



# Sustaining Action

UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Action  
for Sustainable Development Goals  
Third Annual Progress Report 2021

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# Foreword

In 2021, environmental issues attained unprecedented prominence on the global stage as the world continued to witness a reduction in development gains acquired over the years. Efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals have been intermittently interrupted by economic and financial crises and environmental degradation; most recently and most pervasively by the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite policy intervention and support at the national and international levels, this is the most severe global recession of the past eight decades. The global extreme poverty rate rose for the first time in over 20 years, and 119–124 million people were pushed back into extreme poverty in 2020.<sup>1</sup>

The COP26 Glasgow Climate Pact underscores the need to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change in the context of sustainable development, to eradicate poverty, and to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards climate-resilient development that takes into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.<sup>2</sup> The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's [Sixth Assessment Report: Mitigation of Climate Change 2022](#) cites policies, regulations and market instruments that are proving to be effective; if scaled up and applied more widely and equitably, they can support deep emissions reductions and stimulate innovation. Post-pandemic recovery strategies provide a useful context for such action. Among these, the [European Green Deal](#) may contribute significantly to least developed countries' continued efforts in poverty-environment-climate action.

The health crisis has highlighted how interconnected development facets are and how a fair, equitable recovery must put an end to acute multidimensional poverty.<sup>3</sup> To achieve a future where all individuals are living good lives, the global community must fix the structural inequalities that oppress and hinder progress. A post-COVID-19 world can be a more just world – but only if evidence-driven policies that put the most vulnerable at the heart of reconstruction are adopted.<sup>4</sup> With poverty, climate change and inequality emerging as the defining issues of our era, the focus for Poverty-Environment Action will continue to be on deepening and broadening poverty-environment mainstreaming and aligning finance and investment with poverty, environment and climate objectives in the face of the changing forms and conditions of poverty found in the world today. As we continue to operate in the shadow of COVID-19, the need is ever more urgent, and the relevance of Poverty-Environment Action never greater.

Anne Juepner

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# Executive Summary




**T**he Poverty–Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals (PEA) project, a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme, aims at mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication into development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems; public and private finance; and investment. Eight full–fledged country projects are being supported through PEA, four in Africa (**Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique** and **Rwanda**) and four in Asia Pacific (**Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Myanmar** and **Nepal**). An additional technical assistance intervention is being carried in each region in, respectively, **Tanzania** and **Indonesia**. Completing the PEA portfolio are four further technical assistance efforts on (i) the **blue economy** in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), (ii) **green bonds** in **South Africa** in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), (iii) **gender and climate-smart agriculture** in partnership with UN Women and (iv) **capacity building**.

In 2021, PEA continued to deliver on its objective to strengthen **integration of poverty–environment–climate objectives into policies, plans, regulations and investments** of partner countries to accelerate delivery of the 2030 Agenda. Notable achievements in this regard included developing and launching a “Technical Handbook on Issuing Municipal Sustainable Bonds in South Africa” in March 2022; 32 guidelines and tools to manage private sector investment decisions that facilitate or prioritize quality investments; 60 planning frameworks, legislation and regulations that integrate the poverty–environment nexus to enhance capacity to apply integrated approaches and tools for mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives into development planning and budgeting; and collecting environmental/ social/economic data and building capacity in applying a poverty–environment nexus perspective through national development and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) monitoring systems in four countries and the technical assistance intervention on blue economy.

A joint **ADB**–PEA report was prepared, “Financing the Blue Economy: Investments in Sustainable Blue Small–Medium Enterprises and Projects in Asia and the Pacific.” The report identifies financing gaps and priority investment sectors that could generate the greatest positive environmental and social impacts. This initiative demonstrates how a relatively small and targeted PEA intervention can influence and guide the programming of partner organizations that have significant resources.






A draft report was produced on the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Zimbabwe. This work, together with the previous work done on gender in agricultural productivity in partnership with **UN Women**, contributes to the UN Women Climate Smart Agriculture Programme Guide that will be used to build capacities of both UN and government institutions on developing sustainable climate-smart agriculture programmes.

There is **growing interest from the private sector**, as reflected in an increased number of local-level proposals on sustainable investments, and commendable government support from at least six countries (**Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda** and **Tanzania**). The technical assistance interventions on **blue economy** and **green bonds** provided tools, guidelines and assessments that similarly recognized the private sector's critical role in poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. At the regional level, five investment dossiers for bankable investments have been completed based on the aforementioned joint ADB-PEA report. Regional and global partners have referenced PEA tools and approaches 27 times – an indication of growing interest that needs more advocacy work to transition to adoption. At the country level, sustainable municipal bonds have been adopted in **Indonesia** and **South Africa** in support of the poverty-environment nexus for SDG acceleration. An additional three countries (**Bangladesh, Cambodia** and **Sri Lanka**) have expressed a strong interest in applying integrated mainstreaming tools and approaches with support from PEA.

PEA successfully mobilized additional resources amounting to almost \$2.0 million from the Government of Belgium in line with the **resource mobilization strategy** that was developed for PEA to close the financing gap originally pegged at \$4.3 million. The funds will support activities in **Indonesia, Mozambique, Rwanda** and **Tanzania**, as well as regional actions in Africa, Asia Pacific, global knowledge management and dissemination. Notably, the funds will seed the blue investment financial facility under development with ADB, support a task force on climate budget tagging with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and help develop online training courses with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

The year 2021 marked the start of a **new strategic partnership** formed at the regional level through the technical assistance on capacity building. Partnerships were established and strengthened for knowledge sharing through a nine-part webinar series, which was widely promoted by PEA and partner entities. Three policy briefs were produced on the webinar topics focusing on green financing in private investment, the PEA's integrated approach to implementing the SDGs, and greening budget and greening public finance management. These policy briefs will inform the revision of the PEA 2015 flagship mainstreaming handbook (*Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development*), to be completed in 2022. The updated handbook will in turn inform the creation of a massive open online course to be made available on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research's **UN CC:e-Learn** platform.

A Helpdesk was established as a one-stop point of contact on the PEA website that provides stakeholders with a centralized information service on mainstreaming of poverty-environment objectives into policy, budgeting, programming and investments in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



PEA also extended support to **United Nations** Resident Coordinator processes in the context of ongoing UN reform in **Mozambique**. Through PEA technical support, the United Nations Environment Programme co-led the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Strategic Priority area on climate resilience and sustainable use of natural resources resulting in a new framework with a strong focus on the environment, natural resources and climate.

PEA implementation continued to be affected by the **COVID-19 pandemic** due to travel bans, restrictions on in-person meetings/workshops and government offices working at limited capacity in most instances. Activities that required trainings, workshops, data collection and international consultants were postponed or, in some cases, cancelled. A different challenge confronted PEA in **Myanmar**, where nearly 50 per cent of the project had to be pivoted after the February 2021 coup to align with UN Principles of Engagement with the de facto authorities. The project continued with adaptive management to mitigate the impact of the pandemic through a series of proactive calls with the countries and technical assistance to provide support. Furthermore, a series of activities were reprogrammed to 2022. At the global level, adaptation to the ongoing COVID-19 reality continued as Project Board, Executive and staff meetings were held virtually throughout 2021. Despite the challenges, PEA achieved 75 per cent financial delivery on its donor-funded portfolio worth \$5.4 million in 2021 and a total expenditure of approximately \$7.8 million from all funding sources.

**Going forward**, PEA will emphasize delivering its \$10.7 million budget to reach the last mile in attaining the project's outcome in its final year of implementation. The strategic focus will be on (i) establishing the capacity-building platform and massive open online course in partnership with United Nations Institute for Training and Research; (ii) updating the 2015 mainstreaming handbook that will inform the course's content as it restates the integrated, programmatic approach; (iii) promote visibility of results through impact stories, video clips, publications, best practices on poverty-environment mainstreaming, and webinars on thematic topics to promote adoption of poverty-environment mainstreaming tools and approaches; (iv) develop a PEA legacy package as part of its sustainability efforts to propose how the valuable knowledge and experience produced during the Poverty-Environment Initiative and PEA projects can continue to be accessible by stakeholders; and (v) prepare for project closure by commissioning the final evaluation and lessons learned reports to inform the final project report to be completed in 2023.



# Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
CSO	civil society organization
ENR	environment and natural resource
ENRM	environment and natural resource management
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
FYDP III	Third Five-Year Development Plan
GGKP	Green Growth Knowledge Platform
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
M&E	monitoring and evaluation
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NGO	non-governmental organization
PAGE	Partnership for Action on Green Economy
PEA	Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals
PEI	Poverty-Environment Initiative
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNRISD	United Nations Research Institute for Social Development



# Context and Report Overview



## Context of the Poverty-Environment Action

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) bring together development, environment and climate concerns in a comprehensive and integrated agenda for change. The overriding goal of the SDGs is to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 and to “leave no one behind.” But the agenda goes much further – aiming to transform economies by making economic growth more inclusive and equitable; decoupling growth from environmental degradation and promoting resource efficiency; and accelerating the transition to low-carbon, climate-resilient development pathways and inclusive green economies.

Together with the other three agenda-setting agreements adopted by world leaders in 2015 – the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change – the case for poverty-environment mainstreaming is as strong as ever. The 2030 agenda reflects a greater recognition of the major poverty-environment challenges facing the world’s population arising from depleted natural capital, climate vulnerability, gender inequality, rural-urban migration and rising resource demands – all of which disproportionately affect the livelihoods and well-being of the poor and vulnerable.

By building on the legacy of its predecessor, the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI), the Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals (PEA) project – a follow-on joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) – is uniquely placed to ensure that the environmental dimension is not left behind when addressing poverty. Leveraging broader 2030 Agenda and SDG implementation processes provides entry points not only to mainstream environmental sustainability and related climate concerns for poverty eradication, but also to gradually shift government priorities and resource allocations towards addressing these issues. PEA also provides opportunities to improve the quality of private sector investments to support poverty-environment objectives – a key focus of PEA is aligning finance and investment with poverty, environment and climate objectives to accelerate SDG implementation.<sup>5</sup>

PEA operates at country, regional and global levels through a two-pronged strategy of deepening and broadening support to countries on poverty-environment and climate mainstreaming. These two complementary tracks continue to:

- Deepen mainstreaming efforts to integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication into development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems and into public and private finance and investment.
- Broaden the dissemination and use of the programme's substantial body of country-level experience in the application of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools through stepped-up efforts in knowledge management and sharing – including through targeted technical assistance to selected countries, South-South knowledge transfer and cooperation, and proactive engagement with key global and regional actors supporting national SDG implementation and acceleration processes.

PEA's two-pronged strategy is complemented by a focus on strengthening strategic partnerships and improving coordination with other development actors, especially at the country level. To this end, PEA has eight full-fledged country projects, four in Africa (**Malawi**, **Mauritania**, **Mozambique** and **Rwanda**) and four in Asia Pacific (**Bangladesh**, **Lao PDR**, **Myanmar** and **Nepal**) that build on substantive PEI efforts. It also provides technical assistance in a fifth country in each region: in **Indonesia**, PEA supports selected government offices responsible for public financial management in integrating poverty-environment-gender in the context of ongoing public financial management and budget reforms; in **Tanzania**, PEA technical assistance focuses on increasing public and private investments with enhanced impacts on multidimensional poverty reduction, inequality, environment and natural resource (ENR) sustainability, climate resilience and SDG objectives.

Four additional initiatives complete the PEA portfolio: these are technical assistance interventions (summarized in table 1) on the **blue economy** in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), **green bonds** in **South Africa** in partnership with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), **gender and climate-smart agriculture** in partnership with UN Women, and **capacity building**.

## Report coverage

This report covers progress on implementation from January to December 2021 of the PEA project through its eight full-fledged country projects and six technical assistance initiatives. **Tanzania**. The remainder of the report is organized as follows. It begins with a detailed review of PEA implementation by **outcome** and **output indicator** performance, with a summary of **overall performance** following. It continues with a description of **communication and visibility** efforts, an examination of the **challenges** encountered in 2021 to successful implementation, and **lessons learned** for strengthening project delivery. It concludes with a summary of the envisioned **way forward**. A set of appendixes complete the report presenting, respectively, the PEA communication action plan, the 2022 PEA work plan and a certificate for outstanding evaluation.

**Table 1 Summary of technical assistance interventions**

Intervention	Description
<b>Blue economy</b>	This joint initiative with ADB aims to integrate poverty-environment objectives into blue economy planning and financing mechanisms. Key deliverables include a joint PEA-ADB report that details potential follow-up work with ADB to ensure long-term sustainability of this intervention.
<b>Green bonds</b>	This initiative aims to strengthen existing green transformation approaches in South Africa and promote dialogue among key actors on SDGs and nationally determined contribution implementation. Implemented in partnership with the UNEP-GIZ project on Green Economy Transformation, PEA is providing technical assistant to support South Africa in (i) establishing green bonds at the municipal level through South-South exchange with Indonesia and (ii) assisting in the review of a handbook on green bonds, particularly with regard to its environmental and social dimensions.
<b>Gender and climate-smart agriculture</b>	This work is being implemented in partnership with UN Women to expand gender-sensitive climate-smart agricultural and environmental tools to two African countries. The effort is intended to influence decision-makers to provide enhanced support to female farmers by demonstrating that addressing the gender gap in agriculture will bring development benefits through improved food security and reduced poverty. It responds to the need for adoption of climate-smart agriculture as a practice to enhance climate resilience and environmental sustainability efforts.
<b>Capacity building</b>	This effort aims to strengthen the capacity of governments (particularly ministries of planning, finance and environment) and UN Country Teams to address and scale up action on the poverty-environment dimension of COVID-19 recovery, including under their national UN Socio-Economic Response and Recovery Frameworks. This entails establishing a virtual platform consisting of a help desk function to provide technical advisory and training support. The work seeks to strategically advance existing partnerships between PEA and its current donors and partners to strengthen the sustainability of PEA project results post-2022.



