

Answer by the CEBioS programme (Belgium, Royal Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS), Belgian Cooperation for Development (DGD)) to  
CBD N O T I F I C A T I O N 2016-78 Decision XII/5,

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## 1. General

### Introduction

1. The Belgian government, with the Ministry of Development Cooperation, specifically earmarked 5 M Euro for the period 2014-2018 in a strategy over 10 years (2014-2023) to the CEBioS Programme ((‘Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development: <http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2> ), in the framework of the Belgian obligations to CBD concerning capacity building on biodiversity and poverty eradication in developing countries.
2. In that context, Luc Janssens de Bisthoven, coordinator of the CEBioS programme, participated to the CBD Chennai workshop of December 2013, which resulted into the “Chennai Guidance for the Integration of Biodiversity and Poverty Eradication”.
3. The CEBioS programme wishes to share its best practices and lessons learnt in answer to the CBD notification **2016-078**, concerning Decision XII/5, in preparation of COP13.

### Short description of the CEBioS programme

4. The CEBioS programme is financed by the Belgian Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGD) and is executed at the Royal Belgian Institute for Natural Sciences (RBINS, member of the CSP, the Consortium of scientific Partners to the CBD). CEBioS is part of the RBINS policy support ‘BIOPOLS’ group (<https://www.naturalsciences.be/en/science/do/539/scientific-research/research-programmes/98> ).
5. CEBioS staff includes the Belgian National Focal Points for CHM (Hans de Koeijer) and GTI (Marie-Lucie Susini Ondafe). The BIOPOLS group also contains the Belgian National Focal Point CBD and SBSSTA (Hendrik Segers). Both NFP-CBD and CEBioS teams consist together of ±15 staff members and work in close cooperation with other teams within RBINS (expert pool), as well as with the Belgian regions (Flanders, Brussels, Wallonia), the federal Ministry of Environment and other research institutions (Royal Museum for Central Africa, Botanical Garden Meise, universities, NGOs).
6. The CEBioS programme has 6 strategic objectives (<http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/docs/strategy/strategy-dgd-kbin-2014-2023.pdf>):
  1. To strengthen the **scientific and technical knowledge** base on biodiversity and on its linkages with ecosystem services and poverty reduction;
  2. To enhance the **information base** on these issues and on associated governance processes;
  3. To raise **awareness** and communicate on the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services for poverty reduction and sustainable development, and on associated governance processes.

4. To improve the **mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services** in policy sectors that have a high relevance for development;
  5. To improve the knowledge on the **measurement, reporting and verification (MRV)** of policy choices and activities linked to biodiversity and ecosystem services;
  6. To raise awareness on, and build capacities for, the implementation of the **Nagoya Protocol (NP)** on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS).
7. CEBioS supports the capacities of institutional partners (ministries, agencies, research institutes) in developing countries through e.g. the organisation of short competitive GTI grants in Belgium and workshops locally about habitat monitoring, taxonomy and ecosystem services, training to set up and maintain CHM web sites, management and reporting of biodiversity data (MRV) and many other interventions, such as marine modelling, the digitalisation of the colonial archives of the past national parks in DR Congo (<http://www.apncb.be/urlmap.html> ) or the publication of the ABC taxa series (<http://www.abctaxa.be/> ). CEBioS specifically focuses (but not exclusively, it can be active in 29 countries) in Bénin, DR Congo, Burundi, Peru (until end of 2016) and Vietnam.

## 2. Specific detailed answer from CEBioS

### concerning Identifying best practices and lessons learned on how to integrate biodiversity, poverty eradication, and sustainable development: pertinent elements of Decision XII/5

- *How to integrate biodiversity and nature's benefits to people, including ecosystem services and functions, into poverty eradication and development strategies, initiatives and processes at all levels and vice versa, to integrate poverty eradication and development concerns and priorities into national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other appropriate plans, policies and programmes, and to monitor, evaluate and report on these integration efforts through appropriate indicators and tools (see paragraph 3 of decision XII/5);*
  - *How to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem benefits, including services and functions, into national budgeting processes in order to capture the value of biodiversity in national development planning across all sectors (see paragraph 4 of decision XII/5);*
8. CEBioS supported under its MoU with OBPE (Office Burundais pour la protection de l'Environnement) a workshop to start a valuation of ecosystem services in Burundi, as a first step towards capturing the value of biodiversity in national development planning across all sectors. <http://bi.chm-cbd.net/events/atelier-de-validation-d-une-etude-nationale-bibliographique-d-inventaire-des>
- *How to enhance contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and poverty reduction through the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, the conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components (see paragraph 5 of decision XII/5);*
9. CEBioS supported under its MoU with OBPE (Office Burundais pour la protection de l'Environnement) several workshops dedicated to different stakeholders in order to explain and to raise awareness about the Nagoya protocol (general: <http://bi.chm-cbd.net/events/ateliers-de-validation-de-2-etudes>, decision makers, researchers, traditional healers, see list in [http://bi.chm-cbd.net/events?list\\_expired=True](http://bi.chm-cbd.net/events?list_expired=True) ) and ecosystem services as well as the cost of inaction: decision-makers and entrepreneurs (<http://bi.chm-cbd.net/events/atelier-national-de-sensibilisation-des-decideurs-et-des-grands-entrepreneurs> ).

