



Convention on Biological Diversity

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EXPERT MEETING ON MAINSTREAMING
BIODIVERSITY IN DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION
Montreal, 13-15 May 2009

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. The important links between biodiversity, poverty reduction and development are reflected in numerous decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. They are also widely acknowledged within the work of the United Nations Millennium Project for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in liaison with poverty alleviation. However, efforts to link biodiversity to development are facing a number of obstacles, which include a lack of information at the international, regional and national levels, inability to mainstream effectively biodiversity within development strategies and processes, and for scaling-up good practices and lessons learned.

2. The ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Bonn, in May 2008, highlighted the integration of biodiversity considerations in the development cooperation activities. Of the 37 decisions adopted at that meeting, 20 note a direct reference to poverty alleviation and development. The crucial role of donors for achieving this objective is also highlighted:

(a) Decision IX/8 (Review of implementation of goals 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan) requests the Executive Secretary to invite all bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies to promote mainstreaming of the environment, including biodiversity, into development cooperation activities;

(b) Decision IX/11 B calls for the development of concrete activities and initiatives to achieve the goals of the strategy for resource mobilization in support of the achievement of the Convention's three objectives for the period 2008-2015. Goal 5, entitled "Mainstream biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services in development cooperation plans and priorities including the linkage between Convention's work programmes and Millennium Development Goals" invites Parties:

- 5.1 To integrate considerations on biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services into the priorities, strategies and programmes of multilateral and bilateral donor organizations, including sectoral and regional priorities, taking into account the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.
- 5.2 To integrate considerations on biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services in economic and development plans, strategies and budgets of developing country Parties.
- 5.3 To integrate effectively the three objectives of the Convention into the United Nations development system, as well as international financial institutions and development banks;

(c) Decision IX/15 (Follow-up to the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment) invites Parties and other Governments to make full use of the framework, experiences and findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment when they review, revise and implement their national biodiversity strategies and action plans, relevant development plans, and development cooperation strategies, as appropriate.

3. With respect to the above decisions adopted at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, and in the context of the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action, ^{1/} the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity ([Biodiversity for Development Unit](#), Implementation and Technical Support Division), is convening an expert meeting in Montreal, from 13 to 15 May 2009, to discuss how development agencies can better integrate biodiversity in their strategies, programmes and projects at their different levels of intervention. This expert meeting aims at discussing the necessary tools and concepts for the people in charge of environment/biodiversity mainstreaming in the above mentioned donor and implementing agencies. Approaches introduced and discussed during the workshop should allow the audience to develop or improve agencies' strategies to better internalize the goals of biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of biological resources into economic sectors and development models, policies, plans and programmes (PPP) at various institutional levels.

4. The meeting will be divided in three main sessions:

(a) An "update" session on what is biodiversity mainstreaming and how the concept can be applied in development activities and support through the use of innovative approaches such as (i) economic analysis; (ii) Strategic Environmental Assessments, and (iii) National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. The first section will also be dedicated to the complex question of how to measure successful outcomes in mainstreaming biodiversity through the use and development of relevant indicators;

(b) An "open dialogue" session with representatives from ministries of environment, planning and finance/budget of selected developing countries. This exchange aims to assess the actual barriers and constraints to Governments in integrating biodiversity in national production landscapes and how it is possible to move toward a systematic use of new approaches and existing tools in their development planning and poverty reduction strategies;

(c) A third session focusing on "developing principles for mainstreaming biodiversity in development cooperation" where participants share and agree on how biodiversity considerations could be more effectively taken into account at different strategic levels within their organization (from the agency's strategy and programmes planned out at the headquarters level to the projects designed at the national or local levels).

5. The final product of this workshop will be a set of common principles for biodiversity mainstreaming in development cooperation for bilateral and multilateral agencies to consider when designing strategies, programmes and projects as well as other suggestion to bring this agenda forward in respective agencies and meetings under the Convention on Biological Diversity. The results of the meeting discussions will be captured and published in a booklet form.

6. Experts participating in the meeting work in various multi-lateral and bilateral development cooperation agencies, development banks and relevant United Nations agencies. Resource people from developing countries and representatives from international organizations and research institutes with relevant experience on the theme of the workshop will also be participating.

7. Participants will register between 8.15 and 8.45 a.m. on Wednesday, 13 May 2009, at the offices of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as described in the information note for participants.

