



Regional Capacity –Development Workshop for Central Asia on National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and Biodiversity Mainstreaming
Ramsar, Islamic Republic of Iran, 9-13 March 2009

Enhancing the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and integrating biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes, policies and local planning processes:

Lessons Learned from National Capacity Self-assessments



Mostafa Panahi
National Coordinator



Overview

- ❖ **General Remarks on Capacity Development**
- ❖ **A glance on NCSA components and implementation**
- ❖ **Good Practice Examples from NCSA**

Background

- ◎ **UNDP and UNEP are currently implementing NCSA Enabling Activity projects in 150+ countries.**
- ◎ **All countries have decided to produce an strategic action plan at the end of the NCSA process that will identify follow-up actions to address capacity constraints through both internal and external funding, including the GEF.**

General Context: Capacity Development

- ❖ **What is capacity? capacity building? Key questions of an ongoing debate.**
- ❖ **Past decade witnessed steadily increasing requests from the global Conventions to build the capacity.**
- ❖ **Importance of capacity building has been acknowledged but developing capacity remains a challenge.**

Why Assessment and enabling?

- ❖ **Weak coordination among administrative bodies**
- ❖ **Weakness in integrating the outcomes of the internationally defined projects to national priorities; (lack of sustainability)**
- ❖ **Weak ownership**
- ❖ **Weakness in identification of relevant stakeholders**

Limited Capacity to implement 3 Rio Conventions

Capacity Assessment

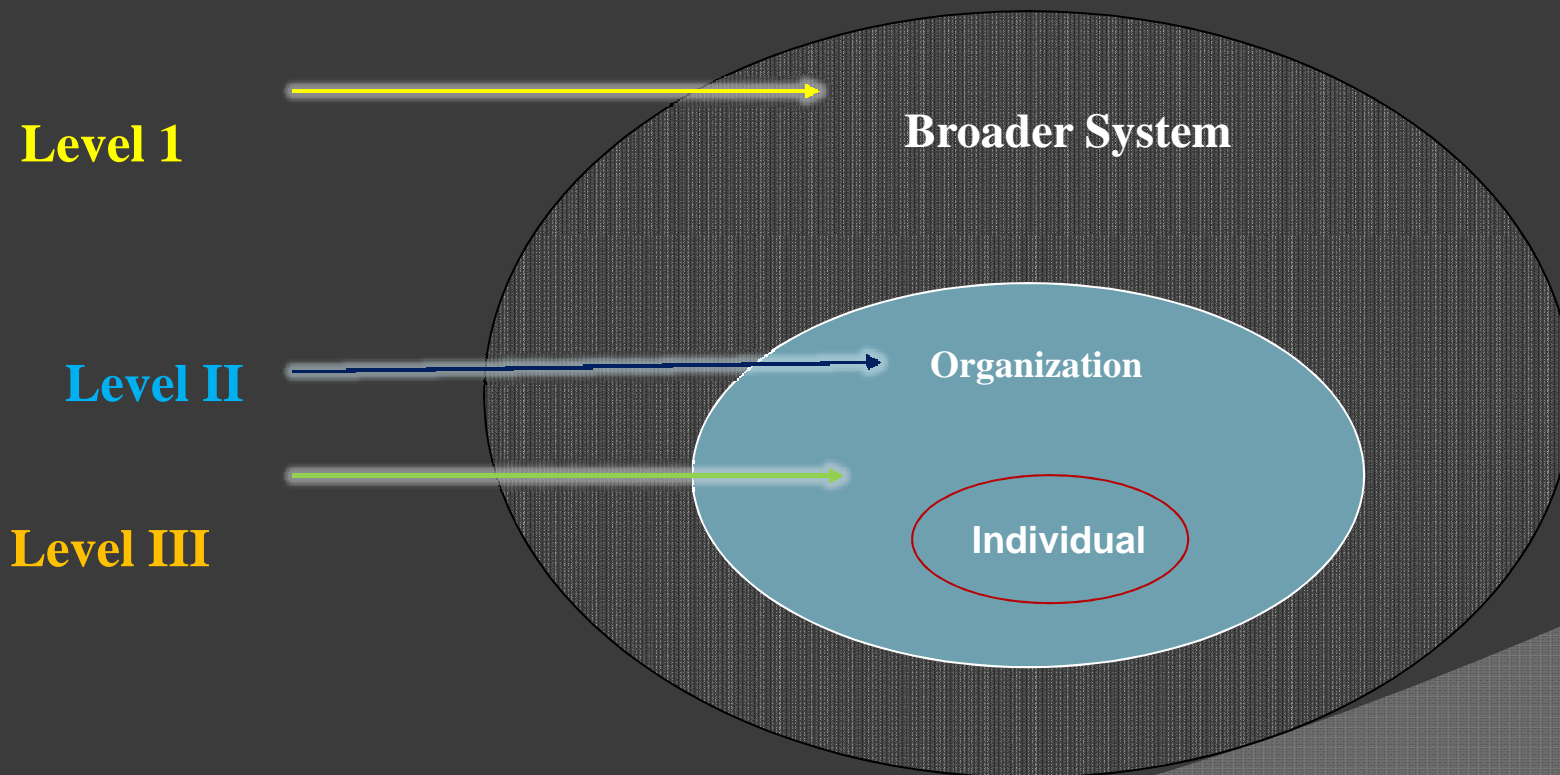
The Capacity is a process which must be:

- ❖ **Structured**
- ❖ **Analytical**
- ❖ **Different aspects of the Capacity in a broader scope (systems) are assessed**
- ❖ **Existing individuals and organizations within the system are assessed**

