



# **ROLE OF UNDP COUNTRY OFFICES IN CONTRIBUTING TO BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING**

**by  
Eddy Russell**



# INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- The indivisibility of the environment.
- One should always use ‘**SUSTAINABILITY LENSES**’ to look at all proposed interventions and support efforts on the part of the UNDP and other UN System partners.
- Assist in clearly indicating (make the case for) the opportunities and benefits associated with **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**. One cannot argue for biodiversity. It needs to be located within ‘sustainable development’ and the argument/case needs to be made for sustainable development.
- Ironic that the biggest threat to biodiversity is development **AND**, at the same time, the lack of development.
- It is important to remember and to communicate the role of biodiversity as an **INDICATOR** of an healthy environment and the link to human health and well-being.

# UNDP COUNTRY OFFICES APPROACHES TO MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY

- Assist initiatives in the countries in developing and promoting a **national sustainable development strategy** and locate biodiversity within this.
- Insure that environment, sustainable development and therefore biodiversity are clearly reflected in the Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) at country level.
- Make the economic and social case for **sustainable development** and **locate biodiversity within this**.
- Assist countries to access resources for initiatives that link biodiversity to sustainable development efforts/projects and to other important sectors – e.g. like tourism.

# UNDP COUNTRY OFFICES APPROACHES TO MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY CONTIN.

- Work with **Regional** and Sub-Regional structures and facilitate contacts and information sharing between countries, using a Regional or Sub-Regional champion
- Act as a **communication channel** between countries and global biodiversity institutions and experts and facilitate the two-way flow of information
  - Bring **international experience** and, where possible, best practice to the attention of key national decision-makers
  - Support environment departments to **lobby key national decision-makers and institutions** – e.g. Treasury departments

## UNDP COUNTRY OFFICES APPROACHES TO MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY CONTIN.

- Support **communication** efforts to **inform key decision-makers and the general public** about the tangible benefits of biodiversity. National biodiversity days and events linked to biodiversity. Also assist in highlighting particular achievements relating to biodiversity on the part of important economic sectors like mining, tourism.
- **Support high profile events** that emphasise the importance and value of biodiversity.
- Assist through bringing various sectors and **roleplayers together** – the government, civil society and private sector.

## **UNDP COUNTRY OFFICES APPROACHES TO MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY CONTIN.**

- Assist countries through appropriate projects, in generating **high quality scientific information** (not only data) that can be used to **inform development planning.**
- Support **key biodiversity agencies** in countries.
- Work with other **UN agencies and partners** to mainstream sustainable development (and hence biodiversity) into their programmes.

## UNDP COUNTRY OFFICES APPROACHES TO MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY CONTIN.

- Liaise with **donor community** re the cross-cutting nature and importance of sustainable development and hence biodiversity.
- Support efforts to include environment and sustainable development within **school curricula** by making international experience and materials available to country education authorities.



**THANK YOU**