

Biodiversity for Development Newsletter



Convention on
Biological Diversity

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MAINSTREAMING ENTHUSIASM

The Biodiversity for Development unit kick started its activities a few months ago. This issue presents some of its most recent products. They range from the organization of an expert meeting on mainstreaming biodiversity in development cooperation to the development of toolkits on good practices in key sectors such as forestry or tourism.

The addition of two seconded professionals from the development community to the Secretariat's Implementation and Technical Support Division, offers opportunities to expand the biodiversity and development work of the Secretariat towards new horizons.

Poverty Dimension of the Unit's Work

The [German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development](#) (BMZ) recently provided funds and seconded a Programme Officer to the Secretariat. The focus of the German support is to strengthen the Secretariat's capacities in building bridges between the Convention's objectives and the overarching goal of poverty alleviation. Working on the interface between biodiversity and poverty alleviation is central for ensuring global sustainability, achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and for implementing the Convention itself.

Further inclusion of poverty alleviation concerns in the work of the Secretariat comes at a crucial stage in

the decisive pre-2010 period. This should materialise through :

- Development of tools, methodologies and capacities to better integrate the objectives of the Convention into Poverty Reduction Strategies;
- Enhancement of political coherence to foster the integration of biodiversity into poverty alleviation programmes and strategies;
- Identification of best practices at the local, regional, national and sector level;
- Providing increased COP-mandated support to Parties for the implementation of poverty alleviation-related components of the Convention's programmes of work.

Associated activities were initiated in November 2008 with the arrival at the Secretariat of Mr. Alberto Vega Exposito.

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Innovative partnership with UNDP

Following COP-9, the Secretariat and the [United Nations Development Program](#) (UNDP) concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on mainstreaming biodiversity in development. This partnership is focused on capturing hands-on, field related experiences from UNDP and its partners.

A first aspect covered by the MOU is the refinement of strategies to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem goods



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and services in productive sectors. A second aspect is the enhancement and incorporation of biodiversity and ecosystem services into national development strategies. Results will be attained based on evidence gathered from practice.

The MOU took operational shape on March 1st following Ms. Linda Ghanime's arrival at the SCBD. On secondment from UNDP, Ms. Ghanime's one year assignment will deepen the sharing of experience between the institutions. She intends to illustrate how the work of UNDP actively contributes to the implementation of the Convention in developing countries. In fact, the collaboration also aims at developing a programme to further support the implementation of the Convention. This is but one reason why this SCBD-UNDP partnership is of such importance to the Biodiversity for Development initiative.

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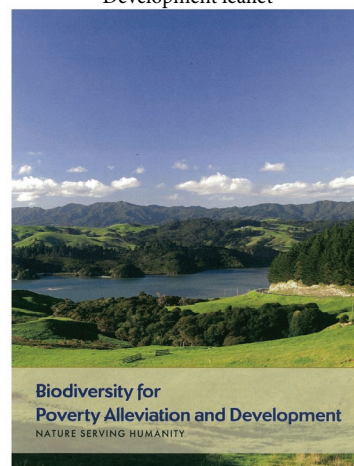
New communication tools

After one year of existence, the Biodiversity for Development unit has already produced numerous communication tools to improve awareness on biodiversity's importance in alleviating poverty and, in turn, promoting development.

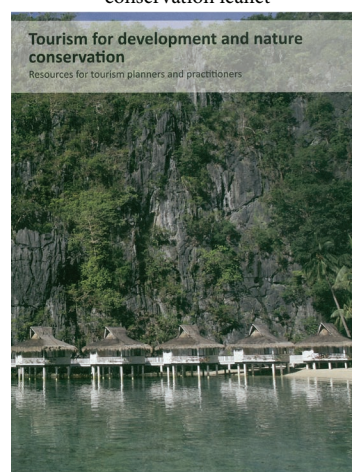
In addition to newsletters, two leaflets were produced. They are available in English, French and Spanish. The [first](#) briefly introduces the initiative while the [second](#) goes into additional details and demonstrates the interdependence and interconnectedness between biodiversity and development. This 8-page [leaflet](#) contains a reproduction of the 6 display panels (153 X 87 cm) of the exhibit shown in Bonn during COP-9.

With respect to reinforcing the links between economic development, biodiversity as well as ecosystems goods and services, a first "[sector based](#)" [leaflet](#) was developed in collaboration with the Secretariat's experts on tourism.

Biodiversity for Poverty Alleviation and Development leaflet



Tourism for development and nature conservation leaflet



The leaflet - also [available in French](#) - was disseminated during the 3rd International Forum on Solidarity Tourism organized in October 2008 in Bamako, Mali. Finally, in the context of a range of partnerships developed between the Secretariat and regional organizations, a first [poster](#) was issued with the [Central African Forest Commission](#) (COMIFAC). The poster introduces



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case studies describing how local stakeholders, forest concessions and businesses work along international NGOs for the twin objectives of environmental integrity and improvements in local communities livelihoods. All products, including the 6 display panels, can be ordered by contacting the Secretariat at dev-pov@cbd.int.

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Toolkits on Good Practices

One of the key initiatives of the Biodiversity for Development Unit in 2009 is the publication of a series of toolkits, which compile good practices supportive of poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation in a range of different sectors. These include tourism, forestry, drinking water, fisheries and pastoralism.

The objective of each toolkit is to present a set of policy, strategic planning, and legislative tools that can inform Parties to the CBD on how to mainstream biodiversity into a given sector more efficiently. By the same token, they address poverty alleviation and development needs in local communities affected by the activities of the sector. Each toolkit is composed of a small booklet and of a CD Rom.

The CD Rom includes supplementary reference material and a PowerPoint presentation. Each booklet includes a suite of case studies illustrating the application of selected good-practice tools in the field, as well as a comprehensive list of references. Included in the CD Rom, the PowerPoint presentation is provided along with the toolkit in order to facilitate the dissemination of information in workshops, planning meetings, and other forums. The target audience for the toolkits includes CBD focal points, government ministries, bi- and multi-lateral development agencies, business, and NGOs.

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Upcoming meeting: Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Cooperation

The Secretariat is convening an [Expert Meeting on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Cooperation](#) from 13 to 15 May 2009 in Montreal, Canada.

The meeting will gather biodiversity resource persons from the main bi- and multilateral development cooperation agencies, development banks and relevant United Nations agencies. Approaches introduced and discussed during the workshop should allow the audience to develop or improve donors' strategies to internalize, at various institutional levels, the twin goals of biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into development models, policies, plans and programmes associated with different economic sectors.

The final product of the workshop will be a set of common principles for biodiversity mainstreaming in development cooperation. The principles are meant to be used by bi- and multilateral agencies when designing strategies, programmes and projects. The workshop should also highlight other suggestions on bringing forward biodiversity and development cooperation considerations in agencies as well as in different processes stemming from the Convention's work. Results of the discussions will be captured in a small publication available on the Secretariat's website.

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