- *How to raise awareness on best practices of sustainable use, including agro-ecological approaches with positive impacts on the conservation of biodiversity, and to promote actions compatible with biodiversity conservation to strengthen food security and nutrition as mechanisms for poverty eradication in rural areas (see paragraphs 7 and 8 of decision XII/5);*
10. CEBioS supports under its MoU with OBPE (Burundi) and ICCN (Institut Congolais de la Conservation de la Nature) several initiatives to better map edible wild mushrooms and their value for food security in Burundi and RD Congo. This resulted in the establishment of a new regional network MyCoGI (Réseau des Mycologues d'Afrique Centrale), <http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/news/newsletter-of-the-network-of-mycologists-from-the-great-lakes-region-in-africa> or see also e.g. <http://cd.chm-cbd.net/cooperation/cooperation-bilaterale/formations/programme-cebios./les-champignons-quelle-importance-dans-la-vie-socio-culturelle-des-communautés/download/fr/1/article-heritier-rdc-final.pdf?action=view>
  11. CEBioS supports through its competitive GTI grants several research projects on ecosystem services related to e.g. food security. See general list of publications resulting from GTI projects in <http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/docs/publications/publications-gti-alumni-2010-2016/download/en/1/publications-GTI-2010-2016.pdf?action=view>.
  12. CEBioS supports every year about 5 competitive awareness projects with grants up to 8.000 €, see list [http://www.biodiv.be/cooperation/chm\\_coop/chm-partnering/public\\_awareness/results-chm-public-awareness-calls](http://www.biodiv.be/cooperation/chm_coop/chm-partnering/public_awareness/results-chm-public-awareness-calls). See also some public awareness material produced (only a selection is online): <http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/docs/publications/public-awareness-material>
- *How to identify and promote, policies, activities, projects and mechanisms on biodiversity and development that consider traditional knowledge related to biodiversity and that empower indigenous and local communities, the poor, marginalized and vulnerable, who depend directly on biodiversity and ecosystem services and functions for their livelihoods, recognizing the role of collective action in the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of its components (see paragraphs 10 and 13 of decision XII/5);*
13. CEBioS supported under its MoU with ICCN (Institut Congolais de la Conservation de la Nature) the production of two lexica about habitat and monitoring in protected areas, see <http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/docs/publications/habitats-de-la-reserve-et-domaine-de-chasse-de-bombo-lumene-r.d.-congo-2011/download/en/1/lexicon-I-light.pdf?action=view> and [http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/docs/publications/habitats-du-parc-national-de-kahuzi-biega-r.d.-congo-2013/download/en/1/Lex\\_vol-II\\_web.pdf?action=view](http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/docs/publications/habitats-du-parc-national-de-kahuzi-biega-r.d.-congo-2013/download/en/1/Lex_vol-II_web.pdf?action=view). Several new lexica are in preparation for Burundi, with the cooperation of OBPE (Burundi) for Ruzizi national Park, Ruvubu National Park and Kibira National Park.
  14. Through a 'North South South' project promoted by the KU Leuven, of the Flemish InterUniversity Council for Development Cooperation (VLIR-UOS), CEBioS organised a multistakeholder workshop at Lake Manyara, Tanzania (<http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/news/north-south-south-project-vlir-uos-integrated-water-management-lake-manyara>) in order to scope through community mapping traditional and local perceptions of environmental conflicts and ecosystem services in the lake Manyara sub-basin, in

order to work towards a decision support system which can feed an integral management plan of L. Manyara sub-basin.

15. CEBioS organises annually a competitive call on 'Monitoring, Reporting and Verification' (MRV) in target countries. It combines local valorisation of biodiversity data by scientists and authorities, the use of the CHM for dissemination, and opening/closing workshops with exchanges of best practices, lessons learned and capacity building in technical and scientific skills. See e.g. <http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/calls/mrv-calls/2016-call/texte-call> .

- *How to support indigenous and community conserved areas and territories, community-based management, customary sustainable use and community governance of biodiversity, and ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities in decision-making processes, taking into account international instruments and law related to human rights in accordance with national legislation and to consider traditional knowledge related to biodiversity conservation in their national policies and initiatives (see paragraph 11 of decision XII/5);*

16. CEBioS supports under its MoU with the Université Abomey-Calavi (UAC, Bénin) a scientific research cooperation on bush fire and other land use in the UNESCO MAB Pendjari National Park in cooperation with the Min. of Environment, the national Park authorities CENAGREF, which works with community villages in the buffer zone of the park (AVIGREFS). It consists of several masters and PhDs, a monitoring programme of habitats, awareness actions in villages and schools, and the development of a lexicon for park rangers and other stakeholders about habitat monitoring, vernacular names of plants in the region, <http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/partnerships/institutional/benin>.

