

Item 3

Exchange on best practices on integrating biodiversity into poverty eradication and development

1. In paragraph 4(h) of the annex to decision XI/22 on biodiversity for poverty eradication and development, the Conference of the Parties requested the Expert Group on Biodiversity for Poverty Eradication and Development to “*facilitate through the Convention’s National Focal Points and the Secretariat of the Convention the collection and dissemination of best practices on integrating biodiversity into poverty eradication and development, as appropriate*”.

2. The session of the meeting on Best Practices will be introduced by presentations by Parties and other stakeholders from different organizations. The presentations will include best practices in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and the Pacific region followed by best practices of Development and International Institutions and Local Communities.

3. By reviewing how countries, regions and organizations approach integration of biodiversity and what practices they adopt for integration, lessons can be drawn to enhance our understanding about integration, best practices to integrate biodiversity into poverty eradication and sustainable development and how to effectively scale-up, modify and replicate various approaches in different circumstances and in different countries.

4. Integrating biodiversity into poverty eradication and sustainable development can be achieved provided that opportunities and entry points specific to each country and to each context are used. At the same time, it is useful to consider what has worked in other circumstances, and to share the challenges and successes from actual experiences.

5. One of the keys to this is to ensure that mainstreaming is communicated in an effective manner. In fact, much is being done in the way of mainstreaming even when it is not often recognised as such. It is from this vantage point that one has to start to demystify mainstreaming that is too often portrayed as a daunting challenge and an almost insurmountable endeavour.

6. Although there are successful examples of mainstreaming biodiversity strategies with poverty eradication and development strategies, it is not yet the case in many countries. Often, such examples come from outside the biodiversity community, as part of institutions and processes other than National Focal Points to the CBD and coordinators of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP).

7. Interesting initiatives exist to facilitate coordination between ministries and other stakeholders through inter-ministerial coordination structures or committees on biodiversity or the revitalization of pre-existent structures during the revision of NBSAPs or their implementation. In some cases the influence of civil society or local authorities is essential to support mainstreaming.

8. IIED, UNEP-WCMC, CBD, UNDP, PEI, five country teams (and other partners), via the NBSAP 2.0 project, are building a tool for developing a business case for biodiversity, wherein key steps include:

- Framing the types of arguments (economic, social and/or political) that best persuade the target group of the importance of investing in biodiversity, and identifying questions that need to be answered;
- Assembling and preparing evidence to support the arguments;
- Estimating the costs and benefits of action and the costs of inaction;
- Clarifying how impacts are distributed among different players; and
- Identifying the counter-arguments to the biodiversity business case, and how they can be rebutted.

9. However, there are challenges in setting out such business cases that need to be overcome. These include the need to provide more information such as key facts and figures on the specific benefits and economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services; being specific on what investment is

needed, the capacity to deliver, and facts and figures on potential returns on investment; and proposing clear and feasible projects while also avoiding proposing projects that are too broad and unwieldy. As such, “champions” must be armed with data showing how successful biodiversity interventions can be valuable. For example, a network of locally managed marine areas (LMMAs) across Fiji has led to improved fishery offtake, increased direct income and the development of diversified income sources. With the cost of establishing an LMMA estimated at less than US\$ 12,000 over five years, this can be considered a modest investment that led to a doubling of average household income for about 600 people and an increase of about US\$ 37,800 in benefits to the community from fishing alone.¹

10. A number of key lessons can also be learnt from the revision of NBSAPs⁴. These include the importance of engaging stakeholders from the different sectors that either impact or are impacted by biodiversity and the value of identifying or establishing “champions” for biodiversity and development mainstreaming, particularly amongst influential actors. Through such engagement, appropriate messages can be developed and tailored to suit each specific audience in language to which they can relate. The need to mainstream biodiversity into other environmental strategies and into development strategies should not be underestimated, since different stakeholders will have their own priorities which must be aligned. Finally, investing in effective communications to generate public awareness and political support and self-reliance is essential to build a suitable basis for public and policy-maker support.

11. The CBD Secretariat has undertaken the creation of a common web-site with many partners dedicated to case studies on "biodiversity and human well-being." This site may incorporate case studies coming from websites of partners in a common and simple format highlighting benefits from integrating biodiversity into decision making, including contributions to poverty eradication and sustainable development and to the implementation of measures towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The Expert Group may wish to consider the following ideas for possible inclusion in new recommendations and/or guidance for implementation

12. Invite Parties and international agencies and other organizations to collect and disseminate information on Best Practices by Parties and organizations as well as experiences, lessons learnt in the process of getting to the best practices for the use of all stakeholders and the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, to contribute to the Clearing House Mechanism of the Convention and to the common website “biodiversity for human well-being”;

13. Invite Parties and international agencies and other organizations involved in the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and sustainable development to share their best practices with the development community using the opportunities of post-2015 development and Sustainable Development Goals processes

¹ UNDP. 2012. *Fiji Locally-Managed Marine Area Network, Fiji*. Equator Initiative Case Study Series. UNDP.