

## Foreword

We are pleased to commend this report as an important step in the work of developing the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS).

The report illustrates that environmental management is essential to economic growth and poverty reduction. Environment is inextricably linked to social, cultural, natural resource, institutional and economic issues. This is not adequately addressed in the current edition of the GPRS. The SEA process has helped all participants to understand the wider impacts of policies plans and programmes on the environment, economic growth and poverty reduction.

The SEA of the GPRS has involved a wide range of stakeholders as evidenced by the endorsement of the process by 27 MDAs 108 district assemblies, parliamentary representatives, civil society, NGOs the Bank of Ghana and business associates

The National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) will integrate the findings and recommendations of the SEA in the next update of the GPRS and the SEA process will be incorporated in Ghana's planning system. This was given further endorsement in the president's state of the nation address earlier this year.

Poverty reduction cannot be achieved without factoring in environmental considerations to achieve sustainable growth. The success of the SEA process in engaging key participants in debate is a strong basis for contributing to better policies for poverty reduction and economic growth in the future.

The final document has been edited to take account of the views expressed, although the wording of the report remains the responsibility of the steering group and SEA team.

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## Preface

The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy is a continuous process through which the policies of the GPRS (2003), and all plans, programmes, activities and budgets that are directly linked to them, are being made more environmentally sustainable. Achieving sustainable growth in Ghana depends upon mainstreaming environment in the GPRS and recognising the inescapable links between natural resources, livelihoods, poverty and social and economic welfare.

The SEA process began in May 2003 (after a pilot phase in the preceding three months). It is now contributing to the update of the GPRS, which will cover the period 2006-2009. During 2004, SEA will be incorporated within the guidelines of the national development planning commission to cover all aspects of GPRS planning and budgeting processes at national, regional and district level.

This report marks an important milestone in the SEA process because stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds have examined the draft and given broad endorsement to its contents and recommendations. The findings and recommendations have been discussed and debated during January and March 2004 at ten working sessions covering the five main themes of the GPRS as well as at a Ministerial Conference in May 2004.

The report is a working document and further consultation will be required on its content before individual organisations commit themselves to specific recommendations. Nevertheless the level of agreement reached, and the endorsement of the findings by all those present, is a measure of the support that exists behind the SEA process. It is a powerful tool for reaching agreement on the complex issues linking environmental, social, and economic aspects of poverty reduction. An indication of how it is valued is provided in the quotations below.

### Quotations Made During The SEA Review

*“We congratulate the steering group, the SEA team and consultants on the SEA process which should help to incorporate environment into the GPRS. The SEA has been fairly consultative which may account for the quality of the report.”* Isodec

*“The SEA process has opened our eyes to the impacts of our activities on people and the environment, which we had not considered before”* District planning team member

*“We want real and effective consultation with parliament on the SEA”*  
Member of Parliament

*“The environment should have been considered in the GPRS; it had been forgotten”*  
Ghana Central Governance Project

*“We need to bring to the attention of bankers, the necessity of mainstreaming environment”* Bank Of Ghana

*“I was overwhelmed when I read the SEA report, there is such a gap missing on our environment in the GPRS”* Member of Parliament

*“We want to engage in the SEA. NGOs have the capacity to do policy analysis but our work is somehow project and donor-driven”* NGO

*“SEA makes me think about the effects of policies, plans, and programmes on people”*  
MPSD

*“We are committed to the SEA, we are committed to sustainable development and will cooperate with EPA, NDPC and collaborators to ensure the project sees the light of day”* The Chamber of Mines

*“Integrating SEA in the district guidelines will not be an extra burden, rather it will be useful to us”* District Planning team member

*“The SEA has shown us that environment is being considered in every single sector policy”* Ministry of Interior

*“As for tourism, without environment we are nowhere; we use it as our main resource.”* Ministry of Tourism

*“When we talk about environment, think about our disabilities. Everything that affects society is related to the environment. Disabled farmers are particularly vulnerable to bush fires. We are very pleased about the SEA because it is the best way of exploring these linked issues”.....*

Joint statement representing the disabled people of Ghana:  
Ghana Society of the Physically Disabled;  
Ghana Association of the Blind;  
National Association of the Deaf.

## Acknowledgements

Members of the SEA team have prepared this report and they are grateful to members of the SEA steering group for their constructive advice and criticism throughout the SEA process.

Notwithstanding the major inputs from the core team, this report could not have been assembled without the dedicated support of a large number of officers within the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of national government and most of the District Assemblies in Ghana.

In addition, the SEA team wishes to acknowledge the enthusiastic way in which members of NGOs and Civil Society have responded to invitations to join the review process and contribute to the development of the next steps.

Over 500 people have participated in the SEA and it is impractical to single out individual contributions although the names of those involved are recorded.

We appreciate the contribution of the Netherlands Commission for EIA (NCEIA), we also wish to state our sincere thanks to those who have supported the SEA and continue to do so.

### **Members of the SEA Steering Group**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Executive Summary forms part of the full SEA report. There are two additional parts covering:

- Process of SEA (part 2). and,
- Content of the SEA, (part 3),

The Executive Summary provides a rapid overview of the contents, process and recommendations of the SEA.

### **The Ghana Poverty Reduction Strategy**

Ghana's Poverty Reduction Strategy (GPRS) is a comprehensive framework of policies and strategic initiatives aimed at ensuring economic growth and poverty reduction. The first version was published in February 2002 and the GPRS has since been reviewed and re-issued in March 2003. Five main themes for poverty reduction are considered in the strategy. These cover:

- The Macro-Economy
- Production and Gainful Employment
- Human Resource Development and Basic Services
- Special Programmes for the Vulnerable and Excluded, and
- Governance.

The initial draft of the GPRS was criticised for treating the environment as a sectoral or "add on" issue rather than a cross cutting one. As a result, the environmental consequences of the policies were inadequately addressed. In order to address these shortcomings, the Government of Ghana decided to conduct an SEA of the GPRS to:

- assess the environmental risks and opportunities presented by the implementation of the policies of MDAs (including the Districts) and other stakeholders as indicated in the GPRS.
- identify appropriate mechanisms to ensure that sound environmental management contributes to sustainable economic growth and lasting poverty reduction in Ghana.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) of the Ministry of Environment and Science and the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) with the support of local and international consultants is executing the SEA. The whole process is taking place within a collaborative framework

involving Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), District Assemblies (DAs) Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). The SEA is supported financially by the Royal Netherlands Government.

