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Information use and indicators in updating NBSAPs

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…mostly speaking on behalf of UNEP WCMC

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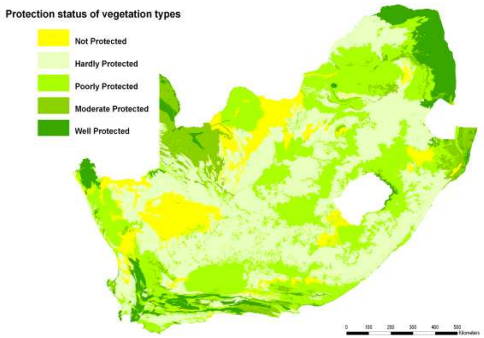
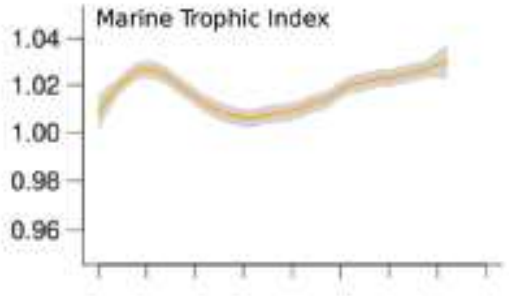
What is an indicator? - Definition

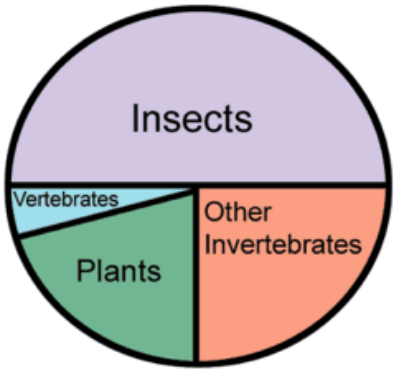
"a measure based on verifiable data that conveys information about more than itself"
(UNEP-WCMC)

So, it …

- is a measure of something (numbers, size, quantity)
- conveys information (estimates, analysis, changes)
- can be expressed in different ways







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What is an indicator? – vs. a Target

A Target...

- Sets out a measureable goal or desired outcome
- Includes a target value or situation to be achieved (may be time-bound, i.e., by a date)

An Indicator…

- Does not include target values or situations
- Can be used to measure progress towards a target
- Monitors progress even after a target has been reached
- Several indicators could be used to assess progress towards one target
- More specific and measurable target
  → easier to identify indicators for measuring progress

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What is an indicator? – examples

Target

By 2015, reduce the level of fisheries by-catch by 10% to 50,000 tonnes per year

Indicator

Amount of fisheries by-catch in tonnes per year

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What is an indicator? – examples

Target

Protect threatened ecosystems by increasing terrestrial protected area (PA) coverage to 12% of the total land area

Indicator

% coverage of PAs of the total land area
% of threatened ecosystems that are within PAs

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What is an indicator? - Uses

- Indicators can be used to…
  - Track progress in achieving targets

    =monitoring
  - Guide policy design & implementation
    - *Highlight where action is needed*
    - *Adaptive management*
  - Build support by
    - *Communicate simple messages*

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What is a good indicator?

- **Scientifically valid**
  theory of relationship between the indicator and its purpose (what change in the indicator means) + reliability of the data
- **Based on available data** over time (monitoring)
- **Responsive to change in the issue of interest**
- **Easily understandable**
  = concept + presentation + interpretation
- **Relevant to user's needs (YOUR needs)**
- **It is used** (for measuring progress, early-warning, understanding an issue, awareness-raising, …)

(source: Guidance for National Indicator Development and Use http://www.bipnational.net/indicatorguidance)

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Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

- **Formed in 2007, Secretariat by UNEP-WCMC**
- **Primary focus: report on the global progress towards achieving the 2010 Biodiversity Target**

- **Following CoP-10, BIP has 3 components:**
  - An enlarged and enhanced partnership to facilitate experience sharing and indicator implementation
  - A major expansion in national capacity-strengthening for the development and use of biodiversity / ecosystem service indicators
  - A communication hub for compelling storylines from the combined suite of global indicators

www.bipindicators.net – website for information resources and e-learning on biodiversity (and related) indicators