# Outcome Performance

**T**he year 2021 marked the third full year of implementation of the PEA project. Building on progress made in 2020, PEA has put in place the building blocks of future achievement in attaining the intended outcome of **strengthened integration of poverty–environment–climate objectives into policies, plans, regulations and investments of partner countries to accelerate delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs**. The outcome is tracked through three interrelated indicators:

- **Outcome Indicator 1:** Number of countries demonstrating alignment between poverty–environment objectives in plans and related budget allocations
- **Outcome Indicator 2:** Number of countries with increased investments in support of environmental sustainability and climate priorities for poverty eradication
- **Outcome Indicator 3:** Number of tools and approaches applied by regional and global partners in support of poverty–environment nexus for SDG acceleration

An increasing number of PEA countries are demonstrating alignment between poverty–environment objectives in their plans and related budget allocations. **Indonesia** and **Rwanda** continued to demonstrate increasing alignment between poverty–environment objectives in plans and budgets. **Bangladesh**, with its Development Finance Assessment and SDG Financing Strategy; **Nepal**, with its SDG budget code guideline; and **Tanzania**, with its Third Five-Year Development Plan (FYDP III) and related strategies, including the Integrated National Financing Framework and FYDP III Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Strategy, have also demonstrated alignment between poverty–environment objectives in plans and related budget allocations. Further, **Mozambique** and **Nepal** have continued work on aligning poverty–environment objectives to support localization of SDGs and nationally determined contributions (NDCs).

While countries have yet to register an increase in public investments in support of environmental sustainability and climate priorities for poverty eradication, more countries are engaged in building government capacities towards this end. Countries including **Lao PDR**, **Malawi** and **Tanzania** have intensified their support towards strengthening public–private partnerships to enhance quality investments from the private sector. These countries are working at decentralized levels to ensure that investments benefit the poor within the communities. There is growing interest from the private sector, as reflected in an increased number of local-level proposals on sustainable investments, and commendable government support from at least six countries (**Bangladesh**, **Lao PDR**, **Myanmar**, **Nepal**, **Rwanda** and **Tanzania**). Similarly, the



technical assistance interventions on **blue economy** and **green bonds** provided tools, guidelines and assessments that recognized the private sector's critical role in poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.

At the regional level, five investment dossiers for bankable investments have been completed based on the joint ADB-PEA report "Financing the Blue Economy: Investments in Sustainable Blue Small-Medium Enterprises and Projects in Asia and the Pacific." Regional and global partners have referenced PEA tools and approaches 27 times (see [box 1](#)) – an indication of growing interest that needs more advocacy work to transition to adoption. At the country level, sustainable municipal bonds have been adopted in **Indonesia** and **South Africa** in support of the poverty-environment nexus for SDG acceleration. An additional three countries (**Bangladesh**, **Cambodia** and **Sri Lanka**) have expressed a strong interest in applying integrated mainstreaming tools and approaches with support from PEA.

At the global level, the project has continued its engagement with the emerging topics of green financing, including intensifying the mainstreaming of poverty-environment objectives. The project has enhanced mainstreaming of these objectives in **blue economy** in Asia Pacific and in green bonds in **Indonesia** and **South Africa**. Knowledge sharing on these emerging topics has been increased to ensure the expansion of PEA tools across the globe.

Lessons learned indicate that more time and geared-up advocacy efforts are needed to generate a substantive shift in private investments and adoption beyond the tools and guidelines developed and capacity building provided. Significant uptake of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools by global, regional and local institutions supporting SDG implementation has also yet to gain adequate traction. The increased number of references achieved under output indicator 3.1 needs to transition to actual, quantifiable adoption.

PEA's integrated socioeconomic-environmental approach remains a best practice for supporting SDG implementation. Concrete socioeconomic evidence – when appropriately generated and proactively used – of the development impacts of unsustainable ENR use and climate change continues to be the most important means of convincing decision-makers to mainstream poverty-environment objectives. An increasing number of UN Resident Coordinators are prioritizing and requesting support for mainstreaming ENR sustainability and climate resilience across the United Nations (UN) Country Teams and through donor coordination mechanisms.

Overall, an upward trend of results at the output level is expected to continue in 2022 and beyond that will lead to attainment of the PEA project outcome. However, the need to scale up advocacy initiatives and technical support cannot be overemphasized if more countries are to meaningfully gain traction in strengthened integration of poverty-environment-climate objectives in policies, plans, regulations and investments of partner countries to accelerate delivery of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.



# Output Performance

**T**he PEA project is delivered through three interrelated outputs:

- **Output 1:** Development planning, budgeting, and monitoring systems integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication
- **Output 2:** Public finance and investment frameworks incentivize shift in public and private investments towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication
- **Output 3:** SDG implementation and acceleration processes leveraged to scale up use of integrated poverty–environment mainstreaming approaches and tools

Progress on these three outputs is monitored through 11 indicators that are detailed in this section and summarized in [table 3](#). Eight of the 11 indicators have surpassed their 2021 targets; two have fully achieved the targets; and only one indicator (1.3) is lagging. Four indicators (1.1, 1.4, 2.3 and 2.4) have already surpassed overall project targets. **Overall, the project indicators are on track and likely to be met by December 2022.**

## Output 1 Development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication

Output 1 focuses on strengthening the policy and institutional framework and capacities for poverty, environment and climate mainstreaming in partner countries. “Planning” here encompasses relevant policies, plans and strategies at the national, subnational and sectoral levels, in line with country demand/needs. “Environmental sustainability” includes sustainable management of ENR and pollution reduction. Reflecting PEA’s primary focus, key deliverables and services under Output 1 are aimed at helping to establish the enabling conditions for aligning public and private finance and investment with environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication (Output 2).

In 2021, PEA increased its engagement with governments to mainstream poverty, environment and climate change objectives into planning processes. For example, in [Tanzania](#), PEA supported the government in the development of the new Five-Year Development Plan as

well as supporting the localization process. In **Nepal**, PEA has taken steps to assess the level of achievement of the SDGs at the country level through preparation of the Leave No One Behind Framework and the SDG Localization Source Book, which is meant to serve as a guide for local authorities in localizing the SDGs while formulating development programmes and policies.

Ongoing work at the country level showcases how PEA's integrated approach is contributing to country objectives through achievement of Agenda 2030. Countries continue to demonstrate a coordinated approach in addressing poverty–environment through support to SDG implementation monitoring committees and ENR management (ENRM) sector working groups. For example, **Mozambique** is working towards coordinating linking of NDCs to government national plans. Several tools have been developed to support this work at the country level.

Four indicators are used to monitor progress made under Output 1. In 2021, considerable progress was made, with indicators 1.1, 1.2 and 1.4 exceeded. Indicator 1.3 was partially achieved, with 4 of 18 targets met. COVID-19 has contributed to the low target attainment through restrictions that led to few or no meetings being held; and with connectivity issues being experienced by many stakeholders, particularly government. Nevertheless, three countries (**Malawi, Mozambique** and **Nepal**) managed to convene a total of four government-led intersectoral coordination mechanisms promoting coherence of planning, frameworks, legislation and regulations.

### Indicator 1.1 Number of planning frameworks, legislation and regulations that integrate the poverty–environment nexus (per country)

This indicator has been **exceeded** with a total of 60 planning frameworks, legislation and regulations that integrate the poverty–environment nexus developed in five countries (**Bangladesh, Mauritania, Nepal, Rwanda** and **Tanzania**). This represents a cumulative achievement of 143 since 2019, and the indicator has surpassed the project target of 100. Details of country achievements are as follows:

- **Bangladesh.** The “Mapping of Ministries by Targets in the Implementation of SDGs” report was revised by the General Economics Division with financial and technical assistance from PEA to align with the 7th Five-Year Plan mapping document in 2021. The revised mapping took into consideration the responsibilities of the ministries/divisions and recognizes for the first time that custodian/partner agencies are important actors in SDG implementation, redefining their role and responsibilities accordingly. The revised document was approved by the SDGs Implementation and Review Committee and was scheduled to be published by the first quarter of 2022.
- **Mauritania.** PEA supported the Ministry of Finance, specifically its Directorate General of the Budget, in implementation of the new Organic Law on Finance Law through development of a medium-term expenditure framework application; development of programme budget performance tools; and revision of the medium-term budget programmatic guide, including a medium-term budgetary framework to include poverty–environment elements. In addition, budget codes were developed for the Sanitation and Water Department that integrate poverty and environment linkages.



Overall project target.....	100
2021 target.....	19
2021 achievement..	21
Total achievement to date.....	143

- **Nepal.** With PEA support, the National Planning Commission launched the publications “SDG Progress Assessment Report 2016–2019” and the “SDG Localization Source Book.” The assessment report covers Nepal’s overall achievements towards SDG commitments during the first four-year period of implementation; it finds that most SDGs targets are on track to being achieved. The source book is intended as a guide for local-level government authorities to localize SDGs in formulating development programmes and policies.
- **Rwanda.** Rwanda reviewed the inclusion of ENR indicators in the 2021–2022 plans for 16 sectors and 30 districts that were submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in preparation of the new budget. Subsequently, 60 district environment office planners were trained on a revised gender, environment and climate change indicator checklist, which will enable districts to track progress on gender, environment and climate change mainstreaming in fiscal year 2022–2023 and match this against the respective district development strategy. The training also aimed at equipping district planners on gender, environment and climate change budget monitoring, which will be used in 2022–2023 to track budget expenditure.
- **Tanzania.** PEA provided technical support to develop FYDP III, which was launched in June 2021. It also supported development of the FYDP III Financing Strategy and M&E framework to support implementation, building on Tanzania’s Development Financing Assessment, Integrated National Financing Framework and FYDP III M&E Strategy. PEA further supported the Ministry of Finance and Planning in a localization process targeting one region. The process is meant to enable local government authorities to implement FYDP III based on local content and community engagement, fostering locally based interventions with the potential to stimulate actionable solutions for local economic growth and poverty reduction at the local level. Support included training planning officers from the Simiyu Region and district agricultural and livestock officials.



## Indicator 1.2 Number of non-government actors supported to advocate/take action on poverty-environment issues

Overall project target.....7  
 2021 target.....121  
 2021 achievement 179  
 Total achievement to date.....179

This is a new indicator that was approved by the Project Board in October 2021 to replace the original indicator, “Policy positions(s) on poverty-environment issues formulated by non-government actors,” to ensure that ongoing work is captured so as to better reflect actual progress. With the original indicator, no policy positions on poverty-environment issues were formulated by non-government actors from project inception to mid-2021. Following the adoption of the new indicator, **significant progress** has been registered, with over 179 non-government actors supported in taking action on poverty-environment issues in four countries.

- **Bangladesh.** A total of 41 non-governmental actors were supported through a series of initiatives, including the following:
  - An **online campaign**, My Goal, was launched on 23 September 2021 to influence youth and youth-led organizations to share their thoughts on SDGs including on poverty and the environment. Seventeen influential sector-specific leaders, including the Resident Representative of UNDP Bangladesh, joined the campaign to promote goal awareness.



- A consultation workshop, **Mobilizing FDI [foreign direct investment] for a Greener Energy Sector in Bangladesh**, was organized on 5 September 2021, attended by thought leaders, international financial institutions, private investors, think tanks, academics and development partners – such as ADB, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority, BRAC University Institute of Governance and Development, the Center for Policy Dialogue, the European Union, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries, the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) of the UK and the University of Dhaka.
- A consultation workshop on **SDGs 5, 8, and 13 through the Whole of Society Approach** was held 23 September 2021 with participants from ActionAid Bangladesh, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, bKash, BRAC University, the Center for Policy Dialogue, Concern Worldwide, the Daily Star, East West University, FCDO, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries, HSBC, Naripokkho, Oxfam Bangladesh, the University of Dhaka and Young Power in Social Action.
- **Malawi.** PEA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Planning Development and Public Sector Reform, the Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy, and the Coordination Union for the Rehabilitation of the Environment (CURE) organized the 2021 civil society organization (CSO) **forum on the theme Environmental Sustainability: Key to Equitable Wealth Creation**. Twenty-six CSOs attended the forum, which sought to enhance civil society participation in sustainable ENRM through the promotion of policy coherence and advocacy to leverage poverty reduction and food security in an inclusive manner. The forum provided a platform for CSOs and PEA partners to discuss poverty-environment issues, including findings and emerging policy recommendations from PEA-commissioned studies with the aim of influencing the inclusion of PEA issues in future policy formulation and implementation, thus contributing to SDG attainment in Malawi. CSOs and stakeholders were updated by ministries, departments and agencies on several government ENRM initiatives, such as the environmental and social impact analysis approval and compliance process, the thin plastics ban, and the adopt-a-forest initiative.