SEA is increasingly being developed and expanded as a process for incorporating the principles of sustainability. This is particularly relevant in Ghana where the rationale for conducting the present SEA is to achieve sustainable growth and poverty reduction. This means:

- protecting and enhancing the natural resources on which people depend for their livelihoods,
- improving health and well being by eliminating pollution and disease,
- reducing the risks to the vulnerable and excluded, while improving on their opportunities and,
- creating institutional systems that allow broad participation in decision-making processes.

The focus of the SEA is deliberately wide because many of the pressures on both the poor and on the physical environment arise from custom, tradition, and institutional factors such as the ownership and management of land. It is not possible to analyse the effects of policies on physical resources without understanding the context in which resource exploitation takes place.

### **The Poverty Context in Ghana**

The GPRS states that 'Households and communities may be characterised as poor based on lowness of income, malnutrition, ill health, illiteracy, lack of access to safe water and sanitation facilities and general insecurity'. It highlights the concentration of poverty within the more remote rural savannah areas of the northern half of the country, and notes that even in the more prosperous areas of the south there are pockets of severe deprivation in urban centres and in the coastal savannah. Statistics provided through the Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) show that vulnerability and exclusion among some geographical groups, socio-economic groups, gender and age groups may have worsened even though some limited progress has been made in reducing poverty nation-wide.

In Ghana, historical patterns of economic development, including mining, logging and agricultural intensification, have resulted in significant environmental degradation. This in turn has serious repercussions for the poor who are most dependent on natural resources for survival. Failure to give proper attention to the environment is also a serious threat to the achievement of sustainable economic growth because the country relies on its natural resources for almost half of its Gross Domestic Product.

### **Environmental Baseline**

Human occupation and activity have had a major effect on the natural environment. In the Northern and Central regions, subsistence agriculture has been practised for centuries resulting in the conversion of savannah forest to thicket and scrub and the modification of 'natural' grasslands. Dense rain forest, which still remains in near-pristine state in the southwest, has elsewhere been cleared from its natural range over most of southern and central Ghana. Other key areas of environmental concern include:

- Soil degradation,
- Loss of biodiversity and forest cover,
- Desertification, and
- Climate change.

Emphasis is also placed on the positive ways in which sound environmental management can contribute to a healthier economy. Mitigation and enhancement measures are proposed together with environmental indicators for ensuring that the goals and targets for the environment are realised.

### **SEA Programme**

The SEA process began with a Scoping phase conducted in June 2002 by the Netherlands EIA Commission

The main recommendations of the Scoping guidance were applied in a Pilot SEA (Phase 1), which covered the period January – March 2003.

The Pilot SEA culminated in a workshop held at Ho in February 2003 attended by many key stakeholders. A key recommendation of the Ho workshop was that the SEA should proceed

immediately in order to let the results influence the budget process starting in June 2003 and the GPRS review due in March 2004. The full SEA is being carried out in 2 phases - Phases 2 and 3.

**Phase 2, the current phase (May 2003 to August 2004)**, broadened the scope of application of the SEA and ensured greater participation by the key actors involved in development planning so that SEA principles become part of the national planning processes. During this phase, the SEA has been applied at National, Regional and District levels.

**Phase 3** will continue to develop and refine GPRS policies and ensure the effective mainstreaming of environment in national policies, plans and programmes. It is also expected to focus on more detailed and specific interventions (e.g. full pilots of district sustainability appraisals, and sector SEAs looking at issues like water catchment management, sanitation and health, and roads and transport).

### **Review of the Content of the GPRS**

The initial review of the GPRS concentrated on use of key words to search the document followed by assessment of poverty/environment risks and opportunities undertaken by the SEA team, and referred to other stakeholders for comment.

### **Scope of the SEA**

The scope of the SEA was established in May/June 2003. Three main objectives were defined in terms of:

- Identifying GPRS policies that had environmental risk and opportunities
- Identifying MDAs that needed to be consulted during the sector studies
- Identifying MDAs that would be responsible for refining policies that would mainstream environment within the Poverty Reduction Strategy.

The SEA process has subsequently involved 27 MDAs and 108 districts (out of 110) in Ghana.

### **The Process of Policy Review**

The main process of the review was group discussion supported by the use of matrices to record individual performance against a range of criteria. Policies in the GPRS were examined to consider their potential effects on livelihoods, health and vulnerability of the poor, and related

effects on institutions, natural resources, socio-cultural conditions and the local economy. In addition the appraisal process considered whether policies are primarily **targeted** on people, linked to natural resource use or relating to institutional reform. Other criteria included the 'spatial dimensions' (i.e. whether policies are directed at international, national, regional or district level); the strength of the **links** between the policy in question and the poor; the timescale over which the policy is designed to take effect and cost.

### **Sustainability Appraisals of the District Medium Term Development Plans (MTDPs)**

The SEA process was used to review and improve the sustainability of District Medium Term Development Plans (DMTDPs), which are produced by District Assemblies in accordance with guidelines prepared and issued by NDPC. Sustainability appraisal methods were introduced to all but two of the 110 districts in the country.

The engagement of District Assemblies was achieved by undertaking an initial training of regional officers of EPA and Regional Economic Planning Officers. The rationale was to assist the SEA team in conducting subsequent training sessions at each of the 10 regional workshops. Four officers from each of the 110 districts were invited to attend the relevant workshop in their region. Subsequently each district managed its own internal review of its development plan using a 'sustainability test' and other matrices contained in a purpose made handbook. A further round of regional meetings was held following completion of the appraisals to collate and compare results. In all, over 600 individuals have been engaged in the District Appraisals.

Analysis of the written reports provided by 98 districts indicates that about 23.7 % of Districts have now proposed modifications to their plans that are strongly pro-poor and pro-environment. Another 67.7% of Districts intend to introduce activities that are moderately pro-poor and pro-environment.

Over the period April-May 2004, the district programmes and activities will be compared with the policies and programmes set out in the GPRS 2003-2005. Comparison between District Assembly aspirations and sector programmes and budgets at national level will indicate to what extent there is convergence or divergence between national and local objectives.

Following SEA recommendations, District Assemblies will adopt revised DMTDPs, which incorporate environmental considerations as core elements of the development planning process. SEA principles will also be incorporated in revised District Planning Guidelines, which are issued by NDPC.

