

ZIMBABWE NATIONAL WORKSHOP REPORT

1. Method / approach to the country diagnostics

Implementation of the *Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Policy and Planning Initiative* (Initiative) will be led by the National Biodiversity Forum (NBF). The NBF is a voluntary group of biodiversity experts from various stakeholder groups that include other government ministries, NGOs, business, academia and local community representatives who provide technical backstopping to the Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate (MEWC). The NBF has been involved in various biodiversity activities which include the production of the first NBSAP in 1998 and the revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2020 (NBSAP2). The Forum therefore represents the best diverse institutional memory on biodiversity issues in the country and is best placed and equipped to implement the Initiative.

The NBF did not have active representation from the development sector in its formative stages because its initial focus was on biodiversity conservation. To effectively contribute to the Initiative, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Ministry of Macro Economic Planning and Investment Promotion were identified as key development sector stakeholders to be invited to join the NBF. The Ministry of Macro Economic Planning and Investment Promotion therefore participated in two NBF workshops under the Initiative.

Under the Initiative, three workshops were held to complete the country diagnostic process and come up with the national workplan for the Initiative as summarised below:

Workshop	Objectives	Outputs/remarks
5 November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To introduce the InitiativeTo have an understanding of the diagnostic guideTo apply the guide and be able to identify key development processesTo prioritise and select at least one key development process/focal area/sector issue to engageEvaluate the effectiveness of the toolTo prepare for the First International Workshop for the Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Policy and Planning Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Diagnostic tool was well acceptedPreliminary entry points were identified (the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (Zim Asset) , Legislative Review and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)Prepared the National presentation for the First International Workshop of the Initiative held in Harare, Zimbabwe
20 January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Provide feedback on the International WorkshopConfirm the development focus for the InitiativePrepare the national implementation plan for the Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Zimbabwe is among many countries that have embarked on the process of SDGs domestication and will soon start to assess how to domesticate the SDGs targets in the national development

		<p>and poverty reduction strategies such as Zim Asset. As a result, the SDGs domestication process was confirmed as the key development process to engage for biodiversity mainstreaming.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft national implementation plan developed
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10 March 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the national report and Statement of Intent • Skype call with Help Desk focal point for Zimbabwe • Finalise action plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised national report • Revised Statement of Intent • Action plan adopted
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2. Results of the diagnostic exercise

Development planning landscape

Zimbabwe heavily relies on the exploitation of its natural resources including biodiversity and ecosystem services. Hence any development process should take careful consideration of how natural resources are managed for their continued existence and support of human livelihoods.

A. The development-biodiversity link is evident in the following sectors that depend on biodiversity mainly for livelihoods and income:

- Agriculture, forestry and fisheries [food security]
- Tourism and hunting [income]
- Health [research, traditional medicine]
- Energy [biogas, wood fuel]
- Retail and Manufacturing Industry [raw materials]
- Construction [timber, quarrying, sand extraction, real estate]
- Education [research]

NB: sectors such as mining and transport impact negatively on biodiversity

B. The following core development processes relevant to biodiversity in the country were identified:

- Zim Asset – current National Development Plan (NDP).
- National Environment Policy – gives overall guidance to, and framework for biodiversity management.
- NBSAP2 – Zimbabwe’s revised NBSAP provide an action plan for managing biodiversity.
- Climate Change Response Strategy - outlines available adaptation and mitigation options (e.g. REDD+).
- Re-aligning of legislation to the new constitution - offers opportunity to mainstream biodiversity.

- Biosafety Strategic Plan – action plan for managing biodiversity.
- Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) - CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, Ramsar, CMS, CITES
- SDGs - Goal 15 “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss” and related targets

C. Opportunity to engage or mainstream biodiversity exists in the process of SDG domestication and realignment of legislation to the new constitution. There is also a possibility to influence mainstreaming of biodiversity in the implementation of Zim Asset – by demonstrating how the conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity can contribute to the – directly and indirectly –to the achievement of Zim Asset objectives.

