



SOFIMUN
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Website: www.sofimun.org
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E-mail: info@sofimun.org

"Search Of Future Ideas, Models Us Now"

COMMITTEE:
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

CHAIRPERSON:
GEORGIANA UNGUREANU & KRISTINA
KOVACHEVA

TOPIC: (A)
PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS IN
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP)



UNDP is the UN's global development network, an organization advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

World leaders have pledged to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, including the overarching goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015. UNDP's network links and coordinates global and national efforts to reach these Goals. Our focus is helping countries build and share solutions to the challenges of:

- Democratic Governance
- Poverty Reduction
- Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- Environment and Energy
- HIV/AIDS

UNDP helps developing countries attract and use aid effectively. In all our activities, we encourage the protection of human rights and the empowerment of women.

The annual Human Development Report, commissioned by UNDP, focuses the global debate on key development issues, providing new measurement tools, innovative analysis and often controversial policy proposals. The global Report's analytical framework and inclusive approach carry over into regional, national and local Human Development Reports, also supported by UNDP.

In each country office, the UNDP Resident Representative normally also serves as the Resident Coordinator of development activities for the United Nations system as a whole. Through such coordination, UNDP seeks to ensure the most effective use of UN and international aid resources.

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Topic A: Public-private partnerships in natural resource management in developing countries - summary



A Public-Private Partnership (PPP) is a contractual agreement between a public agency (federal, state or local) and a private sector entity. Through this agreement, the skills and assets of each sector (public and private) are shared in delivering a service or facility for the use of the general public.

These types of agreements appear both in developed countries, mainly in respect of developing or modernising infrastructure, but also in developing states, where the focus goes on improving the living conditions of the population,

whether in the rural or the urban areas.

When it comes to the management of the natural resources, PPPs are of a major importance, as the developing countries often lack the resources they need to implement effective programs for water governance, forestry, land resources management and biodiversity, in general.

Topic A: Public-private partnerships in natural resource management in developing countries - background guide

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Developing states all around the world face a multiple range of challenges in providing fair living conditions to their citizens. Among these threads, we can find the current worldwide economical crisis, the food crisis, the internal political instability or the precarious natural conditions of these countries.

Quite often, governments resort to partnerships with private sector actors in an attempt to achieve better results in the management of public policies, but the outcome is often minimized by the problems encountered in the implementation phase. Concretely, what is most commonly seen is the lack of mutual understanding of each other's interests and needs, the absence of available information and/ or experience in sustaining PPPs or the legal and institutional obstacles encountered by the private actors involved.



DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM

Water resources management

Water resources management addresses the connections between resource and service management; concretely, it refers to a suitable institutional framework, management instruments,



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development and management of appropriate infrastructure etc. Effective water resources management and development are central to sustainable growth and poverty reduction, but challenges associated to it are becoming more acute.

According to the World Bank, most developing countries face two major water resources challenges: firstly, there is the difficulty in drawing up the laws, regulations and institutions required for managing water resources and secondly, there is the problematic issue of developing and maintaining an appropriate infrastructure.

Public-private partnerships are intended precisely for the second situation, where the private sector can effectively bring its know-how in developing a plan to address these challenges.

Water resources management is the integrating concept for a number of water sub-sectors. Use of an integrated water resources perspective ensures that social, economic, environmental, and technical dimensions are taken into account in the management and development of surface waters and groundwater.

Forestry

Addressing the challenge of poverty reduction requires the recognition that forests are critical to the poorest people in many developing countries around the world. Billions of people depend on forests to meet their agricultural needs, for organic matter with which to enrich the soil, for livestock fodder, and especially for fuel for heating and cooking.



The threats of deforestation and loss of biodiversity remain major obstacles to sustainable development efforts. Addressing the underlying causes of these threats is critical to meeting the needs of expanding human populations and rural poor.

In terms of public-private collaboration, partnerships can help forest industries operating in developing countries, by linking them to local producers who practice sustainable forest management, thus ensuring the long-term and reliable supply of sustainably harvested forest products reach the market.

Land resources management

Land is one of the most critical resources for the rural poor dependent on farming for their livelihoods. Today, about 2 million hectares of rainfed and irrigated agricultural lands are lost to production every year due to severe land degradation, among other factors.

The challenge for developing countries is to develop land management programs to increase the availability of high-quality fertile lands in areas where population growth is high, poverty is endemic, and existing institutional capacity is weak.



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PAST ACTIONS

A great range of international actors have been involved in the process of assisting developing countries develop a coherent programme in terms of natural resource management. Of course, these actions did not always have success, but the grounds have been laid for further improvements.



Of these examples, to be mentioned is the activity of the World Bank, which provides funding and technical support for the developing countries on their path of meeting the Millennium Development Goals, through a stable and consistent programme of dealing with scarce or unexploited natural resources.

Another excellent example is the agenda carried on by USAID in the field of forest management, by encouraging a sound collaboration between the public and the private actors involved in the forest sector, such as the focus on the public-private partnerships in the areas of domestic timber products.

On the other hand, radical approaches to introduce public-private partnerships (PPPs) for infrastructure provision in South Asia have been largely unsuccessful. Throughout South Asia, individuals, community groups, and private entrepreneurs have taken and continue to take action to fill the gaps left by government's failure to provide essential services.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ANSWER

How should the local governments improve transparency in order to offer their private partners a greater level of trust?

What facilities should governments offer their private counterparts so as to determine the latter to bring their knowledge into the field?

What strategy should the private sector adopt in order to make their partnerships with the governments more attractive?

What type of platforms should the public and private entities use to improve dialogue?

What means of raising awareness should there be used in order to provide information on the usefulness of public-private partnerships?

How can the international community contribute further to the implementation of public-private partnerships in developing countries?



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Suggested Reading and Additional Sources - mandatory

Topic A: Public-private partnerships in natural resource management in developing countries

For a better understanding of the issue, the following sources should be consulted, but they are not exhaustive, therefore it is recommended that the delegates research the topic on their own, both through academic sources, as well as informal channels.

Online sources:

1. [The United Nations Development Programme](#)
2. [The World Bank Programme on water](#)
3. [Water Wiki](#)
4. [The National Council for Public-Private partnerships](#)
5. [The UNDP Water Governance facility](#)
6. [USAID Forest Programme](#)

Academic articles:

7. Kevin Tayler, "An Institutional Approach to Service-Provision Partnerships in South Asia", available on www.jstor.org
8. Gabriel Tati, "Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and Water-Supply Provision in Urban Africa: The Experience of Congo-Brazzaville", available on www.jstor.org
9. Suzanne Dansereau, "Win-Win or New Imperialism? Public-Private Partnerships in Africa Mining", available on www.jstor.org
10. Peter V. Schaeffer and Scott Loveridge, "Toward an Understanding of Types of Public-Private Cooperation", available on www.jstor.org
11. Jean-Etienne de Bettignies and Thomas W. Ross, "The Economics of Public-Private Partnerships", available on www.jstor.org