

NBSAPs 2.0: MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY & DEVELOPMENT

Entebbe Statement on Biodiversity in Development Planning

AUGUST 2013

INTRODUCTION

From 8-12 July 2013 in Entebbe, Uganda, the African Leadership Group (ALG) on Biodiversity and Development Mainstreaming met with other professionals and practitioners from the biodiversity, environment and development sectors of seven African countries¹ and four international institutions², for the second international workshop of the NBSAPs 2.0 Project. The workshop addressed challenges and best practices for mainstreaming biodiversity and conservation into development processes, and for mobilising resources for the implementation of revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).



The ALG recalled

That the **Maun Statement on Biodiversity and Development Mainstreaming**³ highlighted the central contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development, and called for continued "biodiversity mainstreaming" as: the integration of biodiversity concerns into defined sectors and development aims, through a variety of approaches and mechanisms, so as to achieve combined biodiversity and development outcomes.

The ALG recognised

1. That biodiversity provides a myriad of unique benefits that are critical to socio-economic development, including:
 - a. Service delivery — delivering key ecosystem services through a green, cheaper and low-energy infrastructure (e.g. pollination; water provisioning).
 - b. Risk-reduction — including disaster and climate risk reduction in key sectors (e.g. providing a diverse resource base that offers alternatives if one food crop fails).
 - c. Direct financial value — through certain products and species that may be tradable (e.g. medicinal plants and animals; species attractive to tourists).
 - d. National economic diversification — through habitat, species and genetic diversity that present options and alternatives (e.g. in tourism and forestry).
 - e. Intrinsic and cultural value — related to identity, tradition, social cohesion, recreation and spirituality.
2. That such biodiversity benefits — meeting insurance, innovation and biological information needs — contribute to, but are distinct from, the benefits of the environment and natural resources in general.
3. That biodiversity therefore provides a non-substitutable foundation for national economic and social development, especially in the areas of food security, tourism, health, water and sanitation.
4. That mainstreaming biodiversity into key national development frameworks and processes, plans and programmes, can be an engine of green growth, which is a vital step toward sustainable development.
5. That development plans should therefore recognise the clear linkages between biodiversity, economic growth and poverty reduction, and directly address the synergies and trade-offs between them.
6. That biodiversity management should have appropriate budgetary allocations in national and local finance plans.
7. That resource mobilisation for biodiversity management is critical, and this should be reflected in national budgets and encouraged through policy and fiscal reforms (not simply through accessing Official Development Assistance (ODA)).



¹ Botswana, Liberia, Namibia, Seychelles, Uganda, South Africa, Zimbabwe

² IIED, UNEP-WCMC, UNDP, and the Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)

³ Available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic at: www.iied.org/nbsaps

PRINCIPLES FOR MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY INTO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS:

Key principles for mainstreaming biodiversity into national development processes and plans, shared by Entebbe workshop participants, include the following:

1. **Define biodiversity in functional terms** that are relevant to development goals.
2. **Articulate clearly the full range of biodiversity assets** that contribute to the development process, not only “wild” species but also ecosystems, genetic and agro-biodiversity.
3. **Avoid referring to “natural resources” as a proxy for biodiversity:** distinguish the values of biodiversity from those of natural resources in general.
4. **Assess the full value of biodiversity to socio-economic development** — including service delivery, insurance/risk-reduction, information content and input to critical cultural and social capital — both currently and its future potential.
5. **Be clear about the market potential of and threats** to biodiversity as a public good, and ensure adequate safeguards.
6. **Make trade-off analyses more transparent,** notably by providing clarity on the long-term economic value of biodiversity assets versus the short-term benefits of unsustainable consumption.
7. **Integrate biodiversity into mainstream change processes** that concern decision-makers, such as economic policy reforms, poverty reduction strategies, green economy plans, and especially (but not only) national and sector development plans.

Conclusion:

The participants concluded that biodiversity mainstreaming should be informed as much by development needs, potentials and conditions as by those of biodiversity, and should actively seek to achieve joint biodiversity and national development outcomes.



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WHAT IS THE NBSAPs 2.0 INITIATIVE?

NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development is a three-year project to build resilient and effective National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) that influence development decisions and improve outcomes for biodiversity and poverty. The project is implemented by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, UNEP, UNDP and the Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI).

Working with four African countries – Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles and Uganda – the project is encouraging leadership in biodiversity mainstreaming and highlighting the experience of these four focal countries to influence a whole new generation of NBSAPs.

Visit www.iied.org/nbsaps for the latest news and information on the NBSAPs 2.0 project.

NBSAPs 2.0 is funded through the UK Government's Darwin Initiative, which assists countries that are rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources implement their commitments under the international biodiversity conventions. It is also part funded by UKaid from the UK Government, however the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the UK Government.

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Project implementers



Project partners



Poverty Environment Initiative

Funders

