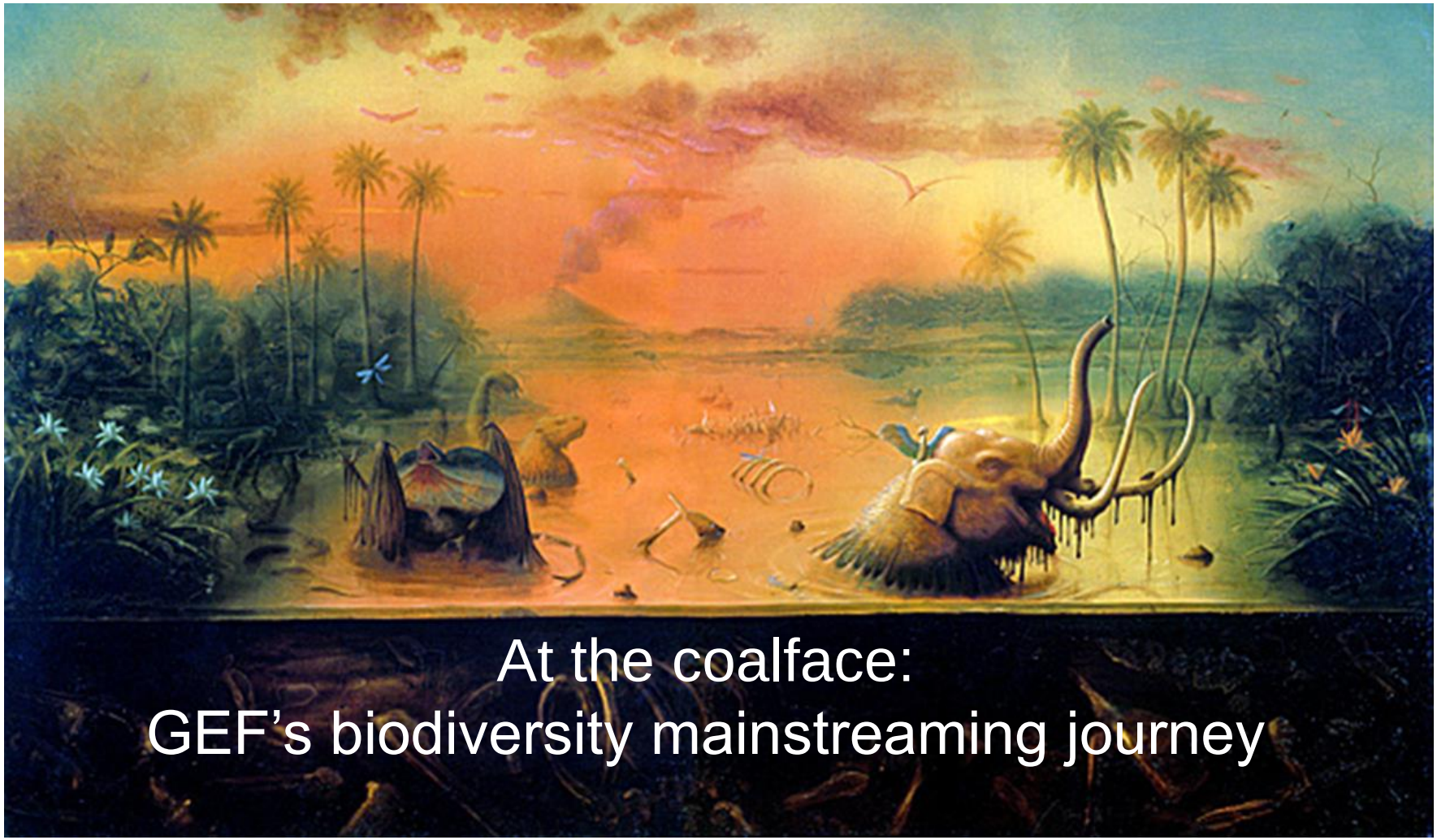


At the coalface:
GEF's biodiversity mainstreaming journey

Mark Zimsky, GEF, Biodiversity Coordinator