Development debate concerning biodiversity.

The roles of different biodiversity stakeholders include:

Role/Values	Stakeholders
Advocacy & Awareness	Community Based Organisations, National Biotechnology Authority, Environment Africa, Friends of the Environment, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Community Water Alliance
Education	Birdlife Zimbabwe, Forestry Commission, Tertiary Institutions, Mukuvisi Woodlands, Wildlife and Environment Zimbabwe, Environment Africa
Conservation	Birdlife Zimbabwe, Mukuvisi Woodlands, Forestry Commission, Environment Management Agency, Wildlife and Environment Zimbabwe, National Parks, Friends of the Environment, National Herbarium, UNESCO Man & Biosphere, WWF, Community Based Organisations, National Biotechnology Authority
Management	Forestry Commission, National Parks, Environment Management Agency (EMA)
Assessment	National Herbarium, WWF
Research	Birdlife Zimbabwe, Forestry Commission, Wildlife and Environment Zimbabwe, WWF, Tertiary Institutions, Environment Management Agency
Policy	National Parks, Forestry Commission, Environment Management Agency

Progressive ‘policy space’ for mainstreaming biodiversity:

Currently multi-sector stakeholder groups such as the NBF, national biosafety framework and Climate Change Forum are used for discussing biodiversity-development links. The stakeholder consultations on the domestication of SDGs to begin in 2016 present an opportunity for biodiversity mainstreaming.

Challenging ‘policy space’ that could threaten biodiversity:

The economic development versus environment debate, if not well understood, could lead to potentially harmful decisions for biodiversity. The debate by itself is not necessarily harmful. The debate is essential and very helpful towards the conservation of biodiversity. What is harmful for biodiversity is a lack of appreciation of its economic value. The economic contribution of, for example, mining and agriculture is easy to recognise and therefore, is given more prominence than that of biodiversity whose monetary value is yet to be fully ascertained. There is need to present a clear and compelling business case for biodiversity. The case studies presented in the NBSAP2 on the economic valuation of protected areas (Madzara, 2013) and monetary value of commercial Use of Ecosystems (Gotora, 2013) can go a long way in demonstrating the value of biodiversity to the country's economy. These values could be repackaged and used as communication tool to demonstrate the economic contribution of biodiversity to Zimbabwe's strategic national development priorities including those articulated in Zim Asset.

Public commentary on biodiversity in development:

There has been a marked increase in general commentary on biodiversity by the media and civil society. Coverage of biodiversity related issues such as poaching, pollution, climate change, land use change, veld fires and general biodiversity loss, has increased with the media highlighting the link between poverty alleviation and biodiversity use. The use of social media has also made it easier to disseminate biodiversity information. NGOs and civil society have made considerable use of social media to raise biodiversity awareness and advocacy.

Development implementation and financing affecting biodiversity.

Business models and development control processes:

The Mining, Agriculture and Energy sectors have routinely failed to incorporate biosafety and biodiversity interests in their planning and activities. Local authorities also stand accused of not adequately incorporating/integrating biodiversity in development initiatives. The business sector could invest in biodiversity conservation and management through their social responsibility programmes. In the development of NBSAP2, both local authorities and the business sector were involved and it is anticipated that they will mainstream biodiversity in their development and/or business plans.

Government expenditure:

Central government currently invests in in-situ and ex-situ conservation and research through fiscal support to government entities such as National Parks, Forestry Commission, Botanic Gardens and Environmental Management Agency. The NBSAP2 notes that the allocation for biodiversity is inadequate and more resources should be allocated directly for biodiversity

Fiscal policy and procedures:

Government revenue from Tourism and Forestry (parks entry fees, hunting fees, forestry product fees) is directly dependent on the status of biodiversity. There is also a great opportunity to tap into the carbon market. The Polluter Pays Principle, judicial penalties/fines are used to manage biodiversity although these are not deterrent enough (in terms of amounts and levels of payments) and not effectively enforced.

