

## **Press Pack:**

# **Supporting a climate for change: the EU and developing countries working together**

**Background material for UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun (COP 16/ CMP 6)**

**November/ December 2010**



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## 1) Info Sheet: EU's actions on the environment and climate change in the world



The world is today facing a major environmental crisis. Annual deforestation rate amounts to 15 millions ha per year – about the size of Greece. Biodiversity loss rate is estimated to be 100 to 1000 times the natural one. 75% of marine fisheries are now threatened by overfishing. Pollution – notably by chemicals or heavy metals – is widespread and reaches even territories that appeared untouched.

Since the poorest segment of society relies heavily on the environment for its livelihood and further development, every poverty alleviation strategy and each development policy needs to integrate environmental aspects and concerns. Just as low emissions and greener development in developed countries are crucial in order to maintain and preserve global public goods such as forests, biodiversity, water, soil and climate, green development paths in developing countries are necessary conditions to ensure long-term improvements of living conditions of developing countries' citizens. This is why the environmental actions have a central role in the European Union's (EU) external cooperation.

### **Key issues on environment and development:**

- The [Millennium Development Goal \(MDG\) # 7](#) directly relates to the environment with specific targets of integrating sustainable development principles, reducing biodiversity loss, halving the proportion of people without access to drinking water and sanitation, and improving lives of the slum dwellers. Most of the other MDGs are indirectly related to environmental situation through the maintenance of ecosystems services.
- The **loss of biodiversity** is increasing at an alarming rate, due to human activities such as deforestation and land use change, while climate change is increasing the pressure on ecosystems and species. The biodiversity crisis affects the functioning of ecosystems and thus reducing the services they provide to humanity and undermining development. The European Commission co-financed a study – on the model of the Stern review on Climate Change – on *the Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity* to raise awareness of political and economic spheres on the issue.
- An estimated 1.6 billion people rely heavily on forests for their subsistence needs, including

food security, health, shelter, energy etc. Furthermore, approximately 4.6 billion people rely on forest systems for all or some of their water supplies. Forests play an important role in regulating local, regional and global climate patterns. The **protection and sustainable use of forests** is thus of paramount importance for poverty alleviation as well as for preservation of the global environment. The EU has been an important actor in the fight against deforestation for a long time – and has endorsed the objective of halting deforestation by 2030.

- Around 200 million people rely on fisheries for their livelihoods. Small-scale fishers are the most affected by the decrease of fishery resources which is due to unsustainable fishing practices and marine pollution. The EU plays an important role in strengthening the governance of the fishery sector through the implementation of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and the World Summit on Sustainable Development action plans.
- All environmental issues are interlinked with climate change. In many countries, development is at risk due to changes in climate patterns: more severe drought, increase of extreme weather events such as cyclones, sea level rise, and glacier melting are turning former development strategies upside down. **Adaptation to climate change** is today a key issue for development – on top of mitigation efforts at the global scale to limit the temperature rise. The EU, as a global leader in the fight against Climate Change, has taken several steps to internally reduce its Greenhouse Gases emissions, as well as supporting developing countries in adapting to climate change. Climate change is also on the top of the EU diplomatic agenda – and is currently receiving a special attention in the context of our dialogue with partner countries.

#### **The European Union's development aid and environment:**

- The European Commission spent more than half a billion Euros in 2009 on environment-related actions in its external cooperation globally.
- The geographical instruments (bilateral cooperation) are the most important instruments for implementing environmental activities. These activities vary a lot from one country to the other, following the country's situation, needs and ownership. For example, forestry is an important sector in Latin America or Central Africa, whereas energy efficiency and pollution reduction are more prominent in economies in transition. Similarly, activities related to adaptation to climate change depend on the expected consequences of climate change in the country and could encompass water, agriculture or coastal management sectors.
- The *Environment & Natural Resources Thematic Programme (ENRTP)* supports environmental actions all over the world, frequently implemented in cooperation with civil society organisations. The ENRTP has been allocated just over €1 billion for the years 2007-2013 and covers activities on most of the main environmental issues such as biodiversity loss, deforestation and forest governance, climate change adaptation and mitigation, energy efficiency and renewable energies, water, chemicals and heavy metal pollution etc.
- The EU is also committed to mainstreaming the environment within its development cooperation. Today, Environmental Impact Assessments are undertaken on every project with potential negative effects on the environment and mitigation measures are implemented if necessary. The environment is more and more integrated in all relevant aid cooperation programmes and in our support to sector policies through Strategic Environmental Assessments.