In a separate exercise, 32 members of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations were trained in **gender-focused extension service delivery** with an emphasis on natural resources management.

- **Myanmar.** Thirty CSOs were supported in undertaking **CSO-led SDG monitoring and review** to enhance accountability on poverty alleviation actions and promote the environmental dimensions of SDGs. Fifteen private sector entities were trained to advocate for **responsible business through environmental impact assessment**.

The project partnered with the Asian Development Alliance to deliver virtual training on **Promoting People-centred Partnership for Peace, Prosperity and Planet (PPP): An Introductory Training for Civil Society Organizations** from 1 to 3 December. The training, based on Global Advocacy Leadership Academy Asia, the Asian Development Alliance's long-standing capacity development and advocacy programme for CSOs, aimed to strengthen and empower CSOs to advocate on SDG implementation by

providing knowledge and tools and a platform for mutual learning and exchange. While the initial focus was on environment and climate change SDGs, linkages with SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) was central to the training. Twenty-seven CSO representatives from all over the country completed the training, and an additional 13 participants attended from UNDP and the Asian Development Alliance. As with the environmental impact assessment training, the project team collaborated with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to form a Community of Practice of CSOs interested in SDG monitoring; 19 members are now active in this Community of Practice.

- **Rwanda.** With PEA support, 35 youths from across the country were convened at a youth knowledge exchange and exhibition for green initiative, to transfer knowledge and scale up good initiatives. The participants had an opportunity to learn from each other on technologies being used to transform waste into usable materials (recycling). The event was a useful entry point for wider youth networking.



### Indicator 1.3 Number of government-led intersectoral coordination mechanisms that promote coherence of planning, frameworks, legislation and regulations

Overall project target.....	35
2021 target.....	18
2021 achievement...	4
Total achievement to date.....	15

This indicator was **partially achieved** with only 4 mechanisms in place of the 2021 target of 18. Achievement of the overall target of 35 is short by 15. In most PEA countries, such intersectoral mechanisms are in place but are not necessarily operating effectively. COVID-19 has also contributed to low target attainment through restrictions that led to limited or no meetings being held, and connectivity issues experienced by many stakeholders, particularly government. Nevertheless, three countries (**Malawi, Mozambique, Nepal**) managed to convene a total of four government-led intersectoral coordination mechanisms that promote coherence of planning, frameworks, legislation and regulations.

- **Malawi.** PEA supported policy alignment working sessions on an Agriculture Production and Commercialization Pillar and Enabler working group organized by the National Planning Commission; these aimed to contribute to policy coherence by aligning agriculture sectoral policies with the Malawi Vision 2063 and the 10-year implementation plan. The sessions provided PEA with access to the working group, affording the opportunity to present relevant PEA tools and studies including the Climate-Smart Aquaculture Toolkit Report, the National Soil Conservation Action Plan and Strategy, and the Cost-Benefit Analysis.

PEA also supported joint sector review sessions through the Economic Planning, Development and Public Sector Reform Ministry. These reviews found that the sheer number of policies and strategies in the agriculture sector make policy coherence among subsectors difficult and implementation tracking costly. A consensus was reached that the National Adaptation Plan should serve as the country's overarching/inclusive agriculture policy, with each department having an implementation strategy based on its focus.

- **Mozambique.** With PEA support and technical assistance, the government led a three-day workshop to integrate actions from NDCs into its Social and Economic Plan for 2022.

- **Nepal.** The SDG Implementation and Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Vice Chair of the National Planning Commission, met twice. Three SDG thematic committee meetings were also held, led by a member of the National Planning Commission. Additionally, two rounds of discussions among primary stakeholders were held to revise SDG targets and indicators. Through these discussions, key areas for revision were identified and reviewed, including the need to develop metadata on local indicators for reporting purposes.

### Indicator 1.4 Number of countries where environmental/social/economic data are collected, analysed and reported applying a poverty-environment nexus perspective through national development and SDG monitoring systems

The target was **exceeded** and has a cumulative value of 16 since 2019, which has surpassed the overall project target of 10. Five countries (**Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Rwanda**) and two technical assistance interventions (**blue economy** and **gender**) collected environmental/social/economic data and built capacity in applying a poverty-environment nexus perspective through national development and SDG monitoring systems.

- **Bangladesh.** BRAC University's Institute of Governance and Development, a leading think-tank in Bangladesh, with PEA support, undertook a baseline study to assess the current socioeconomic situation, environmental status and other relevant issues in five selected *upazilas* (the second tier of local government). The study will focus on selecting indicators based on each upazila's five-year action plan and local government priority activities for achieving the SDGs.

The General Economics Division, with technical and financial assistance from PEA, produced a report on "Assessing the Synergies and Trade-Offs among Sustainable Development Goals: The Case of Bangladesh." The report is of high significance, as it aims to assist Bangladesh in making informed policy decisions – especially on investment – through identification of potential synergies and trade-offs among SDGs to ultimately contribute to successful SDG attainment. PEA also supported the General Economics Division to produce the booklet "Bangladesh Moving Ahead with the Sustainable Development Goals" for the Bangladesh delegation to the 76th United Nations General Assembly session in 2021. The booklet provides a broad picture of progress made under each SDG in Bangladesh. It highlights the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships for achieving SDGs, means of SDG implementation, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on SDG implementation and SDG localization. It also discusses challenges and pathways to implement the sustainable development agenda.

Government capacity was enhanced through training 139 (102 male; 37 female) government officials in the use of metadata for SDG M&E, 102 (80 male; 22 female) public planners on integrating SDGs into national plans and policies focusing on the poverty-environment nexus, and 119 (98 male; 21 female) officials on SDG M&E.

- **Indonesia.** The comparative study [Leveraging Climate Finance for Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction](#) was published and launched in 2021 through a public webinar event,



Overall project target.....	10
2021 target.....	3
2021 achievement... ..	6
Total achievement to date.....	16

“SDG Talks: Perempuan dan Iklim untuk Masa Depan Setara (Women and Climate for Equitable Future), during the commemoration of International Women’s Day.

- **Myanmar.** Three issue briefs were prepared to provide an overview of the status of implementing environmental aspects of three SDGs: SDG 6 (water access), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 15 (life on land). These briefs have served as inputs to the upcoming 2022 UN Common Country Analysis and to inform civil society-led discussions on SDG monitoring.
- **Nepal.** PEA supported preparation of a second National Multidimensional Poverty Index Report, an effort led by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative in collaboration with Nepal’s Central Bureau of Statistics. The report is based on the bureau’s Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey Report 2019, which revealed a substantive reduction in Nepal’s multidimensional poverty (from 30.1 percent to 17.4 percent) between 2014 and 2019. The new report also presents an in-depth analysis on poverty at provincial levels and a consideration of the COVID-19 context. Nepal’s efforts in continuing Multidimensional Poverty Index production are highly appreciated at the regional and international levels.
- **Rwanda.** Environment and climate change key performance indicators were reviewed for their alignment with the country’s [NDCs](#) and [Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy](#). The revised checklist will help the country better track NDC and strategy implementation.
- **Blue economy.** The joint ADB-PEA report “Financing the Blue Economy: Investments in Sustainable Blue Small-Medium Enterprises and Projects in Asia and the Pacific” includes a recommendation to develop a joint ADB-UNDP-UNEP (PEA) blue economy financing facility. This recommendation has been taken up, and ADB has committed to develop this facility working with UNDP and UNEP. The report identifies financing gaps and priority investment sectors that could generate the greatest positive environmental and social impacts. This initiative demonstrates how a relatively small and targeted PEA intervention can influence and guide the programming of partner organizations that have significant resources.
- **Gender.** A draft report on the gender gap in agricultural productivity in Zimbabwe has been produced. The findings indicate that the unconditional gender gap is estimated to be 18.6 percent in the country; closing this gap would (i) increase annual gross domestic product by \$79 million, (ii) lift more than 704,000 people out of poverty, (iii) lead to environmental sustainability in the agricultural sector and (iv) increase overall agricultural productivity. This study, together with previous work done on gender in agricultural productivity, will contribute to the UN Women Climate-Smart Agriculture Programme Guide, which will be used to build capacities of both UN and government institutions – and spread the use of PEA tools to additional countries. It also contributes to an already rich portfolio of PEA work on gender, including a report and technical guidelines on gender-responsive climate budgeting in [Indonesia](#); gender indicators for budget circulars in [Rwanda](#); gender-sensitive investment solutions/recommendations emerging from the Multidimensional Poverty Assessment Tool and Cost-Benefit Analysis Report 2019/2020 in [Tanzania](#); and technical assistance covering the gender gap analysis.

## Output 2 Public finance and investment frameworks incentivize shift in public and private investments towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication

Output 2 reflects the PEA focus on shifting finance and investment towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication and improving the environmental sustainability of current investments. Support addresses two elements: the links between public and private investment (e.g. using public finance and investment to leverage private finance and investment; improving regulations that apply to public, private and joint ventures), and approaches related to influencing public and private finance and investment (e.g. public investment decisions need to be better linked to the planning process; incentives, regulations etc. need to be in place to mobilize and shift private sector investments).

**Output 2 progress is monitored through four indicators, all of which exceeded the 2021 targets.** Much foundational work has been undertaken to provide tools and guidelines. Progress has been made at the country level, with increased support to government on developing and implementing budget tools that reflect environmental sustainability and climate priorities. In **Malawi**, sector-specific tools such as the Soil Restoration Action Plan have been developed to support a sustainable agricultural sector; an aquaculture tool is aimed at enhancing investments from the fisheries sector.

During PEA's implementation period, there has been increased support for **emerging fiscal instruments** such as **green bonds** and **blue economy**. **Indonesia** has been a leader in developing and implementing green bonds; **South Africa** commenced its journey through preparatory activities including development of a handbook and technical capacity building for municipalities. Sharing of lessons between South Africa and Indonesia has enhanced understanding of the processes involved in developing and implementing these new fiscal tools.

In the Asia Pacific region, support has increased for **assessing investment options in the blue economy sector**. The Blue Economy Options for Investment report offers practical options for investments by both government and the private sector in the field. **Bangladesh** has intensified its engagement with the blue economy sector by conducting feasibility studies and creating dialogues with relevant stakeholders.

Overall, PEA has increased its **engagement with private sector investments in ENRM** at both the national and decentralized levels. **Lao PDR** and **Tanzania** in particular provide several good examples of public-private partnership in ENRM investment processes. In Lao PDR, investment profiles for five provinces have been prepared by the government to attract private sector investments. In Tanzania, investment concept notes and project ideas at the local level have been developed and presented to the government for approval with PEA support. There is growing interest from the private sector, as reflected in an increased number of local-level proposals on sustainable investments, and commendable government support from at least six countries. The blue economy and green bonds technical assistance interventions have provided tools, guidelines and assessments that similarly recognize the private sector's critical role in poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. However, an actual shift in

financial investments towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication has yet to be realized; this will need more time and focused advocacy.



## Indicator 2.1 Number of key budget policy documents (e.g. budget statements, economic surveys, budget call circulars) that reflect environmental sustainability and climate priorities for poverty eradication (per country)

Overall project target..... 25  
2021 target..... 2  
2021 achievement... 7  
Total achievement to date..... 20

The 2021 target was **exceeded** and has a cumulative value of 20 since 2019; 5 more must be attained to achieve the project target of 25. Seven key policy documents from four countries (**Indonesia, Malawi, Nepal, Rwanda**) that reflect environmental sustainability and climate priorities for poverty eradication were developed in 2021.

- **Indonesia.** The comparative study [Leveraging Climate Finance for Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction](#) was published and launched in 2021 through a public webinar event; it assesses five different climate finance mechanisms at the national level and two climate projects at the subnational level. The study concludes that there are opportunities for climate finance to further gender equality and poverty reduction, but this must be done intentionally. A report titled “Towards a Gender-responsive Climate Budgeting” has also been completed. The report maps out regulations and policies related to climate budget tagging, gender-responsive budget tagging, basic indicators to define gender-responsive climate change outputs/sub-outputs, and criteria for selecting potential ministries/institutions for pilot implementation of the technical guidelines. PEA supported the completion of final drafts of the Gender Analysis Pathway and the Gender Budget Statement, and a pilot phase has been conducted with two ministries – the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Ministry of Transportation. The result of this technical guidance is expected to be finalized and launched in 2022.
- **Malawi.** The National Soil Conservation and Restoration Action Plan (2021–2026) and a related policy brief were endorsed by the steering committee. With support from PEA, a Climate-Smart Aquaculture toolkit was developed; this aims at providing practical solutions and steps to addressing prevalent and emerging aquaculture development challenges of the fisheries sector, linked with cross-cutting issues from other sectors as they affect or interact with the fisheries sector. Following approval and endorsement by the National Steering Committee of Climate Change, the next step is to support roll-out of the action plan.
- **Nepal.** With PEA support, the National Planning Commission prepared a draft SDG budget coding guideline to track budget allocation and expenditure on SDGs focusing on poverty–environment elements. The guideline is expected to track public expenditure on SDGs, thereby providing an opportunity to assess whether funding allocations are balanced across all SDGs. PEA also supported the commission in rolling out the Provincial Medium-Term Expenditure Framework Management Information System, which will be used in medium-term expenditure framework preparation. The system will support the provinces by simplifying the framework preparation process, thereby increasing efficiency. PEA also assisted the National Planning Commission in building capacity in SDG localization and internalization. A total of 217 subnational-level government

officials (20 women and 197 men) participated in two-day programmes held in all provincial headquarters.

