

Second International Workshop

1-3 November 2016
Sogakope, Ghana

Event report

Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Policy and Planning

Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Policy and
Planning initiative (2015-2017)



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About the event

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Introduction

This report summarises what was achieved at the second international workshop for the 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Policy and Planning' initiative held in Ghana from the 1st-3rd November 2016. The initiative's overall goal is to make the best use of revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), using them to improve the ways that development actors and processes handle the opportunities and constraints associated with biodiversity.

The workshop brought together 35 participants, including members of the African Leadership Group (ALG) from the eight countries taking part in the initiative (Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe); a representative from UNEP-UNDP Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI); and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) initiative team.

The main objectives of the workshop were to:

- Share progress, lessons and challenges with in-country biodiversity mainstreaming
- Review mainstreaming capacity tools, develop guidance on monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and form the outline contents for the overall final guidance from the project
- Share tips and tactics on topical issues identified by countries prior to the workshop, including: spatial data, economics/accounts, budget processes, and communicating biodiversity and NBSAPs
- Discuss post-project priorities, notably; how countries can institutionalise biodiversity integration on a permanent, continuous improvement basis in the era of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and the future of the ALG
- Communicate shared messages in the form of an informal Accra statement, and
- Share information on the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD) annual meeting (COP13) and discuss the one-day biodiversity mainstreaming event.

These workshop objectives are discussed in greater detail in the next section.

Participants' expectations for the workshop focused on learning from other countries about their progress; and discussing ways of moving beyond mainstreaming into plans, towards practical issues like budgeting, financing, and implementation of biodiversity-mainstreamed development (eg in sectors and local authorities).

Workshop objectives and activities

Sharing progress, lessons and challenges

Prior to the workshop, each country compiled a presentation on project progress and challenges. They outlined the following aspects:

- Key people and processes that they engaged with and/or influenced
- The change achieved or expected
- Lessons learnt about successful mainstreaming, and
- A significant challenge or problem that they would like participants' support with.

The country presentations were informative and interesting, eliciting further questions and discussion. Although countries' diagnostic processes ended up with a clear focus (eg on the National Development Plan), it was noted that many took an adaptive approach to mainstreaming. There was an open approach to sharing lessons between countries from the outset. Table 1 shows country mainstreaming targets and planned outputs/outcomes identified during national workshops held in 2015-2016, and Table 2 indicates thematic groupings of anticipated outcomes.

During the discussions that followed, participants showed a strong and determined vision:

“Even though budgets are low, and there are problems with changing government mandates that constrain us, we ‘believe in’ biodiversity mainstreaming and what it can achieve in our countries.”

They recognised, however, that too few stakeholders in-country share that vision, so are also resolute to improve mainstreaming work in terms of:

- **Better communications strategies** – framing biodiversity in terms of ‘what it can do for you’ and joining scientific and social/economic dialogues
- **Improved case-making** – emphasising biodiversity as an asset and rather than dwelling on problems; aiming the business case around development objectives that can be favourable to biodiversity such as economic diversification and rural job creation
- **A higher budget for biodiversity mainstreaming** – working increasingly with new sectors to catalyse funds, and other ministries to promote shared responsibility for delivering enhancing biodiversity policies and reducing harmful ones.

Participants noted that these three ‘gaps’ go together and that a synergistic strategy should be developed to tackle them all at national level. There are many countries with experience of these areas which the ALG and wider community can learn from, for example:

- **Seychelles’** experience of financial and market innovation (Marine Trust Fund) and incentives for biodiversity (green market labelling).
- **Uganda’s** experience of budget innovation, calling for proposals from different sectors to ensure they support implementation of the NBSAP.
- **Botswana’s** history of natural capital accounting has raised the general profile of natural capital in economic decisions.
- **Ghana’s** focus on the green economy has potential to show that biodiversity is a development asset to be invested in.
- **Namibia’s** experience in integrating multilateral environmental agreements into different sectors to facilitate better coordination and formation of an NBSAP multi-stakeholder steering committee for NBSAP formulation, resource mobilisation and implementation.
- **Malawi’s** experience identifying and influencing strategic ongoing processes, such as economic planning, urban biodiversity plans, environmental impact assessment guidelines, physical planning and public-private partnerships in protected area management.

