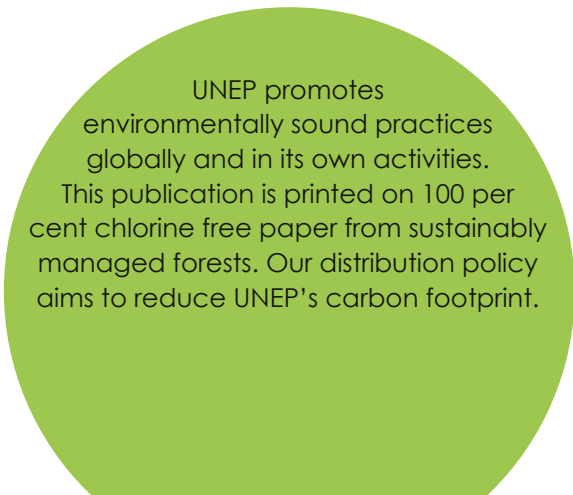


GUIDEBOOK ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION FOR ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

2011



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



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About this Guidebook

This Guidebook, which is based on the outcome of a UNEP pilot project that was carried out in three South East Asian countries in 2009-2010 - Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam - is intended to serve as a tool to help decision-makers and legal drafters to incorporate measures for adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change into their national sustainable development policies, plans and programmes by creating the necessary legal, regulatory and institutional framework for such action.

It provides a series of draft legal provisions, founded on the collective suggestions emerging from national experiences in the three project countries, which are expected to underpin and support national actions to identify possible adverse impacts of climate change on seventeen key sectors of national economic, social and environmental activities and to develop and implement appropriate adaptation measures to respond to the anticipated consequences.

Publication: Guidebook on National Legislation for Adaptation to Climate Change

ISBN: 978-92-807-3188-0

Job Number: DEL/1232/NA

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MESSAGE



Adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change can not, and must not, wait for the successful conclusion of an international climate change regime for the post-Kyoto period. There is already mounting evidence of adverse impacts of climate change that are fundamentally affecting the health and well being of the people and the planet.

UNEP's Medium Term Strategy for 2010-2013 recognizes this and calls for the promotion of national legislative, economic and institutional frameworks that are adequate to address climate change challenges. The pervasive nature of these adverse impacts require integrated and coordinated responses that involve the participation of regional, national and local institutions and stakeholders that are best realized through appropriate policy

and regulatory frameworks. Furthermore, the impacts that are felt across national boundaries require effective international cooperation, based on regional environmental accords.

The extensive desk study done by UNEP on the vulnerability to and adverse impacts of climate change in thirteen countries in the Asia-Pacific region pointed to the recognition by several governments of the need for establishing policy, regulatory and legal frameworks as a necessary pre-requisite for successfully developing and implementing measures for adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Accordingly, the governments of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam undertook, with technical and financial support from UNEP, a review of their respective national laws and regulations. The results of this work are made available through this publication to a wider global audience in the form of a guidebook to policy makers as well as to legal drafters on the policy, legislative and institutional underpinnings of national measures for adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change.

The UN Conference on Environment and Development confirmed nearly twenty years ago that laws and regulations suited to country-specific conditions are among the most important instruments for transforming environment and development policies into action. We hope that the legal provisions contained in this guidebook, borne out of national experience, will serve as a useful tool for policy makers and legal drafters in order to catalyze effective responses to one of the greatest challenges for this generation.

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