

Roundtable: “Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development”

Brussels, 28 October 2015

The roundtable was co-organised by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the European Commission and France, with the aim to examine the state-of-play and current challenges in relation to the biodiversity-poverty nexus and to discuss the SCBD's draft initiative on “Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development”.

Session 1: Opening of the Roundtable and Objectives of the Roundtable

Facilitation: Mr Arnold Jacques de Dixmude (European Commission, DG Development Cooperation)

Mr Stefan Leiner (European Commission, DG Environment) introduced the topic by recalling the international context (adoption of the 'Chennai Guidance for the integration of biodiversity and poverty eradication' at COP12, the decision to have 'Biodiversity Mainstreaming' as the main theme of COP13) and the importance of the issues at stake. He noted that mainstreaming is a two-way process; it is important to ensure not only that biodiversity considerations are integrated in other sectors, but also that biodiversity policy takes into account objectives from other policy areas. It is important to build on what has already been achieved, to keep different views and cultures in mind, to learn from good and bad practices alike, and to implement a holistic approach, taking into account impacts on water, air and soil and addressing the linkages to other Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), such as those related to health. Finally, one should take into account that situations differ around the globe and that a tailor-made approach is needed.

Mr Xavier Sticker (Ambassador for the Environment, France) stressed the importance of demonstrating in concrete terms the positive contribution of biodiversity to development and poverty eradication, in particular when advocating biodiversity protection in countries where addressing extreme poverty is the main concern. The SDGs provide a stepping stone for further action on biodiversity and development and it is important to use this momentum and take the agenda forward.

Ms Amy Fraenkel (SCBD) highlighted that political recognition of the biodiversity-poverty nexus has been growing, and not only in the CBD framework. The recently adopted SDGs are an example of this recognition; SDG 15.9 mirrors Aichi Target 2 in calling for the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem values into development planning not only at the national level, but also in local processes. Biodiversity also contributes to other SDGs, such as those related to water, health, cities, sustainable consumption and production. While there is broad consensus on the importance of mainstreaming, more remains to be done concerning the practical steps required to achieve it. Mainstreaming will be a key theme of the COP 13 negotiations in Mexico. The SCBD will work on three areas to ensure that COP 13 outcomes help achieving the Strategic Plan: COP decisions, the high-level segment (which this time will precede the COP), and voluntary commitments by governments,

Session 2: Experiences, challenges and opportunities in the Biodiversity-Poverty nexus

Facilitation: Mr Anne-Theo Seinen (European Commission, DG Environment)

Mainstreaming biodiversity, development and development cooperation: an overview of current issues, opportunities and challenges

Ms Naeda Crishna Morgado (OECD) outlined the OECD's work on mainstreaming biodiversity and development and highlighted the key challenges and opportunities involved. Several tools and approaches for mainstreaming exist; it is now important to focus on scaling up and increasing their effectiveness and diffusion. The two main challenges are weak governments (lack of institutional/technical capacity) and market failure (lack of recognition of biodiversity's value and/or lack of integration of this value). It is important to focus on reciprocal mainstreaming (ensuring that development objectives are also integrated in biodiversity strategies), to further develop the scientific and economic evidence base, to engage stakeholders in the mainstreaming process in order to ensure ownership, to reform harmful subsidies, and to recognise that mainstreaming is a long-term process, requiring sustained support for 10-15 years.

