

DEVELOPMENT OF BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS IN KENYA

Presentation to participants on
development of national/regional
biodiversity related indicators

BY

R. ODONGO

Oluoch@kws.go.ke



Introduction/overview

- Some national biodiversity policies and targets
- Example of some biodiversity indicators developed in Kenya
- Experiences during the development
- Some successes in biodiversity indicators development
- Communication and use of biodiversity indicators
- Conclusion and recommendations

National Biodiversity Policies and Targets

- Achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss
- The National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP), the plan emphasises the need to monitor environmental change for effective management of biodiversity.
- The Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA) commits the government to undertake effective environmental management, monitoring and reporting.
- Biodiversity indicators has been adopted to be used for reporting on the state of the environment.
- National Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper provide for monitoring of ecosystem services that affect production sector
- Millennium development goals that Kenya should meet. Indicators could be used to measure the state of the human environment
- Adherence to MEAs

Developing biodiversity indicators

- Biodiversity Indicators for national use (BINU)
- Biodiversity international project
 - Biodiversity and poverty linkages
 - Estimating the quality of key ecosystems in Kenya
- Others that contribute to indicators development
 - Lake Victoria environmental management programme (LVEMP)
 - Outlook Africa
 - State of environment report (NEMA)
 - National Monitoring programmes – state of parks

National consultation

- The stakeholders for biodiversity management in each sector are identified – referred to as lead agencies
- Identification of processes, functions and individuals that may fit into a indicator development process.
- Provide incentives and enhance interest in biodiversity indicators, that promote stakeholder willingness to participate
- Identification of common areas of concern, - which questions are asked by individuals, communities and the government that need answers
- Linking indicators with targets to ensure each player has a stake
- Selecting themes for reporting to ensure stakeholder feedback
- Initiating dialogue at different levels to institutionalize findings, - targeting resource users, policy managers, managers and researchers

Experience from National consultation

- Some stakeholders are only interested in the outcomes and not the process
- It is easy to identify stakeholders, but difficult to maintain their participation
- Different levels and types of stakeholders require different approaches and forums to involve them.
- It is more difficult to involve stakeholders from the private sector than those from natural resources sectors
- It is important to allocate time to explain key concepts like biological diversity, indicators, NCI, importance of indicators and scales of interests.
- Education and awareness are important and continuous process during biodiversity indicator development.
- It is more appropriate hold consultations for each category of stakeholder so as to reach the full range of stakeholders.
- Communication and information dissemination (reporting of progress) to institutions is critical for maintaining the participation of key institutions.

What are the questions

- The diversity and complexity of stakeholders make it difficult to know which questions to answer
- The list of questions, targets and issues can be obtained through workshops
- Application of a framework such as DPSIR help categorize and organize issues
- Identify the headline answers important to stakeholders
- select questions that can be easily answered but with the greatest impact

Selecting indicators

- Mapping indicators to key questions- this focused the scope of and reduced the number of indicators
- Mapping data sets to key questions – can the data adequately answer the question?
- Mapping the indicators to the data set – does the data set represent the indicator – it could be explicit or implicit
- How attractive /charismatic/ distinctive are the indicators (effectiveness)
- The indicators should have a long term monitoring programme
- National reporting, and queries from leaders also shape the indicator selection

