



Capacity Development, Environment and Climate Change and The Use of Country Systems

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Background

- OECD Development and Environment Ministers met in April 2006
- This meeting laid the basis of a strategic alliance between the environment and development cooperation communities on issues of common interest such as environmental mainstreaming, climate change and capacity development.



Task Teams

A major outcome was:

- Three Task Teams were established composed of representatives of OECD environment and development co-operation agencies or ministries
- **Task Team 1:** Integrating Adaptation to Climate Change into Development Co-operation
- **Task Team 2:** Governance and Capacity Development for Environment and Natural Resources Management
- **Task Team 3:** Sustainable Financing to Ensure Affordable Access to Water Supply and Sanitation

Governance and Capacity Development for Natural Resources and Environmental Management

- The Task Team agreed to focus on integrating environmental and natural resources management (ENRM) issues in national development policies and plans, as well as on strengthening the capacities of government institutions to manage environmental resources

The work of the Task Team is founded on four premises:

1. Poverty reduction, economic development, and natural resource and environmental management are intimately linked.
2. Globalisation, industrialisation and urbanisation are generating both new opportunities and new stresses for environmental management in developing countries.
3. Most of the environmental challenges faced by developing countries are at least partially rooted in weaknesses in capacity for environmental management and governance regimes, and the trend towards increasing reliance on country systems makes developing the capacities of national administrations to manage the environment particularly urgent.
4. Development co-operation has a key role to play in supporting environmental capacity and governance, in line with the requirement of the “Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness”.

Governance and Capacity Development for Natural Resources and Environmental Management

The Task Team has developed four workstreams:

- 1. Greening Development Planning:** a review of methods/approaches for making the economic case for integrating the environment into key national policies and programmes.
- 2. Greening National Budgets:** an analysis of how to integrate environmental programmes into medium-term budgetary processes/frameworks.
- 3. Assessing Government's Capacity to Manage the Environment:** a review of existing environmental capacity assessment tools and the identification of criteria (benchmarks) that may enhance the robustness of such assessments.
- 4. Understanding the Role of the OECD Ministries of Environment in Development Cooperation:** a survey and analysis of development co-operation activities of OECD Ministries of Environment (MoEs).

Next Phase of Work: Policy Guidance on Integrating Environment into Country Systems

- The Task Team is currently working on a Policy Guidance on a Country System Approach to Capacity Development for Environment.
- This guidance looks principally at building the environmental mainstreaming capacity of Ministries of Environment, Planning, and Finance, as well as core sector Ministries.
- This workshop undertaken in cooperation with the Global Partnership on Country Systems and their working group on public financial management – to take advantage of their expertise on country systems and in particular public financial management.