- **Rwanda.** An assessment report was produced after reviewing the environment and climate change key performance indicators checklist to align it with the country's NDCs and Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy. The revised checklist will help the country to track implementation progress towards both NDCs and the resilience strategy.

### Indicator 2.2 Number of countries with increased annual and medium-term sector budget allocations (including national and subnational levels) that reflect environmental sustainability and climate for poverty eradication

The target for 2021 was zero; but progress from **Indonesia** continues to contribute to this indicator, with a cumulative total since 2019 of four achieved of the total target of six. PEA continued to support Indonesia's Ministry of Finance in developing an analysis report and policy brief on the climate change mitigation and adaptation budget for 2020 (budget realization) and 2021. Based on the budget tagging designations of 16 ministries/institutions in 2020, budget realization is IDR 51.188 trillion: IDR 36.210 trillion for mitigation and IDR 14.978 trillion for adaptation. Following a decline in 2020 due to budget reallocation with regard to the pandemic, the 2021 budget allocation increased for climate change increased to a total of IDR 97.562 trillion (IDR 79.201 trillion for mitigation and IDR 18.249 trillion for adaptation). PEA also provided capacity building for three line ministries – the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Transportation and the National Agency for Disaster Management – to assist in re-tagging several untagged outputs.



### Indicator 2.3 Number of countries with fiscal instruments (tax, incentives, user fees, etc.) adopted in policies and regulations that prioritize quality investments

The 2021 target was **exceeded**; the cumulative value since 2019 surpasses the overall project target (eight versus five). Three countries (**Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal**) and the technical assistance on green bonds formulated fiscal instruments that prioritize quality investments – specifically through the issuance of green sukuk, preparation of handbooks on green bonds and gender-responsive climate budgeting, piloting of climate budget tagging at the subnational level, and gap analysis of special and matching grants of the federal government to the provincial and local levels.



- **Bangladesh.** PEA supported review of the country's Development Finance Assessment and SDG Financing Strategy. These reports offer a comprehensive analysis of the public and private financing outlook, financing policies and institutional structures; they highlight opportunities to build a more integrated approach to financing SDGs, particularly focusing on SDG 6 (water and sanitation) and SDG 13 (climate finance).

- **Indonesia.** PEA continued to support country **green sukuk** initiatives. In June 2021, the Government of Indonesia issued its fourth global green sukuk amounting to \$750 million; a retail green sukuk was issued amounting to IDR 5 trillion (about \$347.1 million) in November 2021. PEA supported the Ministry of Finance in developing the Third Green Sukuk Allocation and Impact Report, which was published in May 2021. Proceeds from the issuance will be allocated towards financing and refinancing projects in two eligible sectors: sustainable transportation and resilience to climate change. PEA also supported the Ministry of Finance in **piloting subnational climate budget tagging** in six locations – DKI Jakarta Province, East Java Province, DI Yogyakarta Province, Surabaya City, Cirebon City and Gunungkidul Regency. A policy brief was developed on climate budget tagging based on the results of the pilots for central and local governments. A **Gender Responsive Climate Budgeting Handbook** was issued in December 2021 highlighting the intertwined challenges of gender inequality and climate change, as well as opportunities for an integrated approach to both issues. The handbook presents data and statistics on the status of gender equality, the gender–climate change link and relevant frameworks to address the issue in Indonesia.
- **Nepal.** PEA supported the National Planning Commission in conducting a gap analysis of special and matching grants of the federal government to the provincial and local levels. The study identified the gap between management, allocation and monitoring by analysing the grant allocating agency (National Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance) and the grant recipient (local and provincial government). Sixty local governments were selected for the study. Priorities and recommendations have been made for improving the efficiency and effectiveness of grant selection, allocation and monitoring. Intergovernmental fiscal transfers in the form of complementary and special grants are meant to provide financial support to provincial and local governments in the most viable projects and programmes in selected priority sectors so they can fulfil the responsibilities entrusted them by the Constitution.
- **Green bonds.** PEA engaged with two municipalities and the National Treasury to build capacities on green bonds following development of the **Technical Handbook on Issuing Municipal Sustainable Bonds in South Africa**. Green bonds are fixed-income instruments specifically earmarked to raise money for climate and environmental projects. Further, the first national Green Finance Taxonomy is under development under the direction of **South Africa's** National Treasury. It distinguishes environmentally impactful sectors and activities that are needed as part of a future South African sustainable economy and provides agreed definitions of “green” performance for South Africa – minimum requirements that are uniformly agreed as what constitutes good enough. These efforts set the groundwork for future green finance flows in the country.



## Indicator 2.4 Number of guidelines and tools to manage private sector investment decisions that facilitate or prioritize quality investments

The 2021 target was **exceeded** with 32 guidelines and tools developed versus a planned 4. A cumulative value of 57 has been attained since 2019, surpassing the overall project target of 31. Six countries and two technical assistance interventions have contributed to identifying new areas of investment to enhance poverty reduction and promote incentives for private and public investment opportunities. Thirty-three guidelines and tools have been formulated to help manage private sector investment decisions that prioritize quality investments. The large number of tools and guidelines reflects the growing interest of the private sector in achieving poverty–environment sustainability and the SDGs, and a recognition by governments and non-governmental entities of the critical role the private sector can play. The private sector is an untapped resource willing to take part in sustainable development given the appropriate tools and guidelines. [Table 2](#) details the results by PEA country and intervention.



Overall project target.....	31
2021 target.....	4
2021 achievement.	32
Total achievement to date.....	57

## Output 3 SDG implementation and acceleration processes leveraged to scale up use of integrated poverty–environment mainstreaming approaches and tools

Output 3 focuses on enhancing the spread and effectiveness of poverty–environment mainstreaming by better capturing, assessing and documenting good practices; by linking with ongoing work of key global and regional actors supporting national SDG implementation and acceleration processes (e.g. national SDG platforms, regional SDG knowledge exchanges); and through South–South cooperation. Overall achievement of the three indicators under this output is on track, but **advocacy efforts need to be scaled up** if more countries and regional and global networks are to adopt integrated poverty–environment mainstreaming approaches and tools. As PEA will end in 2022 and this is a long–term goal, it will have to be strategically addressed in the PEA sustainability plan.

Uptake of integrated poverty–environment mainstreaming approaches and tools by global, regional and local institutions supporting SDG implementation in non–PEA countries was promoted through a **series of nine webinars** comprising six topics (see [table 4](#)). A total of 186 registered participants from 46 countries attended the webinars. The series was also live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube and promoted on a Twitter feed. More than 3,500 impressions on the webinar pages were logged, indicating broad interest in the topics presented.

Advocacy efforts to create awareness and adoption of poverty–environment tools and approaches at the **global level** were pervasive during 2021. For example, PEA's UNEP Co-Manager, participated in the All Together in Dignity (ATD) Fourth World's [2021 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#) on 15 October 2021, whose theme was "Building Forward Together: Ending Persistent Poverty, Respecting All People and Our Planet." The Co-Manager emphasized how those living in poverty are the most vulnerable to weather and climate impacts

**Table 2 Summary of results for number of guidelines and tools to manage private sector investment decisions that facilitate or prioritize quality investments**

Country/ intervention	Description
Bangladesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Promoting Sustainable Blue Economy in Bangladesh through Sustainable Blue Bond: Assessing the Feasibility of Instituting Blue Bond in the Bond Market of Bangladesh" was published in June 2021. This comprehensive report explains the importance, opportunities and challenges of promoting a sustainable blue bond and blue economy in Bangladesh, and highlights the required actions to institute a blue bond in the country's existing bond market. Based on the positive reception of the report's recommendations by policymakers and the private sector, the government is planning to initiate a blue bond and create new space for private investment, especially to finance SDG 14.</li> <li>• Three high-profile forums were convened with PEA support to promote green growth dialogue with various government ministries and divisions, private sector organizations, international financial institutions, UN agencies, think tanks, and universities:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– National dialogue on "Blended Finance to Support Green Development in Bangladesh" was held in collaboration with the General Economics Division on 23 November 2021 with some 72 participants. Key concepts of blended finance and green development were covered; along with the opportunities and challenges of promoting blended finance to mobilize resources for green COVID-19 recovery in Bangladesh.</li> <li>– Consultation workshop on "Mobilizing FDI for a Greener Energy Sector in Bangladesh" was held on 5 September 2021. It emphasized how investment in green energy will accelerate Bangladesh's achievement of several SDGs and enhance general human welfare.</li> <li>– National dialogue between public and private sectors on "Sustainable Blue Economy in Bangladesh through Sustainable Blue Bond" was held on 28 March 2021 with 70 participants. The consensus was that Bangladesh should emphasize investigating new innovative financing strategies to engage the private sector in financing the SDGs. A blue bond was endorsed as one such innovative tool to finance public investment but requires sensitizing relevant stakeholders as it is a new concept. The dialogue concluded that strong collaboration among key government agencies is vital in moving this initiative forward.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Lao PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twenty-two investment profiles were developed in five northern provinces (Oudomxay, Huaphan, Phongsaly, Luang Namtha and Luang Prabang). By the end of 2021, these profiles had been finalized, translated into English, and approved by the respective provincial investment promotion and supervision committees.</li> <li>• An investment database has been developed to manage compliance with guidelines.</li> <li>• A monitoring manual has been developed for concession investment to provide guidance on conducting investment monitoring throughout the country and in recording compliance of investment projects systematically in the investment database. The manual provides detailed steps from pre-monitoring to post-monitoring mission, budget allocation to support regular monitoring missions, and monitoring forms linked to the investment database.</li> <li>• A study to identify legal gaps and best international practices was conducted; this will inform the solicited guideline for government officials to be developed on how to select and develop public-private partnerships, outline the business case and standard operating procedures of public-private partnerships.</li> <li>• A corporate social responsibility (CSR) <a href="#">webpage</a> was developed to promote CSR and disseminate supporting tools for businesses wishing to initiate CSR within their organizations.</li> <li>• Evaluation of two provincial strategies (Savannakhet and Saravan) was completed. Overall, investment inflow to the two provinces increased prior the COVID-19 pandemic. Both provinces streamlined their investment approval process through a one-stop service mechanism and enhanced investment monitoring scheme to address investment non-compliance issues. This work will inform future strategies and serve as the basis for learning for other provinces.</li> <li>• "Quality Investment Appraisal Guideline" was developed which integrates green growth criteria into the investment approval process.</li> </ul>

(continued)

**Table 2 (continued)**

Country/ intervention	Description
Myanmar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance on preparation of environmental impact investigation reports was completed; it addresses knowledge and capacity gaps identified in the technical report on “Compliance with Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Procedures in Myanmar: Capacity Needs Assessment of Private Sector and Civil Society Actors.” In particular, the guidance addresses the adoption of robust social and environmental safeguards.</li> <li>• Fourteen training modules were developed to enable local EIA practitioners and developers understand and comply with the documentation process, legal requirements and approaches to minimize the risks that development projects may pose to the environment, humans and wildlife. Twenty-nine participants completed the training, which was conducted 6–14 December 2021 for 3 to 3.5 hours daily via Zoom, and passed the mandatory exam at the end of the training.</li> </ul>
Nepal	<p>A study on the private sector contribution to the SDGs was finalized; it aimed to assess the readiness of cooperatives and CSOs in SDG implementation in the Nepalese context. The assessment identifies strengths and weaknesses of the sector as well as opportunities as to how they could be best mobilized. The National Planning Commission will consider the recommendations for future years’ planning process.</p>
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Care Ltd. won a \$6,000 Youth Green Innovation and Investment Award for excellence in its creation of a model of sustainable waste management. The competition mobilized young entrepreneurs to create environmentally friendly businesses/projects/products with demonstrated environmental management for sustainable development. The project engaged and encouraged youth to invest in green projects and capitalize on innovations that contribute to poverty reduction.</li> <li>• An in-depth assessment was prepared of industrial zones on environmental management and a strategy for implementation of an eco-industrial park/zone. Analyses of different master plans and of present-day development of industrial parks showed that none satisfy UN Industrial Development Organization prerequisites (2021) for eco-industrial parks. Study findings resulted in a strategy that will help the government implement eco-industrial parks in Rwanda that are resource efficient and environmentally friendly.</li> <li>• A tool was developed for engaging the private sector and civil society in mainstreaming gender, environment and climate change for poverty reduction and sustainable development. It will enable the Rwanda Environment Management Authority to bring on board and fully engage all key actors in mainstreaming gender, environment and climate change.</li> <li>• A project on single-use plastics waste management is being implemented jointly by the private sector and the Rwanda Environment Management Authority; its total budget of \$691,000 will be provided by the Private Sector Federation.</li> <li>• Three hundred public servants from procurement units were trained on green procurement guidelines. This capacity building is expected to result in the procurement of goods, services and works that have minimal impact on the environment. As a large consumer, the government’s procurement of green product will influence the market for sustainable production.</li> <li>• A high-level dialogue with ENR development partners was conducted on the updated Rwanda Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy as part of the country’s World Environment Day celebration. The objective was to bring together the Ministry of the Environment, the Rwanda Environment Management Authority and UNDP through PEA to discuss progress to date on the revised strategy and how development partners and the Government of Rwanda can mobilize the needed technical and financial resources to implement different priority areas under the strategy.</li> </ul>

