



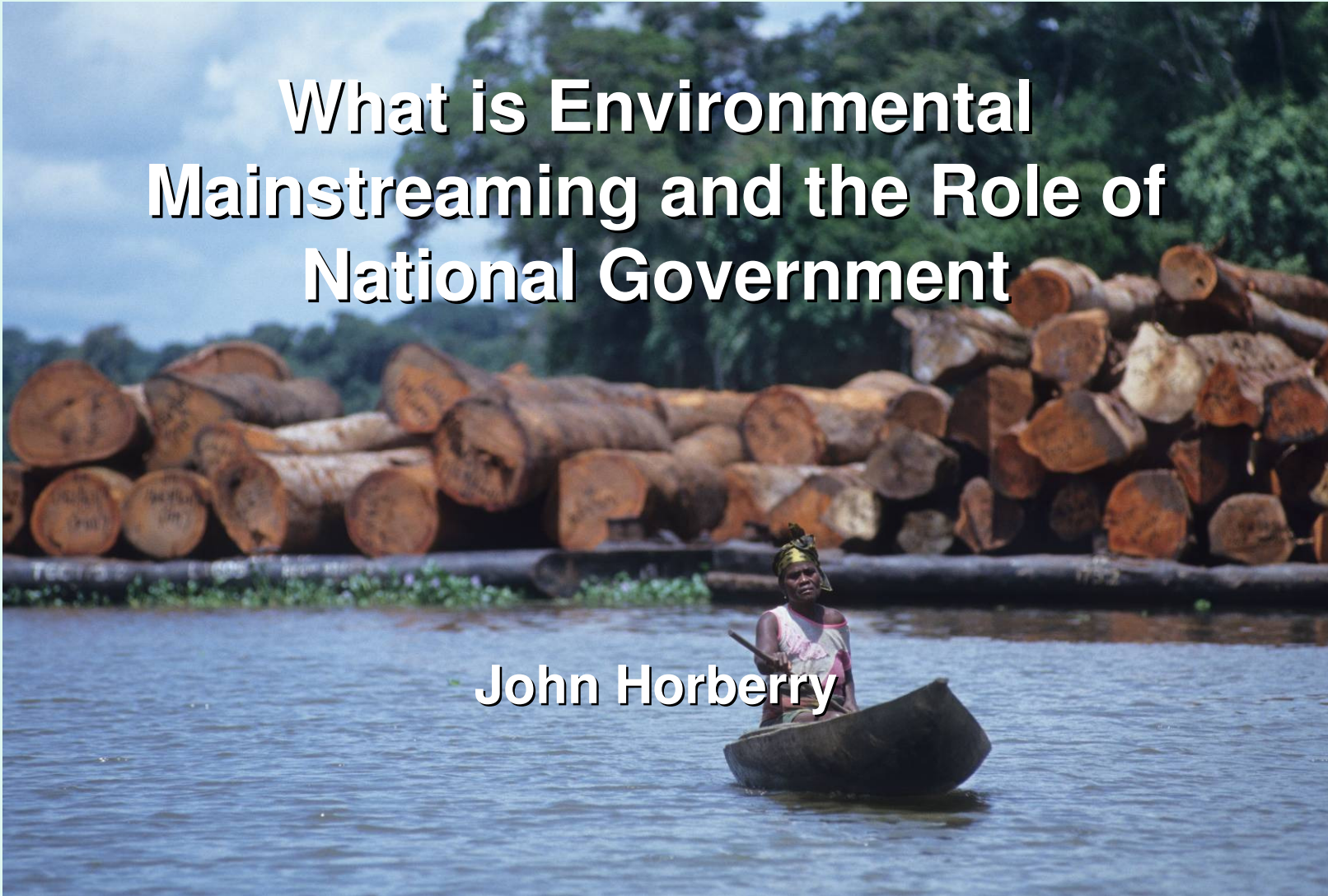
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What is Environmental Mainstreaming and the Role of National Government

John Horberry





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We all want to mainstream environment

- and have been trying to do so for 30 years!
- focus on both donor programmes and/or national development plans
- some successes but still a long way to go
- we know why it is hard
- what do we know about what works?



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Do we all have the same understanding of Environmental Mainstreaming?

“**Environmental** mainstreaming is the informed inclusion of *relevant* environmental concerns into the decisions of institutions that drive *national, local and sectoral* development policy, rules, plans, investment and action”
IIED 2009

“The iterative process of integrating *poverty-environment* linkages into policymaking, budgeting and implementation processes at national sectoral and subnational levels.” PEI 2009

What about – cc adaptation, green economy reforms, sustainable consumption, ecosystem services etc



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Mainstreaming at the *national* level

- If we focus on the role of national government actors, what are we dealing with?
- Entry points: PRSPs, National Plans, Budgets, Sector Strategies, Decentralisation Processes
- Institutional barriers/marginalisation in decision making
- “Making the economic, case” – contribution to well being, development, livelihoods – to influence decisions/priorities
- Politics, commitment, messages, issues, time



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Mainstreaming what?

- Environment
- Poverty-environment
- Green economy
- Climate change adaptation
- Ecosystem services

Are we creating confusion and competition for resources – or confirming common principles?



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Mainstreaming how?

- Institutional entry points/inter-agency mechanisms
- Mobilising stakeholders effectively
- Empowering and supporting champions
- Collecting the relevant evidence
- Developing m/s processes
- Influencing the key decisions
- Tactics



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What have we learned?

- Political and institutional mapping
- Focus on the important processes/decisions
- Specific evidence
- Make the case for the benefits
- Support the champions
- Sustained and dependable support



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How can we help Governments make Climate Change Adaptation and Green Economy happen?

- Critical need for adaptation and high level of effort and resources
- Shared ambition that adaptation needs to be integrated into national development planning
- Familiar challenges: technical focus, marginal institutional base, not compatible with planning processes, poorly understood by decision makers
- Green Economy: similar challenges – how to influence development decisions, budget/investment/job creation decisions, sector strategies



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The “programmatic” dimension

- Developing a customised plan for achieving mainstreaming in national government context
- Setting realistic targets, adopting key milestones, monitoring results
- Deploying proven mainstreaming processes and key tools
- Operational and tactical implementation



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The PEI Programmatic Approach

Preparatory Phase: Making the case

- Understanding poverty-environment linkages
- Finding the institutional “Entry Point”

Phase I: Integrating Environment into National Development Processes

- Collecting the evidence on links between environment and development
- Operational integration of environment sustainability into national development plans

Phase II: Building Implementation capacity

- Strengthening country capacity to integrate environment into development programmes, especially in budget process
- Strengthening processes at sectoral level
- Strengthened domestic revenue base for environmental investments (reducing dependence on donors)



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The “political” dimension

- Who are the key actors/institutions – in environment and poverty- reduction?
- What needs to change?
- Who will champion the issue?
- Who will deliver/amplify the messages?
- How can we access the key decisions?



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The “economic” dimension

- What are the economic/financial benefits/costs? Who is affected?
- What evidence can be used to make the case?
- How is investment prioritised/targeted? How can it be changed?
- What incentives are relevant to influence decision makers?



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Patience and commitment

- Mainstreaming is operational; it is real life.
- It is making an idea happen in a challenging context
- It takes time and perseverance
- It needs realistic targets
- Successes need to be tracked and lessons learned/applied
- It needs dependable support where there is high level of commitment.