



# Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming in EU Development Cooperation

*Briefing note for the OECD DAC  
peer-learning visit*

*The European Commission Directorate-General for  
International Cooperation and Development  
(DG DEVCO)*

*Brussels, September 2018*



## Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Development Context .....	4
3. Mandate, intentions and themes.....	7
4. Drivers .....	14
5. Systems, tools and choices.....	19
6. People and capacities.....	21
7. Outcomes .....	22
8. Evolution and learning.....	28
ANNEXES.....	33
ANNEX 1. DEVCO publications on environment and climate change mainstreaming.....	33
ANNEX 2. Summary of the European Court of Auditors Report (2005).....	37
ANNEX 3. References.....	39



## 1. Introduction

This note provides an overview of EU practice in mainstreaming of environment and climate change, with a specific focus on EU international and development cooperation. It aims to help reviewers prepare for the OECD-DAC peer learning exercise on Mainstreaming Environment, held in Brussels from 24-28 Sept 2018. This DAC peer review responds to the identification of ‘managing and mainstreaming environmental concerns’ as a high priority.

The note is based on an analytical framework for the learning visits (IIED July 2018) which outlines the issues covered by the learning exercise. The purpose of the peer learning is to assess how relevant environment and climate change issues are integrated in the EU’s development strategies, policies and programmes (including investments), identifying what worked and what did not, and how to approach remaining and emerging challenges.

The DAC Peer Learning Exercise is intended as a two-way sharing of experience. On the one hand, it is an opportunity for the European Union institutions to share their successes and challenges in addressing environmental concerns in development co-operation. On the other hand, it presents an opportunity to learn how other members of the DAC Network on Environment and Development (ENVIRONET) have approached mainstreaming within their particular contexts. Meetings throughout the week will involve presentation and exchange of views with the ultimate goal of identifying good practices that can be applied by all ENVIRONET members.

Over the last 15 years, DEVCO has developed a comprehensive approach to mainstreaming environment and climate change in EU development cooperation. Over the last 4 years, we have stepped up our efforts in this area, with updated guidelines, renewed engagement with colleagues in headquarters and EU delegations and a new technical assistance facility. These efforts have contributed to a significant increase in the quality of environment and climate change integration in our action and of the share of our programmes that contribute to environmental and climate change objectives.

The new European Consensus on Development, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement call for deepening and broadening these efforts. At the same time, new cooperation approaches require a re-thinking and adaptation of our approach and tools for mainstreaming in order to further enhance their effectiveness. The Commission is also preparing the new multi-annual budget cycle and cooperation instrument for 2021-2027.

For DEVCO, it is timely to take stock of what we have done and achieved and reflect on how we can further strengthen our approach and tools and overcome a number of well-known challenges, like “mainstreaming fatigue”, human resource and expertise constraints, challenging contexts for our operations, competing priorities and cross-cutting issues, variable commitment.

We expect from the Peer Learning exercise:

- An external light review/assessment by peers –rather than independent consultants: taking the time to take stock and reflect.
- Some benchmarking: to what extent what we do is similar or differs from what other agencies do; how can mainstreaming be done differently?



- Fresh ideas and advice on how to renew our approach and tools, in an evolving policy context and in response to evolving cooperation approaches.
- Out of the box thinking on how to overcome challenges.
- An opportunity to engage with colleagues and our hierarchy on this issue.

The focus of the exercise is on 'mainstreaming' ('horizontal action') rather than 'managing' environment ('vertical action'), and encompasses not only climate change but also other environmental concerns, notably biodiversity, soil and water management and pollution. It looks at both constraints and opportunities, in a context of the broader growth and development agenda, and issues of financial and human capacities for mainstreaming will be included.

## 2. Development Context

The EU Treaty defines the primary objective of EU development policy as "the reduction and, in the long term, the eradication of poverty". The EU development policy also pursues the objectives of EU external action, in particular those "of fostering the sustainable economic, social and environmental development of developing countries, with the primary aim of eradicating poverty". Promotion of environmental sustainability is therefore a fundamental component of EU development policy.

The new European Consensus on Development, adopted in 2017, is a shared vision and framework for action for development cooperation for the European Union (EU) and its Member States. It is a blueprint that aligns the Union's development policy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Environment and climate change are prominently integrated across the five pillars of this new policy framework (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership) and are the focus of the "Planet" pillar. The Consensus commits the EU and its Member States to, inter alia, promote access to safe drinking water and sanitation, sustainable and integrated water management as well as more efficient use of water; address chemical pollution and poor air quality; strengthen resilience, particularly of vulnerable populations, in the face of environmental and economic shocks; promote resource efficiency and sustainable consumption and production, including the sustainable management of chemicals and waste, with a view to decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation and enabling the transition to a circular economy; build capacity to mainstream environmental sustainability, climate change objectives and the pursuit of green growth into national and local development strategies; support the conservation and sustainable management and use of natural resources, and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, including forests, oceans, coastal areas, river basins and other ecosystems; tackle illegal logging and its associated trade, land and forest degradation, desertification, drought, and biodiversity loss; support better environmental governance; integrate environment and climate change throughout their development cooperation strategies, including by promoting a sound balance between mitigation and adaptation; and contribute to scaling-up private and public investments in the low-emission, climate-resilient green economy.

Under the leadership of President Juncker and of Vice President Mogherini, the current Commission had defined a number of political priorities, among which the following are the most important for EU's external action: promoting investments, jobs and growth, particularly in Europe's Eastern and Southern Neighbourhood and Africa; strengthening community and societal resilience; addressing illegal migration and enhancing security. The Global Strategy for the EU's foreign and security policy: "Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe", adopted in 2016 sets out our core interests and principles for engaging in the world, and helps explain what the EU stands for and hopes to achieve.



The European Commission, together with the EU External Action Service, is responsible for the definition and implementation of EU international cooperation and development policy. Within the European Commission, **the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO)** is in charge of development policy in a wider framework of international cooperation, adapting to the evolving needs of partner countries. DG DEVCO plays a leading role in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in developing countries, and coordinates actions to implement the 2017 European Consensus on Development. This encompasses two main strands of work, first in terms of policy setting, second in terms of implementation and financial management.

DG DEVCO is responsible for formulating the Union's development cooperation policy across the different sectors and financing instruments in order to reduce poverty in the world, to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development and to promote and support peace and security, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and the respect of human rights, notably through external cooperation. It fosters coordination between the European Union and its Member States in the area of development cooperation; the EU delegations in partner countries and regions ensure the external representation of the European Union.

DG DEVCO is partly responsible for the Multi-annual Financial Framework (MFF) exercise in the field of international cooperation and development. The EU's External Action and Foreign and Security Policy is coordinated by the EU External Action Service (EEAS). The Commission – through DEVCO - is responsible, together with the EEAS, for the multiannual programming of external financing instruments, which is increasingly done jointly with Member States' programming of their bilateral assistance. DG DEVCO is in charge of implementing a large share of the European Union's external financing instruments financed by the general budget of the Union and the EDF (European Development Fund). It ensures the quality and impact of aid, smooth implementation of projects and programmes and visibility.

Development cooperation action in the EU neighbourhood countries falls under the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations (**DG NEAR**). In the case of the enlargement area, DG NEAR assists countries with a perspective to join the EU in meeting the accession criteria, including alignment to the environmental *acquis*. In the case of the EU Neighbourhood Policy, development cooperation takes place in the context of the Eastern Partnership (where energy efficiency, environment and climate change are part of the key priority areas), or through bilateral, regional, neighbourhood-wide and Cross-Border cooperation programmes. Regional cooperation in the Southern Neighbourhood region also includes activities financed through the "EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis" and the North Africa window of the "Emergency Trust Fund for stability addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa".

DG DEVCO works closely with other Commission services responsible for sectoral policies, as well as with the **European External Action Service (EEAS)**, so as to facilitate and help ensure a coherent approach. The EEAS is the EU's diplomatic service, which helps the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy carry out the Union's Common Foreign and Security Policy. The EEAS is responsible for all policy areas of the relationship between the EU and the host country – be they political, economic, trade or on human rights - and for building relationships with partners in civil society. The EEAS runs the 139 EU Delegations and Offices around the world, and it has a strong working relationship with the United Nations and other International Organisations.

The EEAS also manages the **Partnership Instrument**, through which the EU cooperates with partners to advance the Union's strategic interests and tackle global challenges, including climate change and





environment. The Partnership Instrument is fundamental to advance the EU's environmental and climate change agenda in graduated countries with which there is no development cooperation programme.

With regard to mainstreaming of Environment and Climate Change, two Commission services are particularly relevant namely DG Environment and DG CLIMA. They are the equivalent of the Commission's "line ministries" in charge respectively of environment and climate change.

**DG Environment** is primarily concerned with protecting, preserving and improving the environment for present and future generations, proposing and implementing policies that ensure a high level of environmental protection and preserve the quality of life of EU citizens. It also makes sure that Member States apply EU environmental law correctly and represents the European Union in environmental matters at international meetings. The Union Environment Action Programme to 2020 (seventh EAP) 'Living well, within the limits of our planet' guides European environment policy until 2020.

Fields of work include natural capital, green economy, health, EU law and global challenges. As part of the latter, the EU promotes environmental protection through multilateral environmental agreements in areas such as global biodiversity, trade in wild plants and animals, trade in illegally harvested timber, the safe handling of chemicals, and waste. It supports the international process for sustainable development and, together with DEVCO, played a key role at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 and in the process leading to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – which gave a push to sustainable development in areas like marine biodiversity, land degradation, water and energy.

**DG CLIMA**, the Directorate-General for Climate Action, was established in February 2010, climate change being previously included in the remit of DG Environment. It leads international negotiations on climate, helps the EU to deal with the consequences of climate change and meet its targets for 2020, and develops and implements the EU Emissions Trading System.

International action on climate change includes the promotion of ambitious global action through the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other international fora, bilateral relations with non-EU countries, policies and initiatives at EU and international level and finance to support developing countries in their efforts to tackle climate change. Implementation of these actions relies largely on the EEAS (especially in terms of policy dialogue) and DG DEVCO (especially in terms of management of international cooperation and development activities).

The EU is the world's largest contributor of climate finance to developing countries and increasingly integrates climate change into its broader development strategy. The EU is scaling up climate finance to help the poorest and most vulnerable countries mitigate and adapt to climate change. In particular, for the period 2014-2020, the EU has committed to spend at least 20% of the EU budget on climate action. This would mean that, compared to the average level in 2012-2013, funding for international climate action will more than double. In 2016, total contributions from the EU, its Member States and the European Investment Bank (EIB) amounted to €20.2 billion, a significant increase compared to 2015. This includes climate finance from public budgets and other development finance institutions.