## OUTPUTS OF THE SEA

The SEA has a number of specific outputs in relation to the GPRS and Ghana's planning processes. These include:

- 1) **Creation of an evaluation framework** for reviewing the GPRS to:
  - a) Assess the extent to which environment has been incorporated in discussion and analysis of policies,
  - b) Examine the environmental opportunities and risks presented by individual policies,
  - c) Identify and strengthen those priority policy actions that benefit the poor and the environment,
  - d) Increase understanding about the spatial dimension of policies at international, national, regional and district levels,
  - e) Analyse the effectiveness of policies in terms of ease of implementation, timescale and costs, and hence their ability to bring rapid benefits to the poor and the environment.
- 2) **Conduct of Sustainability Appraisals** of 108 out of 110 District Medium Term Development Plans
- 3) **Development of methods** for assessing policies plans and programmes, (Matrices and Checklists),
- 4) **Creation of individual products**, including handbooks, training manuals, guidelines and reports,
- 5) **Articulation of planning concepts and frameworks** to assist in policy, plan and programme preparation and subsequent implementation and monitoring
- 6) **Capacity building** using training sessions, workshops and meetings,
- 7) **Proposals for institutional strengthening** and support for good governance

The SEA programme has already introduced SEA principles and techniques, to staff at all levels of government in Ghana. This should result in significant revisions to PPPs in the GPRS that will stimulate growth to the benefit of the poor without prejudicing the environment. It should also

help to refine Development Plans at district level and help to set up the framework for revising the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) budgeting guidelines.

## **FINDINGS OF THE SEA**

The most important conclusion is that while there are many pertinent observations on the causes of poverty in the body of the GPRS (some of which are directly linked with environment), the main weakness lies in the lack of clear links between these statements and subsequent policy actions. There is a need to create direct references from statements of intent to policies, programmes and budgeted activities. Guidelines exist for planning and budgeting of Medium Term Development Plans at national and district level but these guidelines need to be strengthened through the inclusion of SEA principles and an environmental monitoring framework.

GPRS policies from the standpoint of delivering early benefits to the poor are those in Production and Gainful Employment and in Human Resource Development and Basic Services. However these activities will only succeed in the longer term if the basic adjustments to the national economy are achieved in line with the Macro Economic theme and appropriate institutional reform occur as planned under Governance and Vulnerability.

The theme on Vulnerability and Exclusion is relatively weak from the standpoint of poverty and the environment because it fails to give enough emphasis to the critical natural resource issues to which the vulnerable are most exposed, including flooding, impacts of drought, water borne disease, and fire hazards.

### ***Scope of the Work***

In the discussions that have helped to shape the nature and character of the SEA process there has been constructive debate about the breadth and scope of the work. One viewpoint has held that the SEA should concentrate on a limited number of sectoral inputs and district activities and demonstrate through detailed study how poverty/environment issues can best be addressed in formulating policies, plans and programmes.

At the Ho Workshop, which marked the culmination of the Pilot SEA, it was agreed by all stakeholders that the SEA should be wide ranging and should include the response of as many district assemblies as possible.

This was seen as critically important because the District Assemblies are now implementing Medium Term Development Plans in accordance with NDPC guidelines that incorporate GPRS themes and policies. Given the opinion of stakeholders, it was agreed by the sponsors and NDPC/EPA that it is more important to subject all themes and sectors in the GPRS to appraisal, and to engage all District Assemblies in a preliminary sustainability appraisal.

### ***National Outputs***

The experience of reviewing the GPRS and discussing poverty-environment issues with the 27 MDAs included in the SEA has highlighted the complex inter-relationships between all sections of the GPRS and the need for its policies to be implemented in a consistent and co-ordinated manner. Concentration on a few sectors would not have delivered the same overview and ensured that the important messages contained in the SEA are directed to all of the relevant agencies.

### ***District Outputs***

The Sustainability Appraisal of 108 out of 110 District Medium Term Development Plans exceeded the expectations of the SEA team, both in terms of the number of assemblies who responded and the quality of the work that was produced.

The district reports vary in content and in their level of comprehension of the significance of poverty-environmental issues in their area, but around 20% were judged by the SEA team to have achieved a high standard, while 55% performed the task reasonably well. Twenty five (25)% did not apply the sustainability test as intended.

The target of reviewing the sustainability of planned activities using the Sustainability Test was very specific and did not require an exhaustive analysis. It was nevertheless a demanding exercise given the timescale of three months and the fact that the process was entirely new.

The practical constraints that exist in organising and implementing a national survey involving all districts in Ghana are very considerable, both in coordinating meetings from a national level and organising human resources at district level. The results are all the more significant given these limitations.

Having outlined the success of the SEA process at district level, it is important to spell out some of the more critical lessons that can be learnt.

In most districts, access to recorded baseline information (assembled for the District Medium Term Development Plans) is good. However, the level of information about the spatial location of schools, health clinics, boreholes and other built facilities, the distribution of natural resources, and even the alignment and routing of new feeder roads is very poor. Few districts possess digital maps or the capacity to reproduce maps in computer generated reports. This makes it difficult to identify the real progress that is being made.

A further issue to be considered at District level is how to ensure that alternatives are considered to policies and activities before the proposals are written into the Development Plan. This was not practical within the timescale of the present phase of the SEA although the principle was accepted and supported in a number of District Sustainability Appraisals. This and other related issues are discussed in the final chapter in terms of the way forward for District Sustainability Appraisals.

### ***Data Availability***

Similar problems relate to the collation and storage, in easily accessible form, of data at national level, and even the filing of formal reports like the District Mid Term Development Plans in NDPC's Library. There is an urgent need to ensure that all MDAs commissioning research, or obtaining information from public sources, safeguard the information and make it freely available to other sectors of government. This is not a new issue since it was clearly identified in the Ghana Environmental Action Plan (1991): *'a fair amount of environmental data already exists in the country. However, these are scattered and to a large extent not coordinated'*.

### ***Acceptance of Findings***

The process of reviewing sector policies in the GPRS has involved members of the SEA team and officers of the relevant MDAs in regular meetings at which the principles and concepts have been thoroughly discussed

Initial discussions have taken place with six representatives of Civil Society organisations and NGOs. Their comments have been valuable and mark the start of what should be a very constructive dialogue on their future role.

### *Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats*

There was an assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the SEA process. This is presented in **Table 1** below.

**Table 1 Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to/of the SEA Process**

<p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly inclusive; over 600 individuals have been engaged in the work over 9 months,</li> <li>• Has covered both national and district levels</li> <li>• Is integrated into the NDPC planning processes</li> </ul>	<p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has not developed a detailed assessment of individual policies</li> <li>• Has yet to be promoted to the public</li> </ul>
<p><b>Opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be implemented under existing legislation through NDPC sector and district guidelines</li> <li>• Provides a basis for Sustainability Appraisals of Development Plans</li> <li>• Provides the context for follow-up Sector SEAs</li> <li>• Provides an example for assessment of other Government policies</li> </ul>	<p><b>Threats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May not receive adequate funding for implementation.</li> <li>• May be constrained by inadequate cash flow.</li> <li>• May not receive adequate staff resources to sustain the process on a continuous basis.</li> </ul>

### **Recommendations on Policies under the Five Thematic Areas**

In this section, a standard approach is taken to the presentation of policies. Following a brief introduction, recommendations are given about structural changes that are appropriate to the GPRS.

