

Biodiversity for Development Newsletter



Convention on
Biological Diversity

Issue no. 5
August 2009

DEEPER MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Many conditions must be combined for effective biodiversity mainstreaming in development cooperation. A recent Expert Meeting held at the Secretariat highlighted considerations to further efforts made in that direction.

Also in this issue: new guides to showcase good practices supportive of poverty eradication; team members biographic notes; launch of a new webpage.

EDITORIAL - Lessons from a first year: EGS is the right tool!

In order to link biodiversity considerations with poverty eradication, the environmental community and the stakeholders who specifically deal with the economic and social dimensions of development need a common framework, a common language. The concept of "Ecosystem Goods and Services" (EGS) satisfies this need. For both the environmental and development communities, EGS are, simply and unanimously "the benefits people obtain from ecosystems."

Put another way, EGS are the essential assets needed for human well-being. This is of acute importance in poor rural areas, where communities interact directly with ecosystems. Indeed, the rural poor's survival strategies are intimately linked to the presence or absence of EGS.

The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment draws an inclusive and comprehensive vision for the future. It proposes a world scenario where people and institutions appreciate natural systems as vital assets, recognize the central role these assets play in supporting human well-being, and routinely incorporate their material and intangible values into decision-making. Nevertheless, this vision has yet to be set in practice.



Simon-Yves Parent

Most EGS are defined as "public goods" in plain economic terms. As such they are difficult to incorporate into markets, but it is widely believed that it is now time to overcome this through substantial and effective environmental mainstreaming processes. The goal is to prevent the too-frequent undervaluation of EGS. Many facets of EGS should now be operationalized:

- Payment for EGS - mechanisms to strengthen pro-poor development and food security;
- EGS approaches and methodologies such as Strategic Environmental Assessment and Poverty and Social Impact Analysis to integrate economic, social and environmental considerations into policy-making and development processes;
- EGS as an entry point to better define the role of biodiversity in productive land- and seascapes;
- EGS to better understand and explore the benefits of protected areas for development and human well-being;
- Understanding Access and Benefit Sharing related to all EGS as a crucial issue for poverty alleviation and Human Rights.

The EGS agenda is long and complex, but establishing a dialogue among actors from different sectors is key to reducing market distortions that adversely affect biodiversity.

Contact: alberto.vega@cbd.int

First steps of the Biodiversit-aid Network

The [Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Cooperation](#) took place at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity from 13 to 15 May 2009. Held in the run up to COP-10, the meeting was an important building block to address post 2010 challenges.

The meeting gathered 45 representatives from development cooperation agencies, development banks, United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations involved in development, to exchange on the best means to integrate biodiversity in the development cooperation agenda. Though limited in time, it proposed a range of tools to further mainstreaming efforts in different development sectors.

Since biodiversity issues are poorly treated in poverty reduction strategies, the objectives of the meeting were to explore means to advance biodiversity mainstreaming in development cooperation. Participants identified obstacles and challenges to biodiversity mainstreaming and reviewed mainstreaming approaches, tools and instruments available at different levels within partner countries and donors' internal processes. Participants proposed considerations for a more effective inclusion of biodiversity in development cooperation processes. The overall goal of biodiversity mainstreaming is of realizing a biodiversity-friendly development framework through enhanced collaboration with development sectors and actors.

It was decided to build on the momentum created by instituting an informal network of practitioners on biodiversity, development cooperation and poverty reduction.



The network will be jointly coordinated by the Secretariat and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) through the Swedish International Biodiversity Programme (SwedBio). Immediate activities that were suggested include: the setting of a web based exchange platform on the Secretariat's website that will serve as a podium to share existing documents and guidance related to



Ahmed Djoghlaif (SCBD) and Konrad Uebelhör (GTZ/BMZ)

biodiversity mainstreaming; calling for case studies related to biodiversity mainstreaming; and development of biodiversity mainstreaming toolkits for different development sectors, and to accompany development organizations' internal processes. "Biodiversit-aid" is used loosely to describe the network.

[Main Outcomes of the Expert Meeting](#) (PDF)

Biodiversity for Development Guides

One of the key projects of the Biodiversity for Development Unit in 2009 is the publication of a series of guides that profile good-practices for biodiversity conservation and poverty eradication in different development sectors.

Guides are in production for the following sectors: tourism, forestry, fisheries, drinking water, pastoralism, health, quarrying, and bio-trade. Each guide includes a booklet and a PowerPoint presentation.

The first guide in this series, *Tourism for Nature & Development*, addresses the links between tourism development, biodiversity conservation, and poverty eradication. It presents sustainable tourism tools, illustrated with case studies, which have demonstrated benefits for both biodiversity and development. It includes information on tourism destination plans, measurement and monitoring, market-based instruments, marketing and more.

The guide for the forestry sector, *Sustainable Forest Management, Biodiversity and Livelihoods*, profiles a suite of tools and case studies addressing issues such as forest landscape restoration, invasive alien species, agroforestry, non-timber forest products, and forest biodiversity in national strategies and action plans.

The guides in the series will be posted at www.cbd.int/development/implementation/training.shtml as soon as finalized.