(continued)

**Table 2 (continued)**

Country/ intervention	Description
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In line with the FYDP III recognition of the private sector as an engine for growth and a key partner in achieving the SDGs, PEA supported development of a training manual to guide private-led business and enterprise development at the subnational level to facilitate private sector involvement in establishing solutions for growth and poverty eradication through business enterprises. The manual was prepared through a consultative process involving the National Microfinance Bank, the Cooperatives and Rural Development Bank and Tanzania Agricultural Development Bank. It covers all aspects of standard business planning and implementation.</li> <li>• Nineteen concept notes were developed around investment opportunities along the Standard Railway Gauge corridor with a potential for community involvement, gender mainstreaming, benefits for poverty reduction and livelihood improvement. The notes were presented and discussed as a basis for pre-feasibility studies at a review meeting involving key stakeholders (e.g. UNDP, Institute of Rural Development Planning, Tanzania Investment Center, SAGGOT Catalytic Fund, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Settlement Development).</li> <li>• Capacity-building sessions were undertaken focusing on the establishment of a special-purpose vehicle (SPV) meant to enable local government authorities to carry out business solutions through public-private partnerships. An SPV can be used to enhance local government revenue generation, and build partnerships with the private sector and communities to mobilize finance and investments for addressing development challenges. The sessions targeted officials of two regions (Mara and Simiyu) and benefited 177 councillors and district leaders, including district commissioners.</li> <li>• A pre-feasibility study report for six projects in the Simiyu Region and eight in the Mara Region was finalized. As a result, 34 investment ideas were presented and concept notes for each idea developed. A total of 16 projects were subjected to the pre-feasibility stage in Mara.</li> </ul>
Blue economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Following investment industry practice and metrics developed with ADB and PEA, five investment dossiers were prepared and completed following the format used by Blue Invest-Europe. ADB will further review each of these projects for their alignment with programmatic goals. A role for catalytic capital is envisioned in each project.</li> <li>• A policy paper was produced that provides recommendations on structural efficiencies in the blue economy to enhance private capital opportunities. The brief will be used to influence regional and national governments to enhance effective implementation of the blue economy and ensure national alignment with sustainable resource management.</li> </ul>
Green bonds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Technical Handbook on Issuing Municipal Sustainable Bonds in South Africa” developed and launched in 2022. Training materials were developed based on the handbook contents for capacity-building activities – specifically, a virtual three-day session covering the full bond issuance process – for the two targeted municipalities (Tshwane and eThekweni). The training received positive feedback from participants. Feedback and recommendations from the training were used to update the draft handbook and training materials.</li> <li>• Technical assistance was closely coordinated with the National Treasury as a key stakeholder in green bond matters, with the treasury providing key inputs into the handbook’s development linking municipal processes to national ones.</li> </ul>

and turned the audience’s attention toward the possibility of solutions that can perform dual duties – increasing the resilience of vulnerable communities while also restoring ecosystems. This was a powerful message that highlighted the importance of investing in the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement.

The PEA UNEP Co-Manager and the UNDP Senior Policy Advisor on Environment, who also serves as the Co-Chair for the PEA Board, spoke at the [Stockholm+50](#) UN Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogue on 23 November 2021. They shared insights and experience from PEA on achievements and challenges in addressing the environmental agenda since the UN Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm in 1972, thereby contributing to the UN dialogue on the environmental dimension of sustainable development and accelerating the implementation of international commitments by reflecting on related achievements and results.

### Indicator 3.1 Number of Poverty-Environment Action knowledge-sharing and learning products that are referenced by regional and global networks

The 2021 target of 23 was **exceeded** with a total of 27 references, bringing the cumulative total since 2019 to 48. Advocacy and coordination efforts were scaled up with development partners engaged in supporting SDG implementation to mainstream use of PEA integrated approaches and tools in their programmes to ensure synergies. This is evidenced by the steady increase in learning products being referenced by regional and global networks – from 1 in 2019 to 20 in 2020 and to 27 in 2021. [Box 1](#) details these mentions of PEA learning products.



Overall project target.....	63
2021 target.....	23
2021 achievement..	27
Total achievement to date.....	48

### Indicator 3.2 Number of countries adopting Poverty-Environment Action tools/approaches resulting from South-South knowledge collaborations

The target (7) was **exceeded** by 1, bringing the cumulative value since 2019 to 11 – 7 shy of the overall project target. **Indonesia** and **South Africa** technical assistance projects have particularly focused on providing technical support to governments at the national and municipal levels on developing and implementing green bonds, which are fixed-income instruments specifically earmarked to raise money for climate and environmental projects. Both countries have been working to support governments in putting in place measures that will ensure bond proceeds are used properly. Specifically, the [South-South Collaboration Webinar on Development and Implementation of Municipal Sustainable Bonds](#) (5 October 2021) – organized in partnership with GIZ, the Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE), the Government of **South Africa** (Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment), and the Government of Indonesia (Ministry of Finance) – provided a platform to expand networks of practice; showcase progress and contexts of the different participant groups; and build the confidence of new entrants by showcasing how challenges were met and addressed from a contextual perspective.



Overall project target.....	18
2021 target.....	7
2021 achievement..	8
Total achievement to date.....	11

Following the webinar on green private finance (17 November 2021), representatives from the UN Resident Coordinator Offices in Cambodia and Sri Lanka followed up with PEA to explore

## Box 1 References to PEA learning products by regional and global networks

1. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, [SDG Partnership Platform](#), PEA entry (updated August 2021)
2. Lessons from UNDP's collaboration with UNEP on poverty–environment mainstreaming were reissued by Michael Stocking, "Evaluating the Poverty–Environment Nexus," [Evaluating Environment in International Development](#), 2nd ed., Juha Uitto, editor (New York: Routledge, 2021)
3. Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), [Leveraging Climate Finance for Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction: A Comparative Study](#) (Bogor, Indonesia: CIFOR, 2020)
4. UN High–Level Committee on Programmes, [A Common Approach to Integrating Biodiversity and Nature–Based Solutions for Sustainable Development into the UN's Policy and Programme Planning and Delivery, Annex IV](#) (April 2021)
5. PEA-supported work on gender and climate budgeting cited as good example of work for accelerating action under SDG 13 (climate action) at [Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development](#) (March 2021)
6. USAID, Feed the Future, [What Does It Take to Achieve Scale in Women's Empowerment Activities?](#) Agrilinks post, 18 February 2021, linking to PEA report, [The Cost of the Gender Gap in Agricultural Productivity in Five African Countries](#)
7. Bangladesh's financing strategy review [tweeted](#) and shared by the UNDP SDG Finance Sector Hub's account (30 July 2021)
8. Strengthening Institutional Capacity for SDGs Achievement in Bangladesh (SC4SDG) project of UNDP Bangladesh conducted a high–profile consultation workshop with the private sector and other stakeholders titled [Mobilizing FDI for a Greener Energy Sector in Bangladesh](#) (5 September 2021), as part of the UNDP-led global project, Derisking Renewable Energy Investment, which introduces an innovative, quantitative framework to assist policymakers in developing countries to cost-effectively promote and scale-up private sector investment in renewable energy
9. PEA, UNEP-International Ecosystem Management Partnership, Global Alliance for the Future of Food, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, International Food Policy Research Institute, International Fund for Agriculture Development and UN Women, [Working Paper: Report of the South-South Cooperation Forum on Food Security and Agrobiodiversity in Times of COVID-19 and Climate Change](#); disseminated to 440 forum participants (September 2021)
10. Peter Thomson, UN Secretary–General Special Envoy for the Ocean, keynote speech, during "Moving to Accelerate Investments in the Blue Economy" webinar (25 November 2021) and his interest in further exploring the BlueInvest-Asia platform and participation in the High-Level Panel scheduled for 28 January 2022 as the keynote/panellist on ADB's official launch of Blue Invest-Asia during the Ocean Technology and Finance Forum will definitely contribute to referencing PEA's knowledge sharing and learning products in regional and global networks
11. United Nations, Mozambique Common Country Analysis: "Programme toward the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Mozambique, 1.6 Environmental Dimension," cites PEI economic analysis of costs of unsustainable ENRM (paras. 100–120, p. 26ff) (2021)

(continued)

### Box 1 (continued)

12. Andreas Antoniadis, Alexander S. Antonarakis, Jonathan Gilman, Isabell Kempf, Anne Juepner and Kerstin Stendahl, [Special issue: The poverty-inequality-environment frontier in the age of crises](#), *Sustainable Development* 29 (3) (May/June 2021)
13. United Nations Environment Assembly [Background Document](#) cites PEI as a joint UNDP-UNEP effort to address the poverty-environment nexus (2021)
14. Delia Paul, [Merging the Poverty and Environment Agendas](#), IISD Brief #11 (International Institute for Sustainable Development, February 2021)
15. Frank Noij, [Independent Review of UNEP's Contributions to Poverty Reduction, on behalf of Sida: Synthesis Report](#) (April 2021)
16. Ernesto Sánchez-Triana, [Environmental Challenges for Green Growth and Poverty Reduction: A Country Environmental Analysis for the Lao People's Democratic Republic](#) (Washington, DC: World Bank, 2021)
17. M. Schaafsma and N. Gross-Camp, [Towards Capturing Human Well-Being-Nature Relationships in Poverty Assessments in Rural Malawi and Rwanda](#), *Case Studies in the Environment* 5 (1): 1425104 (14 September 2021)
18. Green Policy Platform, the Green Growth Knowledge Platform, has webpage dedicated to [PEA](#)
19. ATD Fourth World, [2021 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#) (2 November 2021)
20. Nairobi Global Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification, [The UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals \(PEA\) Webinar Series](#) (4 November 2021)
21. The PEA 2021 webinar series was featured in the Green Finance Forum, funded by Germany's Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, PAGE, the Global Environment Facility and the Swiss Confederation
22. The [PEA 2021 webinar series](#) was featured in the Green Policy Forum (11 November 2021)
23. Linxiu Zhang, Director, UNEP-International Ecosystem Management Partnership, highlighted PEI/PEA and their contributions to food systems and gender equality during the plenary session of the [international conference organized by Asian Society of Agricultural Economists](#) (7 December 2021)
24. High-Level Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and New Tools for Resource Mobilization, organized by UNDP Indonesia and Uzbekistan (23 November 2021)
25. Indonesia's updated handbook and animated video on green sukuk shared during High-Level Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and New Tools for Resource Mobilization (23 November 2021)
26. Indonesia video on gender-responsive climate budgeting shared during High-Level Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and New Tools for Resource Mobilization (23 November 2021)
27. Updated [SDG tab](#) on Nepal's National Planning Commission website for SDG information

application of PEA tools and collaboration on green private finance and support of UN Country Teams in this area.

To strengthen participatory decision-making and monitoring, PEA supported capacity development on SDG monitoring for a CSO network in **Myanmar** to better enable independent review of progress in implementing SDGs from the lens of the poverty-environment nexus; this followed on from a similar effort undertaken by PEA in **Bangladesh**.



### **Indicator 3.3** Number of regional and global Poverty-Environment Action partner programmes and agencies that apply an integrated mainstreaming approach

Overall project target..... **20**  
2021 target..... **8**  
2021 achievement.. **8**  
Total achievement to date..... **15**

The target is **fully achieved** and has a cumulative value of 15 since 2019. With Project Board approval, in 2021, the overall target was increased to 20 from an original level of 18. PEA has successfully established regional and global partnerships with agencies that apply an integrated mainstreaming approach. It has also set up a Helpdesk to be used by country and technical assistance projects to share knowledge as well as receive requests for specific support that can be provided by PEA. The Helpdesk will act as a link between projects and experts in specific areas of work.

PEA and the Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP), GIZ and PAGE jointly organized a webinar (30 September 2021), “How Green Bonds Are Financing Sustainable Development,” which delved into the opportunities, challenges and broad potential of green bonds for driving sustainable development in advance of the climate finance and biodiversity discussions held at COP26. The overall nine-part webinar series was conducted in partnership with ADB, the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) and the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme at University of Sussex. Also, PEA’s programming and integrated mainstreaming approach were showcased to a regional forum via inclusion in the official background documents for the [Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific](#) (5–7 October 2021).

**Indonesia’s** Center for International Forestry Research report, [Leveraging Climate Finance for Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction: A Comparative Study](#), was developed under the UNDP Sustainable Development Financing project and PEA, and co-financed by CGIAR’s Research Program on Forests, Trees and Agroforestry.