### 3. Mandate, intentions and themes

#### *Historical perspective on integration of environmental objectives in EU policy*

Systematic integration of environment and climate change is an obligation under EU policy framework, in line with Article 11 of the **Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union** (*Environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Union's policies and activities, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development*). It is also a priority of the New European Consensus on Development (2017) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the EU, the **first European Environmental Action Programme** (1973) (EAP 1) established that effective environmental protection requires the consideration of environmental consequences in all 'technical planning and decision-making processes' at national and Community level. EAP 1 already established the argument that economic development prosperity and environmental protection are interdependent.

A milestone for environmental integration is Article 130r of the **Single European Act (1987)**, where the new Environment Title (Art. 130r) introduced the objective of integrating environment into other Community policies. Whereas the Single European Act indicated that "Environmental protection requirements shall be a component of the Community's other policies", the **Maastricht Treaty (1992)** made a clearer emphasis on integration "Environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of other Community policies".

Environmental integration was elevated to the "Principles" of the European Community by the **Treaty of Amsterdam (1997)**, which linked it to the promotion of sustainable development (*Environmental protection requirements must be integrated into the definition and implementation of the Community policies and activities..., in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development*).

The **Cardiff process** was launched in 1998 to operationalise (former) Article 6 of the EC Treaty. The Cardiff process helped raise the political profile of environmental integration. In response to Article 6 of the EC Treaty, the **European Community's Development Policy (2000)** emphasised the importance of the environment as a cross-cutting issue to be mainstreamed into the priority fields of cooperation. Ever since, mainstreaming of environment and climate change are recurring themes in subsequent development cooperation policy documents. Commitment to mainstreaming was further reflected in other policy documents, such as the Cotonou Agreement covering ACP States, the Asia and Latin America Regulations and the MEDA Regulations.

Further details on how to mainstream environment in development cooperation were spelled out in the **Commission Staff Working Paper "Integrating the environment into EC economic and development cooperation – A comprehensive strategy" (2001)**. Based on lessons learnt from the implementation of the above strategy, and taking into consideration new policy developments, further elements for environmental integration were spelled out in the **Commission Staff Working Document "Improving environmental integration in development cooperation" (2009)**.

The first '**European Consensus on Development**', published in 2006, went on to explicitly link the environment with poverty reduction – the main objective of EU development policy – and made 'environment and the sustainable management of natural resources' one of nine areas where the EU would concentrate its development cooperation activities.



A ‘twin-track approach’, addressing the environment both as a cross-cutting issue in all programmes and as a specific focus of activity in EU development policy, was embodied in the policy instruments that form the basis of EU development cooperation, in particular the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) and the European Development Fund (EDF). These two financing instruments form the basis for cooperation in Latin America, Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf and South Africa (under the DCI) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of countries (under the EDF).

The funds are implemented through a process of programming, during which the analysis of the country situation and of donor actions is set out. Country Environmental Profiles (CEPs) were also prepared to help integrate environmental concerns into the preparation of the Country Strategy Papers. However, in the current programming period (the 2014-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework), these tools have no longer been systematically used; rather are they applied on a needs basis and the EU is aligning its cooperation with the national development plans, wherever possible.

The ***New European Consensus on Development (2017)*** outlines the shared vision and a framework for action on development cooperation by the EU and its Member States, aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable development is one of the key elements of EU external action (as defined in the Lisbon Treaty) and the EU and its MS are translating the 17 Sustainable Development Goals into their own policies including the development policies.

The new European Consensus on Development (2017) expands the commitment for the integration of environment in development cooperation to explicitly include climate change (*The EU and its Member States will integrate environment and climate change throughout their development cooperation strategies, including by promoting a sound balance between mitigation and adaptation*), whereas the 2005 European Consensus on Development limited climate change action to the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Climate Change in the context of development cooperation.

Furthermore, in September 2015, the international community adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, setting 17 development goals. The environment and climate change are, in one way or another, related to all 17 goals. The 2030 Agenda emphasises that the SDGs are integrated, indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

Another milestone in the international sustainable development agenda has been the Paris Agreement on Climate Change reached during the UNFCCC’s COP21, which represents the first-ever universal, legally binding climate deal. The agreement outlines an ambitious global framework to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C, to increase the ability to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and foster climate-resilient and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production and to make financial flows consistent with a pathway toward low greenhouse gas emissions and climate-resilient development.

The EU and its Member States are committed to continuing to scale up the mobilisation of international climate finance as part of the developed countries’ collective goal to jointly mobilise USD 100 billion per year by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation purposes. The collective mobilisation goal of USD 100 billion remains an important contribution to drive the transformational change envisaged by the Paris Agreement. The EU still remains the largest provider of climate finance to developing countries and is also a top contributor to multilateral funds and mechanisms (e.g. EU and its Member States is the largest contributor to the **Green Climate Fund** with a total of USD 4.7 billion; they





represent a major contributor to the **Global Environment Facility** with a commitment of about EUR 1.9 billion as well as to the **Adaptation Fund** to which the EU provided 95% of all voluntary funding).

The 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement are complemented by the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

The new approach to development is based on the 'five Ps' of the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnerships. While ending poverty remains the primary objective, the EU recognises the interlinkages between the SDGs and pays attention to actions that meet multiple goals in a coherent way, by integrating economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It also underlines the linkages between development and other policies, including peace and security, humanitarian aid, migration, the environment and climate change. There is strong commitment to fully implementing the Paris Agreement as well, in recognition of the linkages between sustainable development and climate action.

With regard to environment and climate change, two elements seem to be particularly relevant:

1. Interlinkages between the different elements of action, such as development and peace and security, humanitarian aid, migration, energy, and environment and climate change are underlined;
2. in terms of implementation, the new Consensus aims to combine 'traditional' development aid with other resources and innovative forms of development financing, leveraging private sector investments and mobilising additional domestic resources for development, in line with the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action.

EU international cooperation and development action applies the principles and approaches of the Aid Effectiveness Agenda. EU cooperation is aligned with and supports partner countries' policies and plans and uses countries' systems wherever possible. In eligible countries it makes use of budget support programmes (Sustainable Development Goals Contracts SDG-C, Sector Reform Performance Contracts SRPC or State and Resilience Building Contracts SRBC). DEVCO makes use of "traditional" development aid, through the use of the project-approach, where the conditions for budget support are not fulfilled.

The EU also promotes harmonization and strong coordination among donors; and seeks to apply "**joint programming**" with EU member states wherever possible.

The EU seeks to use its financial support to leverage other sources of funding — including private investments — and to finance large investments through innovative financing instruments: increasingly, use is being made of blending through investment facilities (for Latin America, Central Asia, Neighbourhood, Asia, Africa and Pacific). In 2017 the EU launched a new **EU External Investment Plan (EIP)**, focusing on the EU's neighbourhood and Africa and structured around three pillars: an investment pillar, a technical assistance pillar, and a business environment pillar. Under the EIP, the EU will notably mobilise innovative financial instruments —including guarantees and blending- to support the preparation and financing of bankable climate-relevant investment projects, thereby contributing to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The plan encourages investment in the EU's partner countries in Africa and the EU Neighbourhood region. With a contribution of €4.1 billion from the EC, the plan is expected to leverage more than €44 billion of investments by 2020. It will promote inclusive growth, job creation and sustainable development and so tackle some of the root causes of irregular migration. This implies a need to continue integrating environment and climate change in the entire portfolio of external action, with particular attention to private sector investments and 'blending' finance.



## *Environment themes*

Thematic Programmes, in particular the **ENRTP - Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy Thematic Programme (2003-2007)** and its successor the **GPGC - Global Public Goods and Challenges programme (2014-2020)** provide a targeted source of funds for addressing environmental issues. Dedicated budget lines of the GPGC include *Environment and Climate Change, Sustainable Energy, Human Development, Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture, Migration and Asylum*. Other financing instruments include the Civil Society Organisation & Local Authorities instrument and the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace.

From the Environment and Climate Change budget line, several thematic programmes and flagship initiatives in the field of biodiversity, climate change, sustainable energy, forests, green economy and sustainable land and water management are financed, some of which are highlighted below.

In terms of the different environmental themes, the main area of attention by DEVCO is clearly climate change. This is primarily due to its prominent place in the international development agenda, as well as to the fact that the EU has defined ambitious financial commitments, in particular the 20% target for the EU budget, that are followed-up closely by the international community.

In addition to climate change, attention is to biodiversity, forests and natural resources management and green economy, not only as themes in their own right, but also through mainstreaming efforts in (primarily) the agriculture, rural development, private sector development and water sectors. Environmental themes that have been receiving less attention include environmental health, pollution and waste management.

## *Environmental governance*

The EU promotes better environmental governance through policy engagement and financial and technical assistance in support of the negotiation and implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements. It also works closely with UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and MEA secretariats on a number of international environmental issues.

## *Biodiversity and forestry*

The European Commission helps local populations dependent on ecosystems to define actions to manage their biological resources in a sustainable way, through one of two approaches:

- The European Commission promotes actions to ensure that ecosystems are preserved and used sustainably. It provides long-standing support to national parks and protected areas, mostly in Africa, by increasing capacities for management and finance, for monitoring and evaluation, and for the promotion of income generating activities compatible with conservation.
- Mainstreaming biodiversity in all sectors of development

The EU's objective for the forestry sector is to work towards improved forest governance and law enforcement and, ultimately, the sustainable management of the world's forests, as a means of realising their potential to support the eradication of poverty and contribute to sustainable, inclusive development. Action on forestry is primarily focused on the implementation of the EU FLEGT Action plan on Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade.



## *Climate change*

The main channel for EU support to policy dialogue and specific, targeted climate action in developing countries is the **Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+)**. Active since 2008, GCCA+ and its predecessor GCCA, has so far invested close to €520 million in more than 60 country-based and regional actions. The overall objective is to foster policy dialogue and cooperation on climate change between the EU and developing countries. The GCCA+ has a strong focus on Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as they are most vulnerable to climate change. Priority areas include (1) Mainstreaming climate change into national development strategies; (2) Increasing resilience; and (3) Support the formulation and implementation of adaptation and mitigation strategies.

As stressed in the EU Communication "The Road to Paris" (2016), initiatives like the Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) flagship initiative are currently being strengthened to better address all these interlinked challenges.

