

# Third International Workshop

23-25 July 2014  
Okahandja, Namibia

Workshop Report

# NBSAPs 2.0

Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



Poverty Environment Initiative

## Author information

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## About the event

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'NBSAPs 2.0 Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development' is a three-year project coordinated by IIED and UNEP-WCMC to build resilient and effective national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). These aim to influence development decisions and improve outcomes for biodiversity and poverty.

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# Executive summary

This report presents proceedings from the third annual workshop of the NBSAPs 2.0 Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development Project,<sup>1</sup> held in Okahandja, Namibia, 23 – 25 July 2014. Attended by 34 professionals and practitioners from African countries and international institutions working in the environment, finance, social and development sectors, the main objectives were to:

- Share experiences on biodiversity mainstreaming and integrating development issues into revised NBSAPs.
- Define what success looks like for biodiversity and development mainstreaming.
- Share experiences, ideas and approaches for addressing some of the key implementation challenges identified by participant countries.
- Using participants mainstreaming experience, draw out best practice to inform the further development of the project's mainstreaming guidance.

## Key biodiversity and development mainstreaming lessons from the revision of NBSAPs

NBSAP revision status updates were shared by participating countries and all agreed that the revision process has been an important first step in biodiversity and development mainstreaming. The lessons learned to date are:

- The revision process should involve stakeholders from key economic sectors, ministries of finance, local and national planners, the private sector and local communities. Creating cross sector groups to oversee the development and implementation of the NBSAP is seen as essential to ensuring ownership and implementation.
- To assist implementation, NBSAP targets should be integrated into National Development Plans (NDPs) and relevant sector policies and plans. This requires those responsible for NBSAPs to have a good understanding of government planning cycles and national budget allocation processes.
- Nurturing biodiversity mainstreaming champions in influential ministries (such as finance and development planning) can help with the integration into NDPs and sector policies.
- Communications have a central role to play in biodiversity mainstreaming. To be effective, communications (whether written, verbal or visual) need to be concise, tailored and resonate with the interests of target audiences. For example, when engaging key decision makers in influential ministries, NBSAP objectives need to be communicated in a way that shows how investing in biodiversity and ecosystem services will lead to a reduction in expenditure on poverty reduction, disaster relief etc.
- Economic valuation of biodiversity assets and ecosystem services has proved a useful tool for engaging ministries of finance and planning. However, other benefits of biodiversity (recreational, emotional, wellbeing and spiritual) beyond economic value, should also be considered in decision making.
- Making the case for investing in biodiversity requires a strong evidence base, providing information that is relevant and accessible to decision makers. Investing in data collection and collation underpins this.
- Recognise that decision making is a political process: begin to engage with politicians.
- Ensuring long term commitment to and implementation of NBSAP objectives needs the building of institutional capacity in key government departments to understand and address biodiversity issues. Training is one approach to address this. Successful approaches have ranged from formal training,

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<sup>1</sup> The NBSAPs 2.0 project is supporting four African Countries (Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles and Uganda) to build resilient and effective national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). These aim to influence development decisions and improve outcomes for biodiversity and poverty.

to exposing staff and stakeholders directly to biodiversity and development issues. It is important to focus on building the capacity of individuals as well as institutions.

- Time and resources are needed to establish co-ordination mechanisms and create synergies between Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs). Establishing an institution to oversee implementation of MEAs can enable greater synergy and collaboration and reduce overlap in implementation and reporting. It can also open up opportunities for funding (since donors prefer to support projects that address multiple conventions).

### **Defining and measuring biodiversity and development mainstreaming success**

Defining mainstreaming success (and developing relevant indicators) requires an understanding of what success looks like from different perspectives - economic, social and biodiversity - not just a biodiversity perspective. Consequently, involvement and investment in biodiversity conservation should no longer be the responsibility of just one sector, but many (e.g. key economic sectors, finance, national/local planning, private sector and general public).

Measuring mainstreaming success requires moving away from monitoring outputs only, to using approaches that can monitor the effectiveness of the process of mainstreaming and resulting outcomes and impacts. It takes several years to demonstrate the tangible impacts of mainstreaming, so monitoring will be a long-term process.

### **Meeting implementation challenges**

As countries move into the implementation phase and seek to integrate NBSAP targets into NDPs and sector plans and policies, there are a new set of challenges and issues that need to be addressed. Participants highlighted the following, which were discussed in more detail:

- Communications, cross sector coordination and building capacity to understand and address biodiversity issues (outside of the environment sector) are key implementation challenges and need to be acted on with significant investment during the implementation phase.
- Funding sources for NBSAP implementation need to be diversified, with a shift to funding coming from across all relevant ministries, rather than from Ministries of Environment alone.
- Donor funds for biodiversity mainstreaming can be made more effective through better alignment between donor and country priorities (using the NBSAP to set those priorities) – and moving from short term to long term (10-15 year) funding cycles since mainstreaming is a long-term process.

Among other areas that this workshop covered, were development of mainstreaming guidance, further development of stories for a ‘stories of change’ publication and a peer review of Botswana’s NBSAP 2. These areas are expanded on in the full report.

The workshop concluded with the following next steps:

- Sharing of project participants’ experiences of biodiversity and development mainstreaming with the global biodiversity community at a side event at the forthcoming CBD COP 12.
- Production of elaborated mainstreaming guidance based on experiences shared at this workshop, a finalised peer review tool and a ‘stories of change’ publication.
- Development of future plans furthering the work of the African Leadership Group (ALG), including securing of funds and expansion to other countries.
- Finalisation of *The Windhoek Statement on Achieving Success in Biodiversity Mainstreaming*, which brings together key recommendations and learning from the workshop and participant’s consensus view of biodiversity mainstreaming success.

## Introduction and workshop structure

This report presents proceedings from the third annual workshop of the NBSAPs 2.0 Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development project held in Okahandja, Namibia, from the 23-25 July 2014.

At the previous two workshops held in Maun, Botswana in November 2012 and Entebbe, Uganda in July 2013, the project focused on the key steps in biodiversity mainstreaming and developing principles for mainstreaming biodiversity into national development plans. The key outcomes from these workshops are presented in the [Maun Statement on Biodiversity and Development Mainstreaming](#) and the [Entebbe Statement on Biodiversity in Development Planning](#). The main objectives of this third workshop were to:

- Review participant countries' progress and share experiences on biodiversity mainstreaming and integrating development issues into revised NBSAPs.
- Define what success looks like for biodiversity and development mainstreaming.
- Share experiences, ideas and approaches for addressing some of the key implementation challenges identified by participant countries.
- Using participants mainstreaming experience, draw out best practice to inform the further development of the NBSAPs 2.0 project's mainstreaming guidance.
- Look to the future and develop ideas for the next steps for country-level work on mainstreaming, the African Leadership group, and the NBSAPs 2.0 project.

The workshop brought together 34 participants, including the four NBSAPs 2.0 project countries (Botswana, Seychelles, Namibia and Uganda), additional countries (Zimbabwe, South Africa, Liberia and Malawi), members of the project African Leadership Group (ALG), members of the project International Advisory Group (IAG) (including UNDP, CBD and the UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative), representatives from OECD's Development Assistance Committee, Development Cooperation Directorate, and the IIED and UNEP-WCMC project secretariat.

**Day one** focused on country updates on the NBSAP revision process to date, defining what success looks like for biodiversity and development mainstreaming and further development of potential stories for the 'Stories of Change' publication.

**Day two** focused on sharing experiences and approaches, to addressing the implementation challenges identified by participants' countries and reviewing guidance material developed by the NBSAPs 2.0 project, identifying best practice to further populate this guidance.

**Day three** focused on a peer review of Botswana's NBSAP and discussion on next steps for each country, the ALG and the NBSAPs 2.0 project.

# DAY ONE

## Welcome

Mr Teofilus Nghitila, Environment Commissioner, Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), Namibia, warmly welcomed participants to the workshop and Namibia on behalf of the Permanent Secretary of MET. During his welcoming speech, he drew attention to the following:

- Biodiversity is important to economic development. Biodiversity conservation should be a driver of poverty reduction and contribute to national growth. NBSAPs need to respond to national development goals and become a tool for integrating biodiversity concerns across all sectors.
- Namibia's NBSAP 2.0 has begun to do this through an inclusive consultation process that engaged all sectors that are important to conservation and establishing a division within the MET to focus on the joint implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

He concluded by thanking UNEP-WCMC, IIED and MET for organising the workshop and encouraged participants to engage in fruitful discussions and share their experiences.

## Setting the context

This session provided participants with an overview of the NBSAPs 2.0 project and the CBD's perspective on mainstreaming progress in post-2010 NBSAPs.