^{1/} A/63/539, annex.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING AND ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

8. The meeting will be opened at 8.45 a.m. by a representative of the Government of Canada. The Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will offer welcoming words to participants.

9. Under this item, participants will be invited to adopt the agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/EM-BD&DC/1/1/Add.1).

10. A list of documents for the meeting is annexed to the present document. The documents will also be posted on the Secretariat's website at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=EMMBDC-01>. The language of the meeting will be English.

ITEM 2. UPDATE SESSION

11. A general introduction on biodiversity mainstreaming will be provided by an expert in the field who will go over the latest approaches developed since the 2004 Cape Town workshop on "Mainstreaming biodiversity in production landscapes" organized by the Global Environment Facility. This presentation will examine the ways in which the concept has been used, the common elements revealed, its relevance and use in relation to the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the different scales at which it can be applied, the framework for the mainstreaming process and how to define successful outcomes.

12. The assessment of the economic contribution of biodiversity and ecosystem services has gained increased attention and interest in the recent past, in particular in the context of the release of the interim report on "the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity (TEEB)" at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. This work sponsored by the Government of Germany and the European Commission and has now entered its second phase. The analysis provides policy makers and development cooperation agencies with innovative tools for incorporating the true value of ecosystems services into their decisions. The presentation will evaluate the challenges of placing economic values on the benefits of ecosystems and biodiversity that are not currently captured, and consider vital issues of ethics and equity which need to be at the heart of such evaluation. The link between biodiversity and the output of ecosystem services, the valuation challenge including the costs of biodiversity loss and the costs of biodiversity conservation will be reviewed with respect to the TEEB proposed conceptual framework for the economics of biodiversity and ecosystem valuation. This presentation will be supported by concrete examples of quantification of ecosystem services in developing countries.

13. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) are tools widely used in development cooperation for decision-making at different stages of the process. While EIA is commonly applied at the project level in (ideally) taking into account inter-related environmental, socio-economic, cultural and human health impacts, SEA helps to formulate programmes, plans and policies (PPP) in integrating environmental considerations and in assessing their potential development effectiveness and sustainability. According to the Voluntary Guidelines on Biodiversity-Inclusive Impact Assessment under the Convention on Biological Diversity, SEA is fully consistent with the Ecosystem Approach and the concept of Ecosystem Services (as elaborated by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment) which focus on people-nature interactions and the role of stakeholders in identifying and valuing potential impacts on biodiversity. In this sense, SEA provides a means to 'translate' the language of biodiversity specialists into language commonly understood by decision makers. The systematic integration of Ecosystem Services through SEA in the formulation and the implementation of PPP is highlighted in the advisory note on SEA recently published by the OECD-DAC Network on environment and development cooperation.

14. A first exercise will invite participants to outline the institutional and financial constraints to biodiversity mainstreaming based on participants' daily work experiences within their respective agencies. This exercise will lead to a first set of recommendations to overcome obstacles.

15. The effectiveness of biodiversity mainstreaming can be either measured at the policy, programme or project levels. A wide range of indicators have been defined in relation to specific spatial, institutional and economic sector mainstreaming targets. To be effective, they need to be carefully considered in each specific development context and be consistent with those elaborated in the framework of MDGs and the 2010 biodiversity target. Under this item, the presentation will allow participants to define what type of targets and indicators can be tracked in implementing development activities to explicitly link the process indicators and the biodiversity outcomes.

16. National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) is considered a key instrument to implement the Convention at country level. Although more than 80 per cent of country Parties elaborated NBSAPs or equivalent instruments, their effectiveness in mainstreaming biodiversity in sectoral planning and cross-sectoral strategies remains weak. One of the reasons is the lack of consideration of NBSAPs by development cooperation agencies and country partners when designing the country strategic support frameworks. This contributes to reducing, at the national level, NBSAPs influence on the sectoral ministries and related policy and investment decisions and more importantly on overall country planning, finance and budget allocations. The Secretariat will provide the participants with an overview of the observations and results from a series of regional and subregional workshops organized in 2008 to strengthen capacity in development, update and implementation of NBSAPs and in mainstreaming biodiversity. During this session, participants will examine the way to effectively make use of NBSAPS in the context of development cooperation and project design and how it is possible to highlight the value of such strategies in the development cooperation agencies' daily work. Potential improvements to enhance the content and effectiveness of NBSAPs for biodiversity integration within development activities and processes will also be discussed.