**Table 3 Summary of results achieved as of 31 December 2021**

Project (2018–2022)		Year 3	Status as of 31 Dec 2021	Cumulative 2020 results	Achievement status and comments
Baseline	Target	2021 target			
<b>Output 1: Development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems integrate environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication</b>					
<b>Deliverable 1.1:</b> Capacity to apply integrated approaches and tools for mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication in development planning and budgeting					
<b>Indicator 1.1:</b> Number of planning frameworks, legislation and regulations that integrate the poverty–environment nexus (per country)					
22	100	19	56	143	<p><b>Exceeded</b></p> <p><b>Bangladesh (2):</b> Revised mapping of ministries/divisions and custodian agencies for SDG implementation; 119 (96 male, 21 female) government officials trained in SDG M&amp;E, and 102 (80 male, 22 female) public planners trained in integration of SDGs into national plans and policies with a focus on the poverty–environment nexus</p> <p><b>Mauritania (4):</b> Implementation of the new Organic Law on Finance Law through development of a medium–term expenditure framework application; development of programme budget performance tools; budget codes developed for Sanitation and Water Department that integrate poverty–environment elements; revision of medium–term budget programmatic guide, including a medium–term budgetary framework to include poverty–environment elements</p> <p><b>Nepal (6):</b> Preparation of Leave No One Behind National Framework; revision of local–level plan formulation guidelines; SDG budget/programme code guideline prepared; project audit framework for national pride and game–changer projects developed; national evaluation action plan; SDG–aligned framework for agriculture and health</p> <p><b>Rwanda (46):</b> Reviewed inclusion of ENR indicators in 2021–2022 plans for 16 sectors and 30 districts submitted to Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning in preparation of new budget; 60 planners from district environment offices trained on revised and gender, environment and climate change indicator checklist</p> <p><b>Tanzania (2):</b> FYDP III and related strategies (Integrated National Financing Framework; FYDP III M&amp;E Strategy)</p>
<b>Indicator 1.2:</b> Number of non–government actors supported to advocate/take action on poverty–environment issues					
0	7	121	179	179	<p><b>Exceeded</b></p> <p><b>Bangladesh (41):</b> 41 non state actors reached through various interventions including an online campaign to influence youth organizations to share their thoughts on SDGs including on poverty and the environment; and Mobilizing FDI for a Greener Energy Sector workshop attended by thought leaders, international financial institutions, private investors, think tanks, academics and development partners</p> <p><b>Malawi (58):</b> 26 CSOs participated in forum organized by Centre for Environmental Policy and Advocacy and CURE to enhance civil society participation in sustainable ENRM through the promotion of policy coherence and advocacy to leverage poverty reduction; 32 NGO and community–based organization members trained in gender–focused extension service delivery with emphasis on natural resource management</p> <p><b>Myanmar (45):</b> 30 CSOs were supported to undertake CSO–led SDG monitoring and review to enhance accountability on poverty alleviation actions and promote environmental dimensions of SDGs; 15 private sector entities trained to advocate for responsible business through environmental impact assessment</p> <p><b>Rwanda (35):</b> Youth knowledge exchange and exhibition for green initiative undertaken for knowledge transfer and scale up of good initiatives; brought together 35 young entrepreneurs from across the country</p>

(continued)

**Table 3 (continued)**

Project (2018–2022)		Year 3	Status as of 31 Dec 2021	Cumulative 2020 results	Achievement status and comments
Baseline	Target	2021 target			
<b>Deliverable 1.2:</b> Institutional mechanisms promote policy coherence to accelerate implementation of environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication					
<b>Indicator 1.3:</b> Number of government-led intersectoral coordination mechanisms that promote coherence of planning, frameworks, legislation and regulations					
5	35	18	4	15	<p><b>Partially achieved</b></p> <p><b>Malawi (1):</b> Sector working group organized by National Planning Commission for policy alignment work sessions on agriculture production and commercialization pillar</p> <p><b>Mozambique (1):</b> Government led workshop to integrate actions from NDCs into its Social and Economic Plan 2022</p> <p><b>Nepal (2):</b> SDG Implementation and Monitoring Committee meeting chaired by Vice Chair of National Planning Commission; two thematic committee meetings led by member of National Planning Commission</p>
<b>Indicator 1.4:</b> Number of countries where environmental/social/economic data are collected, analysed and reported applying a poverty-environment nexus perspective through national development and SDG monitoring systems					
2	10	3	6	17	<p><b>Exceeded</b></p> <p><b>Bangladesh (1):</b> Metadata training workshop on SDG indicator 14.2.1; baseline study to assess current socioeconomic situation, environmental status and other relevant issues in five upazilas conducted; booklet for Bangladesh delegation to 76th UN General Assembly session, “Bangladesh Moving Ahead with the Sustainable Development Goals” developed</p> <p><b>Indonesia (1):</b> “Leveraging Climate Finance for Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction”</p> <p><b>Myanmar (1):</b> 3 SDG progress reports (SDGs 6, 13 and 15), completed and presented to CSO training on SDG monitoring</p> <p><b>Nepal (1):</b> Second National Multidimensional Poverty Index report</p> <p><b>Rwanda (1):</b> Environment and climate change key performance indicators reviewed to align with NDCs and Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy</p> <p><b>Blue economy (1):</b> Completion of joint ADB-PEA report on planning and financing blue economy in Asia Pacific with options for Blue Economy Hub in Asia; webpages and content for web uploaded</p>

(continued)

**Table 3 (continued)**

Project (2018–2022)		Year 3		Status as of 31 Dec 2021	Cumulative 2020 results	Achievement status and comments
Baseline	Target	2021 target				
<b>Output 2: Public finance and investment frameworks incentivize shift in public and private investments towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication</b>						
<b>Deliverable 2.1:</b> Public expenditure and emerging national SDG financing frameworks support shift in government allocations towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication						
<b>Indicator 2.1:</b> Number of key budget policy documents (e.g. budget statements, economic surveys, budget call circulars) that reflect environmental sustainability and climate priorities for poverty eradication (per country)						
61	25	5	10	13	<b>Exceeded</b> <b>Indonesia (3):</b> Draft policy paper on status of public finance and potential innovative financing such as environmental tax; “Leveraging Climate Finance for Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction” published and disseminated; 3) The study on Leveraging Climate Finance on Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction was published and launched <b>Malawi (2):</b> National Soil Conservation and Restoration Action Plan (2021–2026) and policy brief, and Climate-Smart Aquaculture Tool Kit and policy brief endorsed by steering committee <b>Nepal (1):</b> SDG budget code guideline developed <b>Rwanda (1):</b> Assessment checklist on environment and climate change key performance indicators to align them with NDCs and Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy	
<b>Indicator 2.2:</b> Number of countries with increased annual and medium-term sector budget allocations (including national and sub-national levels) that reflect environmental sustainability and climate for poverty eradication						
0	6	0	1	4	<b>Exceeded</b> <b>Indonesia (1):</b> Climate change budget realization is IDR 51.188 trillion (IDR 36.210 trillion for mitigation and IDR 14.978 trillion for adaptation)	
<b>Deliverable 2.2:</b> Economic, financial and regulatory incentives and private sector initiatives encourage shift in private investment towards environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication						
<b>Indicator 2.3:</b> Number of countries with fiscal instruments (tax, incentives, user fees, etc.) adopted in policies and regulations that prioritize quality investments						
0	5	3	4	8	<b>Exceeded</b> <b>Bangladesh (1):</b> Development Finance Assessment and SDG Financing Strategy <b>Indonesia (1):</b> Fourth global green sukuk issued amounting to \$750 million; climate budget tagging piloted in six subnational provinces; climate budget tagging policy brief; Handbook on Gender Responsive Climate Budgeting <b>Nepal (1):</b> Gap analysis of special and matching grants of the federal government to provincial and local levels <b>Green bonds (1):</b> Engaged with two municipalities and National Treasury to build capacities on green bonds	
<b>Indicator 2.4:</b> Number of guidelines and tools to manage private sector investment decisions that facilitate or prioritize quality investments						
1	31	8	18	25	<b>Exceeded</b> ; see <a href="#">table 2</a> for details	

(continued)

**Table 3 (continued)**

Project (2018–2022)		Year 3	Status as of	Cumulative	Achievement status and comments
Baseline	Target	2021 target	31 Dec 2021	2020 results	
<b>Output 3: SDG implementation and acceleration processes leveraged to scale up use of integrated poverty–environment mainstreaming approaches and tools</b>					
<b>Deliverable 3.1:</b> Poverty–Environment Action knowledge products synthesize country–level experience and lessons in the use of integrated poverty–environment mainstreaming approaches and tools					
<b>Indicator 3.1:</b> Number of Poverty–Environment Action knowledge–sharing and learning products that are referenced by regional and global networks					
23	63	23	27	48	<b>Exceeded</b> PEA tools and products have so far been referenced 27 times (see <a href="#">box 1</a> )
<b>Deliverable 3.2:</b> Uptake of integrated poverty–environment mainstreaming approaches and tools by global, regional and local institutions supporting SDG implementation in “non–Poverty–Environment Action” countries					
<b>Indicator 3.2:</b> Number of countries adopting Poverty–Environment Action tools/approaches resulting from South–South knowledge collaboration					
9	18	7	8	11	<b>Exceeded.</b> Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar, South Africa, Sri Lanka
<b>Indicator 3.3:</b> Number of regional and global Poverty–Environment Action partner programmes and agencies that apply an integrated mainstreaming approach					
13	20	8	8	15	<b>Fully achieved</b> <b>Bangladesh:</b> 5 collaborating agencies: UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP, International Labour Organization, UN Women, UN Capital Development Fund <b>Indonesia:</b> Center for International Forestry Research, and World Agroforestry (ICRAF) <b>PEA project:</b> PEA, GGKP, GIZ and PAGE jointly organized webinar “How Green Bonds Are Financing Sustainable Development”; ATD Fourth World International Day for the Eradication of Poverty; UN High–Level Political Forum 2021 side event “Addressing the Tensions between Extreme Poverty and Environmental Conservation: Grassroots Voices and Solutions”; PEA programming and integrated mainstreaming approach included in Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific Forum’s official background documents (5–7 October 2021); PEA webinar series in partnership with ADB, UNRISD, University of Sussex


# Overall Performance Analysis



**O**utput-level indicator performance shows that **significant efforts have been made** in capacity building to apply integrated approaches and tools for mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication in development planning and budgeting; development of tools and guidelines for public and private finance investment decisions; collection of social, environment and economic data with the poverty-environment nexus applied to inform national-level SDG monitoring systems; and promotion of uptake of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools by global, regional and local institutions supporting SDG implementation.

The output-level indicator performance is supposed to directly link and feed into the three outcome indicators; this analysis indicates the **need for stronger translation of output-level results to outcome-level results** monitored through the three outcome indicators. The building blocks to influence adoption are largely there, but transitioning to actual adoption is slower than expected when considering that most of the countries are building on a solid base from PEI. For example, [indicator 2.4](#) was exceeded with regard to tools developed to manage private sector investment decisions that facilitate or prioritize quality investments. But countries have yet to register increased investments in support of environmental sustainability and climate priorities for poverty eradication. Lessons learned indicate that **more time and geared-up advocacy efforts are needed to generate a substantive shift in private investments and adoption** beyond the tools and guidelines developed and capacity building provided. Significant uptake of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools by global, regional and local institutions supporting SDG implementation has also yet to gain adequate traction. The increased number of referencing achieved under [indicator 3.1](#) needs to transition to actual, quantifiable adoption.

There is **growing interest from the private sector**, as reflected in an increased number of local-level proposals on sustainable investments, and **commendable government support** from at least six countries ([Bangladesh](#), [Lao PDR](#), [Myanmar](#), [Nepal](#), [Rwanda](#) and [Tanzania](#)). The technical assistance interventions on **blue economy** and **green bonds** provided tools, guidelines and assessments that similarly recognized the private sector's critical role in poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. At the regional level, five investment dossiers for bankable investments have been completed based on the joint ADB-PEA report "Financing the Blue Economy: Investments in Sustainable Blue Small-Medium Enterprises and Projects in Asia and the Pacific." Regional and global partners have referenced PEA tools and approaches 27 times – an indication of growing interest that needs more advocacy work to transition to adoption.



At the country level, sustainable municipal bonds have been adopted in **Indonesia** and **South Africa** in support of the poverty–environment nexus for SDG acceleration. An additional three countries (**Bangladesh**, **Cambodia** and **Sri Lanka**) have expressed a strong interest in applying integrated mainstreaming tools and approaches with support from PEA.

**Intensified evidence-based advocacy targeting strategic stakeholders** is a key step that should be taken to transition PEA mainstreaming from a platform with various tools, guidelines, studies and innovations to adoption by countries, and regional and global entities. As poverty–environment mainstreaming progresses, it becomes more demanding and time-consuming because more processes need to be influenced. An increasing number of UN Resident Coordinators are prioritizing and requesting support for mainstreaming ENR sustainability and climate resilience across the UN Country Teams and through donor coordination mechanisms. This demand provides an opportunity for PEA to support broadening of poverty–environment mainstreaming and integration across the UN Country Teams through UN Resident Coordinator offices in 2022 and beyond as part of its sustainability plan.

# Knowledge Management and Communication



**P**EA has made good progress in ensuring the visibility of its results, knowledge management and communication as per the approved Knowledge Management, South-South Cooperation and Visibility Action Plan (see [appendix A](#)) that was endorsed by the Project Board on 12 May 2021.

PEA continued to expand and communicate key results beyond national and regional borders. The number of **new articles** posted on the PEA website doubled, with an average of about one news item per week – an increase from 23 news articles in 2020 to 47 in 2021. A series of [stories of change](#), comprising 11 impact stories from in-country initiatives, was created and shared with PEA stakeholders and uploaded on the project website. The impact stories were well received and picked up by UNDP websites.