Another channel for contributing to the Paris Agreement objectives is the contribution to international initiatives, such as the **NAMA Facility**. As a part of the outcome in Doha (COP 18), developing country Parties agreed to take Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) in the context of sustainable development. Against this background, the NAMA Facility - operational since 2013 - aims at accelerating low carbon development to keep temperature rises to well below 2°C by financing measures that shift challenging sectors in a country towards a sustainable, irreversible, low carbon pathway.

By selecting through open competition the most transformational NAMAs from across all sectors and all developing countries, the Facility has the objective to finance innovative projects to tackle specific local challenges for cutting emissions in sectors and countries with strong potential for being scaled up, replicated and able to influence wider sectoral changes. The facility also unlocks investment opportunities by providing tailor-made climate finance to fund projects and encourages the participation to deliver low carbon activities.

Other important initiatives supported by the EU include the UNDP NDC Support Programme, the Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR), URBAN-LEDS, etc.

On the adaptation side, the importance to **increase response measures** is now recognised. In fact, given the increases both in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events worldwide, the EU has recognized the need to shift from reactive crisis management to investing in prevention, early preparedness and action. Following the 2016 Green Paper on the insurance of natural and man-made disasters, the EU promotes actions at international level to support climate and disaster risk financing instruments. It is also promoting stronger integration between DRR and adaptation actions.

## *Energy*

Energy poverty is a pressing challenge that hundreds of millions of people globally are facing on a daily basis, and which is pushing many people to migrate. Worldwide some 1.2 billion people have no access to electricity. Up to a billion more have access only to unreliable electricity networks. More than 2.7 billion people rely on solid fuels, such as traditional biomass and coal, for cooking and heating. Over 4 million people die prematurely every year from illnesses attributable to household air pollution from cooking with solid fuels.



Although the biggest challenges are located on the African continent, where access to electricity in rural areas can be as low as 10-15 percent, and where the majority of the energy-poor live, the issue is global and affects many other regions. Increasing the access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy in developing countries is a precondition for sustainable and inclusive growth, as well as to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The 2030 Agenda includes a dedicated Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 7: ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030).

The EU and its Member States will pursue three interlinked key objectives: addressing the lack of energy access; increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy generation to achieve a sustainable balance between energy production and consumption; and contributing to the global fight against climate change. The partner countries have a vast potential of renewable energy sources, which cost-wise provide competition to fossil fuels, thanks to recent technological advances. Therefore, promoting the use of renewable energies instead of the traditional fossil fuel based energy model is the only valid option for decoupling economic growth from the growth in environmentally harmful emissions and the implementation of the UN Paris Agreement.

DEVCO continues to address the energy challenges in partner countries with a focus on supporting (1) the enabling regulatory framework and (2) strategic alliances at the global level, to reap the benefits of the ongoing global low-carbon climate-resilient energy transition towards the implementation of the Paris Agreement with increased efforts on:

- Reinforced policy dialogue
- Enhanced sustainable energy investments.
- Accelerated project preparation initiatives.

Examples of initiatives in the energy area include:

The **Electrification Financing Initiative (ElectriFI)** : it supports a number of instruments all aiming at accelerating and unlocking private sector funding for investments in the sustainable energy sector. All instruments aiming at different market segments and providing different solutions in order to de-risk investments by providing debt-based financing or guarantees to selected projects. The implementation of all instruments is entrusted to the lead financing institution under the blending approach.

The **Global Covenant of Mayors** : is an international alliance of cities and local governments with a shared long-term vision of promoting and supporting voluntary action to combat climate change and move to a low emission, resilient society. This largest and first-of-its-kind coalition of about 7500 cities represents almost 10% of the world population. Modelled on the EU Covenant of Mayors, the regional Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA) seeks to increase access to sustainable energy and to implement local actions to combat climate change and its impacts. The EU interventions support the overall development of this network, assist cities to set up efficient planning tools, improve capacities, encourage political ownership and adoption of best practices. To date 117 cities are part of the CoM SSA.

The **SWD Empowering Development**: Implementation of the new European Consensus on Development in energy cooperation. It constitutes the EU response to this complex challenge: it contributes simultaneously to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 —'access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030'— as well as to SDG 13 on Climate Action



## *Land, water*

The EU supports a number of development initiatives directly and indirectly promoting **sustainable land management** addressing desertification, land degradation and drought. These have the overall objective of contributing to poverty reduction, often with the joint aim to adapt to, and mitigate climate change and to reduce deforestation and biodiversity loss.

At the global level, the EU is party to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and provides technical and financial assistance to developing country parties to implement their obligations under the Convention. At the continental level in Africa, the EU supports CAADP – the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Great Green Wall (GGW) Initiative, led by the African Union. Sustainable agriculture and food security is a focal sector of EU cooperation in more than 60 countries. Many of the supported actions aim at promoting better soil and water conservation and management practices.

In line with the Agenda 2030, in the new European Consensus, **water** plays a crucial role, in relation to all five priorities. The EU and its Member States explicitly commit to supporting increased access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services and promoting integrated water resource management (IWRM), conservation of water resources and enhanced water-use efficiency and recycling.

The EU has actively promoted universal access to drinking water and sanitation as an important element of its development cooperation over the last decade, spending more than €2.5 billion on water and sanitation in 62 countries, mainly in Africa, Caribbean, Pacific and Neighbourhood.

At present, the EU is directly involved in the technical and political dialogue following two main axes of action: a) access to drinking water and sanitation and b) water resources management.

The latter covers the different uses of water resources, in particular in the context of the 'water-energy-food security nexus', as well as in relation with the climate change agenda. In the particular case of transboundary waters, political aspects are related to 'water diplomacy'. Overall, water is considered as a critical area for achieving sustainable and peaceful futures, considering that nearly all industry and social sectors is directly dependant on the availability of adequate water resources.

To scale up these efforts, EU's approach entails continued support to:

- Water Efficiency/Water-Energy-Food-Security nexus, ensuring more efficient use of water resources through integrated and holistic approaches, in order to allow countries to reduce water scarcity;
- Transboundary cooperation as key factor to ensuring regional and peace stability;
- Access to Water and Sanitation: Keep working on ensuring availability and access to water and sanitation with specific attention to vulnerable people.

The EU is also involved in increasing capacity, knowledge and research in the water and sanitation sector, through a dedicated fund for the NEPAD Water Centre of Excellence.

## *Green Economy*

In line with its development policy, the EU has since long supported actions contributing to the green economy in various areas, such as natural resources management, sustainable agriculture or renewable energies, and through the integration of environment in relevant cooperation sectors, e.g. private sector development. To accelerate the green economy transition and encourage coherent action across relevant sectors, the EU has also implemented over the last 10 years a series of actions





explicitly targeting the green economy as a main objective, promoting the development of enabling frameworks and show-casing potential benefits of green practices to promote their wider uptake. This includes notably the SWITCH programme in Asia, the Mediterranean and Africa. EU commitments to these programmes over the last 10 years reach approximately €300 million. A recent evaluation of EU international cooperation on Sustainable Consumption and Production concluded that particular that these programmes have achieved "high impact in terms of uptake of SCP practices and increased levels of investments by MSMEs, contributing notably to the creation of green jobs".

To scale-up these efforts, the EU's approach entails 1) continued support to programmes promoting the green economy specifically, by means of developing enabling frameworks, greener businesses and greener investments, and 2) mainstreaming of green economy components across relevant sectors of EU international cooperation, by strengthening the focus on economic and business incentives in environment sectors and attention to the potential benefits of environmentally sustainable practices.

The EU also supports the sound management of chemicals and waste through a limited number of projects; and seeks to enhance attention to pollution through its action on energy, water, urban development and green economy.

### *Mainstreaming*

Less than 5 % of EU financial resources are allocated to dedicated programmes on environment and climate change, as described above. The second pillar of EU environment and climate change action is the mainstreaming of these themes across all sectors and instruments of EU cooperation. There are opportunities for mainstreaming environment and climate change throughout the EU programming and project cycles as an inherent part of management rather than being isolated as a separate exercise.

The GPGC finances the Technical Assistance for the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability, climate change, biodiversity and disaster risk reduction, commonly referred to as the **Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming Facility**, that supports the mainstreaming effort. Its role and activities are discussed in Chapter 5 below. The EU also finances a number of programmes that support developing countries efforts to mainstream environment and climate change in their policies, plans and investments, and to generate economic evidence in support of these efforts.

## **4. Drivers**

The main drivers for the integration of environment in EU cooperation include:

- A legal obligation established by the Treaty.
- A number of policy commitments including the new European Consensus on Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
- The financial commitments on climate change and biodiversity.
- The well documented links between environment and poverty.
- The increasingly documented links between environment and health (pollution), resilience and stability.
- The growing business case for sustainably managing natural capital and protecting the environment and tackling climate change, as highlighted in several landmark studies.
- The (investments and job creation) opportunities offered by the green economy.
- Varying political attention.
- Growing media attention.



- Individual sensitivity and interest for environmental matters.

The respective weight and influence of these drivers has varied. Recently, EU financial commitments, the international agenda and the business case/opportunities have become the most prominent drivers. However, environment –and to a lesser extent climate change- has been “competing” with other horizontal issues and what was seen as more pressing priorities, like migration, security, investments and jobs, and gender. In a context of resource constraints –particularly human resources- and of increasing challenges and complexity, this has been a constraint for deepening and widening mainstreaming efforts.

### *History of environmental mainstreaming in EU cooperation and development*

The policy developments for the integration of environment are described above. This section gives an overview of how such policies have been translated into practice.

In line with developments in the donor community to implement procedures for better taking into account the environment in development cooperation, namely through the use of the EIA tool, in 1993 the EC prepared environmental guidance for development cooperation projects (*Environmental Manual – Environmental Procedures and Methodology Governing Lomé IV Development Cooperation Projects*) and in 1994 DG 1 (External Relations, North-South) produced *Guidelines for Environmental Impact Assessment*.

In 2004, the EC established a **Helpdesk for the integration of environment** in EC development cooperation to develop capacities and provide technical assistance in support of colleagues in headquarters and EU delegations for environment and climate change mainstreaming. The helpdesk operated until 2009. The Helpdesk provided mainstreaming support on demand, delivered numerous trainings in Delegations and HQ and developed the *Guidelines for Integration of the Environment and Climate Change in Development Cooperation* (1<sup>st</sup> edition 2009, revised in 2011 and 2016) and the Climate Change Sector Scripts. It was in this period that the mainstreaming of environment received an important push and procedures and tools were developed focusing on mainstreaming beyond the use of EIA as the sole instrument for integration. *Country Environmental Profiles* (CEPs) received a boost during this period as a tool to inform the environmental dimension during programming, and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was launched as a tool to enhance mainstreaming in development strategies and programmes, the first pilot SEA in the context of EU development cooperation taking place in 2006. Capacity development was an important component of the Helpdesk, focusing on general awareness on the need for environmental mainstreaming and on the opportunities, tools and methods for integration along the cycle of operations. Trainings were offered in delegations and headquarters. During the last years of operation of the Helpdesk climate change started becoming more prominent in the political agenda, and appeared as an explicit component in the guidelines and the mainstreaming tools (Climate Risk Assessment was proposed as a tool to this effect).