CBD COP-13, Cancun, Mexico

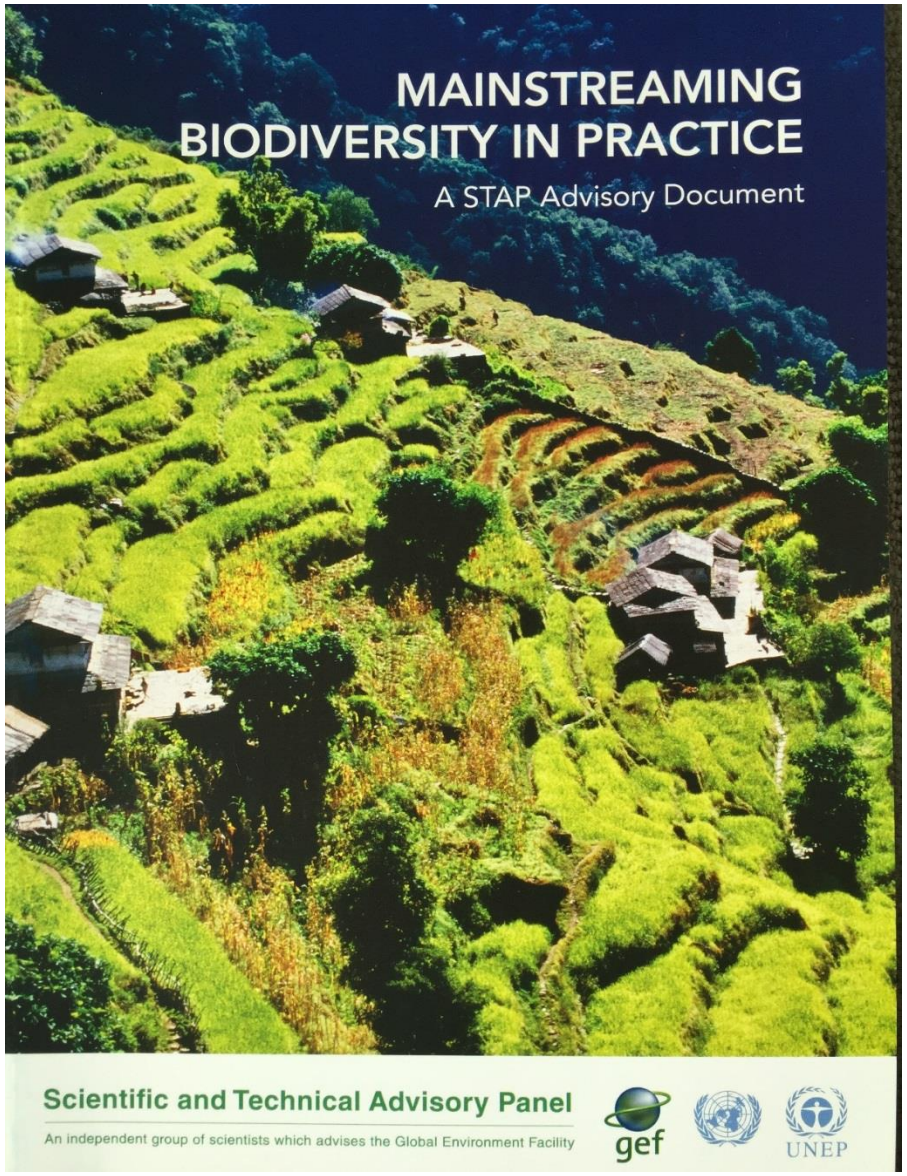
GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY

INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

Outline

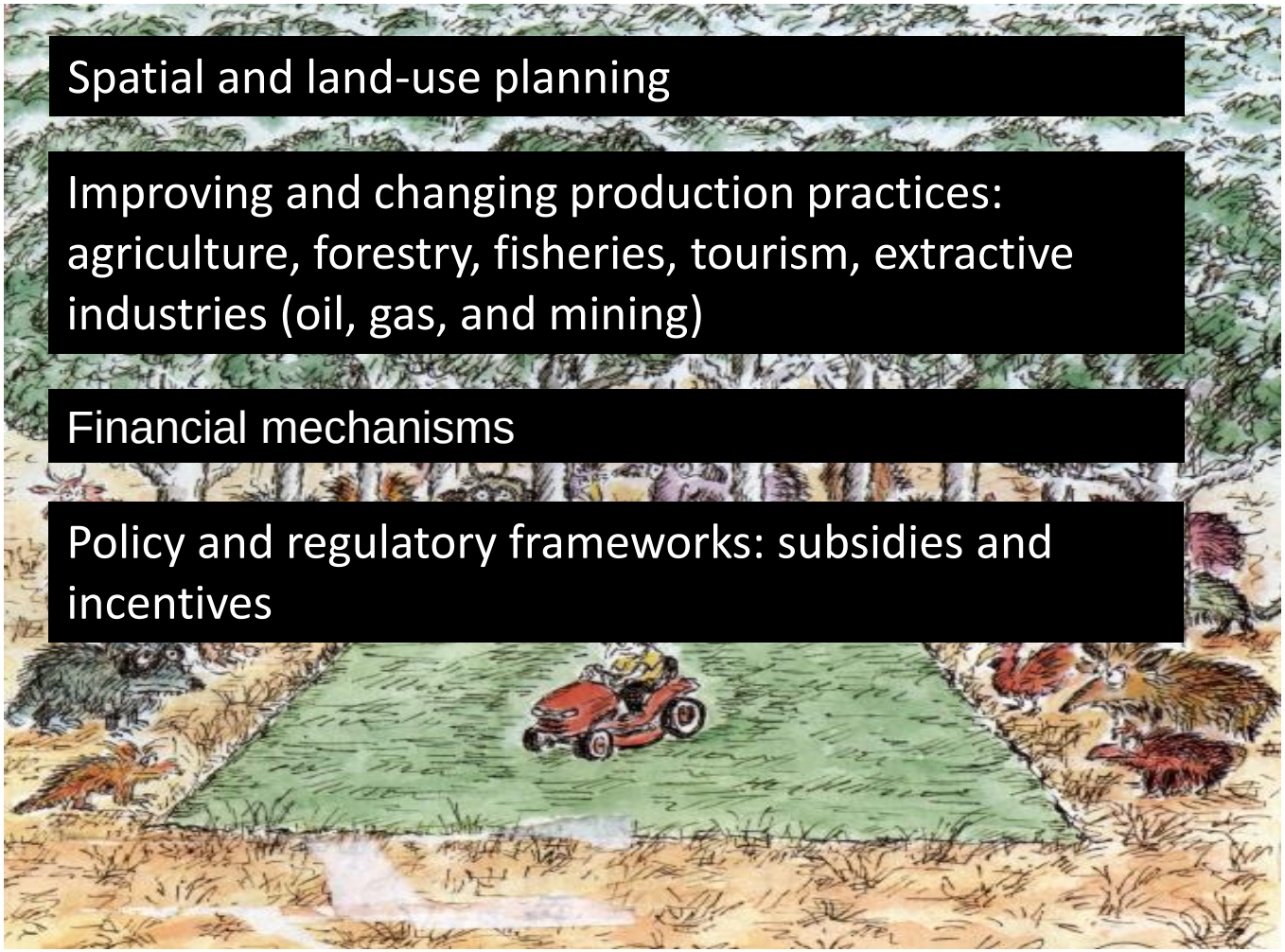
- GEF definition of mainstreaming
- Categories of mainstreaming projects in the GEF portfolio
- Theory of change
- 10 key ingredients for success
- Key findings from the portfolio review
- Key lessons learned from the portfolio review

Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Practice: 2013



Biodiversity mainstreaming is the *process* of embedding conservation considerations into policies, strategies, and practices of key public and private actors that impact or rely on biodiversity, so that biodiversity is conserved and sustainably used both locally and globally.

GEF funding of mainstreaming



Theory of Change: Mainstreaming of Biodiversity in Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors in the GEF Biodiversity Strategy

IMPACT

Globally significant biodiversity conserved and sustainably used in production landscapes and seascapes (areas outside of the protected area estate)
INDICATORS: 1) Intact vegetative cover and degree of fragmentation in production landscapes measured in hectares as recorded by remote sensing; 2) Coastal zone habitat and productive seascapes intact as recorded by remote sensing and where possible supported by other verification methods.

INTERMEDIATE IMPACT

Reduced habitat loss in production landscapes and seascapes (areas outside of the protected area estate) {"reduced" compared to baseline before the project starts: (PERFORMANCE) and when possible compared to a counterfactual (without mainstreaming) (ADDITIONALITY)

OUTCOMES

Marine and terrestrial resource use is appropriately situated to maximize production without undermining or degrading biodiversity.

INDICATOR: Area of production landscapes and seascapes that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into management.

Production practices and sectoral activities in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, extractive industries (gas, oil, and mining) are biodiversity neutral, biodiversity positive, or less destructive of biodiversity.

INDICATOR: Area of production landscapes and seascapes that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into management.

Increase in the amount of public and private financial flows address threats to biodiversity

INDICATOR: Financial resources mobilized for biodiversity management.

Policy and regulatory frameworks remove perverse subsidies and provide incentives for biodiversity-neutral or biodiversity-positive land and resource use that remains productive but that does not degrade biodiversity

INDICATOR: The degree to which sector policies and regulatory frameworks incorporate biodiversity considerations and implement the regulations.

INDICATOR: The degree to which biodiversity values and ecosystem service values are internalized in development, finance policy and land-use planning and decision making

OUTPUTS

Spatial and land-use plans

Sustainable production systems that are biodiversity friendly, payment for environmental services schemes, biodiversity offsets, and other financial mechanisms

Valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in production landscapes and seascapes

Policy and regulatory frameworks that govern the management of production landscapes and seascapes

INPUTS

Technical studies, data collection, database development and implementation, capacity building in spatial and land use planning

Capacity building and training of producers and other stakeholders to improve production methods to meet certification standards, to improve productivity and efficiency, and to design and implement financial mechanisms

Technical studies, data collection and analysis of the economic value of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Technical and capacity building support for development and implementation of policy and regulatory frameworks including removal critical knowledge barriers and development of requisite institutional capacities.