- **Zambia's** experience involving an NBSAP/biodiversity team member to be part of the drafting team of the country's 7th National Development Plan (2017-2020).
- **Zimbabwe's** experience with the SDGs domestication process and using the National Biodiversity Forum, an existing body, to push for the creation of a new SDG cluster on water, climate and environment.

Participants agreed that biodiversity should be recognised, mainstreamed and promoted at increasingly high levels, citing Uganda's Presidential Directive on biodiversity as an example. However, the local level is considered equally important, and one of the key messages from the workshop is that "mainstreaming is not complete until it is localised in every district" and it "moves from plans, to budgets and to implementation in the field".

Table 1. Country mainstreaming targets and planned outputs/outcomes identified during national workshops

Country	Mainstreaming target	Planned outputs/outcomes
Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Development Plan and Vision • District Development Plans and Processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity emphasised in national and district development plans • Increased budget allocation to biodiversity • Development actors participating in national biodiversity forum
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Development Plan (2017) with emphasis on agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key stakeholders sensitised and influencing national development plan revision • Biodiversity highlighted in sector plans
Malawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS II) • National Land Policy • EIA Guidelines and Regulations • National Adaptation Plan (NAP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity prioritised in MGDS II and links to development sectors highlighted • Conservation and sustainable use addressed in land use policy • Biodiversity provisions with EIA guidance/regulations • Biodiversity indicators in the NAP • Increased resource allocation for biodiversity
Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Development Plan (NDP5) • Integrated Communication, Education and Public Awareness Strategy developed on environmental issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity prominent in NDP5 • Increased public awareness and support for biodiversity • Biodiversity included in national accounts • Degraded landscapes restored
Seychelles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Economy Road Map (BERM) • Tourism Strategic Action Plan (TSAP) • National Education Strategic Action Plan (NESAP) • Seychelles Sustainable Development Strategy (SSDS) • Seychelles Strategic Land Use and Development Plan (SSLUDP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross policy/plan coordination (via establishment of a coordination unit) • NBSAP implementation • Biodiversity issues reflected in plans • Plans aligned with NBSAP • High biodiversity areas highlighted in spatial plans
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Sector Development Plan (2015/16-2019/20) • National Development Plan (NDPII) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity priorities reflected in energy sector plan • Increased awareness of biodiversity issues among development planners • Increased budget allocation for biodiversity • Decreased deforestation for energy
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seventh National Development Plan (NDP7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity emphasised in the plan • Increased financial resources
Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of intent to address biodiversity in SDGs adopted • SDG 15 highlighted as a national priority

Table 2. Key anticipated outcomes of mainstreaming efforts – using indicators of success identified in national workshop reports

Country	Increased awareness of biodiversity	Improved participation of biodiversity stakeholders in development forums	Improved participation of development stakeholders in biodiversity forums	Improved policy coordination	Improved prioritisation of biodiversity in the target plan(s)	Increased budget allocation	Improved biodiversity on the ground
Zambia					X	X	
Zimbabwe		X			X		
Namibia	X				X	X	X
Ghana	X				X		
Malawi		X			X	X	
Seychelles				X	X	X	
Uganda	X				X	X	X
Botswana			X		X	X	

Reviewing the initiative's mainstreaming capacity tools and developing guidance

During the workshop, participants were asked what they thought of the tools and publications produced under the current project and the previous NBSAP 2.0 project. Some of the participants had recently joined their country project teams so had not made use of the publications, but for those who had been involved for several years, these had proved useful¹.

Participants' comments included:

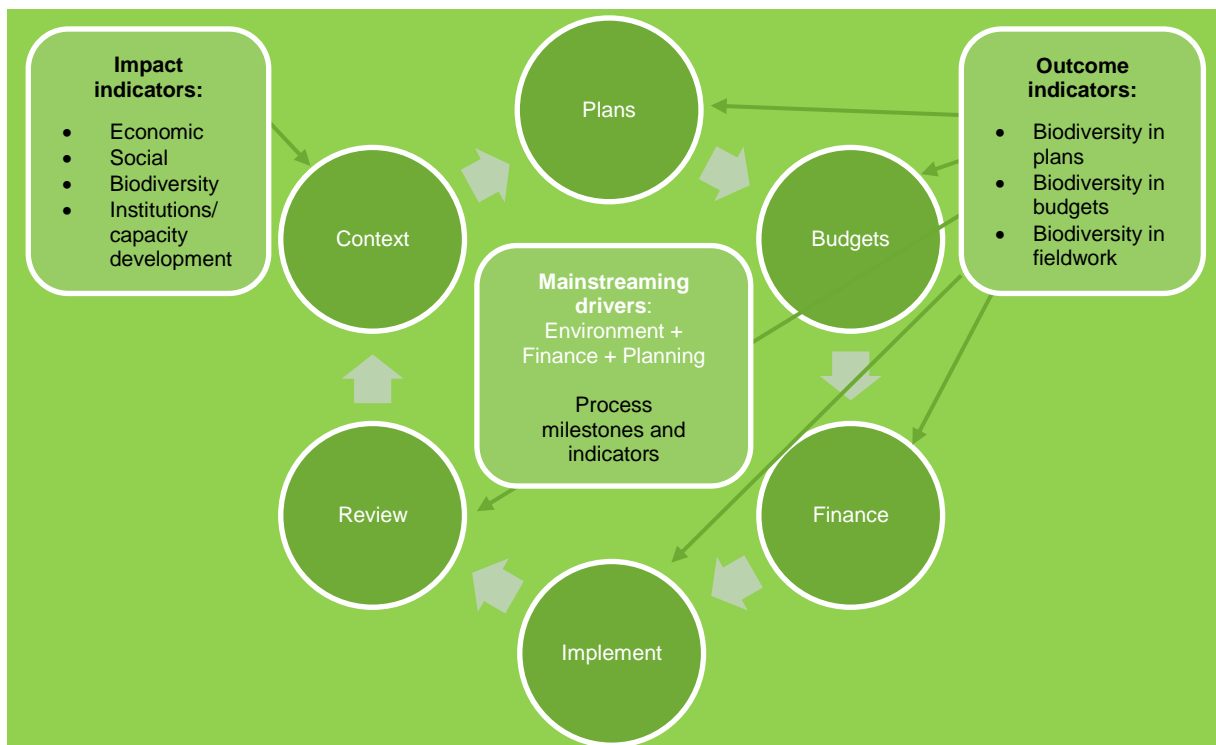
- "I've frequently used [writing about biodiversity](#) in writing topical papers on development and how to attain middle income status while banking on biodiversity." [Uganda]
- "Using [developing a business case](#), I was able to convince policymakers to prioritise biodiversity in budgeting in the face of urgent development priorities." [Uganda]
- "The [rapid diagnostic tool](#) was used to create awareness for multi-sectoral committee members in the national committee for mainstreaming biodiversity into national development plans." [Zambia]
- "The [stories of change](#) helped to highlight some stories that we never thought were contributing to mainstreaming success." [Malawi]
- "[Putting biodiversity at the centre of development](#) helped in improve the quality of Ghana's NBSAP." [Ghana]

On the second day of the workshop, the project team held a session on indicators of biodiversity mainstreaming success and failure. Workshop participants identified 'real life' indicators that they had come across during country mainstreaming activities. These indicators were subsequently organised around the national policy cycle (spanning the context, planning, budgeting, finance, implementation and review phases). Figure 1 shows the indicators identified, and how the whole cyclical process depends on environment, finance and planning authorities being engaged with and driving it.

During the discussion, it was noted that some of these indicators could contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Targets on raising awareness and integration of biodiversity into development plans. IIED/UNEP-WCMC will draw on this to develop draft guidance on monitoring mainstreaming success for review and comment by the project countries. It will include a clear statement of purpose, method and example indicators.

¹ All project outputs can be found at www.iied.org/nbsaps

Figure 1. Indicators of biodiversity mainstreaming success



Sharing tips and tactics on topical issues identified prior to the workshop

During the first international project workshop in Harare (November 2015), it was noted that spatial data/planning, economic accounts, budgets and communications are all useful tools for successful mainstreaming. The workshop included sessions on each of these topics in order to increase recognition of their value and provided time for countries to share tips and tactics with each other.