### NBSAPs 2.0 project

Abisha Mapendembe from UNEP-WCMC, presented a brief over view of the NBSAPs 2.0 project. The project was developed in response to an analysis of first generation NBSAPs carried out by the United Nations University - Institute of Advanced Studies<sup>2</sup>. This review showed that many of these NBSAPs had not been integrated into key sectors, were not linked to national development plans, lacked realistic resource mobilisation plans and showed limited integration into national budgets. To address some of these weaknesses, the NBSAPs 2.0 Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development project (2012-2015) aims to:

1. Support four African countries (Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles and Uganda) in the revision of their NBSAPs, with a particular focus on ensuring that biodiversity and development is addressed.
2. Produce guidance for mainstreaming that is applicable globally: guidance derived from, tested in and validated by African experience.

To date the NBSAPs 2.0 project has:

- Established the African Leaders Group (ALG), members include:
  - Government representatives (typically government staff leading NBSAP revisions and/or mainstreaming experts) from the four project countries.
  - Independent members with mainstreaming expertise from across Africa.

The role of the group is to provide support and leadership in different aspects of biodiversity/poverty linkages and in mainstreaming biodiversity during the life-time of the project.

- Worked with African countries to identify the key elements that need to be undertaken when mainstreaming biodiversity and development principles into NBSAPs and national development plans. Initial outcomes of this work are presented in the [Maun Statement on Biodiversity & Development Mainstreaming](#) and [Entebbe Statement on Biodiversity in Development Planning](#).

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<sup>2</sup> See Prip, C; Gross, T; Johnston, S; Vierros, M (2010). Biodiversity Planning: an assessment of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, Yokohama, Japan.

- Developed a series of informative and concise guidance that can be used by those involved in revising NBSAPs and biodiversity and development mainstreaming. Guidance developed includes: [Ten steps to biodiversity mainstreaming](#), [Biodiversity Mainstreaming: A rapid diagnostic tool](#) and [Developing a Business Case for Biodiversity](#).

In the remaining time of the project, the project will finalise a peer review tool for assessing the effectiveness of NBSAPs as a vehicle for mainstreaming, prepare elaborated mainstreaming guidance based on the experiences of project countries, produce a 'stories of change' publication and run a side event at CBD COP 12.

## Mainstreaming progress in post 2010 NBSAPs

Nadine Saad from the CBD gave a presentation which began with a reminder that mainstreaming is not a new challenge. The Hague Ministerial Declaration (COP VI 2002) stated that:

*'The most important lesson of the last ten years is that the objectives of the Convention will be impossible to meet until consideration of biodiversity is fully integrated into other sectors. The need to mainstream the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources across all sectors of the national economy, the society and the policy-making framework is a complex challenge at the heart of the Convention'*

As such, biodiversity-development mainstreaming is central to the achievement of implementing the convention.

To date there have been some promising developments with mainstreaming. A review of the 25 post 2010 NBSAPs that have been submitted to the CBD has shown that:

- 40 percent of the countries reviewed were planning to use their revised NBSAP as a policy instrument to mainstream biodiversity across the whole of government.
- These 25 countries have shown good engagement of a range of government actors outside the traditional environment / natural resource related ministries.

Progress with mainstreaming NBSAPs into National Development Plans is limited to three countries, although seven countries have targets within their NBSAPs for achieving this. However, on a more positive note, of 54 poverty reduction strategies examined in a recent study, nearly 30 percent showed a high level of integration of biodiversity, and this appears to be increasing. Further progress will depend on action beyond the development of NBSAPs to support true integration.

## News round-up on progress in mainstreaming biodiversity and development

Each country briefly told the story of how mainstreaming has been tackled in the NBSAP revision process. These stories highlighted the most interesting aspects of the mainstreaming process, what had worked well and not so well, lessons learned and changes as a result of this work. Detailed updates for each country are presented in Box 1.

All countries are making good progress and many are now in the final stages of revising their NBSAP and/or seeking final approval. It was notable that in revising their NBSAPs, they had all successfully involved a diverse range of stakeholders and in particular those that represented key sectors and ministries responsible for national and local planning and finance. In the long term, these stakeholders will be essential for ensuring that biodiversity and development are mainstreamed in key national planning processes and sector policies and plans. Already in some countries a sense of ownership of the NBSAP 2.0 has been established amongst these stakeholders. Drawing on this rich experience, a number of key lessons are emerging from the revision process. These include:

- Champions in other ministries can help to embed NBSAP targets into their plans and budgets.

- Establishing platforms of multiple stakeholders to oversee the process and having champions from other ministries as chairs of working groups strengthens ownership of the NBSAP beyond natural resource actors.
- Establishing thematic groups that bridge biodiversity and development helps to better understand and articulate the links to other sectors.
- Valuation of biodiversity assets and ecosystem services has proved to be a useful tool for engaging national development planners and Ministries of Finance.
- Moving from a project-by-project approach to establishing an institution to oversee implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs) can enable greater synergy and collaboration and reduce overlap in their implementation.
- NBSAPs need to be re-branded and communicated in such a way that they resonate with the interests of other sectors, national and local planning agencies and Ministries of Finance.
- Peer review and pressure has helped to strengthen the content of final NBSAPs and motivated project members to press forward with NBSAP revision.
- Across all the NBSAPs, there is a key challenge to identify and mobilise sufficient resources for implementation.

## **Box 1: Country news round up**

### **Botswana**

Botswana has produced the final draft of their NBSAP 2.0 which will be finalised by end of August 2014. Key elements in its development included:

- A series of stakeholder consultations in defined eco-regions to assess progress and identify lessons learned from the first NBSAP.
- A capacity assessment – in the revised strategy, areas for capacity building are identified for each target.

An important mainstreaming activity has been involvement of the NBSAP team in the development of the National Development Plan (NDP) through the environment thematic group. With the current NDP ending next year, the aim is for NBSAP 2.0 targets to be included in the subsequent NDP. A further approach to ensuring this integration is raising awareness amongst economic planners of the ecosystem service valuations (being produced by the WAVES project). The NBSAP team are also working with the UNDP BIOFIN project, to identify how best NBSAP 2.0 activities can be funded.

A strength of the approach to implementation is responsibility for reporting being held with the National Biodiversity Action Authority, which includes representatives from a range of sectors including finance, tourism, water and planning.

### **Malawi**

The National Biodiversity Steering Committee (NBSC) has been key in developing the mainstreaming aspects of Malawi's NBSAP 2.0. NBSC includes representatives from sectors and ministries key to economic development and national planning. A weakness of the previous NBSAP was its lack of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) plan, which made it difficult for the NBSC to assess progress. NBSAP 2.0 includes an M&E plan and indicators, developed in partnership with stakeholders. Implementation of funded activities has begun, such as work on fisheries and the development of a biodiversity plan by Lilongwe City.

### **Namibia**

Development of Namibia's NBSAP 2.0 involved extensive national-to-local-level consultations, with over 400 stakeholders involved. A final version was approved by the Cabinet in July 2014. It will be launched alongside the National Action Plan on Desertification and the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. In revising the strategy, the ALG peer review greatly improved the poverty / gender aspects of the strategy. When developing indicators, the NBSAP team drew upon the

## Box 1: Country news round-up (cont.)

### Namibia (cont.)

approach that Belgium has used. Activities to implement the plan have been costed and a resource mobilisation strategy developed, which includes plans to carry out a public expenditure review.

An important process during the NBSAP's revision, was the re-structuring of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism to include a division that focuses on MEA implementation and so considers biodiversity, climate change and land use issues together. Previously these were addressed on a project-by-project basis. Taking such an approach should create greater synergies and avoid duplication between MEAs.

### Seychelles

The implementation of Seychelles' first NBSAP suffered from limited ownership beyond the Ministry of Environment. The revision process sought to address this, establishing a steering group which included representatives from key economic sectors, national and local planning bodies and finance. The first draft of NBSAP 2.0 was much larger than the previous strategy: with limited resources, actions needed to be prioritised. At this point, there was an additional need to re-brand the NBSAP and present it in a language and format that would resonate with development planners and key economic sectors. The strategy is currently being re-drafted to reflect this.

Marine issues are a central focus of NBSAP 2.0 and this includes support for marine spatial planning which has proved a useful mainstreaming approach, requiring cross-sector involvement – oil and gas, tourism, biodiversity, fisheries etc. Funding the implementation of NBSAP 2.0 is a challenge and potential funding sources are currently being explored, including establishing a 'debt for nature swap'. Key lessons from the revision process include:

- NBSAPs need to be broadly owned, including ownership by stakeholders outside government, such as civil society and the private sector.
- The key message for policymakers is 'Our economy depends on biodiversity and our environment'.
- Ministry of Finance support is important early on in the process and can be encouraged by developing understanding of the contribution that biodiversity makes to national development.

### South Africa

South Africa is just beginning to revise its NBSAP. A person has been appointed to lead the process from August 2014. South Africa has already undertaken considerable and innovative work to mainstream biodiversity and development and presented its experiences in a later session of the workshop.

