

UNEP Reference Manual Integrated Policymaking for Sustainable Development

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The failure to consider system-wide implications of policymaking, including the lack of policies or lack of effective policy enforcement, is a major driver behind many of the problems facing governments across the world, today. An integrated approach to policymaking, the theme of this manual, will assist policymakers to avoid solving one problem while, at the same time, creating another. Integrated policymaking will also contribute to a society's multiple objectives including social, economic and environmental ones. The approach described in this manual places sustainability considerations and policy review within the overall policymaking cycle, thereby making sustainability an integral part, rather than an "add-on", to any such process.

Integrated policymaking, in its most intuitive sense of considering diverse factors when making policies, is important for three main reasons:

1. A policy that addresses one issue can affect other issues;
2. Synergies among different issues exist and a policy intervention can be designed to achieve multiple benefits;
3. Successful implementation of a policy relies on support from a range of stakeholders who may have diverse values and interests that need to be harmonized.

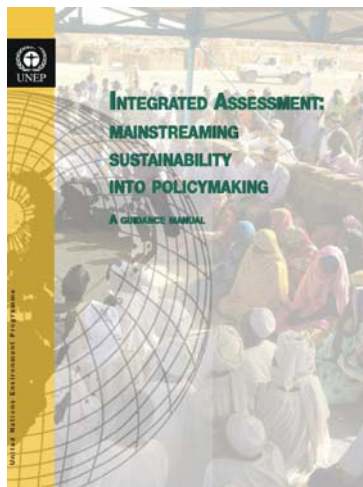
This manual draws on recent advances in public policy science as well as the decades-long experience of UNEP and other organizations in the field of sustainability-motivated policy assessment. By using a "building blocks" concept, it builds on the approach proposed in the UNEP Guidance Manual "Integrated Assessment: Mainstreaming Sustainability into Policymaking". Furthermore it suggests using sustainable development as a major filter for prioritizing competing issues and for deciding on policy choices. The manual is expected to prove useful to policymakers and analysts, and will motivate its audience to adopt an integrated approach to policymaking and to play a role in a more intelligent management of human, financial and natural capital as a step towards achieving the Green Economy of the 21st century.

Copies can be requested at:

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United Nations Environment Programme



UNEP Guidance Manual Integrated Assessment: Mainstreaming Sustainability into Policymaking

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This Guidance Manual was developed to support the use of Integrated Assessment as an instrument for mainstreaming sustainability into policymaking processes and to facilitate Integrated Policymaking for Sustainable Development. It draws on international experiences and highlights the connections between proposed policies and desired results such as job creation, income generation, trade promotion, environmental sustainability and poverty reduction. The "building-block" approach presented in this manual provides a powerful tool to make assessment less procedural and more flexible, tailored to different assessment contexts and policy processes.

Applying Integrated Assessment is particularly useful for all policymakers who are aware of the need to take into account sustainability at every stage of the policy-making process. This manual thus supports the use of the UNEP Reference Manual "Integrated Policymaking for Sustainable Development". Its main audiences are:

- Assessment practitioners and planners interested in a more integrated, proactive and flexible use of IA to improve policymaking and planning processes;
- Policy practitioners and decision-makers who wish to seek guidance on how to make public policies contribute to sustainable development.

The broad menu of methodologies included in the guidelines should make them a primary working instrument for policymakers and analysts not only in environment but across the economic and social spheres. The manual is designed to empower them to play a role in achieving more intelligent, creative and sustainable management of economic development and thus contribute to human well-being. It builds a bridge between various policy communities and interested parties and their increasingly shared and common pursuit to deliver tomorrow's Green Economy today.

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