

The background of the slide is a photograph of a vast, green agricultural field, possibly a rice paddy, with rows of crops. In the far distance, a small white building with a blue roof is visible among some trees. The sky is overcast and grey.

# **Capacity Building for Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Poverty Reduction**

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*December 2011*

# 1. What is biodiversity for poverty reduction?

- CBD recognises that **poverty** reduction is key aim for developing countries and that conservation and sustainable use can contribute to this aim:
- “*Recognizing* that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries,
- *Aware* that conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity is of critical importance for meeting the food, health and other needs of the growing world population

## 2. What is mainstreaming biodiversity for poverty reduction?

- CBD Article 6: (b) **Integrate**, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.”
- Article 10: “**Integrate** consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making;”
- This “integration” into “relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies” is also known as **mainstreaming**.
- Problem is mainstreaming has not been happening enough and so **biodiversity has continued to decline**.

# 3. What is capacity development?

- **Capacity development** is the process through which individuals, organisations and societies obtain, strengthen and maintain their capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives over time.
- Components of capacity include skills, systems, structures, processes, values, resources and powers that together, confer a range of political, managerial and technical capabilities. (UNDP, 2011).
- Capacity development can occur at the level of the:
  - Individual,
  - Organisation and
  - Enabling environment - which refers to the policy, legal, regulatory, economic and social systems within which organisations and individuals operate (UNDP, 2011)



## 4. **How** can capacity development for mainstreaming biodiversity for poverty reduction be achieved?

- For a country to mainstream biodiversity for poverty reduction needs competent and *motivated individuals* working within *effective organisations*, operating in a *supportive enabling environment to achieve mainstreaming*.

## 5. For **supportive enabling framework** for mainstreaming biodiversity for poverty reduction requires capacity in

- Governance systems and incentives to promote mainstreaming.
- But limited in many countries where biodiversity is dealt with by separate Ministries excluded from the major national planning and budgeting decisions with limited mechanisms for coordinated, inter-agency collaboration.
- In addition, biodiversity conservation and use brings few votes or political opportunities compared to other economic and sectoral investments.

## 6. For **effective organisations**, mainstreaming biodiversity for poverty reduction requires capacity in:

- Organisational mandates and structures and management procedures to promote mainstreaming.
- But these are lacking in many countries where biodiversity is tackled in a projectised way with limited powers to coordinate across other Ministries to promote mainstreaming

## 7. For **individual capacity**, mainstreaming biodiversity for poverty reduction requires:

- knowledge and skills of the processes of ways to mainstream.
- But this is lacking in many countries where biodiversity is the domain of administrators and scientists with limited knowledge of economics, governance and the private sector and so with limited knowledge and skills to convince and advocate with economic and sector decision-makers





## 8. Topics for Discussion

- a. How have Politicians and major government departments (eg Finance, Transport, Agriculture) been **convinced** and acted to mainstream biodiversity for poverty reduction?
- b. What were the **capacities needed** in terms of enabling environment, organisations and individuals that made this happen?
- c. How where these **capacities achieved**?