



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Regional Workshop for the Caribbean Region on Updating and Revising NBSAPs

Mainstreaming Biodiversity – Global Overview
Approaches and Tools

CBD Secretariat
5 – 7 September 2012



What is Mainstreaming?



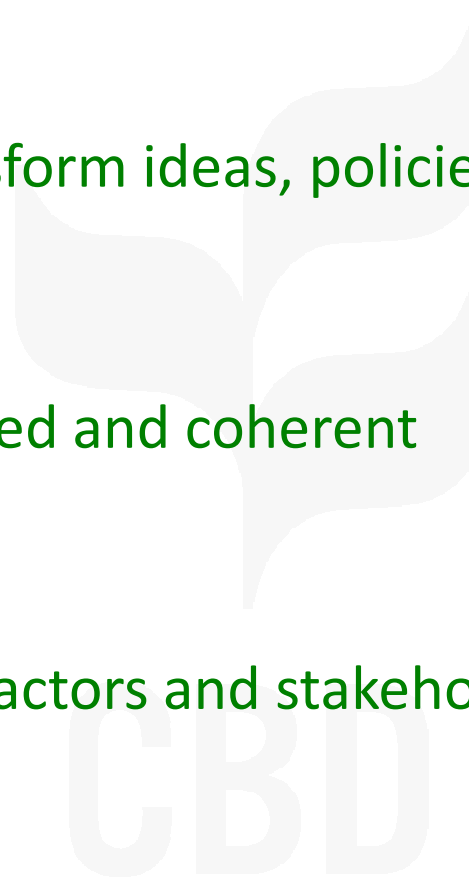
- The informed integration of a value, theme or concern into the decisions of the institutions that lead national, local and sector policy development, regulations, plans, investments and actions.
- A structured joint response to the complexity and challenges of sustainable development.

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What is Mainstreaming?



- Institutional strengthening and change, which is at the heart of any integration effort.
- An iterative long-term process to transform ideas, policies and practices in an effort to:
 - Further the desired results;
 - Determine and implement integrated and coherent solutions;
- A long-term effort that involves many actors and stakeholders.



The CBD's Integration Mandate



- Article 6b –
 - “Integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies
- COP 5 – Ecosystem approach:
 - provides for the integrated management of land, water and living resources and promotes a balance in the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention
- COP 9 –
 - “Notes with concern, the inadequate mainstreaming of biodiversity, in particular in sectoral planning processes and in national development and poverty eradication strategies...”
- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2,3,4)

Why is mainstreaming important?



- Increases the recognition of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem service + spurs action to maximise positive impacts and minimise negative ones,
- Encourages the sharing of responsibilities with non-traditional environmental ministries thus freeing up resources
- The Hague Ministerial Declaration at CoP6 (2002, ten years after the CBD was signed) found that **the most important lesson learned** was that Convention objectives could not be reached without integrating biodiversity into all directly- and indirectly- related economic activity sectors

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Lessons learned in mainstreaming thus far



Pripp et al, found that:

- Although NBSAPs portray biodiversity as an asset for, rather than an impediment to development, biodiversity is poorly reflecting in development and poverty reduction strategies and policies
- most NBSAPs highlight the need to value and create economic incentives for biodiversity, but few move beyond general statements

GBO 3 reported that:

- while addressing biodiversity loss requires addressing the underlying causes or indirect drivers of that decline, there has been insufficient integration of biodiversity issues into broader policies, strategies and programmes. It states that better decisions for biodiversity must be made at all levels and in all sectors, in particular the major economic sectors, with a key enabling role played by government

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Reasons for Poor Biodiversity Mainstreaming



Environment
Ministry or Agency

- Mostly regarded as green police
- Has limited resources
- Many environmental initiatives in the hands of other ministries
- Usually does not take active part in budget planning
- Scientific language barriers
- Relies on donor project funding
- “Conflicting” objectives as it favours long term vision
- Lack of data for argumentation

Reasons for Poor Biodiversity Mainstreaming



Ministry of Finance
Ministry of Planning
Sectoral Ministries
(Agriculture, Fisheries,
Forest, Health,...)

