

Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Policy and Planning

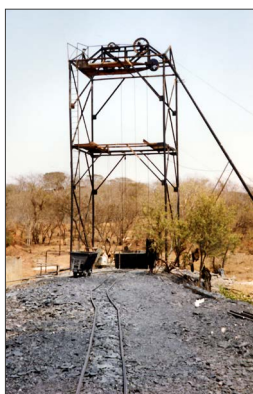
Harare Statement on using NBSAPs as a tool for mainstreaming biodiversity into national and sectoral development policies

November 2015

Introduction

In November 2015, representatives from the governments of Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe gathered in Harare, Zimbabwe, for the **international workshop of the Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Policy and Planning initiative**. This new initiative is working with the eight African countries to help them use their new National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to actively support national and/or sectoral development policy and plans so that they ensure more sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity and conserve it for the long term.

The **African Leadership Group (ALG)¹ on biodiversity mainstreaming**, formed under the preceding [NBSAP 2.0 Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development project](#) (2012-15), welcomes four new countries to the group: Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ghana and Malawi.



In agreeing this statement, the African Leadership Group:

Recalls previous statements²

- The '[Maun Statement](#) on biodiversity and development', agreed at the first workshop of the NBSAP 2.0 project in November 2012, which defined 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 '[Entebbe Statement](#) on biodiversity in development planning', agreed at the second workshop of the NBSAP 2.0 project in July 2013, which concluded that mainstreaming is achieved not solely by 'pushing' biodiversity into other plans and processes, but also by actively seeking dual, positive biodiversity and development outcomes.
- The '[Windhoek Statement](#) on achieving success in biodiversity mainstreaming', agreed at the third workshop of the NBSAP 2.0 project in July 2014, which recognised that successful biodiversity mainstreaming achieves a wide range of biodiversity, social and economic outcomes which are of great interest to sectors.

¹ The African Leadership Group (ALG) is a fluid body whose membership changes over time in reflection of individuals' changing roles. It includes government representatives (typically government staff who are leading the NBSAP revision and technical experts in mainstreaming) from the four NBSAPs 2.0 Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development project countries (Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles and Uganda). It also includes independent members from across Africa who offer relevant mainstreaming expertise and experience. The group's role is to offer support and leadership on different aspects of the link between biodiversity and poverty and on mainstreaming biodiversity. The ALG also now include representatives from new Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Policy and Planning initiative countries (Ghana, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

² The Maun and Entebbe Statements are available in in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. The Windhoek Statement is available in English, French and Spanish. See www.iied.org/statements-workshop-reports.

Recognises

- The dependence of countries on biodiversity and its importance in their sustainable development.
- The critical linkage between Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to guide the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Ongoing initiatives on biodiversity mainstreaming in international, national, sectoral and local development frameworks and processes.
- The contributions made so far by decision makers and other stakeholders in support of biodiversity mainstreaming, as well as current gaps, challenges, and the need to build and maintain effective partnerships and networks.
- The importance of identifying timely entry points for biodiversity mainstreaming.
- The importance of a strategic approach to engagement and effective communication tools in mobilising stakeholders to contribute to biodiversity mainstreaming.
- The importance of spatial data and mapping in biodiversity mainstreaming and the barriers to their use.
- The urgent need to mobilise financial resources to implement NBSAPs.

Recommends

1. Identification of existing local, national and international policy, planning and budgeting processes which can act as entry points for biodiversity mainstreaming.
2. Mapping out key activities and deliverables in line with planning and budgeting cycles to maximise biodiversity mainstreaming impacts.
3. Compiling and packaging economic evidence to demonstrate the cost of unsustainable use and

benefits from sustainable use of biodiversity and its conservation as well as showing the relevance of the economic evidence to the national policy agenda, particularly development priorities and political-economy issues.

4. Development and promotion of a mainstreaming monitoring and evaluation framework with clear targets and indicators to guide effective biodiversity mainstreaming.
5. Increased reciprocal mainstreaming between biodiversity and development sectors, to produce a virtuous circle of increased productivity and sustainability.
6. Development of effective communication strategies, which use evidence of the values and benefits of biodiversity to engage key groups of stakeholders who are either affected by or can influence biodiversity outcomes – the evidence needs to be heard, understood and acted upon by key decision makers.
7. Exchange of expertise and information on spatial planning across departments within and between countries.
8. Analysing public expenditure information to track environment and biodiversity expenditure and assess its effectiveness.
9. Effective and urgent communication of NBSAP priorities to development practitioners, so that they can be mainstreamed into the national implementation plans for the SDGs and into other national development strategies and plans.
10. Further strengthening and consolidation of the ALG and other mainstreaming initiatives to build capacity in biodiversity mainstreaming.
11. Identifying and empowering 'Champions' to advocate and lobby for biodiversity mainstreaming (eg senior government officials, civil society, private sector, youth, etc).



List of signatories

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Mr Khulekani Mpfu	Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, Botswana
Mr Onkemetse Joseph	Kalahari Conservation Society, Botswana
Mr Eric Okoree	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana
Mr Felix Addo-Yobo	National Development Planning Commission, Ghana
Mrs Diana Mensah	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ghana
Mr John Mawenda	Environmental Affairs Department, Malawi
Ms Charity Mphatso Gambatula	Department of Economic Planning and Development, Malawi
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Mrs Natalia Hamunyela	Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia
Ms Natalia Heita	Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia
Mr Denis Matatiken	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Seychelles
Mr Herve Barois	Consultant, Seychelles
Mr Patrick Course	Ministry of Finance Trade & the Blue Economy, Seychelles
Mr Aaron Werikhe	National Planning Authority, Uganda
Mr Ronald Kaggwa	National Environment Management Authority, Uganda
Mr Ephraim Shitima	Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Zambia
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The Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Policy and Planning initiative brings together the work of two projects: (i) NBSAPs 2.0: Policy to Practice and (ii) Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development. The initiative is coordinated by IIED and UNEP-WCMC and draws on a wealth of outputs from the lifetime of the previous NBSAP 2.0 Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development project.

Visit our website: www.iied.org/nbsaps

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Project coordinators



Funders