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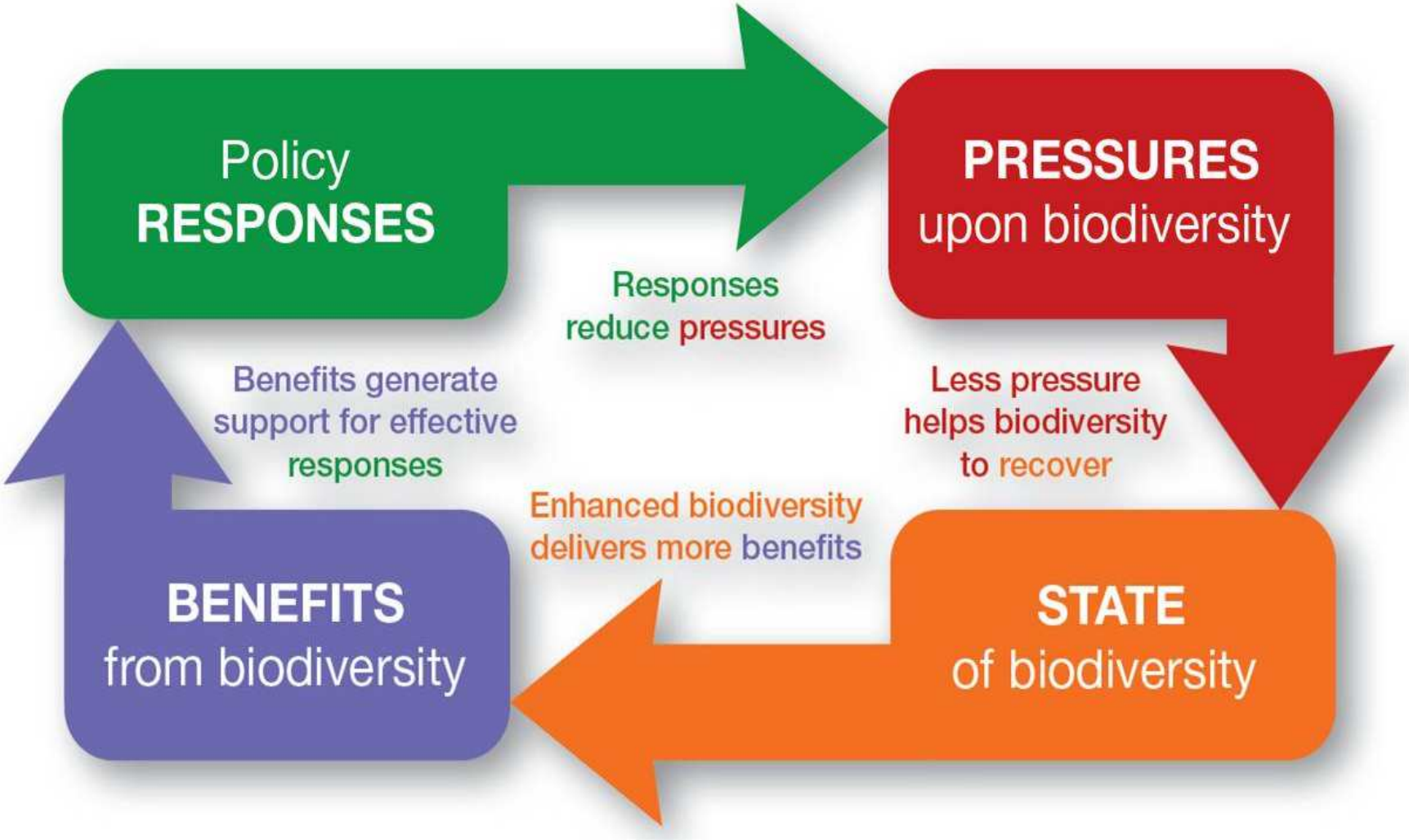
Linked Indicator Framework: PSBR