- Poor environmental governance
- Weak environmental vision
- Have to respond to a number of environmental strategies poorly integrated
- Difficulty in assessing impact of environmental initiatives
- Environment Ministry regarded as a cost
- Lack of awareness and capacities
- Need to cooperate at all levels of planning (local to national) this can lead to power struggles

Perception of Ministries

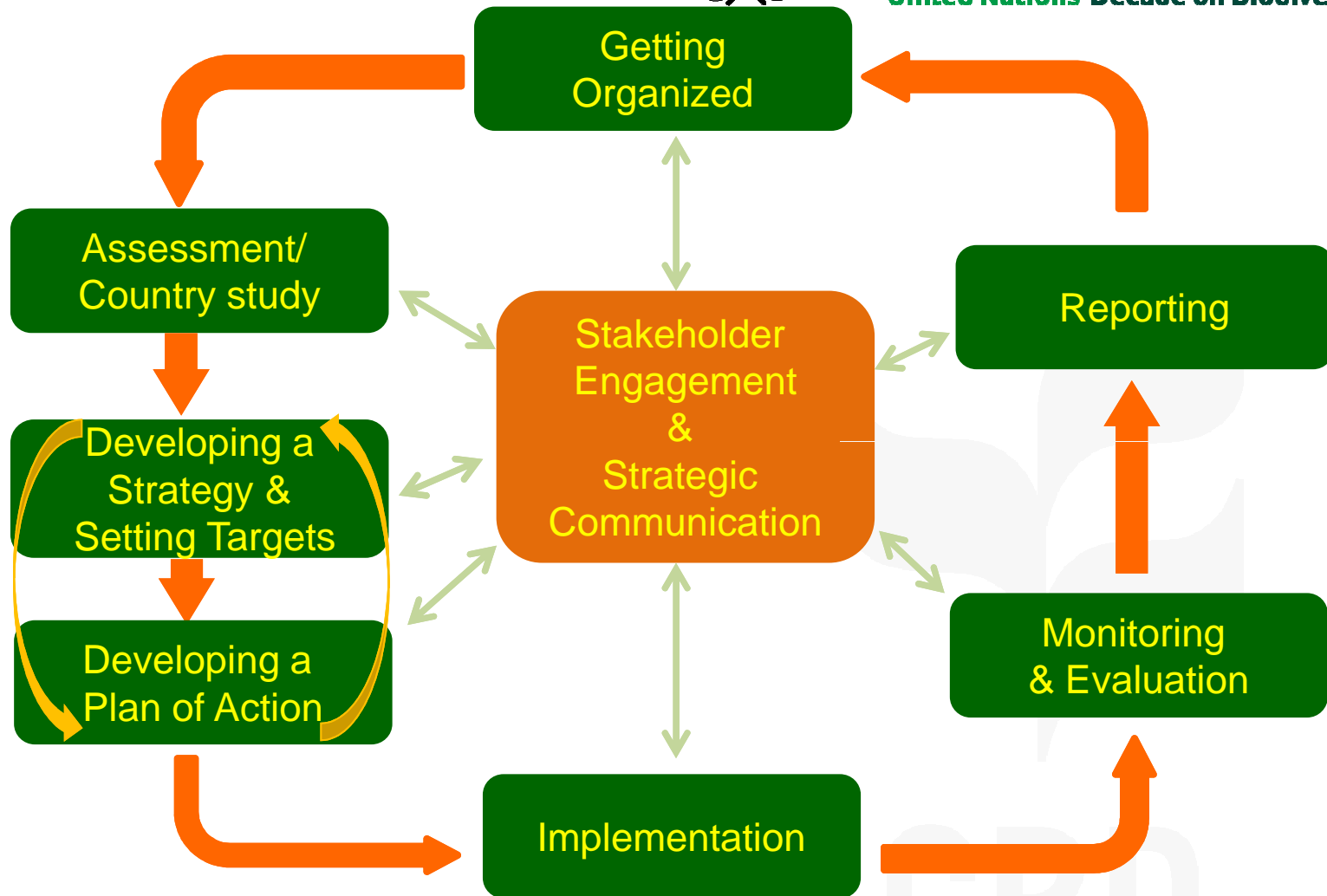


**Transform the way other Ministries understand/ look at the
Ministry of Environment/Agency.**

**Environment Ministry/Agency
=
Solutions/Alternatives for Development**

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Mainstreaming Process



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1. Assessments



- Mainstreaming efforts require country specific information and knowledge, which is important for understanding status of biodiversity, causes of biodiversity loss, priority entry points
- Some of this information should already be available from biodiversity country studies, the first NBSAP, national reports to the CBD and other sources
- Information can also be collected and compiled from stakeholders such as national and regional NGOs, research institutions, other sectors etc
- While information may not be complete, mainstreaming should not wait until ALL information exists; where there is sufficient information, or where existing information points to a problem mainstreaming should go ahead

1. Assessments



- As mainstreaming is an integral part of the NBSAP process, assessments for mainstreaming will take place as part of the NBSAP assessment phase
- Information that will be useful for mainstreaming may include:

VALUATION OF BIODIVERSITY:

- Assessment of the value of biodiversity in the country, in economic, social and cultural terms
- Economic valuation of biodiversity:
 - Value of goods and services provided by biodiversity
 - Possible long term revenues from biodiversity related sectors such as tourism
 - Possible long term future costs of biodiversity loss
- Linkages between biodiversity and human well-being

2. Stakeholder identification and engagement



Mainstreaming biodiversity will involve a range of stakeholders, rights-holders and interest groups:

- Within government: Ministries of Environment, Finance and Planning, Parliament, Judiciary, Forestry, Fisheries, Mining, Infrastructure etc (varies by country and depends on the main issues to be addressed).
- Civil society: national and international NGOs, UN agencies, other development agencies, business
