

PCLG Briefing

Biodiversity Conservation and Development Assistance: Highlights from CBD CoP10

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There is much debate about the role of development assistance agencies in supporting biodiversity conservation. Clearly, however, Parties that are signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity, (CBD) see a clear role. The new Strategic Plan for the period 2011–2020 puts reducing poverty at the heart of its rationale noting that biological diversity “is essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, including poverty reduction.” Thus the Mission of the strategic plan is “ to take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet’s variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication. “ Central to delivering the Strategic Plan is the Strategy for Resource Mobilisation, adopted at the 9th Conference of Parties (CoP) in 2008. CoP10 held in Nagoya last year, adopted 15 indicators for monitoring the implementation of the strategy. A number of these have specific implications for development assistance agencies including: ODA flows, GEF contributions, other financial support and technical support.

The CoP didn’t stop there though, but included a specific decision on the integration of biodiversity in poverty eradication and development (Decision X/6). This calls for the “active involvement and commitment of development cooperation agencies and implementing agencies in supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services into **poverty** eradication and development processes” It invites them to provide financial and technical support to developing countries.

The table below provides a brief summary of the CoP10 decisions that have implications for development assistance agencies. The full text of the decisions is available at <http://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-10>

Table: CBD CoP10: Decisions with relevance to development cooperation agencies

Decision	Content	Links to key interests of development agencies
X/1 Access to genetic resources and benefit sharing	Para 16. <i>Invites</i> Parties etc to “provide financial and technical assistance” to support implementation of the Nagoya Protocol	Financing
[<i>The Nagoya Protocol</i>]	Article 10 – raises possibility of establishment of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism for transboundary resources or where it is not possible to obtain PIC	Financing

	Article 25 notes that the GEF will also be the financial mechanism for the Protocol but suggests that “developed country Parties may also provide ... financial and other resources ...through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels.”	
X/2 Strategic Plan	<p>The decisions contains a number of requests including:</p> <p>Para 3 urges Parties etc to use revised NBSAPs for mainstreaming; and to support (through research, assessments etc) the new intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES)</p> <p>Para 7 invites Parties etc to use the TEEB findings to make the case for investing in biodiversity and ecosystem services</p> <p>Para 10 urges Parties, in particular developed country Parties, to “provide adequate, predictable and timely financial support to developing country Parties”</p> <p>Para 17 calls for collaboration with the CBD sec on TEEB follow up (including tools, capacity building, mainstreaming).</p>	<p>Environmental mainstreaming- at national level</p> <p>Research/science to policy</p> <p>Green accounting/green economy</p> <p>TEEB follow up</p>
[The Strategic Plan]	<p>The 2011-2020 Strategic Plan includes poverty reduction as a central part of its rationale and mission. It establishes 5 strategic goals and 20 headline targets for 2020 including:</p> <p>Target 2: 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.</p> <p>Target 15: ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration ... thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.</p> <p>Target 20: the mobilization of financial resources...should increase substantially from the current levels.</p>	<p>Mainstreaming</p> <p>Green economy</p> <p>Climate change</p> <p>Financing</p>
X/3 Strategy for resource mobilisation	<p>The strategy for resource mobilization was adopted at CoP9 and is the part of the CBD for which development assistance agencies are most directly responsible. Decision X/3 adopts 15 indicators for monitoring the implementation of the strategy. A number of these have specific implications for donor countries including: ODA flows, GEF contributions, other financial support, technical support, removal of perverse incentives; innovative financial mechanisms (see Annex for full list of indicators)</p>	<p>Financing</p> <p>Mainstreaming – at agency level</p>
[Strategy for Resource Mobilisation]	<p>The SRM includes the following goals of direct relevance to development cooperation agencies:</p> <p>2.3 “To strengthen capacity for integration of biodiversity issues and its associated ecosystem services into national and sectoral planning, and promote budgetary allocations...” [for the same]</p> <p>3.2 To strive to increase official development assistance associated with biological diversity where biodiversity is identified as a priority by developing country partners...</p>	<p>Financing</p>

	<p>4.5 To integrate biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services in the development of new and innovative sources of international development finance</p> <p>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...</p>	
X/6 Integration of biodiversity in poverty eradication and development	<p>This calls for the “active involvement and commitment of development cooperation agencies and implementing agencies in supporting the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services into poverty eradication and development processes” It invites them to provide financial and technical support to developing countries.</p> <p>It also requests the Exec Secretary to a) establish an Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development and convene a meeting; and b) document, promote and share knowledge on best practices in mainstreaming – including within development cooperation.</p>	Mainstreaming – at national level and at agency level
X/23 South-South Cooperation	This decision <i>welcomes</i> the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development, adopted by the Group of 77 and China and encourages support from donors and others for its further development	Financing, capacity building
X/25 Additional guidance to the financial mechanism	<i>This decision invites</i> developed country Parties, other Governments and donors, and the financial mechanism to provide financial and technical support to eligible countries to further develop approaches on the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development processes;	Mainstreaming
X/33 Biodiversity and climate change	This decision invites Parties to, <i>inter alia</i> , “integrate ecosystem-based approaches for adaptation into relevant strategies, including adaptation strategies and plans, national action plans to combat desertification, national biodiversity strategies and action plans, poverty reduction strategies, disaster risk reduction strategies and sustainable land management strategies.	Climate change adaptation

In addition to this body of decisions, CBD CoP10 included a High Level Forum on Biodiversity for Development Cooperation. This resulted in the ***Nagoya Declaration on Biodiversity in Development Cooperation*** (<http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/development/hlfbdc-01/official/hlfbdc-01-declaration-en.pdf>) which identified nine issues requiring specific attention:

1. Emphasize the main objective of promoting development approaches with least impact on biological resources and ecosystems services and with no irreversible damages, contributing to the three objectives of the CBD;

2. Promote economic policy tools that eradicate poverty, preserve biodiversity and catalyse sustainable ecosystem management, such as removal of perverse incentives, advances environment-related taxation and sustainable consumption patterns;
3. Improve decision-making related to ecosystem management through methodical use of environmental assessment tools, such as Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA), and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA);
4. Support regulatory and voluntary means to augmenting social and environmental responsibility of development agencies and their partners, in the design and implementation of sectoral development plans such as agriculture, water management, energy, infrastructures, industrial products, urban development, especially by enhancing the use of EIA and applying the objectives of avoiding, mitigating and offsetting negative impacts on biodiversity;
5. Promote investment in transparent and accountable governance frameworks for biodiversity and ecosystem services to build resilience for adaptation to impacts of climate change and for mitigation of climate change;
6. Support actions for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) and ensure the positive synergies of these actions with conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and transparent and effective national forest governance structures, while respecting the knowledge, rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and members of local communities;
7. Address the gender dimensions of biodiversity management by taking into account their different roles in management of ecosystem services and biodiversity resources;
8. Consider improving the accuracy of indicators for measuring contribution of development cooperation agencies to global biodiversity and ecosystem services as part of the use of Rio markers;
9. Enhance the continuous efforts to improve synergies and sharing of experience among development cooperation agencies to achieve optimum coherence between poverty eradication and conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

Many of these actions build on the “Priorities for Action” previously set out in the DAC Policy Statement on Integrating Biodiversity and Associated Ecosystem Services into Development Cooperation (www.oecd.org/dataoecd/37/52/46024461.pdf) which is specifically reference in the Nagoya Declaration.

Annex 1: Indicators of direct relevance to development assistance agencies within the CBD Strategy for Resource Mobilisation

- (1) Aggregated financial flows including (without double-counting):
 - (a) Official Development Assistance (ODA);
 - (e) International financial institutions;
 - (f) United Nations organizations, funds and programmes;
 - (g) Non-ODA public funding;
 - (h) South-South cooperation initiatives;
 - (i) Technical cooperation;
- (4) Amount of funding provided through the Global Environment Facility and allocated to biodiversity focal area;
- (5) Level of CBD and Parties' support to other financial institutions that promote replication and scaling-up of relevant successful financial mechanisms and instruments;
- (6) Number of international financing institutions, United Nations organizations, funds and programmes, and the development agencies that report to the Development Assistance Committee of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC), with biodiversity and associated ecosystem services as a cross-cutting policy;
- (7) Number of Parties that integrate considerations on biological diversity and its associated ecosystem services in development plans, strategies and budgets;
- (8) Number of South-South cooperation initiatives conducted by developing country Parties and those that may be supported by other Parties and relevant partners, as a complement to necessary North-South cooperation;
- (9) Amount and number of South-South and North-South technical cooperation and capacity-building initiatives that support biodiversity;
- (10) Number of global initiatives that heighten awareness on the need for resource mobilization for biodiversity;
- (11) Amount of financial resources from all sources from developed countries to developing countries to contribute to achieving the Convention's objectives;
- (12) Amount of financial resources from all sources from developed countries to developing countries towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;
- (13) Resources mobilized from the removal, reform or phase-out of incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity, which could be used for the promotion of positive incentives, including but not limited to innovative financial mechanisms, that are consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other international obligations, taking into account national social and economic conditions;
- (14) Number of initiatives, and respective amounts, supplementary to the financial mechanism established under Article 21, that engage Parties and relevant organizations in new and innovative financial mechanisms, which consider intrinsic values and all other values of biodiversity, in accordance with the objectives of the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of Their Utilization;

(15) Number of access and benefit-sharing initiatives and mechanisms, consistent with the Convention and, when in effect, with the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of the Benefits Arising out of Their Utilization, including awareness-raising, that enhance resource mobilization;

Annex 2: Additional decisions mentioning poverty reduction

Decision	Content
<i>X/10 National reporting</i>	<i>In preparation of their 5th National reports Parties are specifically asked to “Describe the impacts of declining biodiversity and ecosystems on human well-being, livelihoods, poverty reduction, etc”.</i>
<i>X/24 Guidance to the financial mechanism</i>	<i>This decision adopts a consolidated list of guidance to the financial mechanism, which includes a list of 24 programme priorities. Within these examples of eligible projects include those that integrate social dimensions, including those related to poverty; Capacity building for mainstreaming.</i>
<i>X/28 Inland waters biodiversity</i>	<i>This decision concludes that the CBD programme of work on inland waters could be improved by inter alia improved recognition of the relevance of inland water ecosystem services to human health, poverty reduction, sustainable development and climate change and urges support for its implementation along these lines</i>
<i>X/29 Marine and coastal biodiversity</i>	<i>This decision encourages further implementation of the Programme of Work on marine and coastal biodiversity including “ensuring that the establishment and management of marine and coastal protected areas aims to make a direct contribution, where appropriate, to poverty alleviation”</i>
<i>X31 Protected areas</i>	<i>This decision encourages parties to, inter alia. “Promote integration of the provisions of access and benefit-sharing...in the governance of protected areas and support initiatives on the role of protected areas in poverty alleviation as well as for indigenous and local community livelihoods.</i>

The **Poverty and Conservation Learning Group (PCLG)** is an initiative coordinated by IIED and funded by Arcus Foundation and IIED Framework donors: Danida (Denmark), Sida (Sweden), DGIS (the Netherlands), Norad (Norway), DFID (UK) and Irish Aid (Ireland). The goal of the Learning Group is to promote better understanding of the links between biodiversity conservation and poverty reduction in order to improve policy and practice.

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