

**PLANNING AND PRIORITY SETTING
OF BIODIVERSITY WITHIN NATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL BODIES
(Tanzania and Rwanda)**

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1. Introduction

- Most countries in the Region are characterised by a wide range of biodiversity resources
- The role of biodiversity in providing the natural resource base for socio-economic development is vital.
- It is crucial to plan and prioritize biodiversity for better decision making bearing in mind benefits derived such as a source of food, medicine, building materials, energy, attracting tourism etc



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- Despite this, countries in the Region are still losing significant amounts of biodiversity as a result of human pressures and associated exploitation of land resources.
- This calls for governments to seriously maintain ecosystems, species, genetic resources and ecological processes for support of life on earth and the improvement of human conditions.

3. Meeting obligations of the Convention

- Article 6 of the Convention requires each Contracting Party to develop a national strategy, plan or programme for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
- Integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies



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- Important aspect of the Convention is to reduce the rate of loss of biodiversity by 2010 through conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity as a basis for provision of ecosystem services and reduce pressure on threatened species.



Planning and Priority Setting

Biodiversity Country Study Reports

In tackling problems of inadequate data on loss of Biodiversity, these countries prepared 'biodiversity country study reports' as a scientific basis for conservation and sustainable use.

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)



National Policies and Legislation of National Environmental Bodies

- National Policies and Legislation of National Environment Bodies under the Vice President's Office in Tanzania have prioritized conservation of ecosystems with regard to the rehabilitation of deteriorated ecosystems and restoration of threatened species

The National Environment Management Act of 2004 clearly defines roles of each Sector in managing the environment

Emphasizes the significance of protected areas with regard to their functions and importance for the conservation of biological diversity.



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- The continued flow of ecosystem goods and services (such as watershed protection, climate regulation, scenic beauty etc has been articulated in policies and legislation.
- Legislation makes Environmental Impact Assessment mandatory (Tanzania & Rwanda)
- Define biodiversity and stipulate how environmental protected areas should be planned in terms of Sector Coordination, Information Flow and mandates of each Sector in environmental management.



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- Emphasise on undertaking ecosystem inventory
- Identification of environmental hot spots and one of the indicators is biodiversity richness/ endemism/threat
- Underlines the importance of understanding of the relationships among economic activities, ecosystem functioning and the human wellbeing.



Special Initiatives (Rwanda)

Protected Areas Project

- Most Protected Areas were completely destroyed during genocide
- Deliver a continued flow of ecosystem goods and services (such as watershed protection, climate regulation, scenic beauty etc is critical.
- Need to revive sites of global importance for their biodiversity and endemism values e.g. Parks are seen as primary sources of

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- tourism revenue and ecological services, such as water catchment, water supply, erosion control, and hydroelectric development potential.

This underlines the understanding of the relationships among economic activities, ecosystem functioning and the human wellbeing.



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- Local people on the margins of protected areas share benefits derived from the operations of protected areas through direct distribution of equitable share of revenues and preferential opportunities for infrastructure development and provision of basic services. This also applies to Tanzania



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- Focus on particular species because of its economic importance. Tourist attraction e.g. Gorillas in the Volcanic Mountains of Rwanda,
- Quantifying the value of ecosystem services. Presently, we understand neither the true value of ecosystem services nor what it would cost to replace them. e.g. National Parks.



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- Need to know the monetary and non-monetary costs and benefits of conserving or not conserving its biodiversity (Indicators essential)



Research

- Research-based conservation is crucial for management of biodiversity of protected areas, wetlands and critical areas outside the protected areas system- practically the entire Region
- Research on ecosystem under stress by using (rapid) integrated ecosystems assessment on selected ecosystems to improve understanding and data about the links between ecosystem services and well-being
- Measures have been taken to reintroduce rare, threatened or extinct species e.g. reintroduction of the elephant in Nyungwe Forests in Rwanda



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- Assisting Districts in integrating environment into DDPs
- Ecosystem assessment to determine its potential to socio-economic development



Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI)

- Projects has prioritised identifying quantifiable indicators for monitoring environmental issues in the PRS including biodiversity

Integrated Management of Critical ecosystems(IMCE) in Rwanda, Tanzania -GEF / World Bank projects aimed at integrated management and sustainable use of the critical ecosystems and natural habitats with a focus on the community management of watersheds. Facilitates integration of environmental issues including Biodiversity into EDPSR EDSRP and contributes to MDGs

Capacity building for National Environmental Bodies and other related Institutions

- Workshops on biodiversity management at various levels
- Creating awareness among local communities to work in partnership with national forest and wildlife environmental agencies to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity resources.



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- The National Capacity Self Assessment Projects (NCSA) -an opportunity articulate capacity needs and priorities with respect to the global environment, taking into account the Conventions on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Desertification/land degradation.
- The Synergy projects also addresses the issue of capacity building



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- The Bali Strategic Plan (BSP) has undertaken capacity needs assessment and technology support of priority issues, including mainstreaming the environment into national/local development plans; ecosystems etc.



Synergy Projects of the Rio Multilateral Environmental Conventions (Tanzania,

Uganda, Rwanda and Mozambique

- Institutions' synergy with regard to implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Synergy between the various: UNCCD, UNFCCC, and CBD)
- Identification of the fields where coordination could be improved; National Environmental Bodies have 'National Convention Coordinating Units



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- to ensure integration and coordination of the three Conventions implementation by developing mechanisms for synergy.
- Issues of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystem and the potential role of reducing deforestation and land degradation are highlighted
- Building of capacity necessary to implement the CBD



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- Capacity Building e.g. Rwanda and Tanzania
 - Emphasis on Information Collection and integrated reporting system – trying to harmonizing the reporting system of the three Conventions by various bodies including National Environmental Bodies



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- Training various civil bodies to assist National Environmental Bodies in Biodiversity Planning and management - focus on national youth council, women associations, NGOs, Journalists in the case of Rwanda
- Micro- grant Projects
 - Assisting NGOs, CBOs, Cooperatives, Schools to prepare small projects pertaining to biodiversity planning



Reducing Rate of Biodiversity Loss at Selected Cross-border Sites in East Africa (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania)

- GEF Projects (1998- 2002) in respective National Environmental Bodies
- Tested and demonstrated at District level - approaches to reducing the rate of biodiversity in selected cross-border forests sites of global significance.



Obligations of National Environmental Bodies in the National Poverty Reduction Strategies Processes

- Environmental Management and EGSRP under on Vice President's office in Tanzania
- Link biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, climate change and poverty reduction.
- Environmental (Biodiversity protection) conservation recognized as crucial to poverty reduction.
- The Poverty Reduction Strategies have among their objectives the sustainable management of natural resources in order to break the existing imbalance between the population and natural resources including biological diversity
- Importance of EIA and SEA is highlighted in developing wetlands, land and forestry and other protected areas.



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- Integrating monitoring indicators
- Realisation that poverty increases as environmental and natural resources get destroyed.
- Intervention is required to halt such trends over land and water based resources.



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- Sharing of benefits accruing from biodiversity resources emphasized (community participation)
- Sectors to appreciate their role in environmental management as reflected in the EM Act of 2004
- Sectors to set aside funds to cover environmental issues



Thank you.