Following the closure of the Helpdesk, intermittent external support was provided through the PPCM and its follow-up MKS (Methodological Knowledge Sharing and Support) projects, in the form of continued trainings and production of support material (e.g. sector guidance notes). In terms of capacity development, the training offer was expanded to include a training course on *Country-led Mainstreaming*, based on the methodology proposed by the UNEP-UNDP Poverty-Environment Initiative, and targeting primarily national partners. One-day training was later developed on *Introduction to a Green Economy*, developed and initially delivered by UNITAR, and which has nowadays developed into a more comprehensive training.



More systematic support to mainstream environment and climate change throughout the cycle of operations began with the review and quality assessment of programming documents under the 2014-2017 multiannual indicative programming (MIP) exercise (further referred to as the 'MIP screening exercise') in late 2013 and early 2014. This was followed by the establishment of an '*Interim Facility*' which began in earnest the systematic provision of support for mainstreaming in the identification and formulation phases (see below), and which established the bases for the current technical assistance facility.

As a result of these efforts, successive assessments (2009, 2010 and 2011) of the quality of environment and climate change integration in EC development cooperation projects and programmes have shown significant improvements.

### *Recent developments*

In 2013, the EU has assumed a commitment (now reinforced through the Paris Agreement on Climate Change) to spend at least 20% of its budget for the period 2014-2020 (as much as €180 billion) on climate-change related actions<sup>1</sup>. DG DEVCO tracks and reports on the financial support it provides to developing countries in relation to environment, climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity and combating desertification on the basis of the OECD-DAC Rio markers (implemented in the CRIS data management system). Achievements to date still fall short of targets, particularly the contributions to the 20% climate related objective. More must be done and EU Delegations have a key role to play.

In May 2018, the European Commission proposed to increase the mainstreaming target to 25% for the period from 2021 to 2027, in line with EU's commitment to continued and stable financing of climate action, both within and beyond the EU's borders. Building on the current positive experience with climate mainstreaming, the proposal aims at further strengthening climate action in the next EU long-term budget with the expectation of "making the EU budget a driver of sustainability".

Under commitments towards the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) the EU developed its EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020, which, under Target 6 (Help avert global biodiversity loss), establishes Action 19 to "biodiversity-proof" EU development cooperation. It indicates that '*the Commission will continue to systematically screen its development cooperation action to minimise any negative impact on biodiversity, and undertake Strategic Environmental Assessments and/or Environmental Impact Assessments for actions likely to have significant effects on biodiversity*'. Further to that, the EU has endorsed the Hyderabad objective to '*double total biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to developing countries by 2015 compared to an agreed average from 2006-2010 and to at least maintain support at that level until 2020*'.

### *The 'Interim Mainstreaming Facility' (2015)*

The objective of the first contract for '*Technical assistance to the integration of environment, climate change and biodiversity into development cooperation*' (the Interim Facility) was to contribute to increase DEVCO's capacity to ensure mainstreaming of the environment, climate change and biodiversity in all EU development cooperation programmes, and to ensure the optimal contribution to attainment of the budget target of 20% climate change relevance, and the "Hyderabad biodiversity commitment", with an emphasis on the preparatory stages of the interventions.

---

<sup>1</sup> Commission Communication COM/2011/500 final 'A budget for Europe 2020' and Council Conclusions 37/13 of 8 February 2013



The main achievements of the Interim Facility were the following:

### ***1. Opportunities for mainstreaming identified***

A total of 123 MIPs (*Multi-annual Indicative Programmes*) of individual countries and regions financed under the DCI, EDF and ENI instruments was reviewed, with a view to identifying the priority sectors for mainstreaming in each of the geographic programmes. This resulted in an overview of the scope for ECC mainstreaming and identification of appropriate entry points. Priority sectors for all DCI and EDF countries and regions were identified, along with budgets and Rio-marker potential scores. In the process, countries were classified according to priority for mainstreaming efforts (high, medium-high, medium-low, low priority). A Master File was developed, as a key tool for follow-up and updating of the status of priority interventions, which is continually updated as new interventions are reviewed and Rio-Markers checked.

### ***2. Mainstreaming in the cycle of operations strengthened***

On behalf of thematic Unit C2 (and later C6 as well), 200 Action Documents (project documents) entering the quality review process (named QSG – Quality Support Groups, now replaced by QRG – Quality Review Groups) were reviewed, mostly in priority sectors, but also non-priority sectors in case the actions are Rio-marked. Assessment sheets were prepared, identifying entry points for mainstreaming and recommended actions, with a view to increasing the engagement with the relevant Delegations. This practice was abandoned in the follow-up contract (see below); Help-desk services were provided in response to a series of *ad-hoc* requests, concerning inputs in preparation of ToRs for SEAs, drafting or commenting Action Documents, mission reports, etc. Likewise, the Facility provided support to DEVCO Units, upon their request, and services of the facility were promoted to relevant thematic and geographical units (the ‘C2 caravan’).

### ***3. Outcomes of mainstreaming efforts monitored and financial targets tracked***

The Facility contributed to DEVCO-internal efforts to track and monitor to what extent EU commitments (on EU budget contributions to climate action to >20% and doubling biodiversity-related international financial resource flows to DCs) are realised. As part of this endeavour, systematic quality control of Rio-marker scores was put in place. Limited understanding of the methodology for Rio-Marking would often result in different scores for the same Actions as attributed by Task Managers and as recorded by the Facility. Following a review of the differences, these scores are harmonised annually, ahead of reporting to the OECD DAC. Finally, evaluation sheets were prepared, to evaluate the outcomes of environmental and climate change mainstreaming efforts for individual actions or budget support, using of a number of indicators to assess the overall performance.

Summarising, the Interim Facility developed the tools that allowed for systematic screening of operations relevant for mainstreaming, for an estimation of the potential for Rio-marking across the DEVCO portfolio, and for actual tracking of Rio marker scores and the corresponding amounts of funding relevant to the various Rio-themes. This facilitated the monitoring of progress towards the policy commitments on climate change and biodiversity, in particular, and taking corrective action.



### *The Environment and climate change mainstreaming facility (Oct 2015-ongoing)*

In October 2015, a new Facility continued the work of the Interim Facility, to provide medium-term support for the ECC Mainstreaming efforts of EU Headquarters, notably DG DEVCO, and Delegations. The overall objective of the contract is *'to improve the effectiveness of EU interventions having direct or indirect effects on environment and climate issues, or being affected by environment and climate issues, through EU thematic and geographic programmes, ultimately contributing to poverty eradication, sustainable development and green growth'*.

While the overall objective was rather similar to that of the Interim Facility, the mandate was broader; in particular, raising awareness - within EU Headquarters and Delegations - of the need for environmental mainstreaming, and strengthening technical capacities in this field (and developing the necessary tools) were new elements in the facility's services.

The Mainstreaming Facility works under the supervision of DEVCO C2 and C6, in close interaction with colleagues in headquarters and EU delegations; it coordinates closely with other relevant support facility. In particular it is worth mentioning that the SWITCH to Green support facility (green economy) provides complementary support on mainstreaming of environment and climate change in the economic development and private sector development sectors. The other relevant facility with which it coordinates is the Biodiversity for Life facility, focusing on the biodiversity agenda.

#### **Objectives and expected results**

The technical support services aim to ensure that environment and climate change issues are adequately mainstreamed across all EU cooperation programmes throughout the whole programme cycle (design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation), and that efforts and investments in the areas of ECCB are adequately tracked and reported on. Support services are provided to Commission services (in Headquarters and Delegations) and to partner countries, to achieve the following objectives:

1. Reinforce the **capacities** of EC staff and partner countries stakeholders to perform effective mainstreaming in their operations;
2. Enhance DEVCO's capacity to **respond to specific queries** emanating from staff throughout the organisation, by providing advisory services and *ad hoc* support on specific queries;
3. Increase DEVCO Headquarters' capacity to ensure adequate **quality of mainstreaming throughout the global portfolio of operations** and to adequately report on it; improve and/or prepare tools (studies, guidelines, etc.), rules and procedures, including for the tracking and reporting on relevant ECCB-related activities and spending.

The six main results to be achieved by the contractor are the following:

- Result 1:** increased awareness and understanding among EC staff and partner countries of the importance of integration of ECCB in policies and development interventions;
- Result 2:** technical capacities of all stakeholders and in particular of EU staff strengthened through sharing of knowledge and know-how;
- Result 3:** targeted audience actually request and receive support services at the various stages of the cycle of operations;
- Result 4:** all operations with significance to ECCB are screened during the Quality Support process for the quality of their adequate integration of ECCB;





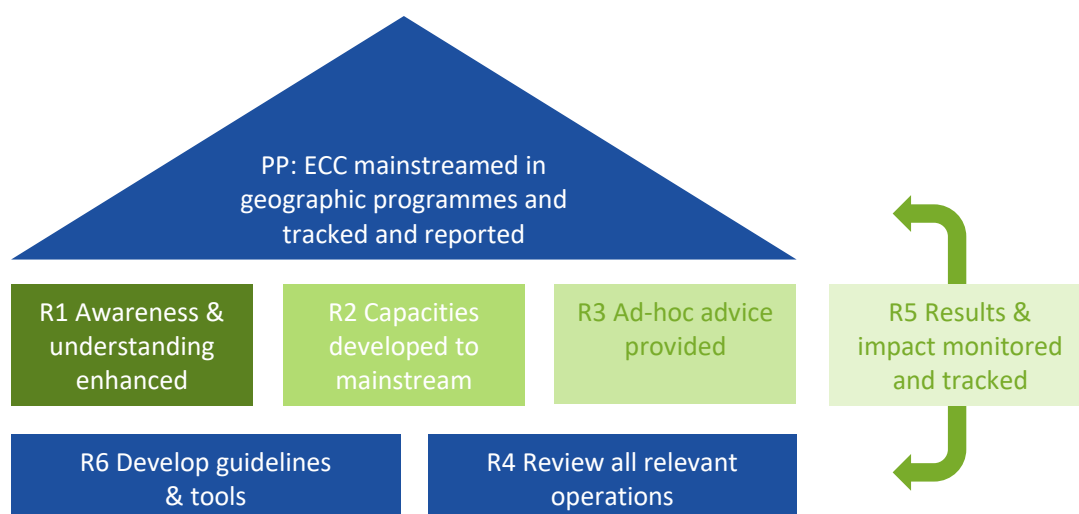
- Result 5:** the quality of the financial tracking of ECCB in operations is enhanced and the contribution of EU development operations to ECCB-related objectives is adequately reported on;
- Result 6:** adequate procedures, tools and products (studies, guidelines) are developed, improved, made available and implemented.