Contact: christopher.hogan@cbd.int

Invitation to submit case studies

The Secretariat calls all interested stakeholders to submit case studies on the successful integration of biodiversity conservation in development and poverty eradication projects and on biodiversity mainstreaming within institutional processes at the donor agency level.

The establishment of an on-line database of case studies demonstrating the links between biodiversity, poverty eradication and economic development is one of the expected outcomes of the initiative.



Case studies are an important source of information and knowledge and are useful to the work of the Secretariat, Parties to the Convention, as well as all partners.

Users are invited to contribute by [submitting new case studies to the Secretariat](#). In order to do so, one needs to obtain a user account through a simple request.

Initiative's partnerships with regional organizations

Although the Biodiversity for Development Initiative is working with a number of partner organizations to improve biodiversity mainstreaming in development processes and poverty reduction strategies, it is of particular relevance to focus on economic and sectoral organizations working at the regional level. Due to the transboundary nature of biodiversity and taking into account the difficulties faced by countries in managing their environment sustainably, this level of intervention appears to be one of the most appropriate to develop and implement regional biodiversity strategies and action plans.

In integrating poverty reduction and economic development objectives at the regional level, these strategies outline the main trends to be followed for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. They

can then serve as a basis to review National Biodiversity Strategies in light of regional challenges. The strategies provide over-arching guidance to develop Multi-country Actions Plans. In light of this, the Secretariat has developed partnerships with a number of regional bodies.

Partnerships are already well engaged with the following organizations: Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), Marine and Coastal Regional Programme for West Africa (PRCM), and Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO). New partnerships are being developed with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and with the Andean Community (CAN). More on the outcomes of these partnerships in this newsletter's next issue.

NEW! Biodiversity for Development Web-Pages

The Biodiversity for Development Initiative has launched a [new web portal](#) on the CBD website, which presents information on biodiversity for development and poverty eradication under four headings:

- the "About" section provides background to the initiative;
- the "Initiative" section catalogues related COP decisions and the initiative's Objectives and Work Plan;
- the "Implementation" section links partners at the global, regional and national levels and compiles outreach and training materials, as well as links to case-study databases; and
- the "Related Information" section provides information on notifications and meetings, as well as links to partners' websites and publications.

We invite you to keep an eye on the initiative's home page at: [cbd.int/development/](#).



Focus on the Secretariat's Biodiversity for Development team

Mr. Éric Belvaux



Éric Belvaux, Senior Programme Officer, Biodiversity and Development, is seconded to the Secretariat by the [French Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#). Since October 2007, he is in charge of setting up the Biodiversity for Development Initiative pursuing the effort engaged in Paris in September 2006 at the Conference on Biodiversity

in European Development Cooperation. His professional experience spans over 15 years, mainly in the field of Natural Resources Management.

Before working for the Secretariat, he was consultant for the French Global Environment Fund, senior technical advisor to the Malagasy Ministry of Environment and chief of party for the French environmental program in Madagascar. Mr. Belvaux was also project executive for the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. His areas of expertise include environmental mainstreaming in development strategies, governance and institutional support, as well as strategic and environmental impact assessments.

Contact: eric.belvaux@cbd.int

Mr. Alberto Vega Esposito

Senior Programme Officer, Mr. Alberto Vega Expósito, seconded by the [German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development](#) (BMZ), is agro-economist and has professional background in German Development Cooperation (GTZ and DED).



Mr. Vega Expósito joined the Secretariat in November 2008. He has worked for more the 15 years in Latin America and for 5 years in the south of the African continent. In Latin America he was in charge of several rural development and agro-ecology programmes as well as rural areas decentralization reforms. In Africa, his work was oriented to food security and nutrition policy advice in the context of structural sustainability reforms and post-conflict situations.

Contact: alberto.vega@cbd.int

Ms. Linda Ghanime

Linda Ghanimé, Senior Programme Officer, is seconded to the Secretariat by the [United Nations Development Program](#). Ms. Ghanime joined the Secretariat in March 2009. She cumulates 30 years of experience at the interface of environment and development. Her areas of expertise range from environmental management and planning to environmental assessments.



At UNDP, she led the global advisory services on sustainable development strategies and worked on environmental mainstreaming in policy and programming at global, regional and country levels. She is a recognized expert on the development of Strategic Environmental Assessment practices, namely as co-chair of the task team developing the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC)'s guidance on "Applying Strategic Environmental Assessment Good Practice Guidance For Development Co-Operation". Ms. Ghanimé served as bureau member of the Environment and Development Co-operation Network (ENVIRONET).

Contact: linda.ghanime@cbd.int

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP Biodiversity Conservation, Ecosystem Services and Poverty Reduction – Shaping a New Agenda

The German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), BirdLife International and the Secretariat have joined efforts in organizing an international workshop on the Isle of Vilm from 17 to 21 September 2009. The workshop primarily aims to develop inputs for the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The plan, which will be negotiated at the 10th Conference of the Parties in October 2010 in Nagoya, Japan, will influence environmental policies of 191 member states for the period 2011 to 2022.

For more information, contact: alberto.vega@cbd.int

For additional information:

[Biodiversity for Development Initiative](#)
Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
413 Saint-Jacques Street, Suite 800
Montréal QC - H2Y 1N9, Canada
Tel.: +1 514 288 2220
Fax.: +1 514 288 6588
dev-pov@cbd.int / www.cbd.int/development