- *How to take steps to identify and overcome barriers to the implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties, such as lack of cross-sector coordination, resources and political prioritization, in order to effectively integrate biodiversity, poverty eradication and development, and to share lessons learned and the approaches or methods used to overcome barriers using the clearing-house mechanism (see paragraph 14 of decision XII/5);*

17. The CEBioS programme is one of the leads and very instrumental in promoting the CHM for CBD across developing countries. See e.g. [http://www.biodiv.be/cooperation/chm\\_coop/chm-partnering/call\\_reinforcement/projects-received-grants-under-reinforcement](http://www.biodiv.be/cooperation/chm_coop/chm-partnering/call_reinforcement/projects-received-grants-under-reinforcement) for a list of projects and web sites. It does that in several ways: (1) training of PTK to web masters to technically set up the CHM sites, (2) training for maintenance, contents and information strategy, (3) regional training and support with south-south exchange of practices and (4) hosting on server.

18. Through one specific awareness project (see previous point), CEBioS for instance supported in cooperation with the Belgian education agency VVOB the installation in RD Congo of contacts and cooperation between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education to organise open door days in pilot agro-forestry schools focused on biodiversity, <http://www.vvob.be/vvob/nl/programmas/dr-congo-duurzame-landbouw-en-biodiversiteit-het-landbouwonderwijs> . This enhances cross-sector coordination to overcome some of the barriers to implement the aichi targets.

- *How to develop or strengthen the enabling environment and the capacity of Parties, communities, organizations and individuals, to effectively integrate the Interlinkages between biodiversity and poverty eradication and sustainable development, and relevant cross-cutting issues by providing the necessary technical, scientific support and financial resources (see paragraph 15 of decision XII/5).*

See e.g. § 15, 16, 17 , 18

19. CEBioS actively supports the Centre de Surveillance de Biodiversité du bassin du Congo (CSB, UNIKIS) in Kisangani, RD Congo with training (e.g. scientific communication, taxonomy) and the setting up of a secondary regional CHM. <http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/news/training-at-centre-de-surveillance-de-la-biodiversite-csb-kisangani-dr-congo>
20. CEBioS cooperates with IMARPE (Instituto del Mar de Peru) in Peru (until end of 2016), IMER (Institute for Marine Research) in Vietnam and now with IRHOB in Benin (<http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/news/formulation-workshop-in-benin> ) on using the open access software 'Coherens' for marine modeling in order to better understand and predict hydrodynamics of the coastal zones for biodiversity issues.
21. CEBioS organised an alumni workshop for GTI and CHM in Bénin, for technical and scientific exchange of best practices and uptake of vulgarization outputs towards CHM and authorities, <http://www.biodiv.be/cebios2/news/gti-alumni-workshop-cotonou-6-9-june> . In 2017, CEBioS will organise an uptake workshop of 7 years GTI work in Vietnam.
22. CEBioS members regularly participate as experts in international panels, such as the 'Roundtable discussion on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development' organised by Secretariat of the CBD, in the framework of its initiative on "Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development". The meeting took place in Brussels, on 28 October 2015. M-L Susini Ondafe presented the experience of Belgium in mainstreaming biodiversity in its actions linked to poverty reduction. M-L Susini Ondafe also participated as an expert in the 1st IPBES Capacity-building Forum organized in Dehradun, India from 19 to 22 October 2015.

### 3. Lessons learned and conclusions

Through these 20+ selected examples of interventions by the Belgian CEBioS programme to implement the Aichi targets in developing countries, some best practices or lessons learned are communicated:

1. Organisation of a coherent governmental programme benefitting from development cooperation funds specifically dedicated to the implementation of the CBD. It should have a clear strategy and strategic goals, be part of the NBSAP and follow a result based management in order to organize capacity building packages towards targeted countries and partners on the basis of mutual formal agreements, south demand and available expertise pool. The budget should be earmarked for several years in order to facilitate building up cooperation with the South.
2. Link the administration with the scientific expertise in the donor country in order to organise such an expertise-based programme, and in the south in order to support local authorities from state to state based on scientific evidence and strengthening of local technical and scientific capacities;
3. Build up long term institutional relationships with focal points, ministries and related agencies and research institutes to enhance trust and mutual accountability;
4. Combine research with extension, uptake by local authorities and communities, combine top down and bottom up within policy work and scientific work.
5. Link up official diplomacy, ODA, scientific research and policy with each other through good communication, visibility and transparency, and a win-win approach for all parties.

6. Work cross-sectoral by reaching to stakeholders from several sectors and working with several ministries.
7. Ensure a personal and intensive follow-up of each intervention, with enough flexibility to react on new elements, but also enough predictability in budget allocations and recurrent practices such as competitive calls and the organisation of follow-up workshops, evaluations and field visits.
8. Work in a participative and structured way.
9. Combine instruments such as CHM, GTI, MRV to work better towards achieving the Aichi targets.
10. Work with other scientific and NGO actors in North and South in order to capitalize on expertise and possible complementarities and synergies.

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Supported by Han de Koeijer and Marie-Lucie Susuni Ondafe