Achievements with regard to the expected results are discussed in chapter 7 (outcomes).

## 5. Systems, tools and choices

DEVCO Units C2 (Environment, Water and Natural Resources) and C6 (Sustainable Energy and Climate Change) have responsibility to promote and provide support for the integration of environment (C2) and climate change (C6) in EU development cooperation. These units are supported by the Mainstreaming Facility to implement their mandate with regards to mainstreaming.

Integration of environment and climate change in DEVCO operations is a continuous and iterative process that requires action and engagement at all levels, including awareness raising and communication, policy definition, institutional processes, capacity development, programming, project and programme cycle management (from identification to evaluation), and individual projects. It is pursued through a series of activities and related outputs. The following graph presents the intervention logics underlying the mainstreaming work, and the relation between activities, expected results and outcomes.



*Figure 1 - Key mainstreaming activities, results and outcomes*

1. One of the core mainstreaming activities, contributing most directly to integrating environment and climate change in the DEVCO portfolio is the **review of programming documents and project documents** (the latter commonly referred to as Action Documents). Draft programming documents (RIPs, MIPs, NIPs, AAPs, growth and jobs compacts, and others) are reviewed and commented, in order to ensure that environmental and/or climate change concerns and opportunities are addressed at programming stage, as and when appropriate.



Likewise, during the identification and formulation stages of project and budget support operations, draft project/programme documents are reviewed and – as much as possible – commented. Generally speaking, suggestions made are adopted, resulting in action documents that better integrate environmental and/or climate change concerns and opportunities. Over the past 3 years, close to 1400 actions have been reviewed. A main challenge is to be involved on time in the identification and formulation of the action, so as to avoid retro-fitting of environment or climate change; in this regard Units C2 and C6 (and by extension the Mainstreaming Facility) are expected to be involved in the Action Support Teams formulating the actions, an opportunity offered by the new quality control process that is only starting to be implemented.

2. In order to enhance the sensitivity to- and awareness of- the need to integrate environment and climate change in all operations, **communication and awareness** activities are undertaken. While there is a general awareness of the need to enhance attention for environment, climate change and biodiversity, there is less awareness of EU policies and commitments in this regard, and of ways and means to strengthen the integration of these themes into the ‘daily’ development practice. A series of activities is undertaken, ranging from direct engagement and exchanges with staff in EU Delegations on the relevance of ECC in their portfolio, preparation and dissemination of awareness raising materials, to the facilitation of exchanges on environmental themes on the Capacity for Development online forum. One of the main challenges is that environment and climate change are only one among several themes that task managers need to be aware of and able to mainstream.
3. In complement to the communication and awareness raising activities, there is also a need to **develop and reinforce capacities** to address environment and climate change, both among EU staff in HQ and Delegations and counterparts in the partner countries. The purpose of the capacity development activities is to change the way day-to-day work is undertaken such that environmental and climate change considerations become normalised. A key factor to bring about this change is an enhanced understanding of the linkages between environment/climate change and the objectives pursued by EU cooperation across different sectors, and knowledge of the tools and methods available to support such efforts.

Up to 2016, strengthening of technical capacities was approached primarily through standard training packages. Following an assessment of capacity development needs, in 2016, it was decided to adopt a broader approach to capacity development and to better tailor training activities to the specific needs of Delegations or staff in HQ. A modular approach was developed and complementarity and synergies with other C2/C6 support facilities (in particular the Biodiversity for Life, GCCA+ and Switch to Green) actively promoted. Nevertheless, the demand for trainings remains limited, notably due to resource constraints, “mainstreaming fatigue” and new priorities.

4. In order to support the capacity development activities, **tools and guidance** materials are developed, including knowledge sharing materials such as case studies or reviews. DEVCO, with the support of the Facility, carried out a comprehensive revision and simplification of the Guidelines for the Integration of Environment and Climate Change in Development Cooperation, including annexes, in 2016. An overview of all tools and knowledge sharing materials is provided in **Annex 1**.
5. In addition to the systematic review of documentation and capacity development efforts, the Mainstreaming Facility also continues to provide a ‘**helpdesk**’ function, in response to ad-hoc



requests from HQ and Delegations. Over the past three years, around 140 such requests were received, originating from HQ (approx. 80%), EU Delegations (approx. 10%) and from other sources (consultants, NGOs) (approx. 10%). The requests mostly concern commenting on a wide variety of EU internal documents and reports, and informing programming and planning.

Most of the requests require a few hours to respond to, but some require significant time inputs over a longer period of time; in particular requests related to support for the preparation of SEAs (e.g. Cambodia, Uganda, Guatemala, Honduras and Timor-Leste) or for the formulation of actions (e.g. for Nicaragua and Cuba) tend to take up substantial time. In some cases, the requests resulted in in-country support missions (Haiti, Timor-Leste, Guatemala, and Mauritania).

6. Finally, in order to monitor progress made and the achievement of set targets and financial commitments, **financial tracking** of contributions to the different environmental and Rio-themes is supported. As a first step, quality control of Rio-markers of all DEVCO-managed actions is assured and quality-checked data are then provided to the concerned Unit (R1) dealing with data management and reporting.

In 2017, for example, a total of 651 financial commitments (amounting to EUR 9.48 billion) was made, 524 of which had complete data on Rio Markers. All of these were screened to verify correctness of the markers applied.

Based on quality-checked Rio-markers scores, financial contributions to the various themes are calculated. The 2017 data analysis, for example, shows that 29.6% of DEVCO-managed financial commitments contribute to the environment, 7.1% to biodiversity, 6.2% to combating desertification and 26.8% to climate change (including 14% to mitigation and 19.7% to adaptation). In addition, the facility produces detailed cumulative data analysis, including trends for commitments made from 2014 to 2017, by delivery channel, type of flow, financing instruments, type of aid, DAC sector and geographical areas including a breakdown by country. The data are available in the ***Rio-Marker Statistics 2014-2017*** report.

## 6. People and capacities

Every colleague in DEVCO and EU Delegations is responsible for integrating environment and climate change in its work, although this is seldom explicit in the job description. Attention to these themes varies depending on individual sensitivity, interests and expertise. Implementing partners also have a responsibility for mainstreaming.

DEVCO Units C2 and C6 are the thematic/policy units responsible respectively for environment, water, natural and the green economy and for sustainable energy and climate change. They promote and provide support for the integration of environment and climate change in EU development cooperation. Their mandate includes policy definition, thematic and quality support, methodological guidance and the management of global/thematic programmes in their areas of competence. C2 leads and coordinates this work and manages the contract of the mainstreaming facility.

In C2, the Team Leader for Environment and green economy is in charge- he allocates close to 50 % of his time to this function. In C6, the Team Leader for climate change also supports mainstreaming efforts, with the assistance of a colleague. Other colleagues regularly contribute to mainstreaming by commenting documents and providing technical support in their areas of competence.



Many EU delegations have an officer in charge of environment and climate change; in most cases they are in charge of a broader portfolio that includes other thematics (agriculture, rural development, natural resources). She/he is usually a programme manager, under the supervision of a head of section. Their principal responsibility is to design and manage EU financed programmes; their contribution to mainstreaming varies and could be more systematic. DEVCO C2 and C6 are supported by the Mainstreaming Facility to implement their mandate with regards to mainstreaming.

## 7. Outcomes

### DG DEVCO

The European Court of Auditors prepared an Environment Audit in 2005 of the European Commission's management of the environmental aspects of its development cooperation, including environmental integration. The report was critical of the quality of integration, but significant progress can be found in most of the areas where recommendations were made, e.g. in relation to having an operational framework for the implementation of the environment strategy, development of guidance material, reviewing performance, use of environmental screening and financial tracking of expenditures on environment. A summary of the recommendations made in the Court of Auditors report can be found in **Annex 2**.

### 2007-2013

In 2014, the Evaluation Unit of DG DEVCO launched a **Thematic evaluation of the EU support to environment and climate change in third countries (2007-2013)**, which aimed to (1) assess EU support to environment and climate change in third countries through the Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP) and through the geographic instruments; (2) evaluate EU support to strengthening global environment and climate governance, provided under ENRTP and channelled mainly through international organisations; and (3) assess EU support for mainstreaming environment and climate change issues into EU external aid programmes (through an analysis of two key sectors, namely infrastructure (including energy) and agriculture/rural development).

With regard to the **mainstreaming approach**, the evaluation found that the EU has a longstanding commitment to addressing environmental concerns in its external aid, as part of a wider commitment to sustainable development, and has a comprehensive policy framework promoting mainstreaming. Since 2007, the use of mainstreaming tools became more systematic, with the establishment of an Environmental Helpdesk and development of mainstreaming guidelines. Also, the use of Country Environment Profiles was promoted in order to help identify key environmental issues to address and mainstreaming opportunities. After the Helpdesk closed in 2009, DG DEVCO continued to provide mainstreaming training and support, albeit at a lower level. The capacity of EUDs to engage in mainstreaming has significantly increased during the period under evaluation, as has their engagement in environmental integration.

Key observations included:

- EU policies are ambitious and demand that environment and climate change considerations are addressed in all its development assistance across sectors. As such, the framework is highly conducive to mainstreaming, but with several policies and the lack of a single overview policy, it is difficult for EU staff to get a clear overview of EU positions and requirements.



- Guidelines, tools, capacity-building and technical support provided to EUDs are appropriate and have led to a significant step forward in the mainstreaming of environment and climate change, with a significantly increased EUD capacity and proactive engagement in mainstreaming. However, there is still room for further improvement. Mainstreaming capacity building is not always reaching the intended non-environmental staff target audience, and the access to capacity-building for national counterparts - who have the ultimate responsibility for mainstreaming in their national systems and programmes – has declined, and is now limited.
- Moreover, an opportunity is being missed in terms of taking the economic opportunities and the national systems fully into consideration. These are critical aspects for ensuring sufficient national ownership and capacity to adopt mainstreaming. ENRTP has funded leading mainstreaming initiatives (PEI, TEEB), which have developed approaches that specifically deal with enhancing the ownership and capacity of national systems, but these have not been fully adopted in EU bilateral support.