### Uganda

Uganda's NBSAP 2.0 is in the final stages of its revision and update. The process of revision has involved the establishment of four thematic working groups, including one specifically focussing on 'biodiversity for development, wealth creation and socio-economic transformation'. These thematic groups included representatives from a range of sectors, helping to develop ownership of the strategy outside of the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). An important approach is having internal champions in key ministries, departments and agencies to help secure support and resources for implementation of the NBSAP. This has been particularly successful with the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, where their champion has been successful in increasing financial resources for the environment and natural resource sector.

### Zimbabwe

Development of Zimbabwe's NBSAP was informed by studies on ecosystem service valuation and extensive consultations with key stakeholders. A draft version of NBSAP 2.0 has been completed and was recently presented to stakeholders. This draft is now being reviewed and finalised by an editing team.

Following the country news round-up, a panel of participants (including Angella Rwabutomize, Patrick Course, Emmila Amuaalua, Muyeye Chambwera, and Brian Jones ) discussed their perspectives on the stories they had heard. The key points arising from the panel were:

- The stories show considerable progress has been made over the past couple of years. Mainstreaming has always been a challenge and in the past it has been difficult to convey the linkages between biodiversity and national development to decision makers. However, this appears to be changing: representatives from finance and planning ministries involved in the NBSAP revision in project countries have an improved understanding of the importance of biodiversity. We need to understand better and capitalise on how this change has come about.
- Ownership of NBSAPs needs to extend beyond the Ministry of Environment to include other government ministries (e.g. economic and planning), the private sector, civil society and the people taking everyday decisions on the ground.
- To assist implementation, NBSAP targets should be integrated into National Development Plans (NDPs) and relevant sector policies and plans. This requires those responsible for NBSAPs to have a good understanding of government planning cycles and national budget allocation processes.
- Champions within key ministries (e.g. finance and planning) are a great asset, however champions come and go, so there is a need to ensure that institutional capacity is built to understand and address biodiversity issues. Uganda provides an interesting model in this respect (Box 2).

## **Box 2: Environmental mainstreaming in Uganda's Ministry of Finance**

Uganda's Ministry of Finance budget call circulars include a requirement for ministries to consider environment issues in their plans and budgets. Economists for each sector (who help oversee this process within the Ministry of Finance) have received training in environmental issues and also have an environmental expert assigned to them. Their roles are to jointly assess the environmental considerations in sector-specific budgets and ensure relevant environmental issues are identified and addressed appropriately. Such an approach is beginning to improve the Finance Ministry's understanding of environmental issues and the role that the environment plays in supporting national development. For example, an understanding of the contribution that wildlife tourism makes to the national economy has led to increased funding for the Ugandan Tourism Board to improve tourism marketing. Consideration of environmental issues is not only limited to sector plans and budgets, capacity is also being built to consider environmental issues in the development of the macro-economic framework.

- Involving finance ministries from the beginning of the revision process, can lead to better understanding of:
  - The issues the NBSAP is addressing and how these contribute to national development targets.
  - The role that national financing can play - the perception is that there is sufficient external funding for biodiversity conservation.
- Biodiversity messages need to be adapted to their audience. For example, when communicating with finance ministries, biodiversity needs to be presented as an asset with a financial value attached.
- Present not only the costs of biodiversity conservation, but also the long and short-to-medium term benefits to national development. For example, show how investing in biodiversity conservation will lead to a reduction in poverty and consequently a reduction in government expenditure on poverty.
- The environment sector is congested: everyone is trying to demonstrate that their area is more important than anyone else's. The sector should work together to build an alliance around a common approach and message. This can make decision making easier for development planners.

- Provide technical support to development planners in incorporating biodiversity issues into National Development Plans. Development planners acknowledge that biodiversity issues should be included, but don't always have the knowledge and time to be able to do so.
- Demonstrate impact by monitoring progress. Namibia is working with the national statistical agency to develop relevant indicators, which can be incorporated into national data collection systems.
- Recognise that decision making is a political process: begin to engage with politicians.

## How do we know we have been successful in biodiversity and development mainstreaming?

Over the past year, many project participants have asked how we know how successful we've all been in biodiversity and development mainstreaming. The second session of day one looked at this.

A series of presentations in the first half of the session aimed to develop an understanding of current thinking and approaches to 'monitoring mainstreaming success'. Key observations from these presentations are outlined below.

Julie Thomas, an independent consultant, gave a presentation entitled 'Biodiversity and development mainstreaming: Defining and assessing success in mainstreaming'. The presentation concluded that assessing biodiversity mainstreaming success should involve monitoring the following two areas:

- The process of mainstreaming - progress with the steps-along-the-way and the quality of the process against set criteria.
- The outcomes and impacts of the mainstreaming process. This should include biodiversity and development outcomes.

And that there was also merit in considering a third area of monitoring:

- The mainstreaming context - ideally this should consider how the context is changing in relation to enabling, disabling, driving, antagonising biodiversity-development integration.

In the second presentation, Fulufhelo Mukhadi from the [South African National Biodiversity Institute \(SANBI\)](#) described how they have been mainstreaming biodiversity into national and sector policies and plans for many years. Approaches to mainstreaming have included promoting spatial biodiversity planning and integrating biodiversity issues into national water plans and mining guidelines. SANBI monitors mainstreaming success through tracking the following:

- Policy impact - looking at changes in the policy and practices of the key sectors they are working with.
- The impact on the ground i.e. status of key ecosystems.

In the final presentation, Alex Forbes from the [UNDP – UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative \(PEI\)](#),<sup>3</sup> provided an overview of their ambitions as a global programme and at a country level, providing examples of process, output and outcome indicators used to track progress.

An interesting aspect of PEI's approach to monitoring mainstreaming was the inclusion of an indicator to measure '*the level of country leadership, ownership and coherent engagement towards promoting poverty environment objectives / mainstreaming by national / sub-national institutions*'. To assess progress, PEI has defined a series of descriptive ratings for what good leadership / ownership looks like in practice. In addition, a peer review is often involved, to bring in a broader perspective.

The second half of the session provided an opportunity for participants to define what successful mainstreaming looks like. An initial discussion, in plenary, highlighted that defining success requires an understanding of the perspectives of success for the different sectors and ministries involved. Building upon this observation, the group decided to split into the following thematic groups: social, economic and biodiversity and define success from each group's perspective. Table 1 shows the outcomes.

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<sup>3</sup> The PEI is a global programme that supports country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment linkages into national development and sub-national development policy, planning and budgeting processes.

Table 1: What biodiversity and mainstreaming success looks like from a biodiversity, social and economic perspective

Biodiversity	Social	Economic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase support for increased protection of ecosystems to provide ecosystem services.</li> <li>Scenario based spatial plans for ecological resilience implemented successfully at all levels (spatial planning for country as a whole).</li> <li>Environment sector actively consulted by other sectors.</li> <li>Public and private sectors have integrated and implemented biodiversity into own activities.</li> <li>Biodiversity concerns incorporated into every sectoral ministry (e.g. agriculture, forestry, mining) so that the budget for environment is spread across other sectors too.</li> <li>Fewer resources required to tackle natural disasters due to healthy ecosystem functioning.</li> <li>Environment department has changed its role and moved away from implementing projects to having a research and development / scientific function.</li> <li>Re-orientation of national development budgets to supporting biodiversity conservation (move away from dependency on donor funding).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communities engaged in setting the agenda for development and conservation plans.</li> <li>Biodiversity contributes to wealth creation at household level.</li> <li>% of female / male / child headed households income (and actual) derived from natural resources / biodiversity.</li> <li>% of rural population deriving income from biodiversity.</li> <li>Devolution of power from national to local level for natural resource management.</li> <li>% of female / male / child headed households that have secured/tenured access to biodiversity resources.</li> <li>Number of local jobs in biodiversity related sectors.</li> <li>Biodiversity contributes to livelihood security.</li> <li>Number of new conservation strategies that prioritise biodiversity of importance to the livelihoods of the poor.</li> <li>Number of local communities benefitting from bio-prospecting and benefit sharing agreements.</li> <li>Diversity of food available to local communities from native species.</li> <li>Equity and sharing of benefits and costs of biodiversity conservation.</li> <li>% of biodiversity related revenue remaining within local communities.</li> <li>Number of unresolved human and wildlife conflicts.</li> <li>Number of unresolved local community – protected area conflicts.</li> <li>Integration of biodiversity into post 2015 sustainable development agenda.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are increases (and perhaps if successful in future, decreases) in biodiversity investment, as shown by regular trend analysis.</li> <li>Tools exist for tracking biodiversity contributions to the economy within national budgeting systems.</li> <li>There is diversification of funding sources / less reliance on environment ministries budget for funding biodiversity conservation activities because other ministries are also funding conservation.</li> <li>Specific budget code for biodiversity related activities exists.</li> <li>Internal capacity built within Ministry of Finance to understand environment and development concerns and make decisions on how to invest based on this knowledge.</li> <li>There is a surplus in the biodiversity budget at the end of the year.</li> <li>Linking biodiversity loss to inflation levels e.g. inflation - as a result of increased food prices because of biodiversity loss.</li> </ul>

