Integrating biodiversity in poverty eradication policies

Good practices from Europe

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Outline

1. Within Europe
   - B&ES and livelihood of the poor: little evidence
   - Biodiversity/poverty in EU cohesion policy?
   - Biodiversity/poverty in EU biodiversity strategy?
   - (Valuation of ecosystem services: ex. in Sweden)

2. Outside Europe
   - B&ES and livelihood of the poor: largely documented
   - EU response: Biodiversity Strategy to 2020
   - EU response: Development Cooperation policy
1. Within Europe

GDP/capita*  
- < 50  
- 75-90  
- 100-125

*index EU27=100  
- 50-75  
- 90-100  
- > 125
Poverty in Europe

20% of the EU population (i.e. ~120 million people) is at risk of poverty or social exclusion
9% of all EU population live in severe material deprivation

No such evidence (as in developing countries) of interdependence between livelihood of the poor and biodiversity/ecosystem services

- European landscape is largely urbanised and artificialised.
- Most people in disadvantaged conditions live in major urban centres.
- Yet rural and geographically isolated areas and communities in some member-states undergo a high poverty risk → rural development policy
EU cohesion policy

Aims to reduce disparities between member-states and between regions
Contains significant poverty reduction/social inclusion dimension

Instruments:

- **European Social Fund – ESF**
  Invests in human resources, skills and knowledge, institutional capacity, social inclusion.

- **European Regional Development Fund – ERDF**
  Invests in health and social infrastructure, support to SMEs.

- **Cohesion Fund – CF**
  Invests in trans-European transport networks and in transport and energy sectors with environmental benefits.

*Europe 2020 Strategy: 20% of ESF to PR/SI*
EU cohesion policy: how to integrate biodiversity (IEEP research)

Looking for **multi-benefit investments** (soc.-econ.-env.):

- Improving environmental security through ecosystem restoration
- Promoting nature-based sustainable tourism, agriculture, fishery
- Role of green spaces in mental health and well-being, nature-based therapy and care
- Green spaces → natural noise control, natural cooling, reducing particulate pollution → public health
Poverty in Europe:

- Not that much affected by biodiversity loss
- Hardly any ref. to social cohesion in EUBS-2020
- Generalised social security systems in European countries have had a significant effect on reducing poverty, including mitigating the negative impacts of environmental degradation.
- Government insurance system exist to protect vulnerable populations from natural hazards.
- **However:** the viability of such safety nets is currently at risk of being undermined by the economic downturn, particularly in Southern Europe → increasing role of biodiversity in some regions?
Integrating biodiversity into development policies at Member-State Level

Sweden: Making the value of ecosystem visible.
2. Outside Europe

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/biodiversity-actions
Biodiversity is crucial to development

High dependency of the rural poor to the provision of services from natural capital

Source: TEEB for National Policy, Chapter 3 (N3)
The EU response (biodiversity policy)

- Active involvement under the CBD
  - (October 2010) **COP-10 in Nagoya:**
    - Agreement on a Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
    - 20 « Aichi » targets along 5 main goals
  - (October 2012) **COP-11 in Hyderabad:**
    - Commitment on doubling total biodiversity-related international finance resource flows to developing countries by 2015 / Maintaining it until 2020 / "Considering funds from a variety of sources".
The EU response (biodiversity policy)


→ **Target 6:** the EU to contribute to averting global biodiversity loss.

Action 17: Reduce indirect drivers of biodiversity loss

(--> A.T. 2, 3, 4)

Action 18: Mobilize additional resources for global biodiversity conservation (--> A.T. 20)

Action 19: Biodiversity-proof EU development cooperation

(--> A.T. 17)

Action 20: Regulate Access to genetic resources and ABS (--> A.T. 16)
The EU response (development cooperation policy)

(Oct. 2011) **Agenda for Change**

- 2 priorities:
  - Human rights, democracy and governance
    --> support to governance reforms that promote the sustainable and transparent management of natural resources.
  - Sustainable and inclusive growth for human development
    --> sustainable agriculture that includes the safeguarding of ecosystem services.

- Says:
  - « Development is not sustainable if it damages the environment, biodiversity or natural resources ». 
  - « EU dvpt policy should promote a green economy that can generate growth, create jobs and help reduce poverty by valuing and investing in natural capital, including through (...) and reducing unsustainable use of natural resources. »
The EU response (Development cooperation policy)

(March 2013) *A Decent Life for All – Post-2015: Ending poverty and giving the world a sustainable future.*

- Convergence of the development and sustainable development agendas

- Sustainable Development Goals to integrate the Millenium Development Goals in a single, comprehensive set of goals.

- Calls upon synergy and coherence with existing internationally agreed goals and targets (climate change, biodiversity, disaster reduction, social protection floors).
EuropeAid's approach

1) Saving habitats, protected areas and productive landscapes, including through capacity building.

2) Mainstreaming biodiversity in affine cooperation sectors: climate change, agriculture, forestry, marine resources.

3) "Biodiversity-proofing" dev.coop.: guidelines for mainstreaming in PCM, environmental screening, SEA/EIA.

4) Facilitating policy development on biodiversity
• Lessons from past experience: need to improve efficiency, have a coherent strategy, to have a better coordination between global, regional and local activities (less scattered activities), to strengthen more the link between biodiversity and poverty eradication.

→ new approaches for the new multilateral financial framework (2014-2020):

→ a new "flagship initiative": **EUBLI**
  *(European Union Biodiversity for Livelihood Initiative)*
END

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