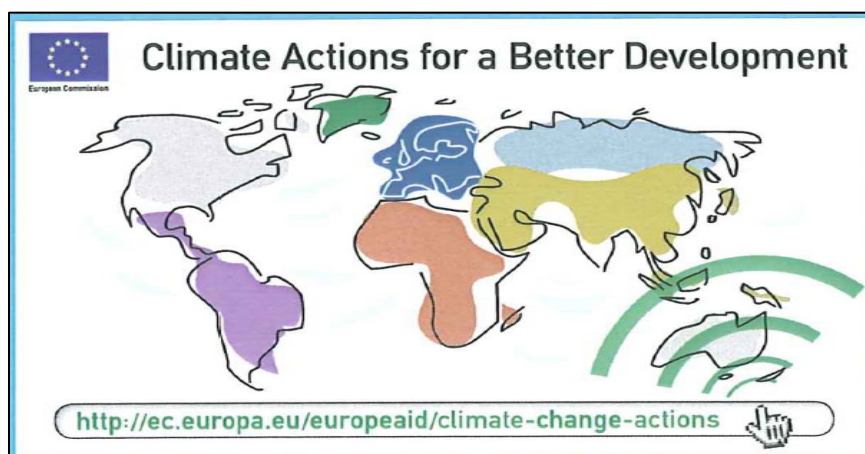
- Some examples of important programmes and initiatives on the environment:
  - In 2003 the EU adopted an Action Plan for **Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade** (FLEGT) to address the problem of illegal logging. The Action Plan blends measures in producer and consumer countries to facilitate trade in legal timber, and eliminate illegal timber from trade with the EU. This initiative is supported by a range of cooperation activities for a total amount of over €100 million.
  - The **Global Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fund** (GEEREF) is an innovative financing instrument, set up as a global public-private partnership, proposed by the European Commission under the ENRTP to maximise the leverage of public funds. The risk capital is managed by the European Investment Fund (EIF) in support of Small and Medium size Enterprises (SME) wanting to develop renewable energies and energy efficiency. The Fund has invested €12.5 million in the Renewable Energy Asia Fund, which focuses on renewable energy projects in Asia (primarily India) and ZAR 108.5m in the Evolution One Fund, which focuses on clean energy investment in Southern African Development Community (EVCA) countries.
  - The **Forests and Protected Areas** programmes in Central Africa – including the flagship programme ECOFAC on Forest Ecosystems – have been implemented since the beginning of the 1990s. More than €100 million has been allocated to various complementary projects in the region, leading to a network of better managed protected areas of more than 3.5 million ha of tropical forest and more than 80 million ha of savannah area, and improving the living conditions and ecosystems services in the region.
  - A switch is needed from unsustainable to sustainable patterns of development. The **SWITCH ASIA** programme was born out of this need. The programme – granted €90 million - focuses on sustainable consumption and production and directly contributes to sustainable growth and the fight against poverty.

**More information:**

- European Commission's policies and strategies on the environment and development  
[http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/9interventionareas/environment\\_fr.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/9interventionareas/environment_fr.cfm)
- European Commission activities on the environment in developing countries:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/natural-resources/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/natural-resources/index_en.htm)
- The Environment and Natural Resources Thematic programme, including Energy  
[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/environment/details\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/environment/details_en.htm)
- Summaries of EU legislation on the environment and co-operation  
<http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/s15011.htm>

## 2) Stories from the field

See EU projects on climate actions in the world at the interactive map **Climate Actions for a Better Development** <http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/climate-change-actions/>



The interactive map features case studies such as:

### **The Global Climate Change Alliance**

Launched in 2007, the GCCA intends to deepen dialogue and cooperation on climate change between the European Union and developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, in particular Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The GCCA priority areas of intervention include: adaptation, including disaster risk reduction; the mainstreaming of climate change in development; and mitigation activities, such as REDD and participation in the CDM.

