

NBSAPs 2.0: MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY & DEVELOPMENT

Windhoek Statement on Achieving Success in Biodiversity Mainstreaming

JULY 2014

INTRODUCTION

In July 2014, 34 professionals and practitioners from African countries and international institutions working in the environment, finance, social and development sectors gathered near Windhoek, Namibia for the third international 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 Statement¹ 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 Statement² 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 countries³ 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.

¹ The Maun statement on biodiversity and development mainstreaming is available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic from www.iied.org/statements-workshop-reports

² The Entebbe statement on biodiversity in development planning is available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic from www.iied.org/statements-workshop-reports

³ Project partner countries are Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles, and Uganda. Liberia, Malawi, South Africa and Zimbabwe were also represented at this workshop.

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.



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WHAT IS THE NBSAPs 2.0 INITIATIVE?

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

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

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

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The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of UNEP, contributory organisations or editors.

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Project implementers



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Funders