This is followed by recommendations on modifications to existing policies (shown in light shaded background). Finally a series of recommendations are made on new policies (shown in dark shaded background) to be included within the update GPRS.

## MACRO-ECONOMY,

The SEA has identified lack of attention to natural resources and the environment as a major contributory factor in weakening macro economic performance. Both new and revised financial policies and budgets that will address this imbalance need to be introduced in the macro economic section of the GPRS.

### Cost Recovery and subsidies

- The proposed cross-subsidisation measures to protect the poor from the impacts of cost recovery in health and utilities should be designed in consultation with the poor to ensure that it addresses the core problems and has wide acceptability. (*Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ministry of Manpower Development and Employment, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs etc*).
- Utility consumption for rural industries should also be subject to incentives in order to encourage the stakeholders. (*Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Trade, Industry & PSI, Public Utilities Regulatory Commission, etc*).

### Supporting Statement

The GPRS policies for promoting rural industries need to be supported with more direct incentives otherwise they will only be partially successful.

### New Focus on Environment

- The broad objectives of the medium term macro-economic framework should include increased government expenditure on natural resource conservation, sustainable development initiatives and enhancement of degraded environment to support agricultural production. Small-scale business development proposals should provide incentives for community based natural resource management initiatives (agro-forestry, wetland conservation, eco-tourism, etc.). (*Ministry of*

*Finance and Economic Planning/National Development Planning Commission, Bank of Ghana, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Trade & Presidents' Special Initiatives, National Board for Small Scale Industries, etc).*

- Part of the savings from the HIPC should be channelled to natural resource management and environmental restoration to secure the livelihoods of the poor who depend on the environment for goods and services. *(Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ministry of Environment and Science, District Assemblies etc).*

- Part of the increased resources for Public Safety should be spent on disaster prevention especially bushfire prevention and flood protection. *(Ministry of Interior, National Disaster Management Organisation, Ministry of Defence etc).*

#### Supporting Statement

These are examples of how policies can be revised in order to give greater weight to the contribution that environment makes to sustainable development.

#### Green accounting

- The real cost of natural resource depletion and environmental degradation as a % of GDP should be assessed and incorporated in the targets together with population growth, gender parameters etc. In addition a system of national accounts that incorporates the principles of "Green Accounting" or integrated resource accounting should be adopted to give a proper measurement of national output and expenditure. *(Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ministry of Environment and Science, Ministry Lands and Forestry etc)*

- Revenue mobilisation strategies should be designed to include "Green Taxes" related to the degree of natural resource exploitation and environmental degradation. *(Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning Ministry of Environment and Science, Ministry of Lands and Forestry, etc)*

### Supporting statement

This approach would reflect the true state of the economy due to the heavy dependence of the national economy on natural resources, e.g. during the formulation of the environmental action plan in 1988, environmental degradation was estimated to be about 4% of GDP. No subsequent estimate has been made. Having introduced green accounting at the macro economic level this policy can be implemented through the use of green taxes.

### Sustainable Agricultural Production

- Agricultural production, the highest contributor to GDP, should be supported by investments on natural resource conservation and enhancement to achieve long-term sustainable productivity. *(Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Lands and Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Science etc)*

- Measures aimed at improving export competitiveness should also recognise and promote the dual advantages of organic farming and eco-labelling i.e. premium prices on the international markets, as well as the promotion of sustainable practices and procedures which benefit the local environment, by providing appropriate incentives. *(Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Trade, Industry & Presidents' Special Initiatives, Ministry of Environment and Science, etc).*

### Supporting Statement

Future policies for achieving sustainable agricultural production must recognise the crucial links between the state of natural resources and crop and animal yields. Organic agricultural products will command higher prices but this requires greater attention to maintaining environmental quality.

### Revenue Mobilisation and Investment for the Poor

- Strengthening DAs for improved tax collection should not overburden the poor rural dwellers. Innovative schemes based on Social Security/Pension scheme and investment models should be explored to promote revenue mobilisation that benefits the poor. For example, schemes could be designed to attract rural farmers to save/re-invest their "surplus incomes". *(Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, , Bank of Ghana, Association of Rural Banks, District Assemblies, etc)*

### Supporting Statement

It is expected that successful implementation of the GPRS should result in higher incomes for the poor. Therefore there is a need to create new saving systems which are accessible to the poor, and also motivate them to save.

### SEA of Special Initiatives

- The long-term sustainability of special initiatives like salt, cassava (starch) and shea butter need to be evaluated in terms of the cumulative environmental impacts by introducing SEA. (*Ministry of Trade, Industry & PSI, Ministry of Environment and Science etc*).

### Supporting Statement

Environmental impacts of these multiple investments at the national level are not readily identified in traditional EIA procedures as in the case of mining. SEA provides the best vehicle for considering cumulative and induced effects and maximising the benefits of special initiatives by optimising the environmental conditions.

### Trade

- More specific strategic actions need to be defined so as to effectively protect the poor and the environment in conjunction with proposals to review the trade liberalisation policy. (*Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ministry of Trade and Industries & Presidents' Special Initiatives, Ministry of Environment and Science, etc*)

### Supporting statement

The poor are the least able to adapt to major changes in economic policy. Trade liberalisation could ultimately benefit all sections of society but in the short term the poor should be protected.

## Regional Targets

- Specific Regional targets should be introduced to demonstrate how policies and resources would be differentially applied to deal with geographic disparities. . (*Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, National Development Planning Commission, etc*).

### Supporting Statement

The GPRS recognises the geographic disparities of poverty. The need to support the least favoured regions is therefore a fundamental objective of the GPRS and as such existing and new policies should be more closely directed towards these areas with specific budgetary targets.

## Disaster Policies

- Economic Strategies and related funds (disaster investment fund) need to be provided to deal with domestic shocks resulting from natural/environmental disasters such as drought, bushfires, floods, epidemics etc. (*Ministry of Defence, National Disaster Management Organisation, Ministry of Interior, etc*).

### Supporting Statement

The poor and the vulnerable are the least able to respond to or avoid natural/environmental disasters. Direct assistance should be given to help them rebuild their livelihoods.