- Indigenous and local communities: special circumstances within the CBD;
- Interest groups: lobby groups and other powerful interest groups in (particularly) fisheries, timber and mining

3. Developing the mainstreaming strategy



- Important to remember that this is part of the NBSAP strategy development phase!
- Strategy will depend on degree of buy in by actors and decision makers in the targeted sectors:
 - Little or no buy-in: strategy will be geared towards gaining interest and engaging actors and decision makers
 - Some buy-in: strategy will aim to secure interest and support in order to move to political will and ownership
 - Full/ substantial buy-in: less need for specific strategies – sector specific biodiversity planning will already integrated; strategy will focus on increasing effectiveness
- Mainstreaming strategy will be comprised of goals/ objectives (and Aichi based targets!!!) as with the NBSAP

4. Developing the mainstreaming action plan



- The mainstreaming action plan will be implemented within the time frame of, and in step with other action plans within the NBSAP.
- Will also depend on the degree of buy-in:
 - Little or no buy-in: action plan will focus on activities to attain buy in – mostly CEPA and relationship building
 - Some buy-in: action plan will strive to depend understanding and developing capacity to meaningfully integrate biodiversity e.g. developing legislation, strengthening institutional arrangements, research and development of indicators
 - Full/ substantial buy-in: action plan will focus on monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness of actions

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5. Implementation



- Implementation of mainstreaming actions will take place at the same time as implementation of the NBSAP
- It also depends on the level of buy-in:
 - Little or no buy-in: implementation will remain in the hands of the NBSAP working group/ biodiversity unit/ MoE
 - Some buy-in: implementation will remain in the hands of the NBSAP working group/ biodiversity unit/ MoE
 - Full/ substantial buy-in: implementation will largely be in the hands of the sector responsible

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6. Monitoring + Evaluation



- Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation need to be built into the plan of action, and in place at the start of implementation
- Important to identify appropriate baselines and indicators to evaluate outcomes and effectiveness
- Monitoring and evaluation is preferably done by a range of stakeholders or by independent bodies

