

# BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING

Integrating biodiversity, development and poverty reduction

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## A State of Knowledge Review

Forthcoming in 2013 as an output of the *NBSAPS 2.0* project

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This State of Knowledge Review will be a key output of the project *NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development*. This project is coordinated by IIED and UNEP-WCMC and funded by the UK Darwin Initiative and UKaid. The project is intended to support the revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as called for at the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in 2010.

## INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity and poverty reduction are intrinsically linked and demand an integrated approach. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has long emphasised the need for integrating, or 'mainstreaming', biodiversity into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies. This approach is prominently featured in the Strategic Plan (see Box 1). The mechanics of biodiversity and development mainstreaming in practice, however, are highly complex, and achieving successful outcomes has proven challenging.

### Box 1: Biodiversity mainstreaming with the strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020)

The first goal of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, adopted at CBD CoP10, aims to "address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society", while the second target is "By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems"

Partners in the project *NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development* (see Box 2) are preparing a state of knowledge review on biodiversity and development mainstreaming which will also inform the future development of mainstreaming guidelines. This flyer highlights the planned structure of the state of knowledge review and is intended to solicit comment and feedback on this publication both now and as it evolves over the next six months to ensure it is tailored to the needs of key decision-makers and other end-users.

In 2013, the finalised review will provide a concise, accessible account of biodiversity and development mainstreaming to date. It will focus on how biodiversity is being integrated into development and poverty reduction approaches, and *vice-versa* - where biodiversity planning takes a pro-poor and development-oriented approach. Although a dynamic and challenging process, understanding mainstreaming is essential in order to halt the loss of biodiversity.

### Box 2: What is the NBSAPs 2.0 Initiative?

*NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development* is a three-year project to build resilient and effective national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) that influence development decisions and improve outcomes for biodiversity and poverty. The project is implemented by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, UNEP, UNDP and the Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI).

Working with four African countries – Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles and Uganda – the project is encouraging leadership in biodiversity mainstreaming and highlighting the experience of these four focal countries to influence a whole new generation of NBSAPs.



### Section 1: What is biodiversity mainstreaming?

This opening section will introduce the reader to the concept of biodiversity and development mainstreaming and consider the objectives and desired outcomes from this type of mainstreaming. These might range from influencing a policy, plan or budget allocation to changing behaviour and delivering environmental improvements on-the-ground (Table 1). Mainstreaming needs to identify 'entry points' for getting on the agenda of decision makers and influencers, and 'drivers' such as advocates, funders or projects with the vision, incentives and resources to act. The entry points often correspond with key events or tasks in mainstream policy and planning cycles as this section will illustrate. The revision of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) presents a particular opportunity for framing biodiversity around national development goals and poverty reduction priorities. With successful mainstreaming diverse actors could be brought together to commit to a joint agenda where biodiversity supports development processes and vice versa.

### Section 2: The evolution of mainstreaming approaches

Biodiversity mainstreaming has often focused on a one-way push – “forcing” biodiversity integration into different sectors, policies and plans. This often means there is little dialogue between biodiversity and development communities, poor identification and management of trade-offs, and limited understanding of different viewpoints. A 'reciprocal' approach where biodiversity policies, plans and programmes address development issues as

well as the other way round through a constructive approach is likely to yield more successful results. There have been some notable successes in mainstreaming issues such as gender, climate change, and environment issues into development policy. These processes have not happened in a vacuum and have co-evolved, bringing us insight and leading to ever more effective mainstreaming approaches. This section will review the evolution of different mainstreaming approaches, and present lessons learnt which may help support biodiversity mainstreaming.

### Section 3: Different approaches to biodiversity mainstreaming

To date, much of the focus on biodiversity mainstreaming has been on mainstreaming into production sectors. For example the GEF has provided financial support to countries for mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes/seascapes and sectors, and UNDP is actively supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity management into economic sector activities. This section will briefly review this work but will then focus on two key aspects of biodiversity–development mainstreaming: 1) mainstreaming biodiversity and development in national policy processes; 2) mainstreaming biodiversity into development cooperation policy and practice.

Case studies from the countries collaborating on the *NBSAPs 2.0* project and elsewhere will highlight examples of successful mainstreaming at the national level, while the experience of multilateral and bilateral will also be reviewed.

Table 1: Upstream and downstream outcomes of biodiversity mainstreaming

UPSTREAM ↑	<b>Governance outcomes</b>	e.g. improved consideration of stakeholder’s and right-holders’ concerns (particularly those who are directly dependent on biodiversity)
	<b>Policy and political outcomes</b>	e.g. High-level sector, fiscal, development and social policies, constitutions and statements of national vision, include biodiversity considerations, and vice versa
	<b>Plan outcomes</b>	e.g. Inclusion of biodiversity-poverty linkages in development and poverty reduction strategies and in biodiversity strategies
	<b>Budget and accounting outcomes</b>	e.g. evidence of public-private sector resource mobilisation, inclusion of development-biodiversity linkages in national public and sector budgets; inclusion of ecosystem services in national accounting systems
	<b>Institutional and capacity outcomes</b>	e.g. strengthened capacity within biodiversity-related institutions to understand development and economic processes and interact in a constructive manner; valuation of the economic importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the economic outcomes undertaken and utilised in decision-making
	<b>Investment and economic outcomes</b>	e.g. improved domestic resource mobilization for poverty-biodiversity investments or recognition of potential trade-offs in sector investments such as mining
	<b>Behavioural outcomes</b>	e.g. key patterns and processes of production, consumption and waste treatment in sectors and localities are informed by biodiversity and poverty considerations
	<b>Pro-poor biodiversity management outcomes</b>	e.g. pro-poor management of ecosystem services, such as medicinal, cosmetic or edible plants; healthcare, wild foods, soil fertility; traditional breeds and crop varieties; water purification; cultural or religious benefits from biodiversity realised
↓ DOWNSTREAM	<b>Ultimate (biodiversity and developmental) impacts of these outcomes</b>	e.g. improved productivity and sustainability of use of biodiversity assets on which the poor depend; protection and management of targeted species populations

## Section 4: Next steps

Following a summing up of knowledge gained through a range of experiences, an ever more effective and sophisticated biodiversity mainstreaming approach will be put forward.

## Appendix

An appendix will summarise tools and resources available for biodiversity mainstreaming through a brief annotated list.

## NBSAPs 2.0 Outputs

The first output of the *NBSAPs 2.0* project was a *Biodiversity Mainstreaming Diagnostic Tool* which was launched at the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the CBD (COP11) and is available via the website <http://povertyandconservation.info/en/pages/pclg-nbsaps>. Following the publication of this *State of Knowledge Review* the project will also produce a set of *Biodiversity and Development Mainstreaming Guidelines*. In each case, the project has and will released products in draft through the project partners and the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group in order to get feedback from a wide audience of potential users. The products are also being road-tested through the countries participating in the project.

## Please send us your feedback!

IIED and UNEP-WCMC invite your views on this draft outline by the 3 January 2013. Will this report be useful to you? Does the proposed structure make sense? Are there any areas that are missing? Or any that should be in the planned guidelines rather than here? Please share any thoughts with

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Project implementers



Project partners



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