Ms Katia Karousakis (OECD) gave an overview of a joint OECD project between the Environment Directorate and Development Co-operation Directorate which addresses three themes: mainstreaming at national level, mainstreaming at sectoral level, and how to monitor and evaluate mainstreaming. The project will examine, *inter alia*, the integration of development and poverty alleviation in NBSAPs and the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in NDPs (and other strategies). The project will take a case-study approach and examine: policy frameworks and regulation to support mainstreaming; institutional and institutional capacity to support mainstreaming; the extent of biodiversity reflected in national budgetary systems; success and challenges encountered in mainstreaming. For each case-study country, the project will focus on one or two key sectors and examine the types of measures that are or could be put in place to ensure more conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

NBSAPs: A Tool for Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development

Ms Dilys Roe (IIED) presented the recently completed NBSAPs 2.0 project, whose aim was to help four African countries (Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles and Uganda) incorporate development priorities in their revised NBSAPs. The project focused on technical support and capacity building, peer-to-peer learning and support, consensus-building, and setting these countries as examples others could draw inspiration from. A second phase of the project – to be implemented between 2015 and 2017 – will focus on getting biodiversity priorities reflected in the national and sectoral development plans of eight countries: Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles, Uganda, Ghana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It will involve a series of national workshops as well as international capacity development workshops. The overall focus will be on lesson-learning and providing international guidance that can help inform other countries.

Promoting Investments in Natural Capital

Mr Bruce Dunn (Asian Development Bank) gave an overview of the ADB's work on natural capital and development and the ADB's perspective on the way forward. The ADB recognises the growing importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Its work in this area focuses on 5 key priorities: regional cooperation for large-scale ecosystems; natural capital valuation; partnerships and financial resource mobilization; strengthening biodiversity safeguards for investments; project-level investments and technical assistance. An example ~~pf~~of regional cooperation projects financed by the ADB is the Coral Triangle Initiative.

Session 3: Lessons learned from donor policies and strategies addressing the Biodiversity-Poverty nexus

Facilitation: Caroline Petersen (UNDP)

Combating wildlife trafficking, conserving biodiversity, reducing poverty: the EU approach

Mr Arnold Jacques de Dixmude (European Commission, DG Development Cooperation) presented the EU Biodiversity for Life (B4Life) Flagship Initiative and the strategy document 'Larger than Elephants'. The document identifies the main threats to wildlife in Sub-Saharan Africa and the most appropriate responses for the next 10 years. It is aimed at steering future EU action, but can also serve as a reference document for other donors. The report proposes a set of actions, such as the conservation of 80 key landscapes, promoting local development and livelihood improvement based on natural capital, promoting community involvement in the management of natural capital, institutional strengthening and law revision and enforcement at national level, tackling trafficking and demand for wildlife products at international level. Similar work is currently being undertaken for coastal and marine areas of Africa and foreseen for Latin America and Asia. There is scope for mobilising around EUR 1 billion for biodiversity actions from the various external funding instruments; the question is how best to mobilise these funds. The EU is considering the launch of an EU Trust Fund for Wildlife Conservation.

Mr Philippe Mayaux (European Commission, DG Development Cooperation) presented the state-of-play concerning the upcoming EU Action Plan on Wildlife Trafficking. The action Plan will be launched by the Commission in March 2016 and discussed in the relevant Council working groups (environment, development, justice, home affairs, external action), with the aim of adopting Council conclusions during the first half of 2016. The Action Plan focuses on three dimensions: promoting prevention (including addressing the root causes of poaching), strengthening enforcement and implementing existing rules, and building a strong global partnership among source, transit and market countries.

Biodiversity Conservation in German Development Cooperation

Ms Marianna Knirsch (German Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development - BMZ) presented Germany's experience with biodiversity mainstreaming. Biodiversity is a priority area as well as a cross-cutting issue in German Development Cooperation. The latest Elmau Progress Report of the G7 focuses on the contribution of biodiversity to human well-being, poverty eradication, food security and coping with climate change. Since 2013, Germany's international

financial flows for the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems worldwide amounts to EUR 500 million, which means a doubling compared to earlier years, in accordance with the collective commitment undertaken at the CBD COP11 in Hyderabad. The support of BMZ covers all goals of the Strategic Plan. In terms of mainstreaming, BMZ supports NBSAP development in several countries, the integration of ecosystem services in development planning, and capacity development at different levels. Germany is also at the forefront of the 2030 Agenda.