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7. Review



- As with revision of the NBSAP, the mainstreaming strategy should be revised periodically:
 - Revision will be based on the lessons learned during the implementation of the mainstreaming strategy and action plan
 - Revision should also be based on the outcomes of monitoring and evaluation processes

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Mainstreaming – entry points



- Remember: Mainstreaming across sectors will not happen all at once – different sectors offer different opportunities for mainstreaming
- There can be several entry points and windows for mainstreaming biodiversity therefore it is important that they are identified and prioritized
- Criteria for prioritising entry points include:
 - Links between biodiversity and human well-being are easily demonstrated
 - Links are greatest and where most benefit will be derived from mainstreaming (or most lost from NOT mainstreaming)
 - Existence of a mainstreaming “champion”
 - Timing creates an opportunity

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Mainstreaming – entry points



- Entry points exist at various levels:
 - At national level:
 - National level policies, strategies, plans and programmes e.g. national sustainable development plans, national land-use policies
 - At sub-national level:
 - Sub-national policies, strategies, plans and programmes e.g. sub-national BSAPs, district/ provincial development plans, district land-use plans
 - At regional/ trans-boundary level:
 - Regional policies and programmes e.g. marine eco-region management programmes
 - At sectoral level:
 - Sectoral policies, strategies, plans and programmes e.g. national water master plan, forest strategy etc

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Promising Opportunities Can Emerge:

When a sector law, strategy is being revised/established.

When sectoral guidelines are being revised/established.

When an area of importance for biodiversity is being zoned, or its use designation is being established or changed.

When there is a change of government and/or policy.

When sectoral, sub-national and national budget requests and budgets are being prepared.



After a crisis/ natural hazard/ conflict as part of rebuilding, recuperation, recovery: political leaders and the general public may become more aware and convinced of need for change.

When a country is being considered for donor funds (e.g. when UN Country Assessment is being updated, Country Environment Analysis is being done...)

When a country's development is being reviewed (i.e. in annual joint reviews between developing country governments and donors).

Mainstreaming - Approaches



There are several approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity, the most commonly used are:

- Ecosystem services approach:
 - uses Millennium Assessment ecosystem services framework
 - Proposes 5 step process for assessing risks and opportunities inherent in decisions that affect ecosystem services
 - Proposes scenario planning to systematically explore possible alternatives
 - Is designed to be incorporated into existing decision making processes and to be used at all levels of decision making
- Environmental Impact Assessment/ Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Mainstreaming - Approaches



Most commonly used approaches continued:

- CBD Ecosystem Approach:
 - Contains 12 principles that can be used to guide planning process at national and sub-national levels
 - Provides for integration between various sectoral interests
 - Is not a fixed method, and is to be applied flexibly
- Spatial Planning
 - Important opportunity for mainstreaming into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans
 - Provides for coordination of different sectors and tiers of government

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Mainstreaming - Tools



There are also several tools that can be used for mainstreaming including:

- Indicators: facilitate understanding of complex relationship between biodiversity and human well-being e.g. ecosystem services indicators.
- Legal instruments: biodiversity can be integrated into legal framework; can be introduced to encourage, control or prohibit certain uses and practices e.g. South Africa's mining law, duty of care in various legal frameworks
- Economic and financial tools: may aim to correct or modify economic forces e.g. economic incentives, polluter pays and user fees, biodiversity taxes
- Standards, codes of conduct, certification and guidelines: used to encourage environmentally and socially sustainable practices mainly in the private sector



**Integrate “biodiversity” into other policy processes
&
Integrate other processes in the
“biodiversity” strategy**



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Thank you for your attention!

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

413 Saint Jacques Street, Suite 800

Montreal, QC, H2Y 1N9, Canada

Tel: +1 514 288 2220

Fax: + 1 514 288 6588

Email: secretariat@cbd.int

www.cbd.int

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