

The role of economic approaches in the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the NBSAP revision process

Markus Lehmann, CBD Secretariat

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The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

- Adopted by COP-10 in Nagoya, Japan, October 2010
- One of its five strategic goals is to “mainstream biodiversity across government and society”
- COP-10 urged Parties and other Governments to review, update and revise, as appropriate, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in line with this new Strategic Plan;
- UNU-IAS gap analysis of existing NBSAPs:
 - many existing NBSAPs do not adequately address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss;
 - they fail in the challenge of mainstreaming ecosystems and biodiversity into economic planning and sectors.

Targets 2 and 3 of the Strategic Plan

“By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.”

“By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio economic conditions.”

How to reflect those targets in NBSAPs?

Some options...

Target 2 and the NBSAP

Some general considerations:

- **Development/poverty reduction context**

The contribution of biodiversity to sustainable livelihoods and development opportunities is of particular concern

- **Focus on ecosystem services**

Bearing in mind that biodiversity underpins many important ecosystem services, it will be useful to focus on the values of ecosystem services, that is, their contribution to human well-being

- NB: values are not only economic!

Target 2 and the NBSAP: Options

General/awareness-raising:

- ✓ **Showcase key biodiversity values (e.g. ‘flagship’ ecosystems) at national or sub-national level, for example in the context of national studies.**
 - Rationale: pilot studies/assessments/inventories of significant ecosystems in a national context may go a long way to raise awareness of the values of biodiversity, including its economic importance.
 - Its results may also feed into the revision of plans or policies, such as national and local development and poverty reduction strategies, sector development plans, landscape level planning, as well as NAPAs and NAPs (see below).

Target 2 and the NBSAP: Options

Investment appraisal:

- ✓ **Integrate, as applicable, the application of environmental economic valuation tools into general guidelines for economic appraisal of decision-making (CBA, CEA);**
 - Rationale: The development of guidelines for biodiversity valuation is important whenever economic tools are used for policy, programme or project appraisal, especially when the investments or other actions that result may lead to damage to ecosystem services and associated biodiversity.
- ✓ **Integrate methods for valuing biodiversity and ecosystem services into guidelines for environmental impact assessment (EIA); strategic impact assessment (SIA); and spatial planning.**

Target 2 and the NBSAP: Options

Integration into reporting systems, policies, programmes:

- ✓ **Establish or strengthen cooperation with national statistical agencies, and explore opportunities to make biodiversity and ecosystem services more visible in sectoral accounts (water, forests, land);**
 - Rationale: SEEA 2003 guidance is already being implemented by several countries, in particular for water accounts, and opportunities may exist to strengthen biodiversity values in these as well as in other relevant sector accounts.
- ✓ **Use opportunities arising along policy cycles to integrate biodiversity values, and associated recommendations, into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies, sector development plans, landscape level planning, as well as NAPAs and NAPs.**

Target 2 and the NBSAP: Options

Capacity building:

- ✓ **Build capacity, both in the technical capacity required to undertake valuation, and in administrative and political capacity to interpret and apply valuation results.**

Target 3 and the NBSAP: Options

Addressing harmful incentives:

- ✓ Prioritized assessment and/or prioritized removal, phase out, or reform of any 'obvious' candidates for such activities, for instance policies and/or programmes which are suspected to be both environmentally harmful and cost-ineffective, or environmentally harmful and also socially inequitable.
- ✓ Undertake transparent assessments of programmes and policies to examine their effectiveness in relation to stated objectives, their efficiency, and their social and environmental impacts
- ✓ Develop, based on the assessments above, prioritized plans of action for removal, phase out or reform of incentives harmful for biodiversity by 2020
- ✓ NBSAPs could include: a timetable for the preparation of assessments, for the development of action plans, and for implementing priority activities for the removal, phase out, or reform of harmful incentives.

Target 3 and the NBSAP: Options

Promoting positive incentives:

- ✓ Assess existing positive incentives for biodiversity conservation and/or sustainable use in your country: effectiveness, distributional consequences, adverse effects etc. Identify any opportunities to broaden the measure.
- ✓ Develop criteria for identifying high potential or high priority for introducing positive incentives. Existing threats to biodiversity? (Economic) values of biodiversity? Social development concerns? Dissatisfaction with existing policy approaches (e.g., regulations that seem to be ineffective)? All of the above?
- ✓ Based on the above, identify critical gaps or opportunities to introduce new positive incentive measures.
- ✓ Consider good practices and lessons learned from elsewhere, for inspiration and emulation and/or adaptation as appropriate.

More information...

- TEEB reports and cases available through www.teeb.org
- Materials prepared under CBD, available under <http://www.cbd.int/incentives/tools.shtml>
 - Technical Series No. 28: assessment of valuation methods
 - Technical Series No. 56: Good practices and lessons learned on incentive measures
- CBD 'grey literature' database on valuation and incentives measures, under <http://www.cbd.int/incentives/case-studies.shtml>
 - Guidance manuals, handbooks
 - Case studies
 - (some) valuation studies

Towards translating targets 2 & 3 into NBSAPs

Group work

1. Which plans, policies or strategies are in particular need to incorporate values of biodiversity and ecosystem services? Are these upcoming for review soon? What could be important next steps in order to achieve this?
2. Incentives, including subsidies, with harmful effects on biodiversity: what could be priority candidates for elimination, phase out or reform?
3. Which areas or sectors have high potential, or should have high priority, for introducing or strengthening positive incentive measures for conservation and sustainable use?