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# Environmental Mainstreaming Tools – *An Assessment*





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# GOAL

*Environmental Mainstreaming*

## OBJECTIVE

*Identify, Assess and Prioritize “top tools” used in India*



# Key Actors

## Environmental policy - regulations and enforcements

Ministry of Environment and Forests  
State Departments of Environment & Forests  
Central Pollution Control Board  
State Pollution Control Boards  
Judiciary

## Economic Policies & Public Investments

Planning Commission  
Sectoral Ministries  
State Sectoral Departments  
Municipal Authorities  
Local Governments

## Environmental Management

## Civil Society

Communities  
NGOs  
Academia

## Business community

Financial Institutions  
Investors  
Associations  
Entrepreneurs

*Source: India Country Environment Analysis, World Bank 2007*



# Key Drivers

*for environmental mainstreaming*

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- National legislation and regulations
- Values of progressive organisations
- Increasing stakeholder awareness and demands
- Visible 'real' issues
  - Poverty and rising inequality
  - Increasing frequency of natural disasters
  - Inability to arrest continuing environmental degradation



# Key Tasks

*where tools are utilised*

- Training and Capacity Building
- Assessments and Information Generation
- Public Awareness and Participation
- Monitoring and Enforcement
- Planning and Management





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# Tools for Environmental Mainstreaming



“User Perspective”



# Categories of *high recall* Tools

- Information Tools
  - Economic Assessment
  - Environmental Impact / Strategic Assessment
  - Spatial Assessment
  - Monitoring, Evaluation and Enforcement
- Deliberative Tools
  - Participation and Citizens Action
  - Public Awareness and Demand Creation
- Planning and Management Tools
  - Legal
  - Management Planning
  - Market based tools



# Information Tools

- Economic Assessment
  - Social Cost Benefit Analysis
  - Natural Resource Accounting
- Impact / Strategic Assessment
  - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
  - Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)
  - Integrated Environmental Assessment (IEA) / SoE Reporting
  - Integrated Impact Assessment
  - Life Cycle Assessment
- Spatial Assessment
- Monitoring, Evaluation and Enforcement
  - National Plan Monitoring / MDG Reporting
  - Corporate Environmental Audits / CSR Reporting
  - Community Based Monitoring





# Information Tools

## *key observations*

- Diverse portfolio of tools available
  - Impact / Strategic Assessment tools most advanced
  - Lack of basic data, quality and timeliness – a major issue
- Available Spatial Assessment tools and expertise not adequately used
- Natural Resource Accounting – very nascent
- Monitoring and Enforcement
  - Tools available
  - Personnel, infrastructure and facilities inadequate
  - Corruption – a menace



# Deliberative Tools

- Participation and Citizens Action
  - Bhagidari Scheme
  - Eco-clubs
  - Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs)
  - Public Hearings
- Public Awareness and Demand Creation
  - Media (especially local media)
  - Public Online Databases
  - Right to Information Act (RTI)



# Deliberative Tools

## *key observations*

- Governments forced to promote citizen action programmes
- Most creative and diverse category of tools
  - Evolved from advocacy groups
  - New tools emerging with blending of traditional media and use of ICT (cultural and context specific)
- Right to Information combined with Public Interest Litigation – extremely potent tools Public Awareness and Advocacy



# Planning and Management Tools

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- Management Planning
  - Environment Management Plans (EMPs)
- Legal Recourse
  - Public Interest Litigation
- Market based tools
  - Environment Management Systems (EMS)
  - Eco-labeling



# Planning and Management Tools

## *Key observations*

- Economic Planning still most prevalent at national, state, and district levels
  - Elements of environment and social concerns often included
  - Concepts of sustainable development gradually being internalised and integrated
- Most major projects statutorily require an EIA and EMP
  - Mixed results on the ground (depending on political circumstances and capacity)
- Excellent legal recourse
  - Initially only through PILs
  - Now strengthened through RTI
  - However, Supreme Court has recently expressed concern
- Progressive Corporations adopting globally evolving voluntary practices





# Challenges



# Key Challenges

## *for environmental mainstreaming*

- Mobilising and re-orienting political will
  - Political vs. environmental timeframes
  - Environment and sustainable development – an internalised objective
  - Effective enforcement and strict action against violators
  - Co-ordination and accountability among government departments
- Changes in government systems and procedures
  - Budget allocations for environmental mainstreaming & timely fund-flows
  - Panel of environmental experts in all ministries & departments
  - Prioritise most important sectors for environmental mainstreaming
  - Provide fiscal and other incentives to performing departments, initiatives and personnel



# Key Challenges

*for environmental mainstreaming (continued ...)*

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- Increasing public awareness and understanding
- Enhancing capacity
  - Oriented and trained personnel
  - Systems and processes (including tools and techniques)
  - Infrastructure, facilities and equipment
- Improved Tools
  - Focused research for strengthening tools
  - Flexibility in application of tools to address sector specific concerns







Thank You

