

Biodiversity Mainstreaming into Poverty Eradication and Development, example from Kiribati

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General presentation of Kiribati

Poverty (Hardship)

- Best defined as one's lack access to opportunities and hardship
- Poverty is not an openly discussed matter
- Resources allowing for subsistence production is becoming scarce

Biodiversity

- Terrestrial biodiversity is one of the poorest in the world with only 1 endemic species
- Relatively rich marine biodiversity
- Though 22% of Kiribati's terrestrial surface and 20% terrestrial waters are under protection, the biodiversity is still being lost at an alarming rate

Before realising the importance of mainstreaming

- The National Development Plan for Kiribati was developed in 1979 and is currently in its 8th series. Series 1-7 of this national plan failed to mainstream biodiversity as one of its priority areas hence there was no budget allocation for biodiversity directly-related activities.
- Biodiversity loss was not considered a deliverable to poverty
- Limited scope of responsibilities leading to limited access to and absence of data, and implementation burdens
- Limited cooperation and collaboration amongst relevant government sectors, NGOs, regional agencies and organizations and private businesses

What were the reasons for change?

- Aligning international and regional obligations with national priorities
- Recognizing the crucial role of biodiversity in [sustainable] development

How did the transition to biodiversity mainstreaming get put into place?

- Global and regional agreements and declarations (ie MDGs, CBD, the Pacific Plan, SPREP Strategic Action Plan 2006-2011 etc)
- NBSAP 2006-2011
- Kiribati Development Plan 2008-2011
- National Integrated Environment Policy 2012-2015

The main phases of implementation

- Identification of issues that contribute to biodiversity degradation
- Prioritization of these issues
- Consultation with all relevant government sectors, NGOs, private businesses and the general public
- Cabinet endorsement

Difficulties and obstacles

- Limited human, financial and institutional capacity
- Limited scientific and valuation data to support linkages of biodiversity to poverty alleviation
- Limited political will

The principle elements of the mainstreaming policy

- Sustainable Development
- Scaling up the efforts to biodiversity conservation and management
- Synergize capacities for implementation
- Promoting the use of Traditional Knowledge
- Hardship (Poverty) alleviation

Lessons learned

- The gap in national capacities needs to be addressed to enhance mainstreaming
- Biodiversity valuation is important to support the linkages between biodiversity and poverty
- Political will is important
- Network sharing amongst parties etc on lessons learned is important

Conclusions