With regard to the **mainstreaming practice**, the evaluation found that Mainstreaming is an essential approach for the EU to meeting its policy goals and international commitments on biodiversity conservation, climate change, environment and sustainable development, since objectives cannot be reached through dedicated environmental and climate change sector projects alone. Country Environmental Profiles (CEPs) were an effective tool to inform the Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) and Government Agreements. Other key tools included Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) at sector support level, and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIAs) at project level. SEAs have only recently started to gain influence in the programming phases, whereas EIAs are applied at the project level. The evaluation also highlighted the potential to make better use of other tools and approaches, such as the assessment of the value of biodiversity “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity – TEEB” (2010), providing added insight into the problem of biodiversity loss in economic terms.

Key observations included:

- At project level, EU support has applied an approach in which environmental considerations are already analysed and addressed in the design phases.
- SEAs have contributed to ensuring mainstreaming at design level, and to a lesser extent at implementation level, but their use has not been widespread and consistent across the sectors.
- EIAs are applied to EU interventions where relevant. Most of the sample countries require EIAs of development projects by law. In general, the EIAs funded through the EU were found to be of good quality for the design of environmental mitigation measures.
- EIA mitigation measures are followed and monitored during implementation of interventions, including independent audits. However, once the projects are finalised, the monitoring of compliance becomes solely the responsibility of national authorities.
- Where projects and programmes in environmentally-sensitive sectors have incorporated, from the onset, specific outcomes and SMART indicators clearly directed towards improvement of the environmental situation, the actual implementation is more likely to correspond with the intentions than if just outlined in, for example, project purposes.
- The degree of success in mainstreaming efforts varies considerably from country to country, and is much dependent on the underlying political and institutional commitment to environment and climate change. Programmes and projects supported under the modality of project support have addressed the environmental and climate change issues at project level, but seem not to have prompted wider mainstreaming of environment and climate change into





sector policy. By providing sector Budget Support, the EU has been instrumental – through policy dialogue and promotion of environmental and climate change targets and performance criteria – in advancing the mainstreaming of environment and climate change.

### 2014-2017

From 2015, in response to the new global policy agenda and EU financial commitments, DEVCO C2, and later C6, stepped up their mainstreaming efforts with the adoption of updated mainstreaming guidelines, enhanced engagement with colleagues in headquarters and EU delegations, new DG instructions to EU Delegations, and enhanced efforts to influence policies and processes.

The establishment of a technical assistance facility for environment and climate change mainstreaming was instrumental in supporting these efforts: it allowed to expand awareness raising, guidance, technical support, capacity development, financial tracking and, last but not least, the systematic review of action documents and other key documents submitted to the quality assurance process. In order to monitor the results of these efforts – in terms of main outcomes – three Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were identified, which refer to the three specific objectives of the contract. Besides these outcome indicators, a series of output indicators is used to monitor progress in each of the six main result areas.

Table 1 below presents the baseline and the current values for the three Key Performance Indicators, with brief comments.



## KPI

### 1. Quality of integration of environment, climate change, biodiversity and (combat) desertification in the DEVCO project and programme portfolio

## Baseline value

An assessment in May 2017, of the quality of Integration of environment and climate change in DEVCO commitments made in **2014 and 2015** showed the following:

Score	Environment	Climate change
<b>Very good</b>	<b>33%</b>	26%
<b>Good</b>	13%	13%
<b>Acceptable</b>	26%	26%
<b>Insufficient</b>	28%	<b>35%</b>

Overall results for 2014-2015 were similar to those of previous reviews, but significant improvement was observed between 2014 and 2015. Still, the number of 'insufficient' scores remained high, especially with regard to climate change. This called for targeted action in specific sectors, notably I&T, PSD and ARD. The WATSAN sector performed (very) well, performance in the I&T sector and – to a lesser extent - the PSD sector is relatively poor. Budget support actions scored significantly better than projects.

It was also found that more attention to climate risks was needed and that the use of tools for further environmental or climate change analysis (SEAs, CRAs) was to be improved.

## Current value /Comments

A similar assessment, in 2018, of DEVCO commitments made in **2016 and 2017**, gave the following results:

Score	Environment	Climate change
<b>Very good</b>	35%	<b>38%</b>
<b>Good</b>	23%	13%
<b>Acceptable</b>	15%	17%
<b>Insufficient</b>	27%	<b>33%</b>

With regard to environment, there was a significant shift from “Acceptable” towards “Good” integration. For climate change, there is a significant increase (from 26 to 38%) in the number of actions with 'very good' integration of climate change. WATSAN continues to be the best performing sector, followed by ENE. The PSD and I&T sectors continued performing less well, due to lacking analysis of linkages with environmental and climate change related risks and opportunities.

Budget support operations continue doing slightly better in integrating climate change than projects.

A key finding was that projects performed better in identifying key environmental or climate-related risks, which drives the undertaking of further environmental assessment and formulating environmental or climate-related measures. However, CRAs are not usually prepared despite the need arising from certain interventions (projects at CAT A risk).

At the same time, the percentage of actions in which integration is 'insufficient' has remained on the high side (27% for environment, and 33% for climate change). While an overall improvement is observed in most sectors, notably I&T, I&T and PSD remain the sectors with the lower scores.



## 2. Degree of client satisfaction with the ECCM Facility responses and support

A survey conducted in July 2017 assessed the degree of satisfaction with the ad-hoc support services provided by the Facility, between November 2015 and May 2017. Overall scores for satisfaction are:

Score	Timeliness	Relevance	Clarity	Completeness	Quality	Follow-up	Overall
<b>Satisfaction</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>74%</b>

The degree of satisfaction (among 14 out of 28 respondents) in seven performance areas ranges from 70% to 84%, with an overall satisfactory score of 74%. Timeliness of responses scores highest, follow-up given to the requests lowest.

Particular attention will need to be given to improving *follow-up on requests*, through more rigorous monitoring of the follow-up actions.

Meanwhile, feedback on client satisfaction will be sought on a more systematic basis (at fixed time intervals from reception of the requests).

The survey will be repeated towards end-of-contract.



**3. Amount and share of EU official development assistance (ODA) contributing to:**

(a) biological diversity;  
(b) combating desertification;  
(c) climate change

(c1) mitigation,  
(c2) adaptation

(d) Aid to Environment.

*Contributions to Rio-themes in 2014 were as follows:*

	2014		
Contributions	Number	M€	% (funds)
<b>Commitments</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>5,884</b>	
Aid to environment	106	915	<b>15.5%</b>
<b>Rio conventions</b>			
Biodiversity	26	148	<b>2.5%</b>
Desertification	11	44	<b>0.8%</b>
Climate change	61	607	<b>10.3%</b>
cc mitigation	41	426	7.2%
cc adaptation	40	401	6.8%

NB: 2014 was a transition year, between the 2007-2013 and the 2014-2020 MFF - which are not fully comparable. Many of the 2014 commitments are top-ups of commitments under the 2007-2013 MFF – including the 9th and 10th EDF, all DCI Geo and Thema instruments, DCI-SUCRE, EIDHR and IFS.

In addition, the European Neighbourhood Programme Instrument (ENPI) was managed by DEVCO; in 2014, 113 commitments were still financed under this instrument.

*Contributions to Rio-themes in 2017 were as follows:*

	2017		
Contributions	Number	M€	% (funds)
<b>Commitments</b>		<b>9,645</b>	
Aid to environment	230	2,821	<b>29.3%</b>
<b>Rio conventions</b>			
Biodiversity	74	677	<b>7.0%</b>
Desertification	60	584	<b>6.1%</b>
Climate change	176	2,456	<b>25.5%</b>
cc mitigation	125	1,335	13.8%
cc adaptation	128	1,874	19.4%

Between 2014 and 2017, DEVCO contributions to Aid to environment and Rio themes saw a steady increase. Biodiversity and Combating desertification grew by one % point per year (on average); Aid to Environment by three % points and Climate Change by four % points per year. This growth is due to both an increase in the number of commitments contributing to Aid to environment and the Rio Conventions, and an increase of their average size, especially for those marked as 'principal'. Contributions to the environment and Rio convention objectives is achieved through increased financial resources dedicated to these themes as well as their mainstreaming in other sectors.

Climate change has seen the strongest growth (15.2 %) in contributions. This is likely to be related to the EU's 20% commitment on climate change action. While in 2014, contributions to adaptation were slightly lower than those to mitigation; in 2017 they are almost 30% higher.



## 8. Evolution and learning

Key lessons and further learning:

1. **Communication and awareness:** Direct engagement with the target group (i.e. staff in HQ and EU Delegations) through face-to-face meetings (such as the DEVCO Environment week), promotional activities, teleconferences and other means is required for raising awareness and effective engagement in mainstreaming. This needs to be foreseen on a regular basis and, where appropriate, supported by professional communication activities using the various media available.
2. **High-level commitments:** The existence of high-level financial commitments and targets to climate action — and to a lesser extent to biodiversity — and the related Director-General instructions to EU delegations have been a fundamental driver to promote the integration of climate change.
3. **Need to renew the discourse and focus on opportunities:** The Green Economy discourse has been instrumental to bringing new actors into the environmental sustainability agenda, such as those dealing with economic development, finance, trade and private sector development.

Nonetheless, mainstreaming environment and climate change is often seen as competing with other priorities and other mainstreaming themes. It is also perceived as an additional burden that can distract us from more pressing needs, particularly in fragile countries and in Africa. In a context of complex development problems, challenging operational environments and resource constraints, it often receives less attention.

In this context, rather than conveying a "doom" message, it seems worth highlighting that environment and climate change affect the viability and sustainability of sector development (e.g. agriculture, energy) and create opportunities (e.g. for job creation and growth). Engaging with key national actors that have benefited from environment/climate change integration (e.g. private sector in developing countries, or engaged government authorities) strongly helps convey the message that opportunities deriving from mainstreaming efforts are real and feasible, and not a luxury that only developed countries can afford.

A library of relevant documents (primarily CEPs and SEAs) has been created in Capacity4Dev, showing good level of use as per indication of number of downloads. There is no systematic mechanism for HQ to receive relevant reports as produced, but this can be established as one of the functions of focal points in delegations.

