



ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPING WORLD

Peter Newell



OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Global Context
- Environment and development: an uneasy relationship
- Policy processes
- New policy instruments for environmental protection
- Futures



INTRODUCTION

- The environment has assumed an important and rising status on the national political agendas of states in Africa, Latin America, and Asia.
- Yet the status of the environment as an issue on developing country agendas is not secure. It is often subject to displacement by issues which assume a greater priority for most countries.
- We can observe a process of continuity and changes are handled within existing national policy frameworks but where globalization has changed the relationship between environment and development.

GLOBAL CONTEXT

1. We need to consider issues of causation and impact
2. The economic importance of natural resources to a country's economic development is a significant determinant of its position on environmental policy problem
 - Making it difficult for developing countries to form common policy positions
3. Global environment institutions have played a key role in shaping the national environmental policy agendas of many developing countries

KEY GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTIONS



United Nations Environment Programme

To promote cooperation on environmental issues; recommend appropriate policy



Commission on sustainable development

To provide policy guidance; promote dialogue; building partnership



Global environment facility

Key financing body for actions on climate changes, ozone depletion, land degradation, etc.

GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Development which meets the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs



KEY POINTS

- There is now a wide range of global environmental agreements which developing countries have signed and are in the process of implementing
- Though development issues have gained a higher profile in global environmental summits and agreements, there is still some concern that Northern countries control the agenda
- Countries' position on these issues do not fall neatly along North-South lines, however, and key differences exist between developing countries on many high-profile global environmental issues



ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: AN UNEASY RELATIONSHIP

- The term sustainable development disguises conflict over priorities between environment and development
- There is no consensus on the social causes of environmental degradation



POLICY PROCESS

- Political diversity
 - The issue of power
 - The issues of capacity for the enforcement of policy
 - The degree of importance that will be attached to environmental concerns
 - The scope and the effectiveness of environmental policy will also be shaped by the extent to which the interests of leading industries are affected by proposed interventions

COMMON CHALLENGES

- International environmental agreements create new demands of governments for more regulation, more monitoring, and an efficient and effective bureaucracy
- Political constituencies with a strong preference for more effective environmental policy are weakly entrenched
- Structural adjustment programme often create incentives for economic activities that are highly destructive of the environment
- Underpins environmental policy is a characteristic common to many developing countries



KEY POINTS

- The status of environmental issues on the national policy agendas of many developing countries is not secure and remains subject to displacement by other pressing development concerns
- Most developing countries are now intimately involved in negotiation and implementation of international environment agreements and in the design of National Strategies for Sustainable Development



KEY POINTS

- There are some important differences in priorities, policy autonomy, resources and capacity, policy styles, and the role of environmental and business groups in policy formulation and implementation across the developing world
- Other common challenges: weakness in enforcement capacity; economic vulnerability, which means trade and aid leverage can be used to challenge policy; and an underdevelopment knowledge base from which to develop environmental policy

NEW IDEAS IN POLLUTION REGULATION

- National economic reforms (such as privatization, liberalizing trade, removing subsidies that support polluting activities): China, India, Brazil
- Pollution charges: China, Columbia, and Philippines
- Pollution rating and systems of public disclosure: Indonesia and Philippines
- Public education for pollution awareness leading to action plans negotiated between communities and companies: Mexico
- Training in environmental management: Mexico

(Source: World Bank, 2000)



NEW POLICY INSTRUMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Many countries continue to use central government controlled 'command-and-control' environmental policy measures
- There has been shift, however, in thinking about how best to tackle environmental pollution towards the use of market instruments and voluntary approaches

NEW POLICY INSTRUMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

- Many companies in developing countries are seeking certification for their products in order to get access to Northern markets
- In recent years there has been a trend towards informal industry regulation by civil society groups. The long term impact of this form of civil-society-based regulation will vary by country and the extent to which such groups are able to address issues of their own accountability and representation



FUTURE

- Developing countries face a range of often contradictory pressures from international institutions, market actors, and civil society regarding how to reconcile environmental protection with broader development goals
- How they handle these challenges will be a function of many domestic political factors
- This pattern of change will continue as national events shift priorities and the context in which environmental policy is made is continually altered by change in the global political economy



FUTURE

- A key driver of policy responses will continue to be environmental disasters that focus public attention on the impacts of particular types of development

DISCUSSIONS

1. Explain the drivers of environmental change and support your explanation with some facts, figures, or statistics from your case study.
2. Present case studies (10 points, 12-15 minutes)
 - Current situations
 - National strategies
 - Major challenges of green economy