Pressures – State – Benefits – Responses



http://www.bipindicators.net/linkedindicators

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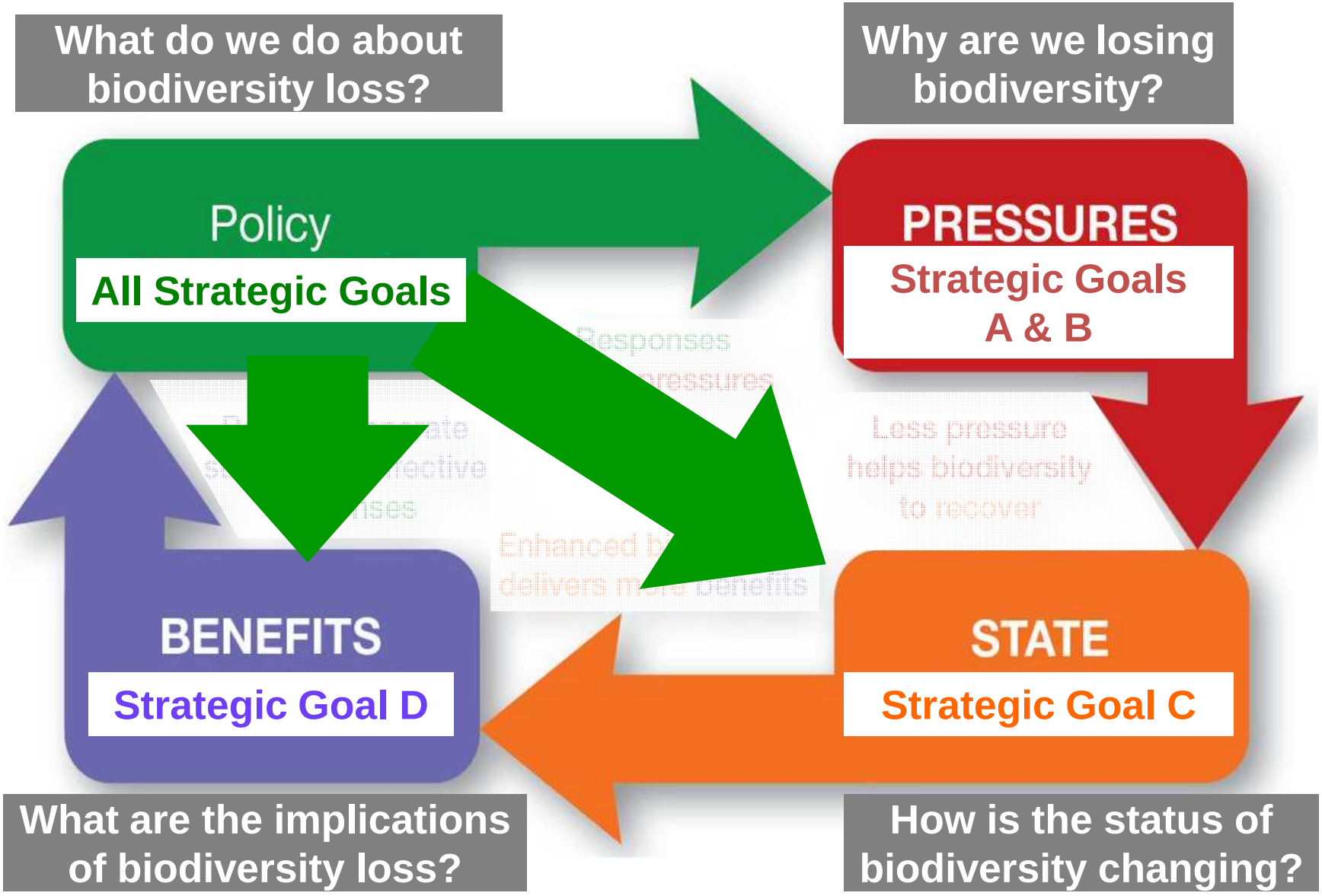
Linked Indicator Framework: PSBR