Ms Marianne Alker (Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit - GIZ) gave an overview of specific projects currently underway, such as support for NBSAP in Namibia, integration of ecosystem services in public investment programmes in Peru, TEEB-India, the KaZa Transfrontier Conservation Area, and a project promoting deforestation-free supply chains.

JICA's support to biodiversity for poverty eradication

Mr Kenichi Shishido (Japan International Cooperation Agency - JICA) presented JICA's experience with poverty eradication through ecosystem management. Two main approaches were outlined: supporting forest management as the basis for income generation (as applied, for example, in a project on forest management through certified shade coffee production in Ethiopia) and the use of PES to strengthen incentives for conservation and to improve the livelihood of local communities (as in the case of the Northwest watershed management project in Vietnam). Among the lessons learned from these projects, Kenichi Shishido highlighted that PES are an effective instrument, but few countries have the necessary legal framework in place, and that it is important to combine short- and long-term incentives in LDCs.

Mainstreaming Biodiversity in developing countries. The case of Belgium

Ms Marie-Lucie Susini (Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences) presented the legal framework and tools available for integrating biodiversity in development cooperation in Belgium, at both federal and regional level, and gave an overview of the programme Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development (CEBioS).

FFEM Biodiversity Preservation Strategy

Mr Dominique Richard (FFEM) introduced the FFEM and its new Strategic Programming Framework 2015-2018. Innovative financing of biodiversity by the FFEM covers four main areas: payments for ecosystem services, trust funds for biodiversity conservation, development of biodiversity-friendly markets (e.g. through certification), and registering offsetting of residual damage for biodiversity in the sequence "Prevent-Reduce-Offset". Two examples of projects were presented: PhytoTrade Africa, a trade association of the natural products industry, and the Small Initiatives Programme, which supports civil society on environmental issues in Central and Western Africa by enhancing the capacity building of NGOs.

AFD Biodiversity Cross-cutting Intervention Framework 2013-2016

Ms Karen Colin De Verdière (Agence Française pour le Développement) gave an overview of the AFD's strategy and activities regarding biodiversity conservation. Mainstreaming biodiversity into development policies is one of the three objectives of the AFD's Biodiversity Strategy. Activities

contributing to this objective include: strengthening the consideration given to biodiversity in projects and programmes supported by the AFD, facilitating private investments that improve biodiversity, and sharing the costs of biodiversity conservation between economic actors.

Session 4: Key future challenges associated with projects and programmes related to the Biodiversity-Poverty nexus

Integrating Pro-poor Development into Biodiversity Strategic Planning: Lessons from the UNEP-UNDP Poverty-Environment Initiative

Mr Ersin Esen (UNEP) outlined some of the lessons learnt from the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI), a joint UNEP-UNDP programme supporting country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national development planning in 24 countries. For example, in Lao PDR, PEI helped the government develop new guidelines for foreign investors to improve the quality of FDI. This involved conducting an Integrated Ecosystem Assessment to provide development scenarios for investments, build capacity, and ensure that biodiversity benefits and costs were fully included in decision-making. In Malawi, PEI carried out a study to quantify the costs and benefits of sustainable resource management. Wildlife was shown to contribute 2.7% of GDP. The economic analysis showed the links between investing in ecosystems and poverty alleviation, which led the government to rethink its policies and increase public spending on ecosystems and biodiversity.

The PEI has shown that: mainstreaming biodiversity is more challenging than mainstreaming climate change; it is useful to carry out Public Expenditure Reviews and develop guidelines on how to better include environmental sustainability in planning and finance; economic evidence is needed to get the attention of decision-makers; and it is important to ensure sustained post-assessment follow-up at country level, including engagement by key champions to communicate the results. Finally, there is a need to develop and present more positive examples of how biodiversity can create and sustain jobs and growth.

Mainstreaming Biodiversity – What does success look like?