The follow-up discussion from the group work concluded that:

- Biodiversity conservation can deliver social, economic and biodiversity benefits and should not be the responsibility of just one sector.
- Consequently, there needs to be wider involvement (key economic sectors, finance, national/local planning, private sector and general public) and investment in biodiversity conservation.
- There was an initial difference in opinion on where funding for biodiversity should come from, with the economic group suggesting government funds should not be relied on and the biodiversity group suggesting an over reliance on donor funds, rather than government funds. Consensus emerged that government funding for biodiversity should come from across all relevant ministries, rather than from Ministries of Environment alone.
- In defining success, there is a need to move away from general targets, such as integrating targets into national / sector plans, towards more specific targets that incorporate approaches such as spatial planning and cost benefit analysis.
- Many decision makers' perceptions are that the environment sector often acts as a barrier to development – defining success along social and economic success can help to change this perception.
- When communicating to decision makers, think beyond the social and economic benefits of biodiversity to also include the recreational, emotional, wellbeing and spiritual benefits that biodiversity delivers. These benefits speak to people's hearts.
- Mainstreaming is a political process; politicians need to be better engaged and understand the political risk of not addressing biodiversity issues.

## Stories of change

The NBSAPs 2.0 project is supporting the development of a 'Stories of Change' publication. This will contain a series of stories from across Africa that tell the story of where integrating biodiversity and development has made a positive difference. Prior to the workshop a number of the project countries had already begun to identify potential stories. This session - run by communications specialists Emily Benson and Rosalind Goodrich from IIED - allowed participants to develop these ideas and identify potential other stories. Table 2 outlines the story ideas for follow-up and development.

Table 2: Potential country story-lines for the Stories of Change publication

<b>Country</b>	<b>Story of change outline</b>
Botswana	The story of how a new stream of finance for conservation from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and potential new markets in the US for marula products, has given a local women's group an alternative source of income and has ended its reliance on agriculture which is rapidly being undermined by climate change. At the national level, the project has led to a reduction in welfare payments in the form of food baskets and raised awareness of how natural resources can be used sustainably to generate income.
Malawi	The story of how a national action plan to protect biodiversity in Malawi prompted the City Council of Lilongwe to evaluate their natural assets in the capital for the first time. This has resulted in the development of the first 'Biodiversity Profile' and 'Action Plan' for the city of Lilongwe.
Namibia	The story of how communities and indigenous groups in Namibia have come to understand the value of their local environment and working together with Government have shaped the national 'Access & Benefit Sharing Bill' to protect their rights, as well as those of the ecosystems they rely upon.
Seychelles	The story of when environmental degradation started to disrupt tourism, the core economic activity in the Seychelles, the government revised their approach to EIAs so that they became tools for helping business and communities become involved in

protecting local biodiversity. The result of this is that businesses in the Seychelles are adapting their operating models in order to protect local biodiversity.

South Africa	The story of an unusual collaboration across ministries, the mining industry, and conservationists, which has resulted in agreed methods for limiting harmful mining practices in areas rich in biodiversity in South Africa.
Uganda	The story of how building a strong relationship with a representative from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development made a major difference to biodiversity being mainstreamed into development plans (through her lobbying) and funding being received for national level activities more directly. Involving the key sector that links to what you want to get is critical.
Zimbabwe	The story of how focused working by the Environment Ministry with the media, has moved journalists from knowing nothing about biodiversity, to understanding the issues and being able to write about them in a way that will have greater impact with the wider public.

## Day one summary

Steve Bass from IIED summed up for day one, highlighting how the sessions provided valuable insights into how best to develop NBSAPs that are effective vehicles for biodiversity and development mainstreaming. In addition, the group began to define mainstreaming success and highlight a cross-sector approach as being key to mainstreaming implementation. Key points from day one are summarised in Box 3.

### Box 3: Day one key points

- Integrating NBSAP targets into NDPs and relevant sector policies and plans assists implementation. This requires an increase in institutional capacity in finance and planning ministries.
- Establishing cross sector steering groups helps to build ownership outside the natural resource sector.
- Identifying champions in other ministries, departments, agencies and the private sector is seen as essential to success.
- Communicate the NBSAP, developing messages that resonate with other sectors, eg for finance ministries, present biodiversity as an asset and identify investments which produce real benefits.
- Biodiversity-mainstreaming success can be defined in terms of economic, social and biodiversity outcomes and not just a biodiversity perspective. Consequently, biodiversity conservation should no longer be the responsibility of just one sector and should involve key economic sectors, ministries of finance, national/local planners, private sector and general public.
- Measuring mainstreaming success requires moving away from monitoring just outputs, to using approaches that can monitor the effectiveness of the mainstreaming process, outcomes and impact.

## DAY TWO

# Meeting implementation challenges

As NBSAPs have been finalised, many participants are now moving into the stage of implementation. This has its own set of challenges and issues. Prior to, and on the first day of the workshop, participants were asked to identify the key implementation challenges they face. These fell broadly into three areas, communications, capacity for implementation and valuation. The first half of day two was dedicated to discussing these implementation challenges and sharing participants' experiences and ideas for addressing these.

## Communications clinic

The following issues were discussed during the communications session.

### Understanding your audience

Central to the mainstreaming process is being able to communicate the importance of biodiversity conservation to a range of stakeholders in a way that resonates with their interests. Communications strategies are seen as being a key tool for achieving mainstreaming. A significant challenge of any communications strategy is understanding the needs of key audiences (such as Ministries of Finance and Planning). To help NBSAP co-ordinators better understand this audience, the session began with participants from finance and planning ministries explaining how they prefer to receive information. Their top tips were:

- Provide concise documents with information on the value of biodiversity and how investing in biodiversity will benefit the economy, local communities, people's health and well-being etc.
- Provide information in the format that government uses for budgeting and projecting revenue and expenditure.

### Pitching your message to your audience

Throughout this workshop a common theme has been the need to communicate the importance of biodiversity to key audiences in a way that resonates with their interests and goals. One such audience is policymakers - and participants were interested to know, '*how best to communicate research findings to policymakers so that it leads to policy change.*' To help participants develop messages that resonate with national policymakers, the group were asked to identify three issues that are of prime concern to national policymakers and then develop two messages that showed how biodiversity is linked to these issues. The recommendation from communication specialists was that presenting positive (opportunity) messages is more effective than the (more often seen) crisis message (what will happen if we don't do this?). Participants practised the two approaches (Table 3).

Table 3: Biodiversity messages for national policy makers

Issue	Message
Job creation	<p>The collapse of coastal fisheries has led to the loss of 1000 jobs and 10% increase in food relief to local communities.</p> <p>Sound fisheries management leads to the creation of 1000 jobs for local communities. Fisher people have seen an increase in their income and no longer need food relief.</p> <p>100 jobs lost and revenues down due to the loss of wildlife in our National Parks.</p> <p>Wildlife tourism boosts economy and creates 100 jobs for local people.</p>
Economic productivity	<p>Illegal wildlife trafficking is depleting wildlife. Tourism in Uganda/Botswana/Zimbabwe relies on wildlife. \$1.1 billion made from tourism in Uganda. In Zimbabwe \$390 million from Protected Areas (PAs) in 2012; Tourism is 10% of GDP in Botswana. Without wildlife there will be no tourists. Without wildlife tourists, there will be less non-nature related tourism.</p>

There is untapped tourism potential in Kidepo National Park. Investing in infrastructure here would improve tourism, generate incentives for conservation and generate local economic growth.

Human health	Loss of coastal dune systems and fisheries will lose jobs and increase malnutrition. Investment in the health of Cuvelai Basin (wetland) will keep malaria low and people healthy and productive.
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### Using film and other visual media to transform society

From participatory videos and photography, to documentaries, the use of visual media can be a powerful tool to communicate messages to decision makers at all levels. Participants shared their experiences of using these approaches to create change.

Participatory video involves supporting a group or community to shape and create their own film about issues of importance to them. It is a useful approach for communities to communicate their needs and ideas to decision makers and/or other groups. It can also be an effective tool for engaging and mobilising marginalised people in local and national discussions. Compared to production of documentaries, it is a cost effective approach to developing visual media and only requires a basic hand held camera (or even a mobile phone) and a computer to edit the material (there are many free editing packages available online). Documentaries also have a role to play, but can be expensive, however there are production companies that are looking for compelling stories, so it is worth considering pro-bono approaches. Phoebe Barnard from SANBI, highlighted how SANBI has used documentaries and in partnership with Social Transformation and Empowerment Projects (STEPS), are supporting [CareTakers](#), a documentary film project about South Africa's rich natural heritage and the people who care for it.

