Lessons Learned on Mainstreaming Pilot Projects into Larger Projects

United Nations Environment Programme

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United Nations Environment Programme
Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
International Environmental Technology Centre

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Section 1: Introduction

Objectives and overview

Mainstreaming, or broad adoption, of Environmentally Sound Technologies (ESTs) is critical to achieving sustainable development, and pilot projects are often a key step towards this goal. However, successful scaling-up and mainstreaming of pilot EST efforts is rarely straightforward.

This document is intended to assist decision makers in governments as well as those involved in international technical cooperation who seek to scale up and mainstream EST pilot projects.

It summarizes key lessons learned from three EST implementation pilot projects undertaken by the International Environmental Technology Centre of UNEP's Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP-DTIE-IETC). The projects are drawn from all of IETC's three pillars (work areas)—water and sanitation, waste management, and disaster management:

1. Water and sanitation: Support for Environmental Management of the Iraqi Marshlands project
2. Waste management: Integrated Solid Waste Management project in China, India and Lesotho
3. Disaster management: Demonstrating ESTs for Building waste Reduction in Indonesia (the DEBRI Project)

While implemented in different fields and socio-political context, the projects nevertheless share key common characteristics such as promotion of EST applications, extensive local level engagement, as well as a focus on capacity building and information sharing.

Each project is presented as a case study; the report concludes with cross-cutting lessons learned. The analysis focuses on six critical aspects of project design and implementation. They are: project management structure; governance; capacity building; EST implementation; financing; and local conditions and infrastructure. Within these areas, the key questions addressed are:

- What specific features impacted the progress and results of these projects?
- What are the key lessons learned that may be useful for future project and programme formulation?
- What measures have been effective in facilitating the mainstreaming of pilot projects and their replication?

Mission of UNEP-DTIE-IETC

IETC's mission is to promote and implement environmentally sound technologies (ESTs) with application to disaster management and prevention, production and consumption (including waste), and water and sanitation.

IETC's comparative advantages among international organisations include the following:

1. IETC identifies and promotes innovative approaches and technologies that can generate concrete environmental and economic benefits;

2. IETC assists countries and municipalities in selecting and adopting best-available, locally-feasible, economical technologies and practices;
3. IETC facilitates the sharing of information on technologies, their application and management systems

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