## PRODUCTION AND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT

The SEA review of the GPRS identifies a lack of understanding and appreciation of the role that natural resources and the environment play in sustaining production and gainful employment. Measures to stimulate these sectors of the economy will only succeed if greater support is given to protection and wise use of these resources.

The positive roles of MES and EPA should include stimulating sustainable use of natural resources by both the public and private sectors. Many of the ideas set out by the SEA for sustainable development,

integrated rural development, eco-tourism and certification should be championed by the Ministry and actively promoted in partnership with the Formal Private Sector.

The majority of policy actions under the Production and Gainful Employment theme offer real opportunities for win-win solutions both in providing for economic growth and protecting and enhancing the environment. However, as many of the initiatives involve natural resource exploitation they also pose environmental risks. Proper screening of these risks should be undertaken when preparing detailed programmes and budgets using SEA principles which have been introduced through the sectoral and district planning guidelines.

The existing text of the GPRS should be revised in order to give direct reference to fisheries, energy, natural resource utilization and rural crafts in the overview. These topics should also be separated from the cross cutting themes like Gender, Environment and Information and Communication Technology.

#### **New Focus on Environment**

Greater emphasis should be given to the links between over-exploitation of natural resources including soil, water, and forest cover and environmental hazards like bushfires and drought and the resulting hardships faced by subsistence farmers. Specific programmes and policy actions need to be developed to support subsistence farmers including measures to improve soil quality and reduce exposure to hazards. *(Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Lands and Forestry, etc)*

#### **Supporting Statement**

Agricultural development is one of the most important means of reducing poverty given the high dependency of the rural poor on subsistence farming. However, the GPRS focuses attention principally on improving crop and livestock breeds, and on increasing mechanisation. This will benefit larger commercial enterprises but does not give adequate emphasis to small-scale subsistence farmers.

Policies for Non-Traditional Export Development should emphasize the dependency of these activities on sustainable use of natural resources and the requirement for a good understanding of environmental management issues. (6.1.2). *(Ministry of trade and industry and Presidential Special Initiatives, Ministry of Environment and Science, Ministry of Lands and Forestry, District Assemblies, Ghana Export Promotion Council, etc)*

## Strategic Environmental Assessment

Detailed programmes and budgets for production and gainful employment should be carefully screened to minimise environmental risk using SEA principles which have been introduced through the sectoral and district planning guidelines. *(Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, National Development Planning Commission, Ministry of Environment and Science, etc)*

### *Supporting Statement*

Most programmes for production and gainful employment are of national or regional significance and may have important environmental consequences which would not be identified by individual EIAs. By applying SEA the benefits of these programmes can be enhanced while minimizing the adverse effects.

## Sustainable Agricultural Production

- Specific programmes and policy actions need to be developed to support subsistence farmers including measures to improve soil quality and reduce exposure to hazards. *(Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and Science, etc)*
- Policies should be introduced to promote organic farming' products, which carry a premium in international markets, and certification of products (like food, timber, clothing and furniture) to confirm its provenance from environmentally friendly sources. *(Ministry of trade and industry and Presidential Special Initiatives, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ghana Standards board, Ghana Export Promotion Council, Ghana Investment Promotion Centre)*

### *Supporting Statement*

New policies are required that will give direct practical support to subsistence farmers in husbanding natural resources and preventing or reducing the effects of natural disasters. Greater attention should also be given to opportunities for promoting products that are grown and harvested sustainably because this will benefit both the environment and rural livelihoods.

## Sustainable rural development

Integrated rural development strategies should be developed to combine proposals for rural manufacturing with environmental management measures. *(Ministry of trade and industry and*

*Presidential Special Initiatives, Ministry of Environment and Science, Ministry of Lands and Forestry, Ministry of Private Sector Development, Private Enterprises Foundation, Association of Ghana Industries)*

#### Supporting Statement

Growth in rural manufacturing requires a high degree of cooperation between producers of primary raw materials, processors and retailers. Efforts to expand existing and promote new markets should be linked with plans for natural resource protection and enhancement

#### Job Creation

- Public sector development programmes should include employment schemes linked to natural resource and environmental management programmes (such as the creation of sustainable forest plantations, aquaculture and river corridor restoration). Such programmes should be designed to become financially self-supporting. *(Ministry of Environment and Science, Ministry of Lands and Forestry, Ministry of Manpower Development and Employment, Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration Management Development and Productivity Institute National Vocational Training Institute NGOs, etc)*

#### *Supporting Statement*

Many publicly financed projects like the development of irrigation schemes, feeder roads or plantations provide initial capital investment in rural areas without giving adequate attention to long-term maintenance or to spreading the benefits of the initial investment to the wider community. These development programmes provide opportunities for linked training and employment schemes.

#### Tourism

Specific programmes and actions for developing Tourism should be introduced building on the significance of Ghana's physical and cultural environment and the opportunities to exploit eco-tourism. *(Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Lands and Forestry, Private Enterprises Foundation, District Assemblies, NGOs)*

### ***Supporting Statement***

Many successful examples of such projects exist where village communities are actively engaged in promoting their activities and culture to visitors, including projects associated with the National Parks of Mole and Kakum.

### **Information Technology Database**

- Dissemination of environmental information, including GIS databases should be treated as a priority by the Ghana Statistical Service and Ministry of Environment and Science. This should be facilitated through the ICT development programmes. *(Ministry of Environment and Science, Ghana Survey Department, Ministry of Communications and Technology, Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information, etc)*

### ***Supporting Statement***

The SEA has identified limited access to existing databases as one of the major impediments to improving strategies and plans. Good quality data and information exists but it is not readily accessible.

### **Infrastructure and Transport**

- Infrastructure deserves to be listed and treated as a sub section on its own. This should cover both feeder roads and trunk roads. *(National Development Planning Commission*
- There is a need to cross-link policies on transport development with their potential environmental effects, including the serious impact of traffic exhausts and dust on local communities in settlements that are not by-passed by major roads. *(The Ministry of Roads and Highways, Department of Feeder Roads, Ghana Highway Authority, District Assemblies, etc).*

### ***Supporting Statement***

The GPRS places a lot of emphasis on development of feeder roads which is appropriate but does not highlight the importance of an integrated highway network. The topic of infrastructure including rail and air development deserves more attention in the update GPRS.

## Gender

- Actions to ensure gender equity should address the root cause of the problem and give women equal rights to access to land and security of tenure. Without this, many of the measures for overcoming poverty (like providing micro-credit or developing markets will fail to provide the required results). *(Ministry of Women and Children, Ministry of Lands and Forestry, Ministry of Justice, Traditional Authorities, etc)*

### *Supporting Statement*

Women are strongly linked to the environment and depend on it for their livelihood. They have a particularly important role to play in the wise use of natural resources and protection of the environment. Providing security to land is a crucial way of assuring that they play this role.

## HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND BASIC SERVICES

All human beings have a right to health, education and other basic services including sanitation and clean water. These basic elements underpin the quality of life and are closely linked to the quality of environment. The SEA identifies the need for greater emphasis in the GPRS on the links between environment and the efforts to provide basic services for the poor.

### Structure

The GPRS describes the five components of this theme as interrelated sectors. Apart from health and education the rest cannot be classified as sectors. A major difference between this chapter and those dealing with the other GPRS themes is the absence of a separate section dealing with Key Issues and Policy Areas. This should be rectified to maintain the consistency in the overall presentations. *(National Development Planning Commission etc)*

- The use of the terms “environmental health” and “environmental sanitation” interchangeably in dealing with waste management should be examined and the appropriate terminology applied. It is proposed that for the sake of clarity environmental sanitation should be used. *(National Development Planning Commission).*

## Major Finding

- Water is a major natural resource that supports livelihoods, health and economic activities and should be treated as cutting across all the themes in the GPRS. (*National Development Planning Commission*).

### New Focus on Environment

In addressing the issue of health workers and teachers shunning deprived areas, concrete policy actions that recognise the fundamental environmental problems and provide the appropriate responses and support to improve the conditions in these areas must be formulated. Incentives should be designed in consultation with the stakeholders in a participatory process that meets the needs of specific environments. . (*Ministry of Food & Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment and Science, Ministry of Education, Youth & Sports etc*)

- The proposal to establish a framework to deal with occupational health and other health problems is clearly linked to environmental degradation and pollution. Future initiatives should involve other agencies like EPA and Factories Inspectorate Department, Ministry of Health who deal more with the prevention of the underlying causes.

- Policies on safe water should address the underlying environmental factors, which have to do with the availability of water resources (both surface and ground water) in adequate quantities and quality. (*Water Resources Commission Community Water and Sanitation, Ghana Water Company, Ministry of Works and Housing, etc.*).

- There is the need to provide basic environmental management training as part of the Skills and Entrepreneurial Development initiatives for the youth in a holistic skills development package, to ensure that they will manage their future enterprises sustainably. (*Min of Manpower Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Environment and Science, etc*)

- The proposal to acquire lands for waste disposal in major towns and cities should be spread to cover all settlements. (*Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Environment and Science, Town and Country Planning Development, District Assemblies, etc*).

#### Supporting Statement

These are examples of how policies can be revised in order to give greater weight to the contribution that environment makes to sustainable development.

#### Health

- The GPRS needs to put a greater emphasis on preventive health care initiatives rather than curative orthodox medical interventions, which seem to be the focus. (*Ministry of health, Ghana Health Service etc*)

- Since the poor depend largely on traditional medicines, policy actions must be designed to engage the stakeholders in working to improve the quality of the traditional health delivery systems, which is much less expensive and has a potential benefit in helping to conserve the ecosystem, which provides the medicinal plants. (*Center for Research into Plant Medicine, Ghana Health service, min of health, Traditional Healers Association, etc*)

#### Supporting Statement

Human Health depends in part on a healthy environment. Where land and water resources are degraded there is increased risk in the spread of disease. Greater emphasis needs to be placed in the GPRS on the links between health care and environmental protection.

## Skills Development

The spatial dimensions of environment such as GIS are important and should be included in IT training within the skills and entrepreneurial development programmes. *(Ministry of Manpower Development, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Communication & Technology, etc)*

### Supporting Statement

Significantly missing from the skills and entrepreneurial development initiatives is the urgent need to train the youth in ICT. This is very crucial if the vision to use ICT as an enabler in the overall development process is to be realised.

## HIV/AIDS

- The proposed preventive measures for controlling the spread of HIV/AIDS should be targeted more directly at areas of development activities as well as the main haulage routes linking to neighbouring countries. Furthermore, HIV/AIDS prevention should place a priority on Abstinence. *(Ghana Aids Commission, Ministry of Health, Ghana Health Service, NEPAD, CSO etc)*

### Supporting Statement

HIV/AIDS is associated with the social problems that are particularly prevalent within large transient populations attracted to transport corridors and poorly planned development. While efforts are being made in implementing the ABC approach, emphasis on HIV/AIDS prevention must be placed on abstinence given the fact that over 50% of Ghana's population is still below the age of maturity.

## Population management

- The policy actions on Population Management must take into account the provision of incentives (economic, social, etc) to discourage the poor from having large families under the pretext of providing farm labour and enhancement of their status in the community *(Ghana Population Council, Ministry of Manpower Development, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, etc)*.

### Supporting Statement

Uncontrolled population growth contributes to worsening the overall poverty situation and therefore every effort must be made to keep the population growth rates within manageable limits.

### Waste Management

- Policy actions on dealing with solid wastes Reduction, Re-use and Recycling should be promoted along with other programmes like cleaner production and waste conversion (e.g. waste-to-energy). *(Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Environment and Science, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Ministry of Trade and Industry & Presidential Special Initiative, Ministry for Private Sector Development etc).*

- A collaborative approach should be developed to design sustainable waste management projects that provide opportunities for restoration of degraded lands, production of organic fertilizers, energy generation, income generation and other benefits especially for the poor. *(Ministry of Health, District Assemblies, Ministry of Environment and Science, Environmental Protection Agency.)*

### Supporting Statement

Sustainable use of resources should include proper regard for the beneficial uses of waste including energy production, conversion to fertilisers, building materials etc which will reduce the volume of landfill and avoid pollution and in turn improve the health of communities

## SPECIAL PROGRAMMES FOR THE VULNERABLE AND EXCLUDED

“Environment” is not captured in the definition given to exclusion and vulnerability, and this needs to be addressed in the next review of the GPRS. In defining exclusion and vulnerability it is also important to include the institutional constraints to participation in decision-making that affect personal well-being.

Generally policies that are people-centred and have higher environmental opportunities or are targeted at institutional reform tend to have the capacity to deliver short to medium term benefits in terms of poverty reduction and must be pursued vigorously..

## Structure

The GPRS does not distinguish the different characteristics of exclusion and vulnerability. By separating these two terms it will be possible to target the respective policies more effectively.

### New Focus on Environment

- There is the need to focus more on the prevention of disasters (floods, bushfires, pollution), which damage the environment from where the poor obtain essential goods and services. (*Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defence, National Disaster Management Organization, Ministry of Environment and Science, District Assemblies, NGOs etc*).