### How do you set up a clearing house mechanism (CHM)?

Seychelles are currently in the process of establishing their clearing house mechanism (CHM) and were interested to hear how others have gone about doing the same. Uganda was happy to share their experiences. Funded by GEF-UNEP, Uganda's approach has been to develop the website and database themselves, rather than use an external consultant. Expert working groups were established to collate current information available on the status of biodiversity and ecosystems. The project personnel created the overall website and created meta-data. It was helpful before setting up the site to have thought through who would be accessing the documents and how best to arrange the data for these user groups including, how users would search for documents. Each document is then keyword tagged before being uploaded. There are a number of people within the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) who have responsibility for the website and uploading of new information. To ensure its sustainability, the CHM site itself is a sub-domain to the NEMA site and the two sites link to one another.

In Liberia, a local company was used to set up the website (a standalone portal from the Environment Protection Agencies website) and provide regular training for stakeholder institutions on how to manage data. Data is sent to the CHM focal point for assessment, before being uploaded onto the site.

In South Africa, an important source of data for the CHM has been the use of citizen science to create biodiversity data. For example this has been used to develop [biodiversity early warning systems](#) for climate change.

### Tips for improving policy briefings / executive summaries of policy documents

Although much of the session focused on spoken and visual communications, participants were keen to hear the communications specialist's tips for improving the written word, these included:

- Be clear and concise.
- The first couple of paragraphs are the most important, so make sure you get your message across within these.

- Write in the way that you would speak to someone – don't switch to a technical style when you are writing.
- Make sure that your executive summaries are summaries - they should be no longer than two pages.
- People's attention spans are very short, so keep on summarising your message and use bullet points to help summarise your message.
- Use case studies, text boxes, quotes from key people and high-level endorsements to get your message across.

Concern was raised that summarising may simplify complicated issues and lose research nuance. However, with good writing it is possible to summarise concisely and include research nuance as well.

## Capacity for implementation clinic

A variety of issues were raised in relation to implementation, the discussions from these are presented below.

### Developing synergies with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Many countries face a challenge of how best to coordinate the implementation of MEAs, especially as there is often some overlap between the topics and tasks undertaken in relation to each MEA. During this session, participants shared advice on improving co-ordination and addressing other challenges.

John Tayleur from UNEP-WCMC began this discussion with a presentation of initial findings from the national level questionnaire from the UNEP project, '*Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies*' funded by the EU and the Swiss government. Initial findings included:

- 70 percent of National Focal Points (NFPs) have cooperation mechanisms in place and 80 percent of NFPs believe there are opportunities to improve and increase cooperation. Increasing collaboration brings benefits such as reducing duplication and more efficient reporting, however challenges include a lack of resources and staff time.
- Cooperation on Inter-governmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and joint indicators, are the most common science-policy interface activities. Again there are similar challenges (such as staff time, financial resources and guidance material) to promoting cooperation between NFPs to strengthen the science-policy interface.
- There is limited collaboration on the assessment of financial needs and also on awareness of the appointment of resource mobilisation focal points.

The project is also developing a source book that will include best practice for collaborating amongst NFPs to implement the MEAs. This will include sections on National Reporting, Science-Policy Interface, Capacity Building, Implementing NBSAPs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; and Resource Mobilisation. The book will be presented at a workshop in the margins of the CBD COP 12 in October 2014. Participants were encouraged to take part in the survey (which is now closed) and provide suggestions for good case studies that could be included in the sourcebook (email [katharina.bieberstein@unep-wcmc.org](mailto:katharina.bieberstein@unep-wcmc.org) for more information or visit the project website <http://nationalmeasynergies.wordpress.com/>).

Namibia has already begun developing synergies between NBSAP 2.0 and MEAs. This process has been aided by the establishment of the Division of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, within the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The aim of this division is to improve co-ordination between the different agreements to which Namibia is a signatory. Key approaches being used to promote collaboration and synergies are:

- Launching NBSAP 2.0, National Action Plan on Desertification and the National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, on the same day.
- Mapping of the NBSAP 2.0 action plan against MEAs to identify linkages for potential joint work and shared reporting.

- Developing a joint communications strategy and messaging.
- Establishing a formal coordination mechanism that brings NFPs together with co-ordinators for Rio conventions.

Like Namibia, Liberia also has a Division of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, which brings all conventions under one umbrella. This has helped in the sharing of information and data.

The Caribbean is a good example from another region, where a very pragmatic approach has been taken to implementing and reporting on MEAs. In 2006, Caribbean Islands came together to develop the St Georges declaration, which sets out a framework to link relevant MEAs in a way that makes sense for all countries and instead of reporting back on the MEAs country by country, a joint report is submitted.

Although creating synergies between the MEAs can initially take time and resources, in the long term it pays dividends in reducing duplication of efforts and saving time in reporting. Ultimately this can open up opportunities for more resources (financial, human and technical capacity), since donors are increasingly interested in supporting projects that address multiple conventions. This could lead to improved conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

### **Positioning biodiversity in the post 2015 development agenda**

Alex Forbes from the PEI, provided an overview of the process to date for developing the Sustainable Development Goals. The proposal of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals includes 17 proposed goals, of which two cover biodiversity related issues. These are:

- Proposed goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Proposed 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.

Alex encouraged participants to be aware of these global processes. When adopted, all signatories will have to deliver these goals by including actions to achieve them in budgets and plans. This could provide an opportunity for implementing aspects of the NBSAP. For up-to-date information on the development process, participants were encouraged to sign up to [IISD's post 2015 mailing list](#).

### **What is relevant training for non-environmental sector people on biodiversity?**

A further challenge for mainstreaming biodiversity is the limited capacity of staff in key ministries and sectors to understand and address biodiversity issues in their work. In the action plans of many of the NBSAPs of the countries present, training is the main capacity building approach proposed.

Participants shared their experiences of good approaches to training; recommendations included:

- Experiential learning – taking staff and senior decision makers to experience the issues for themselves e.g. study tours to national parks, community projects etc.
- Seconding staff from the biodiversity sector to non-environment sectors (e.g. finance)
- Providing specialised training to key groups that can make a difference (e.g. journalists, judiciary).
- Make use of courses that already exists e.g. those run by the University of Cambridge, Institute for Sustainability Leadership.
- Use e-learning modules, such as those available on the NBSAP Forum portal.
- Provide opportunities for on-the-job training.
- Focus on building institutional capacity as well as the capacity of individuals (staff move on and with them, their expertise).

## Economic valuation clinic

Throughout the workshop, the use of economic valuation and accounting has been identified as an important tool for mainstreaming. There are numerous challenges to valuing biodiversity and mixed views across the conservation community on the risk of commodifying biodiversity. However, representatives from the Ministry of Finance noted that assigning a value to biodiversity and ecosystem services can be a useful planning tool and can help in funding decisions.

To begin the discussion, Muyeye Chambwera from UNDP Botswana gave an overview of approaches to biodiversity and ecosystem valuation and their pros and cons. Approaches ranged from valuing biodiversity using direct methods such as market / productive use value, to indirect methods such as willingness to pay (stated preference). However, he suggested that biodiversity is worth more than the market value; for example the value of a tree should also incorporate the flows of benefits that can come from that tree being part of a complete ecosystem. Muyeye stressed that before beginning any valuation work, it is important to know the audience you are generating the data for and to what end they will use that data.

Experience from other participants concurred that valuation can be a useful tool in planning processes and decision making. However, it is essential to ensure decision makers understand that the economic value of biodiversity is only one of the values that needs to be considered. A good illustration of this is when decisions about the extraction of mineral resources in protected areas are considered; if the economic value of biodiversity alone is considered, then the economic choice will always be to extract, at the cost of biodiversity loss. In such situations, it was recommended that the use of multi-criteria analysis and scenario planning would provide a more robust planning tool.

## Development cooperation providers' support for mainstreaming

The OECD's Development Assistance Committee is currently developing a scoping paper on Biodiversity and Development Cooperation. The aim of this paper is to understand the current state-of-play of development cooperation support in promoting the integration of biodiversity into development. The paper explores this through the following areas:

- Official Development Finance to biodiversity.
- Mainstreaming biodiversity and development policy and planning.
- Tools to address biodiversity-development trade-offs and to monitor and evaluate activities targeting biodiversity and development outcomes.
- Development cooperation practice in partner countries: alignment and harmonisation.

