Regional Workshop for the Middle East and North Africa on Updating and Revising NBSAPs

**Mainstreaming Biodiversity – Global Overview
Approaches and Tools**

CBD Secretariat
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What is Biodiversity Mainstreaming?

- "To internalize the goals of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into economic sectors, development models, policies and programmes, and therefore into all human behaviour"

- **Source**: Petersen, C. & B. Huntley (2005) Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Production Landscapes. GEF Working Paper 10.

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 – Decision IX:** "Notes with concern, the inadequate mainstreaming of biodiversity, in particular in sectoral planning processes and in national development and poverty eradication strategies...";

- **COP 10 - Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Aichi Biodiversity Targets 2, 3 and 4**

Why is mainstreaming important?

- The CoP6 Hague Ministerial Declaration (2002, ten years after the CBD was adopted) 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 sectors;

- Increases recognition of value of biodiversity and ecosystem service and promotes action to maximise positive impacts and minimise negative ones;

- Encourages the sharing of responsibilities with non-traditional environmental ministries thus freeing up resources;

Lessons learned in mainstreaming

Prip, C. et al (2010) found that:

- "Although NBSAPs portray biodiversity as an asset for, rather than an impediment to development, biodiversity is poorly reflected in development and poverty reduction strategies and policies;" and

- "most NBSAPs highlight the need to valuate and create economic incentives for biodiversity, but few move beyond general statements"

GBO 3 (2010) 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".

Reasons for Poor Biodiversity Mainstreaming

Environment Ministry or Agency

-
- Mostly regarded as "green police"
- Has limited resources;
- Relies on donor project funding;
- Usually does not take active part in national budget planning;
- Conflicting objectives as it favours long-term vision;
- Technical language barriers;
- Lack of data for "making the case";
- Many environmental requirements/actions are in the mandate of other Ministries;

Reasons for Poor Biodiversity Mainstreaming

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

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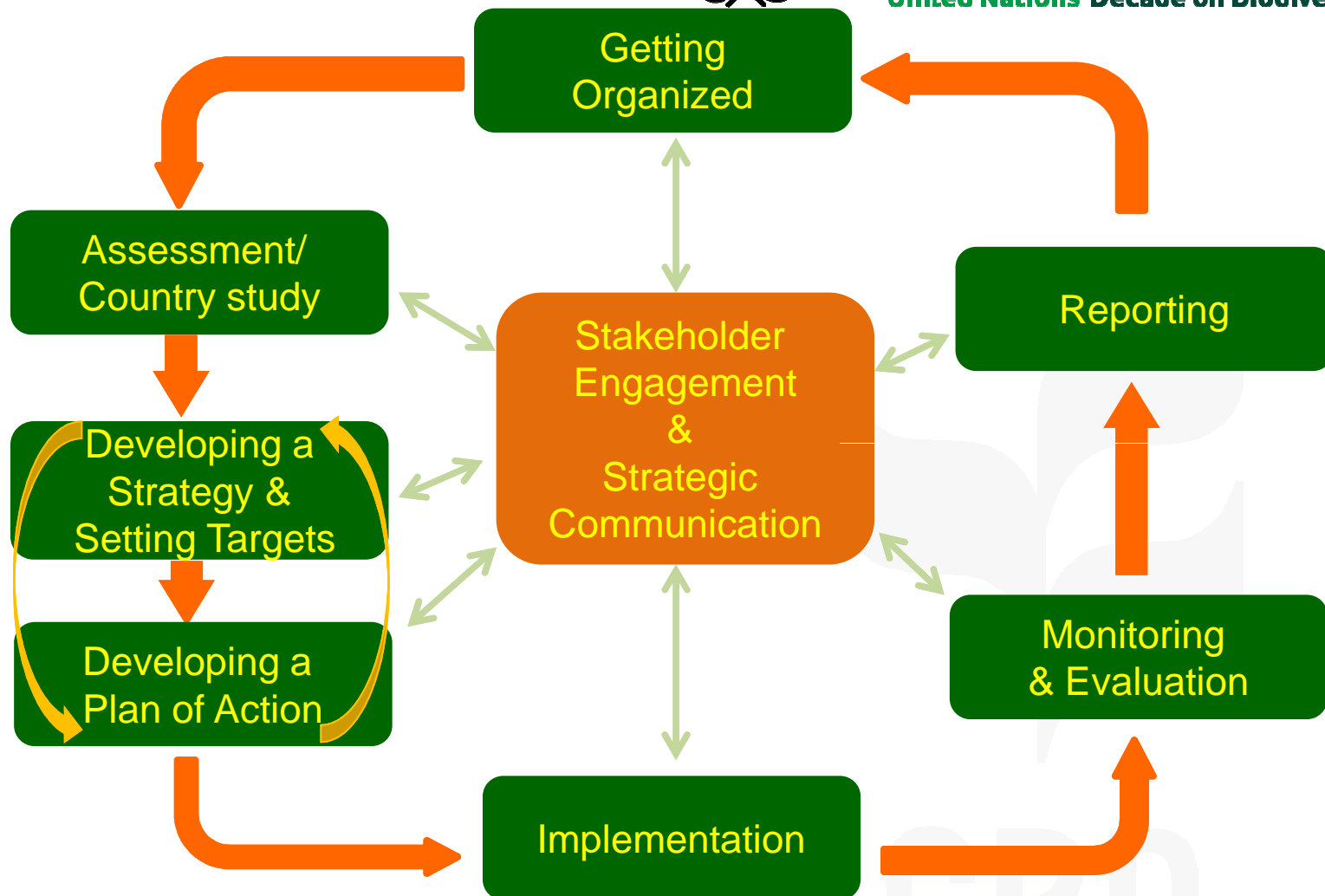
The Mainstreaming Challenge