Among the main activities covered by the GCCA, one can find regional dialogue events to deepen cooperation on climate change as well as technical and financial support for target countries to deliver concrete climate change actions on the ground.

[www.gcca.eu](http://www.gcca.eu)

### **REP-5: Support for the energy sector in five ACP Pacific island countries.**

The Support to the Energy Sector in Five ACP Pacific Island Countries (REP-5) programme is a 9th European Development Fund (9th EDF) multi-country initiative which funds renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in five Pacific Island Countries. The project is carried out by the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.

<http://www.rep5.eu>

### **Community based disaster preparedness in Vietnam**

Vietnam remains one of the most vulnerable countries in the Asian Pacific region to natural disasters. Its long coastline and unique mix of geography exposes it to frequent typhoons, floods and drought. The project aims to decrease the impact of weather-related disasters by strengthening the capacity of the populations of 16 selected vulnerable communes in the provinces of Quang Binh and Ha Tinh.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UkNB5hLfWeY>

### **Strengthening the national capacity for Disaster Prevention and Preparedness in the Dominican Republic**

Global warming and subsequent climate change will increase the frequency of natural disasters globally and particularly in tropical areas of the planet. The Dominican Republic is exposed to a wide range of natural hazards, such as hurricanes, tropical storms, floods, landslides and forest fires that recurrently cause loss of life and monetary resources for the country.

The EU programme seeks to improve the security and quality of life of vulnerable groups, trying to ensure sustained socio-economic development. It also helps to strengthen the country's capacity for disaster response – both nationally and specifically in the north-eastern region.

### **The ACP-EU Energy Facility: Catalysing modern energy service delivery to isolated communities in Southern Africa**

Lack of access to modern energy services is a major obstacle to the delivery of socio-economic services such as education and health in most developing countries in general. This is particularly so in Southern Africa where the population living in sparsely populated rural areas are out of reach of electricity which makes it technically and economically costly to extend the national grid electricity to serve them. Micro-hydro power is the small-scale harnessing of energy from falling water, such as steep mountain rivers.

[www.energyfacilitymonitoring.eu/](http://www.energyfacilitymonitoring.eu/)

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/acp/regional-cooperation/energy/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/acp/regional-cooperation/energy/index_en.htm)

### **EURO-SOLAR Programme**

The use of renewable energy stands as a sustainable means to provide access to electricity without contributing to climate change. Access to electricity enables communities to improve basic services, such as education, health, communication and information conditions and to develop productive activities. The experience gained from the implementation of this programme can be applied to other similar regions in developing countries.

The Euro-Solar project shows how EU aid can have a high-impact on people on the ground and provide a catalyst for growth and sustainable development.

Currently, 1.6 billion people in semi-urban and rural areas in developing countries have no access to electricity. Without electricity there is no clean water, no good education and no access to computers or internet. In fact, electricity is a key precondition to practically all the MDGs.

**The Euro-Solar project** helps to reduce poverty by providing isolated rural communities with a renewable source of electric energy. It uses 100% renewable energy.

As well as fighting climate change; the project helps to connect isolated rural communities by helping them develop local services.

It enables communities to enjoy better living conditions by using the energy sources which surround them (such as sun and wind) without needing energy from conventional sources.

Once 300,000 people in those communities have access to electricity they are better able to access basic services like education, and healthcare.

Children will be able to use computers and have access to internet; and water purifiers will be installed, meaning a healthier population.

And the impact is huge. Until the arrival of the programme, for instance the inhabitants of Sancayuni could not count on any kind of energy supply. Today, they have clean and



sustainable energy, access to new technologies as well as dedicated training and continuous support.

<http://www.programaeuro-solar.eu>

You can access further audiovisual material on EU Environment actions in the world at:

[http://ec.europa.eu/avservice/video/video\\_prod\\_en.cfm?type=detail&prodid=950&src=1](http://ec.europa.eu/avservice/video/video_prod_en.cfm?type=detail&prodid=950&src=1)

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