Anna Drutschinin and Juan Casado-Asensio gave a presentation on the initial findings and asked participants for their feedback on how development cooperation can best support biodiversity and development mainstreaming, whether existing development cooperation for biodiversity addresses countries needs and examples of successful / not successful biodiversity programmes supported by development cooperation. The presentation highlighted:

- Global commitment to funding biodiversity has been rising over the past decade, reaching an average of US\$6 billion per year in 2010-12, representing 5% of total bilateral aid. Funding to biodiversity in sub Saharan Africa has also increased but remains below this global trend.
- Bilateral aid to biodiversity is highly concentrated in general environmental protection. This covers activities concerned with the conservation, protection or amelioration of the physical environment, and in primary industries, such as agriculture, forestry and fishing.
- ODA has a critical role to play in developing countries, but cannot fill the finance gap for biodiversity. It can help leverage other funding eg developing technical skills (valuation) to make the case for biodiversity and supporting the design and implementation of innovative financing mechanisms such as payment for environmental services and the establishment of trust funds.

Feedback from the workshop participants to the DAC included:

- There needs to be greater alignment between providers of development cooperation and partner countries' priorities. A country's NBSAP should be the starting point for discussing priorities. Good ODA should enable countries to implement their own vision of what needs doing e.g. technical support to policy development and capacity building of institutions - not consultants coming in and drafting policy documents
- Consider funding capacity building of government institutions to address environmental issues, rather than fund standalone environmental projects. There also needs to be a move to long-term funding with a 10-15 year horizon. Current funding cycles of 3-5 years are not long enough to support the complex long-term approach needed for biodiversity mainstreaming.
- Current funding models have led to governments assuming that environmental issues/projects can be funded by aid. This issue needs to be addressed.
- Streamline and make simpler the process for accessing aid. ODA for environmental issues has reduced in Uganda because the government lacks the capacity (time, technical skills) to develop proposals that meet the requirements of providers of development cooperation.
- Bilateral aid is often administered through embassies. Ambassadors could be potential champions for biodiversity mainstreaming.
- Potential case studies include:
  - USAID support to Community Based Natural Resource Management in Namibia, this programme has been running for 15 years and ownership is Namibian.
  - EU-funded initiative in Uganda to revive plantations that are let by the private sector, is reducing pressure on natural forests and generating jobs.
  - Western Kalahari conservation corridor funded by World Bank. This is a poor example of development cooperation since the programme didn't respond to local needs and failed to build capacity to sustain the project.

## Developing mainstreaming guidance through shared experiences

The NBSAPs 2.0 project has developed tools for mainstreaming biodiversity and development. The content of these has been based upon the experiences and knowledge of countries that have worked with the project. These tools have been well received by practitioners who value their conciseness and basis in practical experience. There are plans to develop these tools further with project countries' experiences. This session focused initially on exploring what makes good guidance, followed by a review to further develop the project's [Ten steps to biodiversity mainstreaming](#) tool.

### What makes good guidance?

Abisha Mapendembe from UNEP-WCMC began with a presentation on current biodiversity mainstreaming guidance. There is a wealth of guidance available from a variety of different sources, including the CBD, IUCN, NBSAPs 2.0 project and the Poverty Environment Initiative. Available guidance covers the general mainstreaming process, through to specific guides on mainstreaming into sectors such as agriculture, tourism, forestry etc.

Suggestions from participants on what makes good guidance, included:

- Guidance should be simple and clear with tailored succinct messages. These should be focused on a particular audience(s). It needs to be generic and able to adapt to national circumstances.
- Guidance cannot cover everything, but is most useful if it can guide you through specific stages and provide a methodical process for doing so. The NBSAPs 2.0 project's booklet, [Biodiversity Mainstreaming: A rapid diagnostic tool](#) is a good example of this.

- Guidance on setting NBSAP targets is required and should be written with a non-biodiversity technical background in mind.
- Printed as well as online versions need to be available. Many audiences still cannot access online versions. Recipe book style - where there is an overall guidance document with short thematic sections (pull out cards) - is a style that some participants liked.
- Maximise the number of people aware of the available guidance. This is a role for everyone; current guidance should always be shared with colleagues and consultants who work with us. The NBSAP forum could be a place to hold and share guidance.

## Co-creating improved final guidance for biodiversity mainstreaming

There has been much interest from other countries and regions to learn from the experiences of the NBSAPs 2.0 project countries. A final output of the project is to update the projects mainstreaming guidance and further incorporate project countries experiences. The second half of this session, facilitated by Jonathan Davies from the Environment Protection Agency (EPA), Liberia and Dilys Roe from IIED, provided participants with an opportunity to reflect on the *Ten steps to biodiversity mainstreaming* booklet (developed following discussions at the Maun workshop, which identified the key steps in biodiversity mainstreaming). Participants made suggestions on additional tips they would like to share and good practice case studies:

### Comments on the ten steps

- Emphasise that the guide is not a blueprint. Clarify further whether this is a guide to developing the mainstreaming targets of NBSAPs or mainstreaming NBSAPs into National Development Plans and sector policies and plans.
- ‘Steps’ implies a sequence, but there is no order that will be applicable to every mainstreaming process. These ‘steps’ would be better described as ‘activities’ or ‘clusters of activities’ that occur throughout the mainstreaming process and in some instances (eg building awareness), may be continuous throughout the process.
- Step 1 (Problem assessment by stakeholders) should not only look for problems, but also identify opportunities. The links between biodiversity, the economy and society, at all levels, should also be identified at an early stage in the process.
- Step 4 (Identify desired biodiversity and development outcomes) should additionally consider identifying relevant indicators for monitoring desired biodiversity and development outcomes.
- Step 7 (Identify enabling factors for mainstreaming) should identify disabling factors (as well as enabling factors). The list of factors should be expanded to include policies, plans and budgets that need influencing or changing.
- Additional sections to cover understanding the political economy, assessing capacity issues (eg this might be the capacity of communities or the finance department) and resource mobilisation, should be included. Throughout the guide, the use of brief success stories would really bring the guidance alive.

### Additional mainstreaming tips and potential case studies.

- Map out the policy processes that are already underway. From this identify pressure points/change processes that can be piggy-backed. This process can also help to identify further areas where mainstreaming is required – there are many beyond the emphasis on finance areas explored in this workshop. Assess other potential co-ownership partners and collectively problem-solve and identify opportunities together.
- Invest time to carefully map out who really has a stake in NBSAP outcomes. Then use this information to build the right team. Identify people whom you can trust, who work hard and who will take initiative. Then get them on board - tactics may include alerting them to the nomination process before it goes out (the approach used in Uganda). Where possible, try to ensure that focal points in other ministries are not likely to change frequently, that cross-departmental

steering groups have a clear Terms of Reference and there is a central information point for sharing knowledge.

- When using consultants, give a clear steer from the government to ensure ownership of the final product. This requires constant interaction with the consultant and good TOR. Ultimately, it is better if the capacity/skills can be found within government.
- Mainstreaming is a long-term process: be persistent and patient and don't lose your spirit.
- Uganda's use of thematic groups and Seychelles work with the private sector, provide interesting case studies for the guide.

The NBSAP project team thanked participants for providing great suggestions on improving the guidance and will use this to develop the guidelines.

## Day two summary

In summing up day two, John Tayleur from UNEP-WCMC described how the day provided opportunities for participants to share practical experiences on biodiversity mainstreaming, as well as to address some of the implementation challenges they face. Box 4 summarises this.

### Box 4: Day two key points

- Communications can be strengthened by:
  - Understanding how your audience likes to receive information and then tailoring and packaging your message to resonate with their interests and requirements.
  - Using visual media, which can be a powerful tool to convey messages and is relatively cost effective.
  - Preparing policy briefs that are clear and concise and get your message across in the first couple of paragraphs.
- Establishing CHM requires thinking about how the end user will use data and organising it in a way that is easy for the user. Maintenance of CHM requires a nominated person to screen and upload data.
- Creating synergies between MEAs:
  - Takes time and resources to establish co-ordination mechanisms.
  - Reduces duplication of efforts and saves time in reporting.
  - Opens up funding opportunities, donors prefer projects addressing multiple conventions.
- The SDGs provide an opportunity for supporting NBSAP implementation.
- There are a range of successful approaches for training, from exposing staff directly to biodiversity and development issues – through to formal training. Key is not to only focus on building the capacity of individuals, but that of institutions as well.
- Economic valuation is a useful tool for national decision makers. However, the economic value of biodiversity is not the only value that should be considered in development decisions.
- Donor support for biodiversity could be strengthened by:
  - Ensuring better alignment between donor and country priorities.
  - Moving from short term (3-5 years) to long term (10-15 year) funding cycles.
  - Streamlining and simplifying the processes for accessing aid.
- Good guidance should be:
  - Clear, concise and targeted to specific audiences.
  - Generic but easy to adapt to country circumstances.
  - Available both in printed and online versions.

