



## Environment and climate change

# Environmental policy

### The challenge

The environment is key to a country's sustainable development. Individuals and society are closely interlinked with the environment and natural resources. Economic development is still often accompanied by excessive resource consumption, pollution and greenhouse emissions. To secure ecological sustainability and maintain the resource base, social and economic development must take account of the environmental dimension. Environmental issues need to be considered systematically in sectoral policy fields and programmes. This requires sound advice on environmental policy as well as on mainstreaming environment into economic and sector policies. Only then can social equity and economic development be promoted sustainably.

### Our approach

Our projects and programmes aim to support and enable individuals and organisations in our partner countries so that they can effectively and efficiently incorporate environmental and resource protection concerns into their development endeavours – both as an independent policy area and as an overarching, cross-sectoral task. To this end we help shape institutional structures and an enabling environment as well as the complex processes of dialogue and negotiation between the state, business and society.

These processes relate, for example, to the management of waste, water and forests. We provide advice on environmental policy in emerging economies and in anchor, transition and developing countries, both at national level and through the support of municipal and regional environmental management. We foster proactive environmental policies that combine ecological sustainability with economic development and innovation. The focus is always on people – particularly disadvantaged people who are highly dependent on the quality of the environment and on access to vital resources.

### Our services

Our advisory work in the field of environmental policy aims at capacity development in the following areas:

- **National environmental policy**  
We enhance the capacity of environmental stakeholders and institutions to create the conditions and procedures for efficient environmental and resource management at the highest political level. We operate in the field of tension between the exigencies of international competition and the need to ensure the sustainable use of resources and the environment. We actively involve existing structures such as sector ministries, subordinate authorities, NGOs and private-sector associations.
- **Regional environmental management**  
Working across the administrative boundaries of nations, we address shared problems, develop solutions and support the implementation of regional environmental policies. Our aim is also to transfer experiences and best practices to other regions that face similar problems. National guidelines often need to be specified and adapted to existing structures at local or regional level. As a neutral intermediary GIZ is also able to promote communication in conflict-ridden regions and to use its bridging function to establish a platform for the various stakeholders.
- **Municipal environmental management**  
Environmentally aware action in towns, cities and municipalities involves delegated responsibility and the implementation of environmental policy goals on the ground. The focus is in part on organisational aspects and in part on implementing national and regional strategies and fine-tuning them to local requirements. Urban/industrial environmental protection is just as important as environmental management in rural areas.



- We complement these advisory approaches by offering support concerning a wide range of environmental policy instruments, such as:
  - Creation or reform of environmental administrations
  - Ecological finance and tax reform
  - Strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment
  - Mediation and prevention of environmental conflicts.

### The benefits

Environmental pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, unsustainable use of natural resources and habitat degradation affect everyone. We must therefore act in the common interest.

GIZ has more than 20 years' experience of advising on environmental policy. It has been and continues to be involved in the development of numerous national and international projects, programmes and initiatives. We attach great importance to the process-oriented character of our work. The outcomes of our advisory services are always evaluated from a long-term perspective.

By working with GIZ you promote sustainable development, which affects all areas of life and contributes to stability and progress. The following example illustrates the practical impact of our services.

### An example from the field

Although environmental protection in Tunisia already has high political priority, the country continues to face major challenges. These arise mainly from the environmentally damaging consequences of the last ten years of continuous economic growth, which have led to intensive use of natural resources and increasing environmental pollution. Waste

and wastewater is arising in ever-larger quantities, the volume of traffic is growing and industrial production is causing increasing environmental problems.

The German-Tunisian environmental programme supported by GIZ aims to promote the integration of environmental considerations in business and society and to mainstream protection of the environment as a key political task at local, regional and national level. Signs of success are already evident: Tunisia has for the first time drawn up regional development plans with the help of a participatory and cross-disciplinary planning process. Environmental issues feature prominently. In addition, sustainability indicators are currently being drawn up for the country's key economic sectors and environmental legislation is being adapted to present-day requirements. The process is in part assisted by North-South cooperation on environmental technology. In addition, the involvement of the private sector leads to improvements in traditional public environmental services: private service providers have already gained a foothold in the waste management sector.

The six components of the environmental programme incorporate a range of issues on which technical and administrative advice is being provided, including pollution prevention, integrated waste management, environmental communication and awareness-raising among official bodies and the general public. Acting on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ is supporting the responsible ministry not only in its strategic planning and coordination work but also in active implementation of the necessary measures. An important requirement is to develop new procedures that integrate the municipal level of administration.

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