How to transform the way other Ministries understand/look at
the Ministry of Environment/Agency?

Environment Ministry/Agency
as an agent/partner
for
Solutions/Alternatives for Development

<u>Note</u>: environment, not just biodiversity

Mainstreaming Process

Getting Organized

Assessment/ Country study

Developing a Strategy & Setting Targets

Developing a Plan of Action

Stakeholder Engagement & Strategic Communication

Reporting

Monitoring & Evaluation

Implementation

2011-2020
United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

1. Assessments

- Mainstreaming requires country specific information and knowledge of status of biodiversity, causes of biodiversity loss, priority entry points;

- This information should already be available from biodiversity country studies, the first NBSAP, 3rd and 4th NRs, and other sources; also via other such as national and regional NGOs, research institutions, other sectors, etc.;

- Information will **never** 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 be initiated on the basis of existing knowledge.

A "mainstreamed" NBSAP needs to be able to "talk" to other sectors – this means being able to use the common currencies of (i) economic valuation, (ii) policy development, and (iii) stakeholder engagement

(i) 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 resulting from biodiversity loss;

- Linkages between biodiversity and human well-being.

UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA)

- First analysis of UK natural environment in terms of benefits provided to society and continuing economic prosperity;

- Part of Living With Environmental Change (LWEC) initiative;

- Commenced mid-2009, reported in June 2011, and cost 1.3 million GBP;

- inclusive process involving many government, academic, NGO and private sector institutions (over 500 scientists).

The Key Messages of the
UK National Ecosystem Assessment

The natural world, its biodiversity and its constituent ecosystems are critically important to our well-being and economic prosperity, but are consistently undervalued in conventional economic analyses and decision making. Ecosystems and the services they deliver underpin our very existence. We depend on them to produce our food, regulate water supplies and climate, and breakdown waste products. We also value them in less obvious ways: contact with nature gives pleasure, provides recreation and is known to have a positive impact on long-term health and happiness.

Ecosystems and ecosystem services, and the ways people benefit from them, have changed markedly in the past 60 years, driven by changes in society. During the second half of the 20th Century, the UK's population grew by roughly a quarter to nearly 62 million, living standards greatly increased and technological developments and globalisation had major effects on behaviour and consumption patterns. The production of food from agriculture increased dramatically, but many other ecosystem services, particularly those related to air, water and soil quality, declined.

The UK's ecosystems are currently delivering some services well, but others are still in long-term decline. Of the range of services delivered in the UK by eight broad aquatic and terrestrial habitat types and their constituent biodiversity, about 30% have been assessed as currently declining. Many others are in a reduced or degraded state, including marine fisheries, wild species diversity and some of the services provided by soils. Reductions in ecosystem services are associated with declines in habitat extent or condition and changes in biodiversity, although the exact relationship between biodiversity and the ecosystem services it underpins is still incompletely understood.

The UK population will continue to grow, and its demands and expectations continue to evolve. This is likely to increase pressures on ecosystem services in a future where climate change will have an accelerating impact both here and in the world at large. The UK's population is predicted to grow by nearly 10 million in the next 20 years. Climate change is expected to lead to more frequent severe weather events and alter rainfall patterns, with implications for agriculture, flood control and many other services. One major challenge is sustainable intensification of agriculture: increasing food production while decreasing the environmental footprint.