## DAY THREE

### Peer review of Botswana's NBSAP 2.0

A peer review process is an evaluation of work by one or more people of similar competence to the producers of that work. The NBSAPs 2.0 project has developed a peer review tool for assessing the quality of any NBSAP as a mainstreaming vehicle: whether it is effective, how actors and stakeholders are involved in the revision process, and how the NBSAP ensures coordination and integration of biodiversity with development priorities. This tool was first used at the Entebbe workshop to review Namibia's NBSAP and has since been updated to incorporate lessons learned from its first use.

Prior to this session, participants were asked to review a draft of Botswana's NBSAP 2.0 using the peer review tool. During this session, Dilys Roe from IIED gave a brief overview of the peer review framework and Felix Monggaae, Kalahari Conservation Society, then presented an overview of Botswana's draft NBSAP 2.0. This covered:

- Botswana's key ecosystems, the status and trends of biodiversity within these, the causes of loss and current thinking on the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services.
- The vision, goals and targets for NBSAP 2.0.
- The action plan and costings for implementation and the resource mobilisation strategy.

Workshop participants commended Botswana for having produced a comprehensive NBSAP 2.0 with a clear vision, goal, targets and activities. They felt that the strategy addresses the CBD's requirements well and is an improvement on previous versions. Specific suggestions for improvement are summarised in Box 3. At the end of the session Botswana thanked participants for having taken the time to review the NBSAP 2.0 and their constructive comments, which they will use to improve the final draft.

At the end of the session participants provided their feedback on the peer review tool. The consensus was that the document would benefit from being shorter and should include a one page summary with key questions for peer review consideration.

The [NBSAP forum](#) has also developed [their own NBSAP peer review framework](#) and Christina Supplies, NBSAP Activity Co-ordinator UNDP, made a brief presentation about this and the work of the forum. The forum is a global partnership aiming to support NBSAP revisions and is hosted by the Secretariat of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The forum supports the revision and implementation of NBSAPs, providing a platform for countries to share experiences, access relevant guidance material, draw upon a peer review facility and develop their knowledge and skills through e-learning modules. The forum's website provides a page for each country to upload relevant materials and share best practice with others. There are also pages for other communities of interest and it was proposed that the ALG could set up its own page.

The NBSAP Peer Review Framework has been developed to support peer review of newly-revised NBSAPs. The framework is an extensive list of the key elements that need to be included in revised NBSAPs, drawn from current global best practice. National teams are able to [submit a request](#) to the forum for their draft NBSAP to be reviewed by experts and the global NBSAP community. Those countries that have not yet finalised their NBSAP were encouraged to request a peer review.

Participants' initial feedback on the forum's peer review framework concluded that it is too extensive and functions more as a checklist than a peer review tool.

### **Box 5: Peer review comments on Botswana's NBSAP 2.0**

- Shorten the executive summary (2-4 sides) and emphasise why biodiversity is important to Botswana's development and key economic sectors, making the document resonate more strongly with other agencies and ministries.
- Present the vision and goals early on in the executive summary.
- Shorten the overall document by using supplementary documents for background information and/or incorporating the background information into the 5<sup>th</sup> National report.
- Include a definition of biodiversity mainstreaming.
- Broaden the stakeholders listed in the communications strategy, to include Ministries of Planning and Finance. For each stakeholder identify the key message(s) to be communicated.
- Consider developing sector / audience specific briefing notes.
- Include further discussion on sector policies that pose a threat to biodiversity and detail how the NBSAP will address this.
- Develop a road map with milestones, to help guide implementation and track progress.
- Establishing a base line for each target, early on in the implementation process.
- Consider whether strategic action 2.3 ('planning at all levels uses an ecosystem approach') needs to include an element of capacity building for planners.
- Consider using incentives and addressing perverse incentives rather than the use of subsidies.
- Provide further information on: below the ground biodiversity, status of biodiversity outside of protected areas - and new and emerging issues e.g. climate change, green procurement, taxonomy, invasive species and biosafety and bio-technology.

## **Next Steps**

### **The focus of CBD COP 12**

Nadine Saad, CBD provided a brief overview of what to expect at the CBD COP 12 (6 - 17 October 2014, Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea). The theme of this COP will be 'biodiversity for sustainable development' and will culminate in the production of the Pyeongchang Road Map. Development of the road map will be informed by a target-by-target and goal-by-goal analysis. Mainstreaming features throughout the agenda and will be considered in the following areas: Section III: Assessing progress, Section IV: Enhancing implementation, Section V: Other items and Section VI: Cooperation. Those participating at the event were encouraged to share their mainstreaming experience at relevant sessions.

### **Side event at CBD COP 12**

Dilys Roe, IIED, briefly outlined the opportunities for the NBSAPs 2.0 project to share its experiences with the wider NBSAP community at a side event at CBD COP 12. There are currently two potential slots for doing this.

1. The Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, DEFRA, UK (one of the funders of the NBSAPs 2.0 project) is hosting a side event during which they would like to highlight successful projects, such as the NBSAPs 2.0 project. DEFRA has suggested that this session could include a Dragons Den exercise, profiling of the tools produced by the project and feedback from project countries on how their involvement has changed the revision of their NBSAP 2.0.

2. The NBSAPs 2.0 project has registered to host a side event and this is currently listed as being co-hosted by IIED/ UNEP-WCMC. Participants were asked if they were happy for this to be extended to include the countries involved with the project. Namibia, Botswana, Liberia, Uganda and PEI all indicated that they would be happy to be co-hosts and participate in the side event. Initial ideas from participants on the focus, core message and activities for this side event, included:

- To focus on the Windhoek declaration and in particular emphasise that:
  - Biodiversity, poverty and economic experts recognise that biodiversity conservation contributes to the achievement of national development plans and delivers economic, social and biodiversity outcomes.
  - Achieving these outcomes requires long-term financial support and commitment.
  - Funding for biodiversity conservation should no longer just be seen as funding wildlife departments, but also be seen as contributing to national development goals.
- Use video footage of project participants to share experiences.
- Use the side event to stimulate discussion with other countries that are revising their NBSAPs, providing a further opportunity to learn from them and establish a dialogue on mainstreaming. The CBD representative was asked to suggest countries that should specifically be invited to this discussion.
- Those working on green economy are having similar discussions about mainstreaming. It would be good to bring in these perspectives, by including the [UN's Partnership for Action on Green Economy \(PAGE\)](#).

The IIED-WCMC project team thanked participants for their suggestions. Over the coming months, they will work on these further and contact countries that indicated they could participate at the event.

## Country plans for future work on biodiversity mainstreaming

Biodiversity mainstreaming does not end with the completion of the NBSAP. This is just the start of the process and there is much work to be done to ensure NBSAP targets are integrated into national development plans and sector plans and policies and actions. Each country was asked to identify the three key actions it will undertake over the next 6-12 months to support the integration of biodiversity issues into development and sector planning (Table 4).

Table 4. Countries key actions for biodiversity and development mainstreaming, July 2014 – June 2015

Country	Key Actions
Botswana	Finalise draft and launch. Develop sector and investment policy briefs. Develop a monitoring and evaluation plan to monitor biodiversity mainstreaming. Hold briefing sessions with the NDP 11 team. Hold a workshop to discuss the NBSAP 2.0 with cabinet ministers and parliamentarians.
Liberia	Engage and brief finance and planning. Complete communications strategy. Hold a workshop to develop synergistic projects with related sectors. Identify capacity building needs for NBSAP 2.0 implementation. Hold a workshop to familiarise politicians with NBSAP 2.0.
Malawi	Stakeholders to review revised NBSAP 2.0 draft. Once NBSAP 2.0 has been approved develop sector specific policy briefs. Lobby the National Committee on Environment. Carry out an analysis of how different sectors can contribute to NBSAP implementation.
Namibia	Launch NBSAP 2.0. Hold a cross-sector meeting of all the key agencies that are part of the steering committee to discuss implementation arrangements. PS to send out formal communications to key agencies to request that NBSAP 2.0 activities are included in their core budgets. In March 2015, steering committee to meet, review implantation and report back.