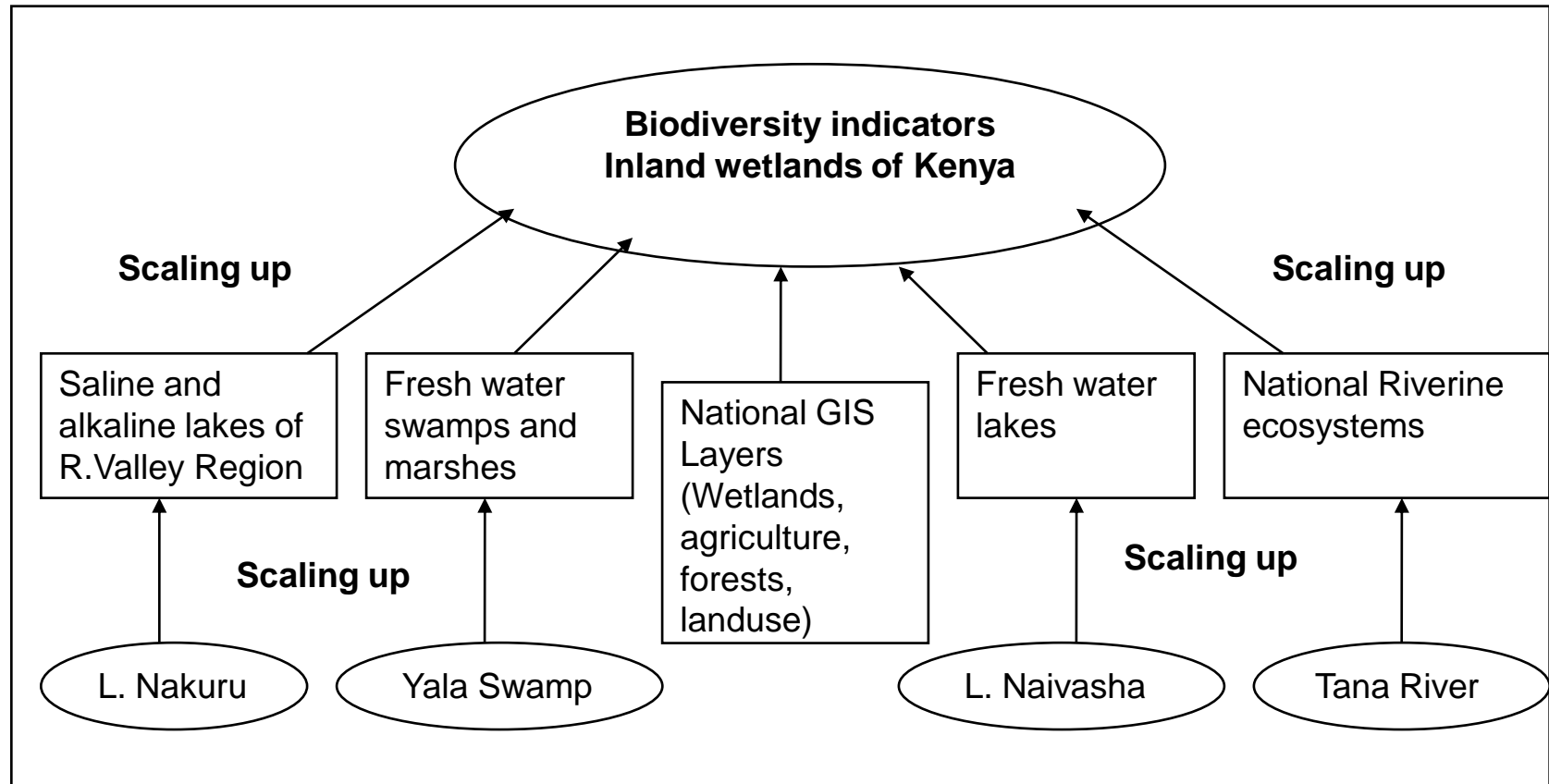
Some effective Indicators

- Large mammal population trend in Masai Mara- decline in numbers due to rapid tourism development and settlement
 - effect - suspension of further tourism developments and the development of tourism plan
- CPUE – indicator for L. Victorian and Naivasha
 - Effect- closed fishing season for fish stock recovery
- Encroachment in Mt. Kenya,
 - - expansion of protected area

Other indicators not so effective

- Loss of forest cover in Mau forest – there was no link to livelihoods. The institution involved was not very responsive to information from external sources.

Overview of methodology



Dissemination, communication and use

- Involvement of large number of stakeholders increases the rate of dissemination.
- Providing feedback and answers to the questions asked by institutions and leaders
- Identifying impacts that generate interest and communicating them to institutions
- Maintaining the indicator development work for longer periods.
- Linking indicators to monitoring programmes, hence providing meaning to the programmes
- Institutionalize the indicator development programmes similar to monitoring programmes.
- Involve recognized personalities to champion the findings of the indicators

Conclusion

- Development of indicators has improve Kenyan institutions ability to work with monitoring data to develop indicators
- Indicator development has had impact in policy and decision making process through effective reporting
- Indicators provide opportunity to discuss with stakeholders options available to mitigate on the threats
- Indicators should have a link to human well being to have greater impact