Ms Sonia Pena Moreno (IUCN) presented the outcomes of a project led by IUCN and BirdLife International aimed at documenting successful practices concerning biodiversity mainstreaming. To identify success stories, the project focused on a number of criteria, including: whether a policy, plan or budget of a sector was influenced so as to incorporate biodiversity considerations; whether a change of behaviours or positions occurred to embrace biodiversity information and knowledge; whether the project increased capacity, knowledge and awareness; and whether it resulted in an improved status of biodiversity and human well-being. The goal is to document practices that have worked in order to inspire other stakeholders and incentivise further mainstreaming. The five selected case studies were showcased through fact sheets that document how mainstreaming occurred, what challenges were overcome and how. The case studies include: two projects in Colombia involving cattle ranchers and coffee growers, which integrated biodiversity conservation into agricultural production; the growing commitment by extractive industries to protect biodiversity in World Heritage Sites; the protection of grassland ecosystems in South America through various incentives for stakeholders (such as PES); Rio Tinto's partnership with

conservation NGOs to help prevent the extinction of vultures in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh after discovering the birds were ingesting a drug found in their prey; and the development of Switzerland's national position on sustainable development.

Biodiversity mainstreaming in national development plans and processes

Ms Caroline Petersen (UNDP) presented several examples of how biodiversity can be integrated into national development plans and processes. The examples show that: local scale development plans and processes can be effective, especially where interventions target marginalised beneficiaries; local achievements piloting anti-poverty biodiversity measures need to be scaled up through new national policies and finance mechanisms; public sector regulations, incentives and taxes can shift private sector investment decisions impacting on biodiversity and poverty.

Challenges in making biodiversity as the next generation investment for poverty eradication

Mr Anupan Joshi (The World Bank) presented the WB's activities in this area and the key challenges involved. The WB's work on biodiversity focuses on four areas: addressing policy failures; enhancing environmental governance and public sector capacity; building resilience through investing in natural infrastructure across landscapes; and generating financial flows. Specific projects and programmes include Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), technical assistance to forest investment programmes at the national and sub-national levels, Integrated Coastal Zone Management programmes. The WB fulfils multiple roles, such as securing land rights, improving biodiversity resources, helping in setting up new institutional arrangements such as conservation trust funds, leveraging funds, establishing multi-stakeholder partnerships, and piloting new approaches to landscape conservation.

Mainstreaming Natural Capital for Inclusive Green Economy: Lessons and Opportunities

Mr Ersin Esen (UNEP) presented the Project for Ecosystem Services (Proecoserv) carried out in Trinidad Tobago, Chile, Vietnam, South Africa and Lesotho and a project aimed at the integration of ecosystem services into sectoral and macroeconomic policies in Morocco and Kazakhstan. He also gave an overview of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) 6 and the opportunities it provides for mainstreaming.

Session 5: The CBD Secretariat initiative on “Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development” [2015-2018]

Facilitation: Ms.Katia Karousakis (OECD)

Mr Arnaud Comolet (SCBD) introduced the background and objectives of the initiative. The initiative aims to develop the new phase of work of the SCBD Initiative on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development (as requested by COP Decision XII.5) in order to support countries to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services in national poverty reduction and development strategies, policies and plans. The project will focus on areas that have not yet been addressed and on concrete actions to operationalize the integration of biodiversity into poverty and development

processes. It will prioritise innovative approaches (including economic instruments), focus on sustainability, and initiate work at regional as well as transboundary level. Finally, it will seek to evaluate the impacts of biodiversity mainstreaming.

The initiative foresees nine sequential tasks:

- 1) Assessment, consisting of: a desk-based review of tools and practices, mapping of who is doing what in relation to mainstreaming, a survey to gather information on the status of biodiversity mainstreaming at national level, and a comprehensive literature review of available policy tools and practices;
- 2) Country case studies, focusing on the results of mainstreaming. A new methodology will be developed for evaluating results;
- 3) Designing a CBD strategy for mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into national poverty eradication and development planning;
- 4) Engagement in relevant UN policy processes on the SDGs' implementation;
- 5) Design and preparation of guidance materials;
- 6) Organisation of an international workshop in order to get feedback on the guidance being elaborated;
- 7) Organization of regional meetings and workshops and initiation of regional programmes;
- 8) Testing the guidance materials through peer reviews and South-South cooperation;
- 9) Refining and disseminating the CBD strategy and guidance material.