One such story involved supporting young green entrepreneurs, an innovative approach to

## Stories



Poverty-Environment Action Stories of Change (09/2021) Indonesia Combats Climate Change through Gender-Sensitive Budgeting



Poverty-Environment Action Stories of Change (08/2021) Rwanda Green Village demonstrates how to significantly reduce poverty



Poverty-Environment Action Stories of Change (07/2021) Waste Not, Want Not! Peru Tackles Waste Management from a Social Perspective



Poverty-Environment Action Stories of Change (06/2021) Strengthening Indonesia's Climate Finance Governance through Climate Budget Tagging and Green Sukuk Issuance

tackle environmental problems and climate change in **Rwanda**. On World Environment Day, 5 June 2021, UNDP **Rwanda** honoured Noel Nizeyimana, the young CEO of Green Care Ltd., with the Youth Green Innovation and Investment Award. The company was established in 2016 by four young university graduates who transformed a district landfill into a waste management plant. Located in the city of Huye, in Rwanda's Southern Province, it is a model of sustainable



waste management. The annual award was established in 2020, with PEA support, by the Rwanda Environment Management Authority in partnership with UNDP Rwanda to recognize the best green businesses managed by young people.

In **Indonesia**, a study on Leveraging Climate Finance on Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction was published and launched in 2021 through a **public webinar event**, "SDG Talks: Perempuan dan Iklim untuk Masa Depan Setara (Women and Climate for Equitable Future)." The event was tied to

the International Women's Day commemoration, with representatives from the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection; a Green Economy Caucus Parliament member also attended. More than 200 participants from governments, NGOs/CSOs, universities and the general public joined via Zoom platform; more than 900 viewers joined via YouTube.

Partnerships were established and strengthened for knowledge sharing through a **nine-part webinar series** covering six different topics, as shown below; all of these were featured on the PEA News & Events [webpage](#). Overall strategic takeaways and lessons from the webinars are outlined in table 4.



**Policy briefs** based on some of the webinars were produced focusing on green financing in private investment, eliminating poverty and enhancing environmental sustainability through PEA's integrated approach to implementing the SDGs, and greening budget and greening public finance management: supporting national partners in prioritizing environment and climate change objectives. These policy briefs will inform the revision of the 2015 Mainstreaming Handbook (*Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development*) to be completed in 2022. The updated handbook will in turn inform the creation of a massive open online course to be made available on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research's (UNITAR's) [UN CC:e-Learn](#) platform.



**Table 4 2021 PEA webinars and key takeaways**

Webinar (date)	Key take away
Poverty Environment Action for a Blue Economy (16 September)	Investing in capacity building and policy coherence for institutional structures is key to delivery of the blue economy agenda
How Green Bonds Are Financing Sustainable Development (30 September)	Availability of a comprehensive guide on issuance of green bonds, capacity and knowledge sharing on benefits are key components
South-South Collaboration on Development and Implementation of Municipal Sustainable Bonds (5 October)	Bonds offer alternatives to revenue generation for local government with multiple additional benefits for the environment
Eliminating Poverty and Enhancing Environmental Sustainability through Poverty-Environment Action's Integrated Approach (11 November)	Integrated approaches can employ tools for sustainable investment that will bring about economic benefits that protect and manage environmental resources through an ecosystems-based approach
Green Financing in Private Investment (17 November; 1 December)	Post-COVID provides an opportunity to ensure recovery is green and sustainable
Moving to Accelerate Investments in the Blue Economy (25 November)	Blue economy is emerging as a vibrant economic sector that can balance nature with social well-being by safeguarding ocean ecosystems
Financial Crises, Poverty and Environmental Sustainability in the Context of SDGs (30 November)	Private sector green finance investments bridge SDG financial gaps, accelerate achievement of poverty alleviation targets and support environmental governance
Helpdesk: Mainstreaming Poverty Environment Linkages (8 December)	The Helpdesk will support progress gained under PEA and expand its reach beyond PEI/PEA countries

A [Poverty-Environment Action Helpdesk](#) was established as a **one-stop point of contact** on the PEA website to provide stakeholders with a centralized information service on the mainstreaming of poverty-environment objectives into policy, budgeting, programming and investments in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Development of a capacity-building platform will commence in 2022 in partnership with UNITAR, which will develop the training modules.


Going forward, PEA will continue to make deliberate efforts to actively showcase results and enhance donor visibility including in all publications, policy dialogues and forums. A **Communications Specialist** will be hired in 2022 to document further communication and visibility products.



# Challenges and Opportunities

**D**uring the reporting period, challenges were encountered and mitigated while maximizing identified opportunities as appropriate.

- Project implementation in all countries and including at the global level continued to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic due to travel bans, restrictions on in-person meetings/workshops and government offices working at limited capacity in most instances. Activities that required trainings, workshops, data collection and international consultants were postponed or, in some cases, cancelled. PEA implemented a series of approaches to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. **The project demonstrated positive adaptive management strategies to the pandemic**, including PEA management's conducting a series of follow-up calls with the countries to provide support.
- Stakeholder engagement mainly took place through virtual consultations, which proved to be challenging for government counterparts due to capacity and connectivity issues especially at subnational levels. There is need to **revert to in-person meetings** as the situation permits on a case-by-case basis. Where possible, a hybrid modality will be used with part of the meetings held in person and part of the sessions held virtually for a smooth transition to the "new normal."
- **Virtual capacity building** in the African country context and in some countries in Asia Pacific (**Lao PDR, Myanmar**) has been fairly unsuccessful. COVID impacts continue to cause problems – for example, in restricting the conduct of capacity-building workshops. Virtual meetings at the country level often do not work because of Internet inadequacies and stakeholders not having laptops. Meetings where participants use smartphones are particularly ineffective, as participants are reluctant to do so or simply do not attend.
- In **Myanmar**, a combination of a third wave of COVID-19, political crisis and intensification of armed clashes made **project implementation extremely challenging**. The situation radically changed assumptions made during project design. For example, investing in green business, which is one of the key expected outcomes of the project, has become difficult with no new private investments coming in. Capacity development has taken a back seat; target project beneficiaries are prioritizing commercial survival and more immediate concerns such as overcoming a cash shortage, supply chain disruption and lost markets. Mitigative measures were adopted, which included halting engagement with the government until further notice in line with UN Principles of Engagement with de facto authorities. This led to revision of the 2021 Annual Work Plan to shift towards



project activities that did not involve government engagement and that directly benefit communities and non-state actors focusing on the promotion of green businesses. Project implementation has continued, with the project enabling the Country Office to continue advancing implementation of the SDGs within the new development context in Myanmar.

- In **Tanzania**, the death of President Magufuli in March 2021 resulted in **major changes in political leadership** and in government officials at various levels including ministers, permanent secretaries, regional/district commissioners, councillors and mayors. In the Simiyu Region, for instance, the project implementing partner and all top leaders (regional commissioner, regional administrative secretary) and other officials were transferred, and new ones brought in. The project held orientation meetings for the new staff, which affected the pace of project implementation.



# Lessons Learned; Strategies Used

**T**his section summarizes the key lessons learned and main strategies employed by PEA during the reporting period.

## Lessons learned.

- The **PEA programmatic approach**, not least the integrated socioeconomic–environmental approach, is still a best practice approach for supporting SDG implementation.
- Concrete socioeconomic **evidence of the development impacts of unsustainable ENR use and climate change remains the most important way to convince decision-makers to mainstream** poverty–environment objectives – when appropriately generated and proactively used. As poverty–environment mainstreaming progresses, more detailed economic evidence, including impact on poverty, is required to help guide sector and subnational policy and investment decision-makers; useful tools are multidimensional poverty analysis, cost-benefit analysis etc.
- As **poverty–environment mainstreaming progresses, it becomes more demanding and time-consuming** because more processes need to be influenced. At the national level, there is only one national development plan and a single budget process. At the sector level, mainstreaming projects need to focus on four or five key sectors; and at the subnational level, on provinces and districts. And as mainstreaming reaches down to the sector and subnational levels, the capacity of government decision-makers generally declines – at the district level, the capacity challenges can be daunting and might include an inability to use Excel spreadsheets or be able to prepare good business cases to use existing funds.
- PEA country projects and teams, backed by regional-focused PEA staff, provide an excellent platform to **engage with UN Country Teams and support UN Resident Coordinators**. Experience has shown that the poverty–environment approach – focusing on the development impacts of unsustainable ENR use and climate change, and how investments in sustainability and resilience can significantly contribute to key development objectives such as poverty reduction and food security – resonates with Resident Coordinators and other UN agencies/entities.
- **Countries generally do not carry out adequate poverty assessments** or apply adequate poverty reduction targeting; this has made it more difficult for PEA to adequately focus on the 'P' side of poverty–environment mainstreaming, because these higher-level inadequacies also need to be addressed.

- In the Africa PEA countries, where donor funding is a major – if not *the* major – source of funding for development programmes and projects, **PEA should have focused more heavily on influencing in-country donors earlier**. One reason this has been challenging is that UN procedures at the country level usually forbid individual UN projects from trying to influence donors, unless as part of an existing donor working group.
- **Knowledge management and visibility efforts need to be enhanced from the outset** at all levels (national, regional, global) to ensure adequate showcasing of project results.
- An increasing number of UN Resident Coordinators are prioritizing and requesting support for mainstreaming ENR sustainability and climate resilience across the UN Country Teams and through donor coordination mechanisms. This provides an opportunity for PEA to **support broadening of poverty–environment mainstreaming and integration across the UN Country Teams through the UN Resident Coordinator offices**.
- A **gender approach should be used to promote institutionalization of gender mainstreaming** through its systematic integration across a project to reduce inequalities and exclusion based on gender. Gender mainstreaming is not a gender-targeted approach where numerical equity of women and men is promoted, but a more substantive approach to reduce inequalities within the poverty–environment nexus.

## Strategies Used

### Gender and rights-based approaches to ensure social inclusion

PEA continued to provide technical advisory support to countries on how to address gender equality issues in key sectors and to include gender in poverty analytics guided by PEA's strategy on how to integrate gender.<sup>6</sup> PEA countries have increased gender mainstreaming in their work. **Indonesia** and **Rwanda** have developed gender-specific indicators and guidelines that are included in the broader poverty–environment mainstreaming tools. **Tanzania** has been working to ensure that private investment proposals and concept notes consider gender to ensure that women benefit from them. The UN Women and PEA partnership is ongoing, focusing on capacity building for climate-smart agriculture at the country level in collaboration with the relevant ministries of finance, planning and gender as well as statistics departments.

### Strengthening strategic partnerships and improving coordination

PEA continued to build on earlier collaborations with organizations engaged in promoting the transition to an inclusive green economy through a webinar that was jointly organized with **GGKP, GIZ and PAGE** on 30 September 2021: "How Green Bonds Are Financing Sustainable Development." The webinar delved into the opportunities, challenges and broad potential of green bonds for driving sustainable development in advance of the climate finance and biodiversity discussions planned for COP26. In addition, PEA, as a participant in **Partners for Inclusive Green Economies**, collaborated in preparing [COVID-19: Ten Priority Options for a Just, Green & Transformative Recovery](#); these were incorporated into the Africa Green Stimulus Programme proposal, an innovative African-led initiative developed to support the continent's COVID recovery response in a sustainable manner.

Synergies among programmes and with various partners were further ensured through a partnership meeting on 24 June 2021 with 28 participants: 5 representatives from the project's donor agencies and 14 participants from implementing partners such as **GIZ, GGKP, the International Institute for Environment and Development, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, PAGE, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and UNRISD**. The meeting aimed to engage partners in joint capacity-building, present the first draft of the Capacity-Building Platform to be launched in 2022 and ensure continuity of poverty-environment-climate mainstreaming.

New strategic partnerships have been formed with **UNITAR** at the regional level through the PEA capacity-building platform. Through this established long-term partnership, a massive open online course and related customized learning modules are under development and will be distributed through the UNITAR [UN CC:e-Learn](#) platform. Furthermore, PEA, in collaboration with the **Sussex University Sustainability Research Programme and UNRISD**, published a compilation of studies to foster better understanding of the multiple, complex and often opposing ways and channels through which financial crises, poverty dynamics and environmental sustainability interact – and to offer timely and unique contributions to the immediate global challenge of sustainable development. The policy recommendations from these studies and other sources have been compiled with a view to preparing a brief for policymakers to better understand and address the poverty-environment impacts of financial crisis.

## Engaging with non-government stakeholders

Various partnerships have been formed at the country level with CSOs, NGOs, academia and media, among other partners. The revision of [indicator 1.2](#) to “Number of non-government actors supported to advocate/take action on poverty-environment issues” has resulted in a sharp increase in engagement with non-government stakeholders, as reflected in [table 3](#).

In **Bangladesh**, the online campaign My Goal was launched in 2021 to influence youth and youth-led organizations to share their thoughts on SDGs, including on poverty and the environment. Influential sector leaders, including the Resident Representative of UNDP Bangladesh, joined the campaign. A workshop on SDGs 5, 8, and 13 through the Whole of Society Approach was held 23 September 2021 with participants from ActionAid Bangladesh, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, bKash, BRAC University, the Center for Policy Dialogue, Concern Worldwide, the Daily Star, East West University, FCDO, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries, HSBC, Naripokkho, Oxfam Bangladesh, the University of Dhaka and Young Power in Social Action. In **Myanmar**, 30 CSOs were supported to undertake CSO-led SDG monitoring and review to enhance accountability on poverty alleviation actions and promote the environmental dimensions of SDGs; and 15 private sector entities were trained to advocate for responsible business through environmental impact assessment. In **Rwanda**, PEA organized and conducted a youth knowledge exchange and exhibition for green initiative to transfer knowledge and scale up good initiatives among youths; this brought together 35 young entrepreneurs across the country.