During the budgeting and accounting sessions, it was noted that in the initial stages of mainstreaming it is often worth promoting a systematic approach for environment or natural capital accounting generally, rather than biodiversity specifically, as this may stand a greater chance of impact. Experience from the PEI shows the value of biodiversity mainstreaming undertaken in partnership with ministries (of finance or planning) rather than environmental authorities, since the former tend to run accounting functions.

In the spatial data and planning session, participants discussed the integration of spatial biodiversity and development data into mainstreaming entry points such as their national development plans. It was highlighted that there are many reasons to take a spatial approach to demonstrating biodiversity value, such as moving beyond general and abstract meanings, to data which identifies places where better land use planning is needed.

In the communications session, we discussed moving away from biodiversity language to language that all sectors can relate to. Participants conducted a stakeholder mapping exercise to identify key contact points in different sectors that could have high influence in supporting the mainstreaming agenda, as well as people who could block the process.

Post-project priorities

As an introduction to discussions on the future of the ALG, Monipher Musasa (University of Cambridge) presented her masters research on mainstreaming leadership. This highlighted the strengths and building blocks of the ALG's role and approach – shared visionary leadership, based on relationships and experience rather than hierarchies. Long-standing ALG members are deeply ensconced in mainstreaming in-country, and have influenced the Secretariat of the CBD and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Newer ALG members have learnt a considerable amount and made valuable connections. Participants discussed the need to explore ways to better organise and mobilise the ALG as a 'community of practice'. They also discussed how modest but

sustained additional resources might improve the group's influence in-country, across Africa and globally (for example in relation to the CBD and development initiatives). UNEP-WCMC and IIED were instructed to prepare a draft proposal for the future of the ALG which will be shared early in 2017 for comment.

Communicating shared messages in the form of an informal Accra Statement

The ALG, representing all eight countries in the project, met during the workshop to draft the 'Accra Statement' which the group adopted in the final session. The statement captures key messages on mainstreaming that emerged from the workshop and builds on the recommendations of the previous 'Harare Statement'². The overarching message is that "mainstreaming is not complete until biodiversity is at the heart of development in all districts and sectors". See Appendix for the final statement.

Sharing information from the Convention on Biological Diversity and the biodiversity mainstreaming event

UNEP-WCMC, IIED and the Secretariat of the CBD hosted a one day event on 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development and the SDGs; sharing and developing workable solutions', Sunday 11th December, at CBD COP13 for countries to share successes and challenges in biodiversity mainstreaming. The event hosted was well-attended and a range of speakers presented on:

- International experience, including the Global Environment Facility's recent mainstreaming review and UNDP's analysis of NBSAP actions
- Insights into the approaches of the development co-operation agencies
- National efforts on mainstreaming biodiversity into national development planning and poverty eradication strategies
- Country experiences of mainstreaming into sectoral planning, and
- Scaling up of mainstreaming efforts through tools and support, including the German Federal Enterprise for International Cooperation's training resources, the International Development Law Organisation's new legal assessment tool and OECD's perspectives on monitoring and evaluation of mainstreaming.

The event attracted a broad and varied audience: it successfully showed the breadth of mainstreaming effort in developing countries and emerging successes from engaging with national development planning, particularly in Africa in the eight project countries, as well as Costa Rica, Mexico and South Africa. Mainstreaming in the marine sector and in developed countries were raised as areas for further exploration.

In addition to this event, discussions around the main messages from the Accra Statement took place with members of the African Group at CBD COP13.

²For the 'Harare Statement' see First International Workshop Report: Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Policy and Planning. IIED, London. Available at <http://pubs.iied.org/G04009>