### Supporting Statement

This is an example of how policies can be revised in order to give greater weight to the contribution that environment makes to sustainable development.

### Disaster Prevention

- In formulating predictive early warning systems for natural disasters, there is the need to use participatory processes that involve the communities, especially the vulnerable and excluded (*National Disaster Management Organization, Metrological Services Department, Universities, CERSGIS, CSO etc*).

### Supporting Statement

Communities have local knowledge and traditional practices that can be used to build effective disaster prevention strategies.

### Conflict Prevention

- There is the need to develop policy actions that deal with the wide range of causes of conflicts including ethnic differences, competition for resources such as water, farmlands, forest products and

mineral resources. (*Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Lands & Forestry, Ministry of Environment and Science, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Interior, National Development Planning Commission, National House of Chiefs*).

#### Supporting Statement

Wherever environmental resources such as land, forest resources, water etc are scarce or poorly managed, it leads to competition and misunderstandings that may result in conflicts among communities.

### GOVERNANCE

The number of direct references to environmental concerns under the respective headings on Governance is very limited and there is a need to demonstrate the critical links between governance, natural resource development, the environment and poverty reduction.

Environmental concerns should be a high priority in the work of the NDPC. Cross Sectoral Planning Groups and SEA should be undertaken in conjunction with the five yearly reviews of the National Development Policy Framework, and the second MTDP.

#### New Focus on Environment

- In discussing Public Sector Reforms, lack of coordination between MDAs on incorporating cross-cutting issues like environment and gender in their development plans should be highlighted. (*National Development Planning Commission, etc*).

#### Supporting Statement

This provides an example of how policies can be revised in order to give greater weight to the contribution that environment makes to sustainable development.

#### Environmental Governance

- Policies should be developed to enable the legal sector deal effectively with issues relating to the environment. This should include new laws, environmental courts, capacity building for the legal sector etc (9.2.1.3)

### Supporting Statement

In order to support sustainable development and assure environmental safeguards, governance reforms must recognise current developments in global environmental protection and introduce legal mechanisms appropriate to Ghana. '

### *Private Sector responsibilities*

- Direct reference should be made to the responsibilities of the private sector in managing and enhancing the environment by pursuing sustainable forms of development relating to forestry, mining fisheries and agriculture, and for the development of public/private partnerships. (*National Development Planning Commission, Ministry of Environment and Science, Ministry of Private Sector and Development, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning etc*).

### Supporting Statement

Public sector policies can set the framework for environmental protection and sustainable development, but the private sector has a major influence in determining how much attention is given to these objectives.

### *Land administration reforms*

- Policies should be developed which give effect to the statements in relation to land administration reform (9.1.9) that: 'Security of land tenure is pivotal to the development of the rural environment, which is the catalyst for the transformation of the national economy' (*National Development Planning Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, District Assemblies etc*).

### Supporting Statement

The rural environment is the primary source of more than 50% of GDP, but the above statement is not transformed into policies and actions in the GPRS. This underscores the earlier references to the links between gender, land tenure security, environmental protection and poverty reduction.

### SEA

In developing new policies and guidelines for Sectoral, Regional and District Development Planning reference should be made to the role that SEA can play in achieving these objectives. (Section 9.2.1.4d) (National Development Planning Commission, Ministry of Environment and Science, Ministry of Local government and Rural Development, District Assemblies

### Supporting Statement

SEA is the tool for achieving 'integrated, interdisciplinary, cross sectoral and participatory planning' and contributing to the preparation of 'operational and procedural manuals'.

### Development Aid

Policies should be developed that will ensure that the environmental costs and benefits of proposed development programmes supported by Multilateral and Bilateral Aid are properly assessed. (9.2.1.5e) *(Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, District Assemblies)*

### Supporting Statement

Donor assistance currently amounts to over 70% of government development expenditure and therefore environmental protection policies in the GPRS will only be fully effective if aid programmes are included. These programmes should generally be subjected to SEA.

### Decentralisation

A policy should be introduced requiring all district assemblies incorporate a requirement for SEA and/or sustainability appraisals to be undertaken on all District strategies, plans, programmes 9.2.2 *(National Development Planning Commission, Ministry of Environment and Science, Ministry of Local government and Rural Development, District Assemblies)*

### Supporting Statement

The GPRS stresses the importance of deepening District assemblies association with civil society. SEA/sustainability appraisal provides an effective tool for engaging all sectors of society

### Development Expenditure

Policies should be developed to include SEA processes as part of controls on cost effectiveness of development expenditure. (9.2.3.1) *(Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, District Assemblies)*

### Supporting Statement

GPRS emphasises that a greater proportion of expenditure should be directed to 'support of the poor, sustainable livelihoods and growth and a more equitable distribution geographically' SEA processes can add substantially to the information base and analysis framework required for management of the MTDP and MTEF procedures.

### **Equity and Redistribution**

A policy should be introduced which recognizes that the achievement of equity and redistribution is heavily dependent on access to, and management of, natural resources and environmental protection

### **Supporting Statement**

The GPRS acknowledges gender and geographical imbalance as contributory factors hampering the achievements of equity and redistribution but makes no reference to the environment which has clearly been demonstrated through the SEA to be a major influence.

### **PROPOSALS FOR INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING**

- The National Development Planning Commission should be supported by a sub-committee on Environment, to ensure that SEA policy recommendations are incorporated in future editions of the GPRS.
- SEA principles should be embedded in the NDPC planning and MOFEP financial guidelines for the preparation of Medium Term Development Plans at National, Regional and District levels.
- The role and status of SEA should be formalised within EPA and NDPC, with the necessary staffing and financial support.
- The Planning and Budgeting units of individual MDAs and DAs should be charged with the responsibility of ensuring that SEA principles are followed.
- Evaluation of the likely impacts of national sector and district assembly plans should be undertaken when these are first promoted or revised.

## THE NEXT STEPS IN THE SEA PROCESS

The strength of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) lie in its use as a proactive mechanism, applied at the strategic level, to deal with policies, plans and programmes. SEA facilitates the process of mainstreaming environment in development planning and thus provides decision makers with alternatives and options for achieving sustainable development.

Conducting the SEA of the GPRS has provided a very good opportunity to introduce SEA as a concept to many of the key stakeholders in Ghana's development efforts. Among the lessons learnt during the SEA of the GPRS was how readily the methodologies were accepted by the various stakeholders and how it helps build consensus among the diverse interests in development planning. This is particularly due to the broad definition of environment to cover natural resources, socio-cultural and economic conditions which also address the 'triple bottom-line' of sustainability.