Fundamentals of Capacity

- ❖ **Individuals**
- ❖ **Organization**
- ❖ **Systems**

Different Layers of the Capacity inside a System



Overview

- ❖ General Remarks on Capacity Development
- ❖ **A glance on NCSA components and implementation**
- ❖ Good Practice Examples from NCSA

Overall Goals: Creating Synergies, Participation/ Social Capital: Better implementation of Rio-Conventions

- ❖ **Reducing the negative impacts of exploitation bodies on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification issues**
- ❖ **Strengthening the cooperation and coordination among stakeholders**
- ❖ **Improving the efficiency in financial and economic investments**
- ❖ **Improving the administrative and bureaucratic procedures**
- ❖ **Developing Individual, organizational and systemic capacity**

Used Tools to undertake Capacity Assessment

❖ **Desk-studies**

- Rapid;
- Not implicitly participatory;

❖ **Questionnaires**

- More thorough, but require time and organisation;

❖ **Workshops**

- More participatory, and more inclusive;
- For addressing complex and multi-dimensional issues
- For building networks

❖ **Prioritization matrix**

❖ **Root-cause analysis – problem tree for in-depth analysis**

- Comprehensive, through a workshop

Thematic Assessment - Purpose

- ❖ **To assess and analyse the capacity situation in a thematic area;**
- ❖ **To achieve a full understanding of the existing capacity, the needs and constraints, and the root causes;**
- ❖ **To determine the linkage between incomplete implementation (slow progress) and need for capacity development;**
- ❖ **To determine priority thematic issues and capacity needs;**

Cross-cutting Assessment- Purpose

- ❖ **the innovative approach of NCSA has been undertaken;**
- ❖ **opportunities for synergy and inter-Convention cooperation are identified;**
- ❖ **the necessary action to optimise capacities and response mechanisms for the three Conventions is planned;**
- ❖ **the measures that will serve the three Conventions at once are identified;**

Action Plan and Synthesis Report - Purpose

- ❖ **Except for few thematic professionals nobody will read all NCSA assessment reports;**
- ❖ **To synthesize the voluminous assessment products into more manageable size for advocacy and future action;**
- ❖ **To turn the assessment into the programmable, realistic and bankable actions;**
- ❖ **To develop a tool for resource mobilisation;**

Overview

- ❖ General Remarks on Capacity Development
- ❖ A glance on NCSA implementation
- ❖ **Good Practice Examples from NCSA**

Creating and Maintaining Effective High-level Support

- ◎ **It helps the project to prepare the NCSA and significantly increases the chance of successful follow-up;**
- ◎ **Ensure issues are addressed from a multi-sectoral perspective;**
- ◎ **Ensure that the PSC and other coordinating mechanisms function well;**
- ◎ **Ensure that the principles of the NCSA process are followed throughout project implementation, not just at project completion;**

Creating and Maintaining Effective High-level Support

- ① **Ensure that the NCSA supports sustainable development and national priorities;**
- ② **Ensure that national policies reflect the aims of the NCSA;**
- ③ **Make key decisions, and ensure they are followed through;**
- ④ **Help commit government funds, and help mobilise non-governmental or donor funds;**
- ⑤ **Keep the process open and inclusive.**

Stocktaking - Lessons

- ❖ **Stocktaking needs time and resource and careful planning;**
- ❖ **It is more appropriate if stocktaking is done both as an integral part of thematic assessment and as a separate exercise;**
- ❖ **Stocktaking can be repeated to make sure that NCSA is up-to speed and considers the latest available information. The same applies to stakeholder analysis;**
- ❖ **Brief stocktaking report can be a part of thematic assessment;**

Thematic Assessment - Lessons

- ❖ **Define and agree on terminology before launching the assessment;**
- ❖ **TOR for thematic assessment should contain the agreed format and methodologies;**
- ❖ **Make sure that the three groups coordinate closely and identify common and cross-cutting issues already at this stage;**
- ❖ **Make sure that the assessment is not monopolised by the thematic experts only;**
- ❖ **Involve governance, public reform, capacity assessment specialist in the assessment;**

Cross-cutting Assessment – Lessons

- ❖ **Do not view it as something extraordinarily difficult;**
- ❖ **Cross-cutting issues, capacity needs and constraints emerge quite naturally from the Thematic Assessments;**
- ❖ **Thematic Assessment teams should consider this as early as possible;**
- ❖ **Do not confuse common with cross-cutting. Some common requirements under each convention may require quite distinct capacities;**
- ❖ **We are looking for cross-cutting capacity needs and constraints;**

Action Plan, Synthesis Report- Lessons

- ❖ **Determine procedure and level of endorsement as early as possible;**
- ❖ **Avoid “shelf” action plan by mainstreaming;**
- ❖ **Negotiate actions with key stakeholders and donors for their programming;**
- ❖ **Convention Focal Points should agree on win-win measures;**
- ❖ **Consider various alternatives for action plan: Framework, detailed, actions for mainstreaming in PRSP etc.**

Good Practice Examples from NCSA

- ❖ **Stakeholder Engagement- Institutional Coordination, Leadership & Participation**
- ❖ **Information management & public awareness**
- ❖ **Analysis of Priority Environmental Issues**
- ❖ **Mainstreaming and Linkages to National Policies and Development Agenda**
- ❖ **Capacities in a Managerial System**
- ❖ **Connecting the NCSA with other Enabling Activities**

A scenic view of a river flowing through a forest with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The text "THANKS FOR YOUR KIND ATTENTION!" is overlaid in the center in a bold, yellow, serif font.

**THANKS FOR
YOUR KIND
ATTENTION!**