Appendix: List of participants and Accra Statement

Name	Location	Organisation
Mr Mosimanegape Nthaka	BOTSWANA	Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism
Mr Khulekani Mpofu	BOTSWANA	Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism
Mr Baboloki Autlwetse	BOTSWANA	Kalahari Conservation Society
Ms Charity Mphatso Gambatula	MALAWI	Department of Economic Planning and Development
Mrs Memory Kamoyo	MALAWI	Environmental Affairs Department
Mr Jester Kaunga Nyirenda	MALAWI	Department of National Parks and Wildlife
Ms Monipher Patience Musasa	MALAWI	Environmental Affairs Department
Mrs Natalia Hamunyela	NAMIBIA	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Mr Ferdinand Mwapopi	NAMIBIA	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Mr Marthin Kaukaha Kasaona	NAMIBIA	Ministry of Environment and Tourism
Mr Kevin Moumou	SEYCHELLES	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
Mr Herve Barois	SEYCHELLES	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change
Mr Aaron Werikhe	UGANDA	National Planning Authority
Mr Moses Ssonko	UGANDA	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development
Ms Monique Akullo	UGANDA	National Environment Management Authority
Ms Caroline Aguti	UGANDA	Ministry of Energy
Mr Absalom Sakala	ZAMBIA	Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection
Ms Sheila Nkonge	ZAMBIA	Ministry of National Development Planning
Mr Abraham Matiza	ZIMBABWE	Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate
Mr Onismus Chipfunde	ZIMBABWE	Genetic Resources and Biotechnology Institute
Ms Cleopatra Pedzisa-Mangombe	ZIMBABWE	Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate
Mr Abisha Mapendembe	UK	UNEP-WCMC
Ms Sarah Darrah	UK	UNEP-WCMC
Mr Steve Bass	UK	IIED
Dr Dilys Roe	UK	IIED
Ms Rosalind Goodrich	UK	IIED
Mr Alex Forbes	KENYA	UNDP UNEP PEI Africa Programme
Mr Eric Okoree	GHANA	National Biosafety Authority
Prof Alfred Oteng Yeboah	GHANA	National Biodiversity Committee and Department of Botany, University of Ghana
Prof Ofori Danson	GHANA	Department of Marine and Fisheries Science, University of Ghana
Dr Felix Addo Yobo	GHANA	National Development Planning Commission
Mr Ernest Lamptey	GHANA	Wildlife Division, Forestry Commission of Ghana
Mr Yaw Osei Owusu	GHANA	Conservation Alliance
Ms Deladem Ayimey	GHANA	National Biosafety Authority
Ms Diana Mensah	GHANA	National Biosafety Authority
Mr Robert Fritts	GHANA	National Biosafety Authority



Photo: Workshop participants in Sogakope, Ghana. Rosalind Goodrich, November 2016

Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Policy and Planning

Accra statement on mainstreaming biodiversity in practice

November 2016

In November 2016, representatives from the governments of Botswana, Ghana, Malawi, Namibia, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe gathered in Accra, Ghana, for an international workshop of the Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Policy and Planning initiative: 'Success in mainstreaming – sharing lessons, co-developing guidance and scaling up'.

Mainstreaming is not complete until biodiversity is at the heart of development in all districts and sectors

The African Leadership Group (ALG)¹ welcomes the good progress already made in our eight countries towards mainstreaming biodiversity into development and sector policies and plans at national and local level. We also note with pleasure the beginnings of mainstreaming biodiversity into government budgets. This progress reflects the African contribution to achieving Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15 and Goal A of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

There is increasing recognition by the many people and organisations involved in mainstreaming that conserving biodiversity and using it sustainably is critically important for society. It has been valuable to have close collaboration among all stakeholders, especially biodiversity, finance and planning authorities.

The ALG believes that now is the time to mainstream biodiversity in practice – going beyond policy, plans and other statements of intention. Mainstreaming is not finished until biodiversity is at the heart of development in all districts and sectors.

To that end, based on our 'real life' experience and the lessons we have learned, we recognise that:

- Successful mainstreaming can take years to achieve. That achievement is as much about seizing opportunities as careful planning.
- The Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) and the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) can both help with biodiversity mainstreaming and would be of greater use if they were extended beyond their current countries.



Previous statements from the African Leadership Group on biodiversity mainstreaming²

Harare 2015: Recommends the elements that need to be in place for successful mainstreaming, including a strong business case, a framework for monitoring and evaluation to measure effectiveness, a network to share spatial planning expertise and a communications strategy.



Windhoek 2014: Asserts that successful mainstreaming achieves a wide range of biodiversity, social and economic outcomes of great interest across sectors.

Entebbe 2013: Concludes that successful mainstreaming is achieved not only by 'pushing' biodiversity into other plans and processes but also by seeking dual, positive biodiversity and development outcomes.