Definition of Problem

Habitat loss in production landscapes and seascapes (areas outside of the protected area estate) → Decline in globally significant biodiversity in production landscapes and seascapes (areas outside of the protected area estate)

Moderators of Project Success

Strong scientific and technical capacity at individual and institutional levels

Availability and use of science-based biophysical and socio-economic spatial information systems and assessments at relevant scale {our current finding is that this is a moderator. We can imagine that this could be an input/output on causal path and be incorporated into the ToC}.

Democratic, transparent and stable governance systems

25 years | gef

Mainstreaming
(in conservation/development):

A key concept
known only to us (and a handful of our friends)

Many believe intuitively that **mainstreaming has worked**

- But we are not well positioned to quantify our impacts . . .
- . . . or assess effectiveness of specific mainstreaming approaches

Expert Group from 2013 Workshop: Key Elements Correlated with Success

"Moderators of project success" –
factors that are not part of project design and that are largely unaffected by the project, but influence the magnitude and quality of the project outcomes:

- Democratic, transparent and stable governance systems
- Strong capacity at individual and institutional levels
- Availability and use of science-based biophysical and socio-economic spatial information systems and assessments at relevant scales

Expert Group from 2013 Workshop: Key Elements Correlated with Success

"Features of the project" - these are design elements, which can be changed by project designers or implementers that make the project more successful:

- Project design and operational strategy embedded within a theory (or theories) of change
- Flexible project duration and adaptive management – iterative and slow
- Effective project monitoring and evaluation systems implemented
- Strong and responsive teams led by champions – iterative and slow
- Effective communication with non-traditional stakeholders to make the case for biodiversity
- Alignment of mainstreaming initiatives with government priorities and working across sectors
- Alignment of mainstreaming initiatives with CBD and other intergovernmental processes

Methodology of *Ongoing* Review

- Reviewed final evaluations of completed projects *(15% (n=66) of the total number of projects funded by GEF since 2004)* aka **"the first generation"** of biodiversity mainstreaming investments.

- Project moderators and project design features deemed critical for successful mainstreaming: **present** and **were correlated with progress to impact** and projects achieving their **outcomes?**

- Identify **other causal mechanisms** at play in successful projects.

Key Initial Findings

- Project design features and project moderators deemed critical for successful mainstreaming were correlated with progress to impact.

- Spatial and land-use planning projects that demonstrated high progress to impact blended work on protected areas and surrounding production landscapes (predominantly smaller scale agriculture and community forest production/management).

- The first generation of biodiversity mainstreaming projects in the forestry sector examined in this cohort had little relationship with the large-scale forestry sector. Clear causal link between project activities in forestry and concrete biodiversity benefits were not well elucidated.

Key Initial Findings (2)

- Policy work in the agriculture and forestry sector also failed to elucidate clear cause and effect relationships between proposed policy changes and concrete biodiversity benefits generated by instituting changes.

- In this cohort, spatial and land-use planning projects were the only ones to produce outcomes at scale as defined by area covered or sectoral practices significantly changed. (production unit challenges)

- Support to the sustainable use of agrobiodiversity and the protection and/or sustainable use of crop wild relatives is an investment niche where global biodiversity benefits are clear and where the GEF has had measurable success and a unique role to play.

Lessons

- **Project moderators** (“biodiversity mainstreaming readiness”) are **strongly correlated with project impact**, particularly spatial and land-use planning capacity.

- **Entry and leverage points, strategies, and geographies** where GEF projects can have the most impact **at scale** in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and tourism **must be better defined**.

- **Assessing the outcomes of biodiversity mainstreaming projects** and their real contribution to biodiversity status and condition **remains a critical challenge during the duration of a project,** thus, more robust proxy indicators are necessary.

Key Inputs to GEF-7 Strategic Thinking

- Spatial and land use planning as a mainstreaming instrument = first step in a mainstreaming investment sequence= refined TOC, different partners.

- Build on past success linking the objective of sustaining protected areas and their conservation objectives with targeted investments in spatial and land use planning and changes in production practices in the surrounding geographies. (resilience to climate change).

Key Inputs to GEF-7 (2)

- Improve articulation of how proposed activities in key sectors will lead to the intermediate outcomes and expected impact of GEF's mainstreaming strategy. (entry points, leverage, strategies, sector-specific TOC and change pathways)

- The analysis of this cohort supported the conclusion of the expert group that mainstreaming is a long-term *process and* will require longer-term investments over time. The geographic areas and scale must be proportional to the time and funding available.


Thank you for your attention.