Seychelles	<p>Finalise NBSAP 2.0.</p> <p>Establish co-ordinating body with all relevant stakeholders to: help plan resources, identify who will do which activities and who will have oversight of implementation and be responsible for monitoring.</p> <p>Start building the business case for biodiversity and present to government and donors.</p> <p>Finalise study on debt for nature swap and identify how much finance this could potentially free up.</p>
South Africa	<p>Continue implementation of stewardship schemes and discuss with treasury opportunities for putting in place tax incentives for land management practices that are biodiversity friendly.</p> <p>Promote the concept of investing in ecological infrastructure and mainstream this approach into relevant sectors and national plans.</p> <p>Promote ecosystem based adaptation frame works for climate change.</p>
Uganda	<p>Final review of NBSAP 2.0 by stakeholders.</p> <p>Approval of NBSAP 2.0.</p> <p>Launch and send to key partners / stakeholders.</p> <p>Identify priorities and integrate into work plans.</p> <p>Mobilise resources for NBSAP 2.0 implementation.</p>
Zimbabwe	<p>Seek endorsement of NBSAP 2.0 by the Minister and PS.</p> <p>Launch NBSAP 2.0 with a high level event.</p> <p>Circulate NBSAP 2.0 to key stakeholders.</p> <p>Identify priority actions since resources are limited.</p> <p>Mobilise resources for priority actions.</p>
Poverty Environment Initiative	<p>Share the outcome of this workshop and NBSAP 2.0 project's guidance material with other PEI country teams and support NBSAP mainstreaming into national planning and budgeting processes.</p> <p>Liaise with NBSAP forum as partner to support mainstreaming.</p> <p>Remain committed to support the NBSAP 2.0 project through responding to requests for contributions and feedback.</p>

## What next for the NBSAPs 2.0 Project

The NBSAPs 2.0 project ends in March 2015. During the remaining time of the project, the key outputs will be:

- Third annual workshop report.
- Side event co-hosted between IIED- WCMC and project countries at CBD COP 12.
- Production of elaborated mainstreaming guidance based on African countries experiences.
- Production of finalised peer review tool.
- Production of a 'stories of change' publication.

A proposal to the Darwin Initiative for a follow-up project has been submitted. This focuses on how NBSAPs can be used to mainstream biodiversity into National Development Plans and key economic sector policies and plans. The outcome of this bid will be known early 2015.

## What next for the African Leadership Group (ALG)?

Established by the NBSAPs 2.0 project, the African Leadership Group (ALG) includes:

- Government representatives (typically government staff leading NBSAP revisions and/or mainstreaming experts) from the four project countries.
- Independent members with mainstreaming expertise from across Africa.

The ALG's role has been to offer support and leadership on different aspects of biodiversity and development mainstreaming. ALG members have found it to be a valuable network for sharing experiences and are interested in continuing beyond the project. The Darwin proposal for a NBSAPs 2.0 follow-up project includes continued support to the ALG and expansion to include other African countries. The funding decision on this will be made early 2015 and in the meantime participants put forward suggestions for the future of the ALG:

- Establishing an ALG community of practice page on the NBSAP forum portal. (Christina Supples will explore the potential for doing this and set up a page if feasible). In the meantime the LinkedIn group provides a platform for sharing experiences.
- Using CBD meetings to meet face-to-face and discuss specific issues.
- Sharing experiences on implementation, highlighting both enabling and disabling conditions.
- Working together to develop and pilot indicators for biodiversity mainstreaming. WCMC indicated that it is able to provide support to the ALG on this.
- Addressing issues beyond NBSAPs, such as the SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda and how their countries will implement these.
- If funds become available, the group endorsed expanding membership of the ALG to include other African countries. They additionally suggested establishing an approach for sharing lessons with other regions e.g. Latin America and South East Asia (both of which have indicated an interest in establishing a similar project).
- Bringing on board a European country (e.g. UK) to share experiences of their approaches (NB Namibia, in developing indicators for NBSAP 2.0, had drawn on the approach used by Belgium and found this a valuable experience).

## Concluding remarks

Overall the workshop has proved to be a very productive meeting for countries to bring their knowledge together, share progress and ideas and begin to identify next steps for mainstreaming biodiversity. Steve Bass, IIED drew together participants' conclusions and highlighted the following:

- Mainstreaming biodiversity into national development plans across all sectors of the national economy, the society and the policy-making framework - is central to achieving the objectives of the CBD.
- Getting mainstreaming right, means getting it right from everyone's perspective - not just a biodiversity perspective. Success should be viewed in terms of economic, social and biodiversity outcomes.
- To influence national decision makers and powerful ministries (e.g. finance and planning), biodiversity needs to be seen as an asset. Clear evidence on how investing in biodiversity and ecosystem services will lead to a reduction in government and public expenditure on poverty reduction, disaster relief etc. can help to engage influential ministries.
- Presenting biodiversity conservation in this way provides a more robust argument to decision makers on the vital role it plays in achieving economic development and improved wellbeing.

These conclusions and participant's consensus view of biodiversity mainstreaming success are drawn together in the Windhoek Statement on Achieving Success in Biodiversity Mainstreaming (Appendix 2).

Jonas Nghishidi, MET, closed the workshop by thanking participants for their rich and open contributions over the past three days and encouraged the ALG to continue to share experiences amongst one another. Participants thanked MET for hosting the workshop and its smooth running.

## Appendix 1: Images from the workshop



## Appendix 2: List of participants

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# Appendix 3: Windhoek Statement July 2014

## Windhoek Statement July 2014: Achieving success in biodiversity mainstreaming

### **Introduction**

In July 2014, 34 professionals and practitioners from African countries and international institutions working in the environment, finance, social and development sectors gathered in Midgard, near Windhoek, Namibia for the third regional workshop of the NBSAP 2.0 Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development Project. The project aims to support countries to integrate biodiversity into national development agendas and practices, notably, but not only, through improved National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

The workshop's theme was 'Successes in Biodiversity Mainstreaming'.

### **Recalling that:**

- The Maun Statement coming out of the first workshop in November 2012 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 coming out of the second workshop in July 2013 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.

### **Recognising that:**

- Participating project countries are dependent for their development on biodiversity and the services provided by their ecosystems
- That dependence should be reflected in development and investment plans and processes
- Updated and revised NBSAPs have already proved to be important mechanisms for linking biodiversity with development priorities, notably national development plans
- While countries are increasingly investing in biodiversity conservation (for example, over 130 developing countries now have national environmental funds), developmental funding sources also need to be mobilised
- The combined expertise and cooperation of thought-leaders in social development, economics, finance, environment and biodiversity can support mainstreaming, as project countries' NBSAP revision has shown.

### **Workshop participants concluded that:**

Successful biodiversity mainstreaming achieves a wide range of biodiversity, social and economic outcomes which are of great interest to all sectors, including:

### **From a biodiversity perspective**

- Government policy and the general public demonstrate support for improving biodiversity conservation and sustainable management and use of ecosystem services
- Government authorities ensure that [scenario-based] spatial plans for ecological resilience are developed and implemented successfully at all levels
- Other sectors actively and routinely consult biodiversity-related sectors in national and sub-national/local development
- Public and private sectors increasingly integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into their own activities.

### **From a social perspective**

- Development and conservation planners invite and enable indigenous and local communities to participate fully in relevant development and conservation plans and reviews.
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services are tangibly contributing to livelihood security and wealth creation at the individual/household, community and other levels.
- The benefits, costs and risks of sustainably managing biodiversity and ecosystem services are shared equitably.

### **From a finance/economic perspective**

- Regular trend analysis shows that biodiversity and ecosystem service-related investments are increasing in their scope and diversity
- Governments provide funding in order to meet their commitments under the CBD
- There is reduced reliance proportionally on ministry of environment budgets for biodiversity-related activities
- Investments in biodiversity and ecosystem services generate a good rate of return
- Biodiversity and ecosystem services' contributions to the economy are tracked with robust tools and metrics within national finance systems
- Investments in biodiversity and ecosystem management lead to reduced costs for crisis management during natural disasters.

### **Recommendations**

In order to accelerate progress towards desired outcomes, workshop participants recommend that:

1. Governments and other actors at all levels recognise and use the revised NBSAP as the main entry point for guiding the integration of biodiversity, ecosystem services and national development.
2. People formulating and implementing NBSAPs and associated development plans, promote and consider the wide range of possible biodiversity mainstreaming outcomes, some of which are mentioned above.
3. Partnerships between international agencies and investors make themselves aware of the wider outcomes of successful biodiversity mainstreaming, and catalyse new and more effective strategies to achieve them.
4. National and local government planners support capacity building in most developing countries to achieve successful biodiversity mainstreaming and the goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
5. Biodiversity and development specialists work on the illustrative outcomes above to develop a better set of outcomes and indicators for planning and monitoring and evaluation.
6. The NBSAPs 2.0 project shares its African Leadership Group model for promoting multi-sector understanding, experience-sharing and co-construction of mainstreaming solutions with officials responsible for revising the NBSAP in other countries, who can adapt it to suit their needs.

The third international workshop of the NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development project (2012-2015) brought together professionals and practitioners from African countries and international institutions working in the environment, finance, and social and development sectors to: share key lessons and best practice from the NBSAPs revision process; explore what successful mainstreaming looks like and how it can be assessed; and prepare for the challenges of integrating new NBSAPs targets into National Development Plans, sector plans and policies. This report summarises the proceedings.



## Event Materials

## Biodiversity

*Keywords:*  
Mainstreaming, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, Convention on Biological Diversity



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