Maun 2012: Defines biodiversity mainstreaming as 'the integration of biodiversity into defined sectors and development aims, through a variety of approaches and mechanisms, so as to achieve combined biodiversity and development outcomes'.

¹ The ALG is a fluid body whose membership changes over time to reflect individuals' changing roles. It includes government representatives (typically government staff who have led the NBSAP revision and technical experts in mainstreaming). It also includes independent members from across Africa who offer relevant mainstreaming expertise and experience. The group's role is to offer support and leadership on different aspects of the link between biodiversity and poverty and on mainstreaming biodiversity.

² See www.iied.org/statements-workshop-reports.

To achieve biodiversity mainstreaming success, we recommend that:

1. Biodiversity mainstreaming takes place at all major stages of the 'policy cycle': analysis, debate, planning, budgeting, attracting finance, implementing at all levels, and in monitoring progress. These mainstreaming efforts must be ongoing.
2. The monitoring and evaluation framework for assessing mainstreaming impact must have simple indicators that reflect real life practical success, to complement existing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) indicators.
3. Communication about biodiversity should be simple and use language with which all audiences are familiar.
4. There must be consistent and continuous collaboration and engagement with all partners and networks, including people and institutions at community level, to demonstrate mainstreaming in practice. This may mean specific programmes at the district level to build understanding about biodiversity's value to development.
5. It is essential to be aware of what is happening across sectors and choose the right time to engage in order to influence the content of

national development policies and strategies. Mainstreaming is much easier when legislation and policies are harmonised. Engagement must also be continuous between planning and resource allocation departments to reduce the chance of policy commitments not being matched by actual resources.

6. Tools such as natural capital accounts and spatial data can be deployed to strengthen the business case for biodiversity mainstreaming and to accelerate resource mobilisation. Finance solutions used to support activities that demonstrate mainstreaming must be tailored and appropriate.
7. Champions advocating on behalf of biodiversity mainstreaming are sought just as much from the cohort of technical staff as from the top of a ministry, as they may have more practical chances to influence decisions.

Finally, it is important to note the contribution of IIED and UNEP-WCMC over the past five years which has led to great opportunities for the African Leadership Group to learn from each other about all the elements that need to be in place to achieve successful biodiversity mainstreaming. Such efforts to link champions of mainstreaming need to be scaled up to accelerate biodiversity mainstreaming in policy and practice.



List of signatories

Mr Mosimanegape Nthaka	Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, Botswana
Mr Khulekani Mpfu	Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, Botswana
Mr Baboloki Autlwetse	Kalahari Conservation Society, Botswana
Ms Charity Mphatso Gambatula	Department of Economic Planning and Development, Malawi
Mrs. Memory Kamoyo	Environmental Affairs Department, Malawi
Mr Jester Kaunga Nyirenda	Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Malawi
Ms Monipher Patience Musasa	Environmental Affairs Department, Malawi
Mrs Natalia Hamunyela	Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia
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Mr Kevin Mومou	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, Seychelles
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Mr Moses Ssonko	Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, Uganda
Ms Monique Akullo	National Environment Management Authority, Uganda
Ms Caroline Aguti	Ministry of Energy, Uganda
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Mr Abraham Matiza	Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, Zimbabwe
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Ms Cleopatra Pedzisa-Mangombe	Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate, Zimbabwe
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Mr Ernest Lamptey	Wildlife Division, Forestry Commission of Ghana
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The Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Development Policy and Planning initiative brings together the work of two projects: (i) NBSAPs 2.0: Policy to Practice and (ii) Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development. The initiative is coordinated by IIED and UNEP-WCMC and draws on a wealth of outputs from the lifetime of the previous NBSAP 2.0 Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development project.

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Project coordinators



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The 'Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Policy and Planning' initiative (2015-2017) aims to make best use of revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to improve the ways that development actors and processes handle the opportunities and constraints associated with biodiversity. The main objectives of the initiative's second international workshop included discussing project progress, sharing information on the Convention on Biological Diversity and biodiversity mainstreaming event, reviewing mainstreaming capacity tools, outlining post-project priorities and communicating key messages from the workshop in the form of a joint 'Accra Statement'. This report summarises the workshop's proceedings.



Event Materials

Biodiversity

Keywords:
Mainstreaming, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



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