Investment in biodiversity, foreign and domestic:

Significant investment in biodiversity is evidenced by the government's commitment to Transfrontier Conservation Areas, anti-poaching activities, reforestation programmes and establishment of biospheres. The private sector, NGOs, local communities and CBOs also play a major role.

The stakeholders supporting or blocking effective biodiversity-development links, and their capacities.

Protagonists supporting positive biodiversity-development links:

- The President – on re-afforestation and wildlife
- Kirsty Coventry- Pangolin Ambassador
- Oliver Mtukudzi- Tourism Ambassador
- Derek Mpofu- Green Ambassador
- Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA)
- Financial services sector – Banks
- Friends of the Environment
- Birdlife- Birds
- WEZ- Wildlife
- Mukuvisi Woodlands
- Cosmo – Wetlands
- Forestry Commission
- IUCN – general conservation of biodiversity, monitoring , and implementation of SDGs
- WWF- assessments of wild populations and distribution of flora and fauna
- National Biotechnology Authority
- Tertiary and Research Institutions
- National Herbarium and Botanic Garden-Conservation, Biodiversity Assessments and Ecology

Antagonists:

- Local Authorities and land developers- e.g. on wetlands
- Mining companies
- Poor rural and urban communities agricultural activities in wetlands and hill/mountain slopes
- Commercial and subsistence poachers (Poaching Syndicates)

Effective bridges linking biodiversity and development interests:

- Business Council for Sustainable Development (business and environment)
- Wetlands Survival Forum (wetlands and development)
- NBF
- National, regional and international NGOs on conservation and sustainable biodiversity development

Stakeholder capacities to mainstream biodiversity and development:

Biodiversity and development institutions do exist but they lack the capacity (financial, equipment, human resources, and effective communication strategies for biodiversity awareness) to drive effective mainstreaming.

3. The mainstreaming target

Zimbabwe is among many countries worldwide that have embarked on the process of SDGs domestication. The NBF identified the domestication of SDGs as the key development process for mainstreaming biodiversity. The country has just begun to assess how to domesticate the SDGs targets in the national development and poverty reduction strategies such as Zim Asset. The SDGs domestication process therefore presents an opportune entry point for mainstreaming biodiversity. SDGs will be

implemented through existing Zim Asset structures/institutions thus enabling a greater biodiversity mainstreaming impact. It is anticipated that that the SDGs domestication process in Zimbabwe goes beyond the assessment of whether the SDGs targets are reflected in the national development strategies but involves also their integration in the sense of implementation towards reaching the 2030 development goals. The NBF acknowledges it does not have control on the timing of the SDG process and since the Initiative is running until 2017, there might not be enough time to see the mainstreaming results in the SDGs process. However, the expected outputs from the Initiative such as the adoption of the Statement of Intent, the elevation of SDG goal 15 among the national priority SDGs and the inclusion of NBF members into the SDG roll out programme can be considered as major milestones in mainstreaming biodiversity into the national development process. The following table explains why the SDGs process was chosen as the engagement point and also illustrates expected outputs and outcomes:

<i>What is the target</i>	SDGs domestication process
<i>Why has it been chosen?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDGs are a global process aimed at reducing poverty, growing economies and sustainably managing the environment and natural resources. • The process to domesticate SDGs is just beginning and this offers a great opportunity to mainstream biodiversity in how the process will be implemented • The impact of climate change is starting to be felt in the country and this presents an opportunity for biodiversity to be mainstreamed in light of the huge part that biodiversity plays in mitigating the effects of climate change, resilience and ultimately in the reduction of poverty.
<i>What is the base line information for the chosen policy or sector so we can compare the impact of the project at the end of it?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior to the project, development sectors where not active members of the NBF • The MDGs domestication process, a precursor to SDGs, didn't not priorities biodiversity
<i>What is its current focus on biodiversity?</i>	The SDG domestication process is a new process altogether. SDGs are a follow on from MDGs and since the national MDG process did not prioritise biodiversity, the NBF anticipates that biodiversity will be mainstreamed in the SDG process.
<i>What improvement are you seeking?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in language used in reporting • Increase in understanding/awareness through the planning process • Improved budgetary allocation • Prioritisation of SDG 15 and its targets
<i>Expected Outputs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of Goal 15 in the national priority SDG goals • Elevation of Goal 15 into a cross-cutting issue • Submission of the statement of Intent to the Ministry of Macro Economic Planning & Investment Promotion
<i>Expected Outcome</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of Goal 15 principles in the implementation of all other SDGs • Active participation of the development sector players (e.g. Ministry of Macro Economic Planning & Investment Promotion) in the NBF and implementation of the NBSAP2.

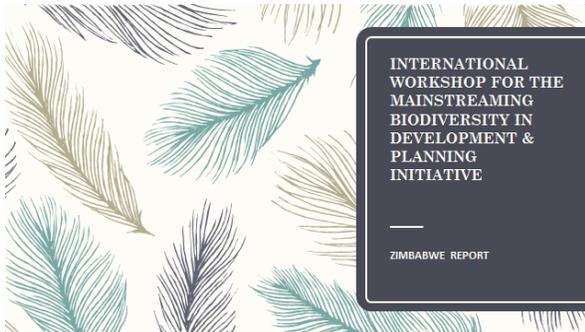
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4. The mainstreaming plan

Activity	Who	When	Indicator(s)/ Means of Verification
Draw up a Statement of Intent advocating for the use of mainstreaming of biodiversity into national development processes to the Ministry of Macro Economic Planning and Investment Promotion	Nondo, Chiwara, Chimanikire, MEWC, Mufandaedza	By 27 February 2016	Statement of Intent
Each SDG committee to have an NBF member	NBF members	When SDG Thematic Groups are constituted	Inclusion in SDG committees
3 Stakeholder group meetings (policy makers, industrialists and Parliamentarians)	NBF members	Industrialists - May 2016 Parliamentarians – July 2016 Policy makers – November 2016	Number of attendees
An NBF member to be part of the SDG roll-out coordinating/facilitation team	NBF members	As when the meetings are held	Report
NBF members to participate in the Parliamentarians Workshop on SDGs	NBF members	When the meeting is held	Report
Review Objectives meeting	NBF members	February 2017	Report

Appendix 1:

Zimbabwe Presentation at the First International Workshop for the Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Policy and Planning Initiative 17-19 November 2015



Status of the NBSAP

- Has been prepared
- Has been approved
- About to be launched – November 2015
- Early tentative steps towards mainstreaming being explored
- Contentions and Constraints
 - Inadequate funding from central treasury
 - Ineffective implementation of policies and policing
 - Lack of awareness, disinterest & change in values by the general public
 - Distortions in equity
 - Lack of capacity to drive effective mainstreaming

The development ‘landscape’ seen through biodiversity ‘binoculars’

Sector / POLICY	Biodiversity Dependence	Potential	Vulnerability	Biodiversity Streamlining
Agriculture	High	High	High (pests, CC, IES, Fires, HWC)	None/Low
Tourism	High	High	High (poaching, IES, Habitat degr, Fires)	None/Low
Health	Low	High	Low	None
Mining	Low	Low	Low	None
Energy	Low	Moderate	Low	None
Manufacturing	High	High	High	None
Construction	Moderate/High	High	Moderate (deforestation, fires)	None
Retail	Moderate/High	High	High	None
Education/Research	Low	Moderate	Low	None
Domestic/household	Moderate/High	High	High	None
ZIMASSET				None (mentions some threats)
Zimbabwe Environmental Policy				Mentions mitigation measures

Appendix 2

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