## UNDP-UNEP partnership

PEA relies on the sustained partnership between UNDP and UNEP as strategic actors within the UN system to advance the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. As the leading global environmental authority, UNEP sets the global environment agenda, promotes coherent implementation of the environment within the UN system, advocates for the global environment, and implements its mandate to ensure capacity building and technical assistance – particularly with respect to institutional strengthening in developing countries. UNDP and UNEP continue to combine their complementary mandates and operational strengths to implement the PEA project, including country presence through UNDP, participation in the UN Development Group, the Environment Management Group and other joint global coordination mechanisms. **PEA was highlighted as a good example of UN cooperation in mainstreaming environment** in a statement made by H.E. Khattabi Zakia, Belgium’s Minister of Climate, Environment, Sustainable Development and Green Deal, at the UNEP@50 event held in early March 2022.

PEA’s mid-term evaluation was one of two reports granted the **UNDP Outstanding Evaluation Award for 2021** (see [appendix C](#)). The selection process was highly competitive, including over 250 evaluations completed and uploaded to the UNDP Evaluation Resource Centre as of 31 December 2021. The evaluation was found by UNDP Independent Evaluation Office’s Evaluation Advisory Panel members to be of high quality and deserving of recognition, noting that it “illustrates how timely and constructive evaluation can successfully identify actionable recommendations to make corrective decisions and streamline projects. It shows an adequate balance between accountability considerations and a commitment to analytically identify paths for future action and improvement.” UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner presented the award to PEA during the Evaluation Awards Ceremony held 12 April 2022.

## Implementation and management arrangements

PEA continues to be governed by a Project Board.<sup>7</sup> The UNDP and UNEP Co-Managers continue to lead day-to-day project implementation, guided by the Project Board Executive under strategic direction set by the Board. PEA is implemented under UNDP corporate standard rules and regulations (as the Managing Agent of the project), in close collaboration with national counterparts, UNDP Country Offices, and UNDP and UNEP Regional Offices and Headquarters units. The programmatic approach and strategy have remained as stipulated in the project document. A **no-cost extension** from 1 September to 31 December 2022 was approved by the Project Board to enable completion of project activities, followed by a six-month period in 2023 for operational and financial project closure. Operational closure includes the final evaluation, lessons learned report and final Project Board meeting. In line with a recommendation from the mid-term review, the PEA budget was reduced to \$13,573,185, reflecting a budget decrease of \$6,426,815. The reduction was made to reflect actual financial resources available for implementation of identified and approved activities in line with the Description of the Action. The changes do not affect the main purpose of the action or its strategy. Formal approval of the no-cost extension was granted by the European Union in March 2022 through signature of Addendum n.1. The budget was further revised in line with Article 11.3 of the General Conditions of unilateral changes to accommodate PEA actual needs.



# Way Forward

In 2022, the final year of implementation for PEA, emphasis will be on delivering the \$10.7 million budget to reach the last mile in attaining the project's outcome, as guided by the 2022 Annual Work Plan (see [appendix B](#)). The strategic focus will be on:

- **Establishing the capacity-building platform** and the massive open online course in partnership with UNITAR
- **Updating the 2015 Mainstreaming Handbook** (*Mainstreaming Environment and Climate for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development*) that will inform the course's content as it restates the integrated, programmatic approach
- **Promoting visibility** of results through impact stories, video clips, publications, best practices on poverty–environment mainstreaming, and webinars on thematic topics to promote adoption of poverty–environment mainstreaming tools and approaches

As part of its sustainability efforts, a paper on **Sustaining and Broadening Poverty–Environment Action Impact After 2022** will be developed to propose how the valuable knowledge and experience produced during the PEI and PEA projects can continue to be accessible by stakeholders. Development will be done in partnership with GGKP and UNITAR for the repository and training components, respectively. Options on how PEA's work will be anchored within UNEP and UNDP continue to be explored.

Lastly, PEA will also focus on preparing for project closure by commissioning the **final evaluation and lessons learned reports** to inform the final project report to be completed in 2023.





# Appendixes

**Appendix A:** Knowledge Management, South-South Cooperation and Visibility Action Plan Results Summary

**Appendix B:** 2022 Annual Work Plan

**Appendix C:** 2022 Outstanding Evaluation Award

## Appendix A: Knowledge Management, South-South Cooperation and Visibility Action Plan Results Summary

Activity	Indicator	Source of verification	2021 results
<b>Knowledge management</b>			
Initiate news and events with PEA technical assistance and countries and post on <a href="https://pea4sdgs.org/">https://pea4sdgs.org/</a>	<a href="https://pea4sdgs.org/">https://pea4sdgs.org/</a> website kept fresh and to be fed with news and events	Number of posts in <a href="https://pea4sdgs.org/">https://pea4sdgs.org/</a>	<b>Fully achieved.</b> Doubled number of news (average 1 news/week) posted on website: increased from 23 in 2020 to 47 in 2021
Sharing of project initiatives among countries and technical assistances (workshops, events etc.) via Results Based Management and Communication (RBMC) group	Quarterly	Number of sharing events	<b>Exceeded target.</b> 8 sharing sessions via RBMC network (exceeded target of 4, increased from 3 sessions in 2020)
Webinar to share knowledge between UNDP-UNEP (climate change unit etc.)	Annually	Number of webinars / brown bag lunches	<b>Exceeded target.</b> 2 webinars organized for UNDP and UNEP colleagues (exceeded target of 1)
<b>South-South cooperation</b>			
Follow up with PEA countries to provide support to organizing virtual South-South cooperation initiatives as needed	Quarterly (at minimum)	Number of sharing events	<b>Exceeded target.</b> 10 events organized for experience sharing (exceeded target of 4)
Organize webinars on new substantive priorities/topics arising from PEA countries/projects and partners	Key events organized as planned	Number of sharing events/webinars	<b>Fully achieved.</b> 9 webinars organized from September to December 2021
<b>Visibility</b>			
Reintroduce standard script/logos to acknowledge PEA/donors to be used by PEA technical assistances and countries	Presentation made and reintroduced standard script/logos at the PEA operations meeting	Number of publication, workshops, events etc. used standard script and logos	<b>Fully achieved.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent use of PEA logos with 2021 series of stories of change</li> <li>• Refresher made in all implementation meetings during August/September</li> <li>• Standard script/logos to include Belgium funds shared in December</li> <li>• PEA's 2021 webinar series featured on e-update of the Climate Promise in Asia-Pacific and Biodiversity and Ecosystems Network bimonthly Newsletter, #32</li> <li>• PEA stories of change #10 reposted on Global Centre on Resilient Ecosystems and Desertification website</li> <li>• Green Policy Platform contains a web page dedicated to PEA and its 2021 webinar series</li> </ul>

(continued)

## Appendix A (continued)

Activity	Indicator	Source of verification	2021 results
Continue to follow up with countries to get timely information/news and upload on PEA website	Quarterly	Number of posts in PEA website	<p><b>Exceeded target</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 47 news in total</li> <li>• 11 stories of change</li> <li>• PEA website revamped in August</li> <li>• Photo albums made for six countries</li> </ul>
Increase PEA inputs to regional and global high-profile events	Quarterly	Number of high-profile events	<p><b>Exceeded target.</b> 4 high-profile events with PEA inputs (i.e. participation by co-managers and technical leads) during 2021</p>
Regional forum of ministers and environmental authorities in Asia Pacific	Annually	Number of forums	<p><b>Fully achieved.</b> PEA's programming and integrated mainstreaming approach showcased to regional forum via inclusion in official background documents for the Fourth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia Pacific (5–7 October 2021)</p>
Reach out to research institutions, academia etc. for PEA discussion	Quarterly	Number of outreach	<p><b>Partially achieved</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint initiative on Financial Crises, Poverty and Environmental Sustainability undertaken with Sussex Sustainability Research Project of the University of Sussex, and UNRISD led to publication of <a href="#">special issue</a> of <i>Sustainable Development</i> journal</li> <li>• Co-produced <a href="#">Working Paper: Report of the South-South Cooperation Forum on Food Security and Agrobiodiversity in Times of COVID-19 and Climate Change</a> in partnership with UNEP-International Ecosystem Management Partnership, Global Alliance for the Future of Food, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, International Food Policy Research Institute, International Fund for Agriculture Development, and UN Women</li> </ul>

Note: The results plan has been lightly copy edited for consistency.

## Appendix B: 2022 Annual Work Plan

Expected outputs	Key activities/ annual output targets	Time frame				Responsible party	Planned budget	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Source of funds	Budget description
Output 1: Development planning, budgeting and monitoring systems integrate environmental sustainability and climate change objectives for poverty eradication.	<p>Deliverable 1.1: Capacity to apply integrated approaches and tools for mainstreaming environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication in development planning and budgeting.</p> <p>Deliverable 1.2: Institutional mechanisms promote policy coherence to accelerate implementation of environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.</p> <p>M&amp;E activities</p>	X	X	X	X	UNDP CO/ PEA country, regional and global teams, UN agencies, NGOs and other entities, Government	PEA	Salaries (National and International Staff) International Consultants Local Consultants Contractual Services – Individual Contractual Services – Companies Travel UNV Trainings and Workshops Material and Goods Communication and Audio-Visual Equipment Audio Visual and Print Production Costs Supplies Grants IT Equipment Rental and Maintenance – Premises Purchase of Equipment and Furniture/ Depreciation Rental and Maintenance of Equipment/ IT Equipment Project Office/Operational Costs Evaluation and Audit Costs Final Lessons Learned Report Costs
Output 2: Public finance and investment frameworks incentivize shift in public and private investments toward environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.	<p>Deliverable 2.1: Public expenditure and emerging national SDG financing frameworks support shift in government allocations toward environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.</p> <p>Deliverable 2.2: Economic, financial and regulatory incentives and private sector initiatives encourage shift in private investment toward environmental sustainability and climate objectives for poverty eradication.</p> <p>M&amp;E activities</p>	X	X	X	X	UNDP CO/ PEA country, regional and global teams, UN agencies, NGOs and other entities, Government	PEA	Salaries (National and International Staff) International Consultants Local Consultants UNV Contractual Services – Individual Contractual Services – Companies Travel Trainings and Workshops Material and Goods Communication and Audio-Visual Equipment Audio Visual and Print Production Costs Supplies Grants IT Equipment Rental and Maintenance – Premises Purchase of Equipment and Furniture/ Depreciation Rental and Maintenance of Equipment/ IT Equipment Evaluation and Audit Costs Final Lessons Learned Report Costs

(continued)

## Appendix B (continued)

Expected outputs	Key activities/ annual output targets	Time frame				Responsible party	Planned budget	
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		Source of funds	Budget description
Output 3: SDG implementation and acceleration processes leveraged to scale up use of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools.	<p>Deliverable 3.1: Poverty-Environment Action knowledge products synthesize country-level experience and lessons in the use of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools.</p> <p>Deliverable 3.2: Uptake of integrated poverty-environment mainstreaming approaches and tools by global, regional and local institutions supporting SDG implementation in "non-Poverty-Environment Action" countries.</p> <p>M&amp;E activities</p>	X	X	X	X	Global and regional team, UNDP BPPS/SD and UNEP Ecosystems, Regional Offices Africa and Asia, UN agencies, NGOs and other entities	PEA	Salaries (National and International Staff) International Consultants Local Consultants UNV Contractual Services – Individual Contractual Services – Companies Travel Trainings and Workshops Material and Goods Communication and Audio-Visual Equipment Audio Visual and Print Production Costs Supplies Grants IT Equipment Rental and Maintenance – Premises Purchase of Equipment and Furniture/ Depreciation Rental and Maintenance of Equipment/ IT Equipment Project Office/Operational Costs

Note: BPPS = Bureau for Policy and Programme Support; CO = Country Office; IT = information technology; UNV = UN Volunteer.

## Appendix C: 2022 Outstanding Evaluation Award



# Endnotes



1. United Nations, [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021](#).
2. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, [Draft decision -/CMA.3: Glasgow Pact](#).
3. See the latest country human development rankings on the United Nations Development Programme's [2021 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index](#) webpage.
4. World Bank, [Annual Report 2021: From Crisis to Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Recovery](#).
5. Note that the PEA strategy and purpose remain largely the same as at its inception despite a fiscal adjustment made in 2021 that reduced the PEA budget by \$6.4 million to reflect actual financial resources available for implementation of identified and approved activities in line with the Description of the Action.
6. As outlined in Annex 3 of the signed PEA Project Document.
7. As stipulated in the project document, guided by the terms of reference in Appendix 1 of the agreement with the European Union.

Poverty-Environment Action for Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) promotes an integrated approach which contributes to bringing poverty, environment and climate objectives into the heart of national and subnational plans, policies, budgets, and public and private finance to strengthen the sustainable management of natural resources and to alleviate poverty.

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### With many thanks to our partners



European Union



**Belgium**

partner in development



Sweden

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**Poverty-Environment Action**  
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