There is now the opportunity to develop SEA in a number of parallel programmes. The first relates to the revision of the GPRS and the introduction of other Government policies. The second is the need to develop SEA at the district level focusing on pilots in selected districts. The third is to introduce SEA to selected key sectors like Energy, Water, Agriculture, etc. Finally there is the need to build capacity across a broad range of stakeholders to ensure they play an effective role in these processes. Each of these programmes is discussed below.

### **Programme One      SEA contribution to the update of the GPRS**

#### **Integration of SEA findings in the updated GPRS**

The GPRS is intended to be the overarching policy framework for the Government of Ghana and set the focus and tone of all other government policies. It therefore represents the single most important policy for mainstreaming SEA principles and processes. However, the SEA process has clearly demonstrated that the current version of the GPRS does not adequately consider environmental issues. The SEA has therefore provided a comprehensive set of recommendations for incorporating the findings in the GPRS.

Staff from EPA and NDPC should continue their close collaboration as an SEA team, which should be reconstituted as the SEA Project unit. The primary focus of the SEA Project Unit during Phase 3 should be on participation in the update process and ensuring that the recommendations are integrated within the updated GPRS as fully as possible

The SEA Steering Committee has agreed that the following proposals for supporting the GPRS update should be adopted

### **Support to Thematic Committees**

It is understood that the update process led by the NDPC will involve five committees, one for each thematic area of the GPRS. Each committee will comprise government officers and representatives of NGOs and CSOs.

The SEA Project Unit will be represented on each of the update committees with the specific role of ensuring that the recommendations and findings of the SEA of the GPRS are implemented. This will be done by the active involvement in discussions and debate and by acting as special advisor to the facilitating consultant.

### **Sustainability Appraisal of the Updated GPRS**

Before the final update of the GPRS is approved it will be subjected to sustainability appraisal. The appraisal will be managed by the SEA Project Unit and will involve stakeholders.

The key element of the appraisal will be to check for compatibility of policies within and across thematic areas.

### **Implementation of new MDA and District planning and budgeting guidelines incorporating SEA principles**

Some SEA principles have already been incorporated into the current version of the NDPC guidelines. However, there is likely to be a need for further development of these principles as other findings of the committees, including outputs from PSIAs, Gender studies, etc. are incorporated in the update.

### **The role of the SEA Project Unit will include**

- Specialist advice on SEA principles
- Training PPMEs RPCUs and DPCUs in the application of the guidelines
- Working with the PPMEs and DPCUs to draw up action plans and budgets.

- Assisting MTEF/BPEMS/PUFMARP secretariats to harmonize budgets in a sustainable manner-(BPEMS-budget and public expenditure management systems
- Assisting RPCU to harmonize district development plans and budgets.

This is an ongoing process, which will last for the life span of the GPRS.

### **Consolidating Ghana's policies with Millennium development goals and NEPAD**

The SEA unit will carry out a new role in ensuring that government policies are properly reflected in the updated GPRS and that this in turn supports the achievement of MDGs and NEPAD objectives.

The SEA unit will coordinate the revision of the EAP to bring it in line with global environmental aspirations. This will involve the setting up of committees under the various themes including, water, energy, forestry, land use, coastal zones etc. the role of these committees will be to review existing documentation, and compare and contrast the findings with other current sources e.g. on climate change, desertification, pesticides pollution, ozone depletion etc. the output will be a new set of actions required to bring Ghana closer to global environmental targets

### **Programme Two      SEA at District Level**

Effective implementation of the updated GPRS will require active participation by all District Assemblies. Phase 2 of the SEA has established the basic framework but substantial additional work is required to maximise these benefits. The following actions are planned;

- Full analysis of district sustainability appraisal reports, and database, followed by publication of findings
- SEA Regional conference
- Selection of districts for SEA pilots
- Conduct of SEA Pilots
- Capacity building at District level

## **Analysis of Sustainability Appraisal Reports and Database**

The SEA project Unit will carry out a full analysis of the detailed findings from the district appraisals and will introduce effective tools for utilising the extensive database created in Phase 2, in updating all distinct medium term development plans. This work will form a precursor to the district SEA pilots.

## **SEA Regional Conferences**

Two Regional conferences (North and South) will be held to disseminate the findings of Phase 2 activities and to stimulate further commitment at Regional and District level

## **Selection of districts and Conduct of SEA pilots**

There are 138 districts in Ghana. Pilot SEAs will be conducted in up to 10% of this number (15 districts). The SEA Project unit will develop a framework for applying SEA to land use planning at district level. This will incorporate the existing sustainability appraisal process.

Criteria for selection of pilot districts will include the following:

- Areas with potential for new mining activities
- Areas with potential for unplanned urban expansion
- Areas with potential for innovative and sustainable land use (forestry, Agriculture etc)
- Areas with potential for new large-scale developments (e.g. large scale dam construction, inland port, railway link to the north etc.)
- Areas with potential opportunities for tourism

The output of the pilot SEA should influence district development plans and budgets

## **Capacity building at District level**

The SEA project unit will spearhead capacity building by organising SEA training programmes for regional and district staff, and by using the pilot studies to test the most effective ways of engaging NGOs, CSOs and the private sector in the SEA process.

## **Programme Three    SEA at Sectoral Level**

MDAs have either developed or are in the process of developing strategic sector plans which include economic, spatial or conceptual activities. These plans do not in general give adequate weight to environmental issues. Such shortcomings can be rectified by carrying out SEAs, in parallel with policy

and plan formulation. Among the key sectors targeted for early action subject to availability of funding are:

• Water	• Energy
• Health	• Transport
• Agriculture	• Governance
• Mining	• Tourism
• Forestry	• Gender
• Education	• Youth
• Trade	• HIV/AIDS

The Danish government has agreed in principle to progress an SEA of the water sector, the U.K government is looking at the energy sector, UNDP and DFID have expressed interest in governance sector EPA/NDPC will welcome interest in any of the above sectors from development partners.

#### **Programme Four Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building In SEA**

Significant progress has been made in Ghana in introducing the concepts of SEA. In phase 3 it will be appropriate to strengthen the institutional framework and to increase professional and public awareness of the values of SEA Specific objectives are to:

- Develop a framework for SEA legislation
- Stage an African Conference on SEA
- Institute training programmes for consultants, planners, other related professionals, NGOs, CSO, and academic trainers.
- Enhance SEA capacity and responsibilities within EPA and NDPC as a whole
- Raise awareness amongst Senior Government Officials, Parliamentarians, etc.
- Raise awareness within the Private Sector
- Participate in international fora (IAIA,)