4. **Capacity development:** mainstreaming is the responsibility of everyone; limited capacity and expertise is often an important constraint. Capacity development needs to be an integral part of mainstreaming efforts and needs to reach beyond the circle of "convinced" environmental focal points. Compared to training delivered in the past, a more tailored, modular and seminar-like approach was adopted. Collaboration with other facilities and non-EU actors was strengthened, and increasingly, training modules are being integrated in training events of other relevant actors (for example Unit C1 - Agriculture, Rural Development and Food and Nutrition Security). Use of alternative means to reach a broader audience on specific themes, e.g. short tutorial video on the use of Rio markers is also being explored.

However, in a context of resource constraints and evolving priorities, there is limited demand for trainings. There is a need to make a constant effort to promote training opportunities (e.g. through videoconferences), to renew training content and be proactive in approaching key

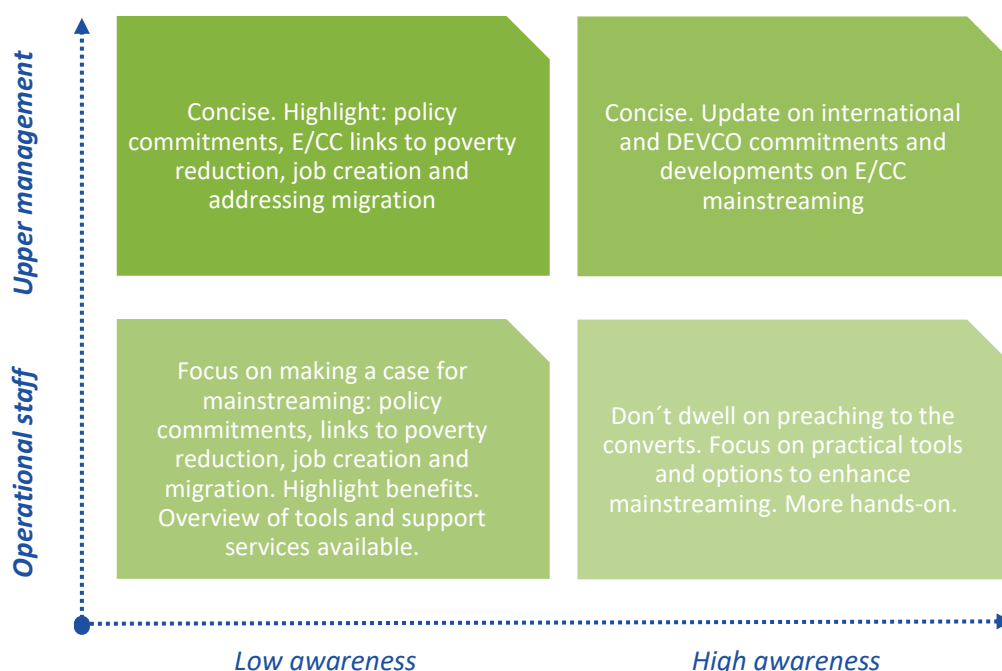




delegations. Often, key users of helpdesk services and of integration tools are colleagues that have been recently exposed to trainings. Sometimes individuals are motivated to attend a training course on offer, but delegations may not be prepared to host and co-organise regional trainings – which begs a reflection on the best way to set up the training offer.

Another remaining challenge is to better integrate environment and climate change into other trainings, e.g. on private sector development or on the EIP and blending.

Further reflection is also required on how to better design the trainings, targeting different individual profiles. For example, higher level officials vs. operational staff, high level of awareness vs. low level of awareness.



5. **The earlier the better:** mainstreaming is most effective if it starts early in the decision-making process and operations cycle, from the policy definition, priority setting, programming and identification.
6. **Use of mainstreaming tools:** SEAs are being used more frequently, but still not systematically. Currently investing in providing comprehensive support during the preparatory phases of SEAs, so as to maximise government ownership and ensure adequate focus of SEAs (e.g. ongoing work in Guatemala, Timor-Leste and Haiti). It has been found to be critical to provide close support to Delegations and other users for the use of this tool.

No use of CRA (known of in HQ). More references found for blending projects, in response to ECC safeguards of other development partners. Systematic attention to climate resilience and climate proofing deserves more attention. It would be useful to evaluate performance on this front at some point.

CEPs not being prepared systematically in the last programming phase. Earlier use of CEPs had mixed results; delegations convinced of their importance made good use of the findings, whilst



others limited the exercise to comply with HQ requirements. Need to provide clear guidance on ECC integration during programming and promote a realistic (but significant) offer of support services.

The EU has provided limited support to the development of national environment mainstreaming systems (exception being the work done under the PEI/PEA). Opportunities could be sought to further support national mainstreaming initiatives and systems.

7. **Helpdesk services:** Trainings and the DEVCO environment week are good opportunities to build closer working relations with delegations, a side benefit which is often overlooked. Helpdesk services are primarily reactive, and thus provide support to motivated colleagues that are aware of them. Often, however, the availability of the helpdesk services (or the scope of the support that the Mainstreaming Facility can offer) is not known by colleagues, and greater efforts are needed to communicate their availability. Videoconferences with key delegations need to be renewed to further promote the services. There is scope to provide more in-country support missions, especially in the context of the next programming phase.
8. **Review of project documentation:** Systematic review of all operations relevant to environment and climate change, in the identification and formulation stage, has proven an effective (if time-consuming) mainstreaming strategy, especially when accompanied by concrete suggestions for the drafting of documents. Still, there is substantial room for improvement and for influencing the design further "upstream" in the process; while climate-related risks such as "extreme weather events" are amongst the top-10 global risks to world economic development (Global Risks Report 2018), projects are seldom informed by an analysis of the environmental and climate change risks; likewise, opportunities for low-carbon, green economic development are often not seized. Early involvement in project conception is recommended to further strengthen environmental integration (and reduce a need for retro-fitting environment and climate change). The new quality review process will in principle provide an opportunity for C2/C6 to engage more effectively during the formulation phase; sufficient technical resources will need to be mobilised, as this can prove to be a rather time consuming activity.
9. **A shared responsibility:** There is potential to make colleagues responsible, in particular for focal points in delegations to assume clear responsibilities, e.g. reviewing the environmental screening of actions being formulated, compiling relevant reports and uploading onto Capacity4Dev, and acting as a communication channel for C2/C6 on mainstreaming matters.  
  
Opportunities should be sought to review the preparation of guidance material elaborated by other units, so as to ensure the correct integration of environment and climate change (e.g. guidance for budget support, blending, programming). This has been done to a limited extent by units C2 and C6.
10. **Quality of integration:** Analysis suggests that four years of systematic mainstreaming efforts have produced substantial improvements in the quality of integration of environment and climate change in action documents (projects, programmes, budget support). The share of action documents showing good integration of environment rose from 46% (2014) to 58% (2017) and from 39% (2014) to 51% (2017) for climate change. At the same time, the share of actions that performed poorly remained almost steady at 27-28% (environment) and 35-33% (climate change). There is a need for deepening environment and climate change integration.
11. **Financial flows:** Financial flows associated with environment and climate change have also seen a significant increase. Contributions by DG DEVCO to environment and climate change objectives have increased, between 2014 and 2017, from 15% to 30% of financial commitments



(environment) and from 10% to 25% (climate change). On average, 22 % of commitments (2014-2017) contribute to environment and 19 % to climate change objectives. This includes both dedicated actions on environment and climate change (under the GPGC notably) and – for the larger share - actions that integrate environment and climate objectives (mainstreaming). The political commitment to a numerical target – notably on climate change - seems to have provided a strong incentive for increased mainstreaming efforts, but at times it may sometimes have sent the wrong signal that mainstreaming is primarily an accounting exercise.

The tracking of financial flows is based on commitments, not on actual expenditures. The challenge remains to verify the extent to which good intentions are translated into practice. This is related to the monitoring of mainstreaming during implementation (see bullet 14 below), but also to the verification that financial commitments are consistent with payments.

12. **Sectors:** Among sectors that have been prioritised<sup>2</sup> for mainstreaming action, some make very substantial contributions, notably agriculture and rural development, energy, and water and sanitation. Others, notably **private sector development** and **transport and infrastructure** need to improve their analysis of linkages with environmental and climate change related risks and opportunities. This seems even more opportune in the perspective of increasing emphasis on blending operations and private investments (through the EIP and other instruments). At the same time, a stronger focus on the 'less obvious sectors', in particular health, education and governance - which have so far not been prioritised for mainstreaming action - is recommended.
13. **New instruments:** The use of new instruments (in particular blending and the EIP) offers new opportunities and challenges for mainstreaming. On the one hand, blending has proved useful to promote more systematic integration of climate proofing in accordance with safeguards of certain lead donors, but on the other hand the mechanisms to ensure proper integration of environment and climate change need to be strengthened. There is also a gap in knowledge of the adequacy of the environmental safeguards of the different actors involved and their alignment to EU standards. Challenge to address strategic challenges of sectors being supported (e.g. opportunity to promote SEA), and no clear mechanism to address them.
14. **On monitoring and tracking:** Systematic monitoring (master file) and tracking of mainstreaming activities and their effects has allowed for targeted actions - in particular prioritising of sectors and countries/regions. Thus far, however, the mainstreaming support has focused on the programming and design stages, with the implementation phase receiving less attention. Monitoring and tracking have primarily focused on commitments contained in project and programme documentation only, without much field-level verification. There is a need for extending monitoring actions towards the level of **field implementation** in order to verify if documented commitments are indeed translated into action on the ground.
15. **A three-pronged approach:** In our experience, the **combination** of (1) communication, awareness raising and capacity development activities, (2) systematic review of action and project documents and (3) the provision of demand-driven support services ('helpdesk function'), as described above, constitutes an effective mainstreaming 'package'. It is recommended to continue providing a similar package of support functions in the years to come, further tailored to changing priorities, portfolios and aid modalities.

---

<sup>2</sup> 1. Agriculture, food security and rural development; 2. Disaster Risk Reduction; 3. Energy (generation, distribution and efficiency); 4. General environmental protection; 5. Private Sector Development (including banking and financial services; industry; trade); 6. Transport and Infrastructure and 7. Water and Sanitation,



Mainstreaming is a continuous and iterative process; to be most effective, it needs to involve everybody and all aspects of our operations. Many of the challenges encountered have been mentioned in previous sections. The main challenges are listed below:

- Resources constraints, in particular time and expertise of staff in headquarters and EU delegations.
- Varying levels of commitment.
- Competing priorities.
- Responsibilities are not formalized.
- Mainstreaming fatigue.
- Persisting perception that environment is a secondary priority –donor driven- compared to more pressing development needs of our partner countries.
- Low level of priority for partners.