AHTEG Outcomes (June 2011)



Linked Indicator Framework: PSBR

Indicators can enhance narrative

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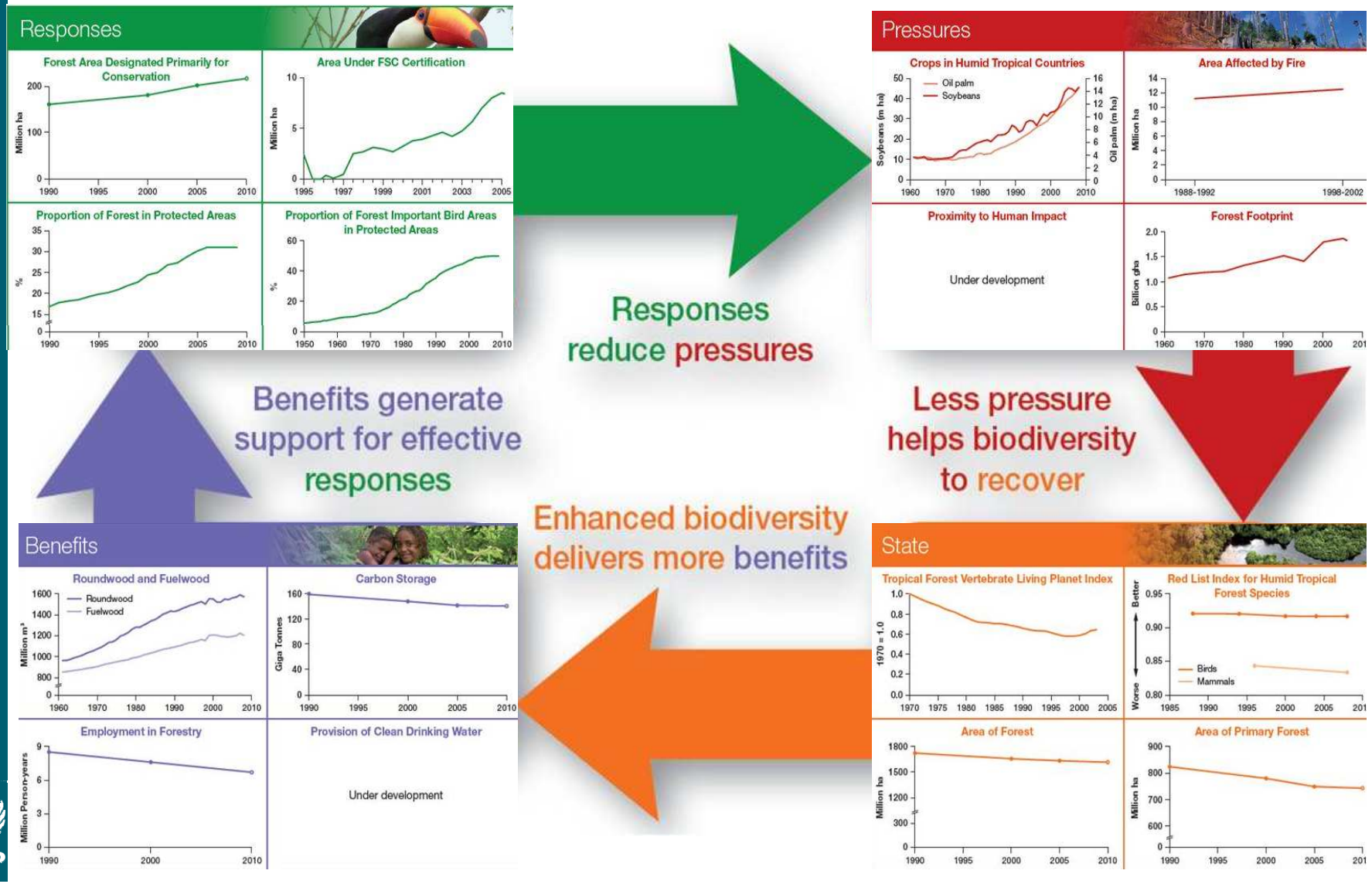