The initiative will seek to build partnerships and enhance collaboration between Parties to the Convention, UN agencies and initiatives (UNDP, UNDG, UNEP, FAO, UNDESA, WHO, UNDP-UNEP PEI), international finance institutions (World Bank, AfDB, ADB, GEF), other IGOs (IUCN), NGOs (CI, WWF), and universities, national ministries, regional institutions and the business community. The SCBD will manage and execute the project in collaboration with partners willing to join the project. The preliminary budget amounts to US\$ 1,340,000 - 2,680,000.

The following questions and comments were raised by participants:

Following a question on the chronological order, the SCBD clarified that the tasks follow a logical sequence.

SCBD explained that the funding for all tasks was not yet ensured, but this might not necessarily prevent starting with some of them and each could be funded and implemented by different actors.

Germany noted that a desk-top assessment of what is being done and what is still needed would be very helpful, yet the subsequent steps should be adjusted according to the outcomes of this assessment.

Sweden stressed the need for a forum of dialogue that also includes the developing countries and the importance of avoiding duplication of efforts.

Denmark noted that the issue of resource mobilisation should be addressed and that more emphasis is needed on the role of the private sector. Regarding the monitoring of results, the project should align with existing indicators and those that will be developed within the SDGs process. Finally, the focus should be on implementation, rather than on developing new recommendations.

France proposed the concept paper could be reframed to answer three questions: how to build fruitful collaboration between partners already working in this field so as to achieve target 15.9 of the SDGs; how to stimulate involvement from the side of developing countries; and how will the initiative feed into the discussion of mainstreaming that will be the focus of the upcoming CBD COP. Reshaping along these lines would provide a more action-oriented document. The document should also set out a clear timeframe and link the various steps to the SDGs timeframe.

WWF suggested that the first step should be a needs assessment, in order to identify what the obstacles to implementation are. The SCBD should also make use of and contribute to the process initiated by the adoption of the SDGs. Developing a strategy by 2018 would risk "missing the boat".

UNEP stressed the importance of having a community of practice at international level. With regard to regional exchanges, one should also consider how such an exchange can be sustained after completion of the project. It is also important to involve other ministries in the project.

IUCN emphasised the need to demonstrate more clearly how the proposed tasks contribute to SDGs' implementation and how they connect with the CBD's work on other issues, such as resource mobilisation, ABS, and indicators. It is important to avoid duplication of work and the creation of a coordination mechanism would be useful. A needs assessment is very important and it is necessary to document more practical examples of successful mainstreaming. In terms of communication and dissemination, one should also focus on success stories, not only on the challenges and negative aspects.

UNEP-WCMC noted that the needs assessment should be a consultative process. There is a gap concerning indicators of mainstreaming success. It might also be useful to show which practices are not successful.

UNDP noted that numerous tools already exist and should be shared more systematically, e.g. through the NBSAP forum.

OECD suggested that the tasks be kept flexible and that synergies to other initiatives should be drawn. Coordination is key; it would be counter-productive for different donors to put forward similar but different positions at COP 13. It would be useful to share case studies and other work on a dedicated website.

Ms Amy Fraenkel (SCBD) thanked for the comments and said they would be taken into account in the further development of SCBD's work on biodiversity and development.

Arnold Jacques de Dixmude (European Commission, DG Development Cooperation) closed the meeting by highlighting the key messages raised in the discussion of the CBD initiative, namely: the need to ensure coordination/coherence between existing initiatives, to draw a clear link to the SDGs process, and to focus not only on providing new guidance, but also on implementation.