ITEM 3. OPEN DIALOGUE WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

17. Four developing and least developed countries will share their experiences in integrating biodiversity into their National Development Planning and poverty alleviation strategies. In this same session, bilateral and multilateral development cooperation agencies will also be invited to share their approaches integrating biodiversity within the country frameworks and emerging lessons.

18. The afternoon session will start with an exercise involving active exchanges between countries and donors to identify best avenues of dialogue and cooperation to help integrate biodiversity and ecosystem benefits in development. Tools and means for such cooperation would be a first step towards the identification of the common principles for biodiversity mainstreaming at the national level. This will provide an open dialogue aiming at exploring the best means of cooperation between donor and countries to enhance the integration of NBSAPs and similar tools in Public Private Partnership (PPP) and National Development Planning.

ITEM 4. DEVELOPMENT OF PRINCIPLES

19. The environmental dimensions appear often as cross-cutting issues potentially diluted or secondary to other economic objectives. This however does not prevent donor agencies from internally highlighting the importance of environmental and biodiversity conservation through a specific set of internal requirements and procedures to the cooperation agency. Various biodiversity guidelines are already available in several agencies and can constitute a pre-condition to the selection/implementation of certain projects. This session will offer a better understanding of the visibility of biodiversity aspects within such procedures. Development cooperation agencies will be invited to share their tools and initiatives that help protect and promote the benefits of biodiversity in their broader strategies and programmes.

20. Mainstreaming biodiversity represents a proactive approach to maximising the positive impact of aid and international cooperation. This session will aim to explore and agree on a series of principles that can help to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem benefits in existing and future development strategies and programmes. The Secretariat will briefly present proposed draft principles to serve as a basis for further discussions.

21. Discussion groups will be formed and participants will be invited to work together on the development of common biodiversity mainstreaming principles to be adopted by development cooperation agencies.
22. The results of the discussion groups will be presented and refined collectively to lead to the main product of this three-day workshop. Participants will adopt a set of common principles and explore how to promote their application, and how to disseminate these principles among the development community.
23. This last session will be dedicated to identifying the next steps and opportunities to bring the outcomes of this meeting forward in view of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and the achievement of the MDGs.

ITEM 5. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

24. The meeting will be closed at 12.30 p.m. on Friday, 15 May 2009.
25. An optional visit to the Biodôme of Montreal is offered to participants from 2.30 to 4.30 p.m.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/EM&DC/1/1)

Annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/EM&DC/1/1/Add.1)

Information note to participants

Others documents

Biodiversity in Development Project: Strategic Approach for Integrating Biodiversity in Development Cooperation, IUCN, European Commission, DFID, 2001

<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2001-036-1.pdf>

Integrating biological diversity, SIDA Environment Policy Division, March 2004

<http://www.swedbio.com/dokument/Report%20on%20BD%20integration.pdf>

Mainstreaming biodiversity in production landscapes, GEF Working paper 20, November 2005:

<http://www.gefweb.org/Outreach/outreach-publications/documents/MainstreamingBiodiversity.pdf>

CBD Technical Series n°26: Voluntary guidelines on Biodiversity-Inclusive Impact Assessment, SCBD, Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment, 2006

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-26-en.pdf>

Applying Strategic Environmental Assessment: Good Practice Guidance for Development Co-operation; OECD, November 2006

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/4/21/37353858.pdf>

GEF-4 Tracking Tool for GEF Biodiversity Focal Area Strategic Objective Two: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors:

http://www.gefweb.org/uploadedFiles/Focal_Areas/Biodiversity/Biodiversity%20GEF_SO_2_Tracking_Tool-GEF-4.doc

Mainstreaming Biodiversity: Workshops on national biodiversity strategies and action plans, SCBD, 2008

<http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-brochure-nbsap-ws-en.pdf>

The economics of ecosystems and biodiversity, an interim report; European Communities, 2008

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/biodiversity/economics/pdf/teeb_report.pdf

Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Strategic Environmental Assessment. Lessons from Influential Cases; Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment, September 2008

<http://docs1.eia.nl/cms/valuation.pdf>

Advisory note on SEA and ecosystem services, OECD-DAC, October 2008

http://www.oecd.org/document/8/0,3343,en_2649_34421_42025864_1_1_1_1,00.html