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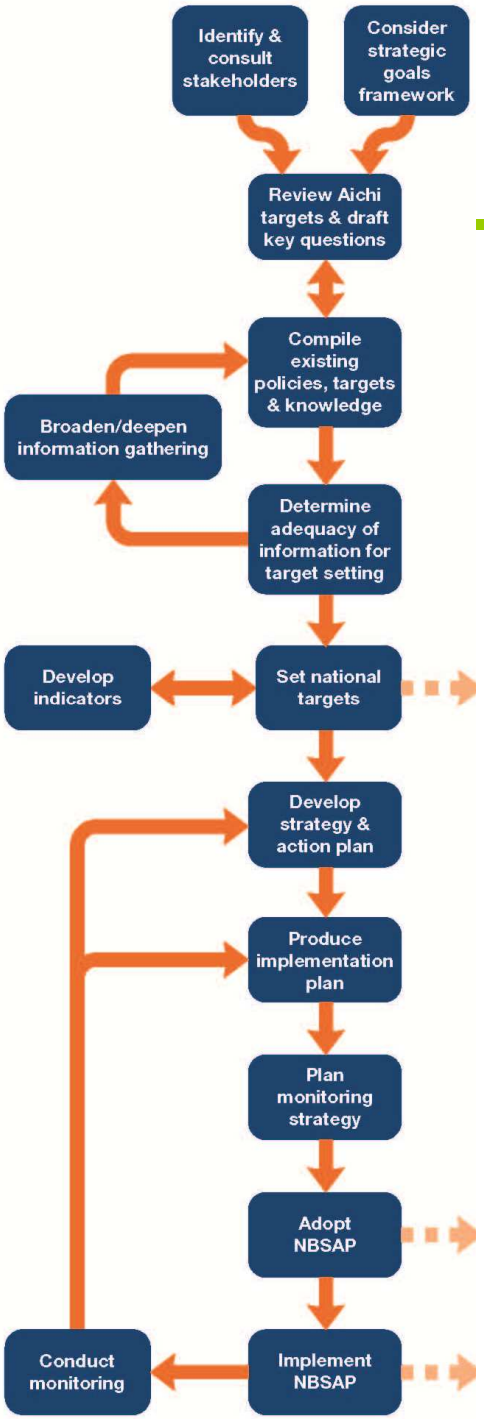

NBSAP Updating Framework

- Newly developed to show, as an example, how indicators are incorporated in NBSAP process
- Complements the BIP indicator framework
- Work in progress…

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Capacity-building workshop on indicators: Eastern Africa workshop

- Entebbe, Uganda 27-29 Sept. 2011
- Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Sudan
- Government agencies, NGOs and academic institutes involved in updating NBSAPs

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Capacity-building workshop on indicators: Objectives for participating countries

- **basic understanding of the information and analytical needs** to develop national targets in support of the Aichi Targets, including possible indicators
- use of **analyses and indicators** in developing national targets and the design and monitoring of implementation strategies
- develop **initial action plans** to maximise the use of information in their NBSAP updating process
- **Increased learning and collaboration** between government agencies, NGOs and academic institutes involved in updating NBSAPs within/between countries