## **ANNEXES**

### **ANNEX 1. DEVCO publications on environment and climate change mainstreaming**

#### **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE MAINSTREAMING FACILITY**

1. [The New Guidelines N°6 "Integrating the Environment and Climate Change into EU International Cooperation and Development"!](#)
2. [Guidelines at a glance](#)
3. [Sector Notes for the Integration of Environment and Climate Change](#)
  - 3.1. [Sector note on agriculture, food security and rural development](#)
  - 3.2. [Sector note on energy](#)
  - 3.3. [Sector note on water](#)
  - 3.4. [Sector note on social protection \(draft\)](#)
4. [Short guide to the use of Rio markers](#)
5. [Strategic Environmental Assessment in EU development cooperation. A handful of tips to get it right! \(November 2017\)](#)
6. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Community of Practice Discussion Forum
7. [EU global action on sustainable land management](#)
8. Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming Facility leaflet
9. Environment and Climate Change Mainstreaming Facility calendar
10. Guidelines for the integration of environment and climate change in budget support (unpublished draft)

#### **NEWSLETTERS – GREEN DEVELOPMENT NEWS**

1. Newsletter N°1, 2016: [online version](#) - [EN PDF version](#) - [FR PDF version](#)
2. Newsletter N°2, 2017: [online version](#) - [EN PDF version](#) - [FR PDF version](#)
3. Newsletter N°3, 2017: [online version](#) - [EN PDF version](#) - [FR PDF version](#)
4. Newsletter N°4, 2017: [online version](#) - [EN PDF version](#) - [FR PDF version](#)
5. Newsletter N°5, 2017: [online version](#) - [EN PDF version](#) - [FR PDF version](#)
6. Newsletter N°6, 2018: [online version](#) - [EN PDF version](#) - [FR PDF version](#)



7. Newsletter N°7, 2018: [online version](#) - [EN PDF version](#) - [FR PDF version](#)
8. Newsletter N°8, 2018: [online version](#) - [EN PDF version](#) - [FR PDF version](#)





## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

1. [About the Environment and Climate Change Facilities](#)
2. [New Mainstreaming Guidelines - 2016 Edition](#)
3. [Rio markers: A short guide to using monitoring and reporting tools](#)
4. [DEVCO Week on Environment: two seminars dedicated to environment and wildlife trafficking](#)
5. [New leaflet on EU global action on sustainable land management](#)
6. [ECCM Facility: Supporting the Delegation of the EU to Haiti in the mainstreaming of environment and climate change](#)
7. [Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) in EU development cooperation](#)
8. [Ethiopia: a social protection programme building climate-resilient communities](#)
9. [Regional and country environmental profiles now available](#)
10. [New guidance documents for integrating environment and climate change into development cooperation](#)
11. [Environmental and Climate Risk Assessment guidance documents now available on cap4dev](#)
12. [Success Story: Strategic Environmental Assessment of Rwanda's agriculture sector](#)
13. [Success Story: Advancing capacity for greening Lesotho's national development](#)
14. [Last Call: Training on Greening EU Development Cooperation](#)
15. [Mainstreaming environment and climate change in the energy sector - Training](#)
16. [Greening EU energy cooperation and development](#)
17. [Solar Appropriate Technology in Rural Dodoma](#)
18. [EU development funding for environment and climate change](#)
19. [New farming practices address environmental and climate challenges in Malawi](#)

## STORIES FROM THE FIELD

1. [ECCM Facility: Supporting the Delegation of the EU to Haiti in the mainstreaming of environment and climate change.](#)
2. [Ethiopia's safety net programme enhances climate change resilience of vulnerable populations.](#)
3. [Enhancing integration of environmental sustainability in agriculture sector planning.](#)
4. [Advancing capacity for greening Lesotho's national development.](#)
5. [Solar devices training empowers rural communities in Tanzania.](#)
6. [New farming practices address environmental and climate challenges in Malawi.](#)
7. [Towards a more efficient, disaster-resilient and environmentally friendly health sector in Belize.](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

1. <https://www.facebook.com/europeaid/photos/a.288995237842720.68009.287842647957979/1193867607355474/?type=3&theater>
2. <https://www.facebook.com/europeaid/photos/a.288995237842720.68009.287842647957979/1305212929554274/?type=3&theater>



3. <https://www.facebook.com/europeaid/photos/a.288995237842720.68009.287842647957979/1449937235081842/?type=3&theater>
4. <https://twitter.com/europeaid/status/916240340063080449>
5. <https://twitter.com/europeaid/status/819128155839545345>
6. <https://twitter.com/europeaid/status/818753825880285184>
7. <https://twitter.com/europeaid/status/857950418374193153>
8. <https://twitter.com/europeaid/status/859363569619611648>

## POSTERS

1. Poster for the IAIA conference in Montreal, Canada (April, 2017) *EU International Cooperation and Development. Contributing to environmentally sustainable, climate resilient and low-carbon development.*
2. Poster on *Initial results of DEVCO mainstreaming efforts: contributions to environment and Rio-convention themes* (February, 2017).

## VIDEO

1. Rio markers – Tutorial video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eeKagWDebc>

## FACT SHEETS

1. Pollution (unpublished draft)



## ANNEX 2. Summary of the European Court of Auditors Report (2005)

<i>Recommendation</i>	<i>Observations</i>
<b>Establishing a comprehensive strategy for the environment and following up its implementation</b>	New European Consensus on Development (2017)
<b>The Commission should establish a new operational framework for implementing its environment strategy and ensure clear performance indicators and coordination mechanisms for its implementation</b>	KPIs defined under the Mainstreaming Facility C2/C6 to be part of the AST during formulation C2/C6 systematic engagement during the QRG process Support of the Mainstreaming Facility to implement integration strategy
<b>The Commission should review the adequacy of its in-house capacity to implement its environment strategy</b>	Limited in-house capacities, but use of the Mainstreaming Facility Capacity development programme
<b>The environment integration manual should be completed and approved</b>	Guidelines into its 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition Some sector guidance produced
<b>Training, taking into account the new manual, should be made compulsory for all key staff</b>	Training is not compulsory Limited demand Other channels for capacity development (e.g. engagement during QRG process, ad hoc support, guidance documents)
<b>The Commission should establish a comprehensive system for reviewing its environmental performance by carrying out an overall evaluation</b>	Evaluation of the ENRTP was carried out Mainstreaming Facility monitors performance Peer-learning exercise (with OECD DAC)
<b>The Commission should review its internal financial reporting system to ensure the recording of environment-related expenditure within the framework of projects which do not have the environment as their primary objective</b>	Systematic use of policy and Rio markers Annual reporting
<b>The Commission should ensure that the analysis and recommendations of the recent CEPs are systematically and transparently followed up when preparing the new CSPs</b>	CEPs not systematically prepared. Specific support and further awareness raising required. In previous programming exercise, systematic review was made of draft MIPs, leading to improvements in some instances
<b>The Commission should make a particular effort to better mainstream the environment into its</b>	Significant increase in use of SEA, but still not prepared systematically



<b>direct budgetary support, in particular by ensuring that SEAs are carried out and by seeking opportunities to include environmental indicators</b>	Good integration of environment in budget support programmes as evidenced by reviews undertaken by the Mainstreaming Facility, but further efforts required
<b>Specific procedures for ensuring the environmental screening of all projects should be established and these should be checked by environmental focal points in Delegations and by the specialist environment staff in Aidco</b>	Procedures are found in the Guidelines and findings must be annexed to action documents. Mainstreaming Facility provides check by HQ during QRG process. No systematic involvement of focal points in delegations, but this is a good idea
<b>Specific checks should be introduced to ensure that EIAs are undertaken wherever appropriate and that their recommendations are followed up in environment management plans and contract conditions</b>	EIAs are systematically prepared for relevant projects. Follow-up of recommendations has not been assessed at central level.
<b>The Commission should give a higher priority to the on-the-spot appraisal of environment project proposals</b>	Not about mainstreaming
<b>The Commission should take further steps to identify and remove bottlenecks in procurement procedures</b>	Not about mainstreaming
<b>The Commission should give greater attention to helping local communities find sustainable ways of using natural resources</b>	NRM is a key area of attention under the thematic programme, and emphasised in the new European Consensus on Development
<b>With a view to improving impact and sustainability, including building institutional capacity, the Commission should analyse the effectiveness of different aid instruments in the environment sector. As alternatives to the current approach on using relatively short term projects, consideration should be given to making greater use of the sectoral policy support programmes, trust funds and co-financing with the GEF as well as funding traditional projects over longer time periods</b>	Thematic concern, not about mainstreaming



## ANNEX 3. References

### *Policy documents*

*The European Community's Development Policy.* 2000. Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament. Commission of the European Communities. COM(2000) 212 final. Brussels, 26.4.2000.

*The European Consensus on Development.* 2006. Joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on European Union Development Policy: 'The European Consensus' (2006/C 46/01). Official Journal of the European Union C 46/1. 24.2.2006.

*First European Environmental Action Programme (EAP1).* 1973.

*Improving environmental integration in development cooperation.* 2009. Commission Staff Working Document. Commission of the European Communities. SEC(2009) 555 final. Brussels, 21.4.2009.

*Integrating the Environment into EC Economic and Development Co-operation.* 2001. Commission Staff Working Paper. Commission of the European Communities. SEC(2001) 609. Brussels, 10.4.2001.

*The New European Consensus on Development 'Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future'.* 2017. Joint Statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission. Official Journal of the European Union, C 210/1, 30.6.2017.

*Single European Act.* 1987. Official Journal of the European Communities. No L 169/1. 29.6.87.

*Treaty of Amsterdam amending the Treaty on European Union, the Treaties Establishing the European Communities and certain related acts.* 1997. Official Journal of the European Communities. C 340/1. 10.11.97.

*Treaty on European Union (Maastricht Treaty).* 1992. Official Journal of the European Communities. No C 191/1. 29.7.92.

*Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Consolidated Version).* Official Journal of the European Union, C 326/47. 26.10.2012.

### *Other reference documents*

*Court of Auditors Special Report No 6/2006 concerning the environmental aspects of the Commission's development cooperation, together with the Commission's replies.* 2006. Official Journal of the European Union. C 235. 29.9.2006.

*Thematic evaluation of the EU support to environment and climate change in third countries (2007-2013).* Final Report (September 2015). Volume 1 – Main Report , Volume 2 – Detailed Information Matrix, Volume 3 – Annexes 1 to 13, Volume 4 – Annex 14 Country Notes and Response of the EU Services.