Actions taken and decisions made now will have consequences far into the future for ecosystems, ecosystem services and human well-being. It is important that these are understood, so that we can make the best possible choices, not just for society now but also for future generations. Contemporary economic and participatory techniques allow us to estimate values for a wide range of ecosystem services. Applying these to scenarios of plausible futures shows that allowing decisions to be guided by market prices alone forgoes opportunities for major enhancements in ecosystem services, with negative consequences for social well-being. Recognising the value of ecosystem services more fully would allow the UK to move towards a more sustainable future, in which the benefits of ecosystem services are better realised and more equitably distributed.

A move to sustainable development will require an appropriate mixture of regulations, technology, financial investment and education, as well as changes in individual and societal behaviour and adoption of a more integrated, rather than conventional sectoral, approach to ecosystem management. This will need the involvement of a range of different actors – government, the private sector, voluntary organisations and civil society at large – in processes that are open and transparent enough to facilitate dialogue and collaboration and allow necessary trade-offs to be understood and agreed on when making decisions.

(ii) POLICY AND LEGAL LANDSCAPE:
- Main policies and legislation in the sectors;
- How the policy area(s) targeted for mainstreaming function(s);
- Alternative policy options relevant to the targeted sector(s) or policy area(s);
- Agenda of reforms or new strategies / policies.

(iii) STAKEHOLDERS, RIGHTS-HOLDERS AND INTEREST GROUPS:
- Main stakeholders, rights-holders and interest groups in sector(s);
- Their level interest in a sector;
- Their level of influence in a sector; and
- Their "readiness" for accepting biodiversity as an important component in their sector.

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, Justice, Forestry, Fisheries, Mining, Infrastructure, Industry, etc. (will vary by country and depends on main issues to be addressed).

- Civil society: national and international NGOs, UN agencies, other development agencies, business sector;

- Indigenous and Local Communities (ILCs) : Articles 8j and 10;

- Interest groups: lobby groups and other powerful interest groups associated with (particularly) fisheries, timber, energy and mining sector;

3. Developing the mainstreaming strategy

- This is part of the NBSAP development phase, but will depend on existing level of "buy-in" by actors and decision makers in the targeted sectors:
  - **<u>Little or no buy-in</u>**: strategy will be geared towards gaining interest and engaging actors and decision makers;
  - **<u>Some buy-in</u>**: strategy will aim to secure interest and support in order to move towards political will and ownership;
  - **<u>Full substantial buy-in</u>**: less need for specific strategies – sector specific biodiversity planning will already integrated; strategy will focus on increasing effectiveness;
- Mainstreaming strategy will comprise goals/objectives (and Aichi-based targets) as with the NBSAP.

4. Developing the mainstreaming action plan

- Mainstreaming action plan should be implemented within time frame of, and in step with, other action plans within NBSAP.

- Will also depend on degree of buy-in:
  - <u>Little or no buy-in</u>: action plan should focus on activities to attain buy in – mostly CEPA and relationship building
  - <u>Some buy-in</u>: action plan should aim to depend understanding and developing capacity to meaningfully integrate biodiversity e.g. developing legislation, strengthening institutional arrangements, research and development of indicators;
  - <u>Full/substantial buy-in</u>: action plan will focus on monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness of actions of the cooperating sector.

5. Implementation

- Mainstreaming actions will need to 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

Monitoring + Evaluation

- Mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation should 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; and

- Monitoring and evaluation is preferably done by a range of stakeholders or by independent bodies.

Review

- As with revision of the NBSAP, the mainstreaming strategy should be revised periodically:

  - based on the lessons learned during the implementation of the mainstreaming strategy and action plan; and

  - based on the outcomes of monitoring and evaluation processes.

Mainstreaming – entry points

- 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.

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.

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 county 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, including:

- Ecosystem services approach:
  - uses Millennium Assessment ecosystem services framework;
  - uses scenario planning to systematically explore possible alternatives;
  - designed to be incorporated into existing decision making processes and used at all levels of decision making;

- Environmental Impact Assessment/Strategic Environmental Assessment

Mainstreaming - Approaches

- 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.

Mainstreaming - Tools

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

- **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 (Precautionary Principle);

- **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;

- **Indicators for communication**: facilitate understanding of complex relationship between biodiversity and human well-being; e.g. flagship species; ecosystem services indicators

**Integrate "biodiversity" into other policy processes
&
Integrate other processes in the
"biodiversity" strategy**

Environment Ministry or Agency

Need for a Bridge

Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Planning; Sectoral Ministries

Thank you

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