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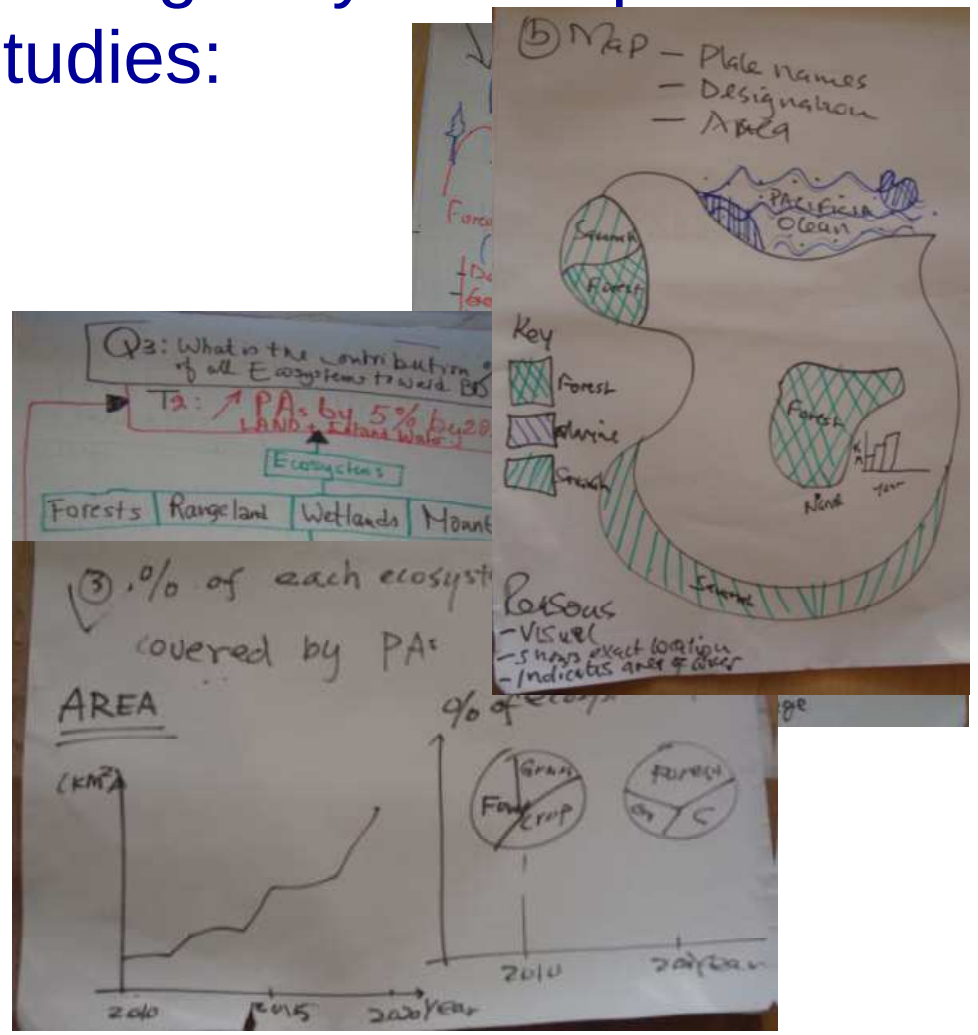
Capacity-building workshop on indicators: Eastern Africa workshop

- Group work based on originally developed workbooks & case studies:

1. Reviewing the Aichi Targets & key questions
2. National target setting
3. Developing a conceptual model
4. Identifying indicators
5. Gather and review data
6. Calculate indicators
7. Communicate and interpret indicators



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Capacity-building workshop on indicators: Field Visit

- Learning first-hand the **underlying causes, direct pressures, state of biodiversity,** and **potential benefits**

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BIP & UNEP-WCMC Capacity building workshop on use of indicators in NBSAPs

- Dates: 25-28 March, 2011 (4 days)
- Venue: Vietnam
- Participants:
  - ASEAN Countries
  - Technical people making decisions or giving advice on data/information use for NBSAP updating
- Held back-to-back with ACB workshop on TEEB (2 days)

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Thank you

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Group Exercise

Each Group to consider:

- One national target (hypothetical or real)
- Essential information needed to set the target = baseline data
- List at least three possible indicators
- Describe feasibility issues for national adoption of the target (e.g., lack of funds for…)

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Group Exercise - example

Target 12: By 2020, the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Essential Information:

- A list of threatened species
- A status of threatened species (distribution, abundance etc..)
- Assessment of the conservation status of the threatened species
- Ex-situ measures as complement of in-situ conservation
- Reason for declining of species

Possible Indicators:

- Number of threats totally avoided
- Increase of population size within threatened species
- Number of species restored and conservation programmes

Feasibility Issues:

- Political will and public awareness
- Law for the prevention of extinction of all nationally threatened species is in place