



# **ENSURING THE MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING SYSTEMS, POLICY AND DECISION MAKING: EXPERIENCES FROM UGANDA**

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**Presentation to the Congo Basin Countries (24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> October, 2017)**

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**2017**



# Key issues, questions and concerns

**This presentation will attempt to answer the following questions:**

- What are the key biodiversity concerns from a policy and planning perspective?
- What are the key concerns of policy and decision makers?
- How can we align biodiversity issues and concerns to those of the policy and decision makers?
- What can we do to put biodiversity issues and concerns on the national development agenda?
- How was the processes of biodiversity mainstreaming in development frameworks in Uganda done and what lessons can we learn from Uganda experience?



# Key Biodiversity issues and concerns from Economic Development Policy and Planning perspectives

- Low prioritization of biodiversity and ecosystems in economic planning systems, policy and decision making processes;
- Low budget allocation to biodiversity based sectors;
  - Limited reflection of biodiversity in financial decisions
- Many aspects and values of biodiversity and ecosystems are not reflected in markets, market prices, market based policies and decisions
- Some values of biodiversity and ecosystems are not reflected in market driven developments e.g. the development infrastructure causing losses of biodiversity



# Understanding the Nature of Policy and Decision makers

- **A typical policy and decision maker usually:**
  - Not well grounded in biodiversity issues and concerns
  - Does not clearly understand the technical scientific language e.g. terms such as, biodiversity, ecosystems, species, habitats etc;
  - Does not clearly understand the importance and linkage between biodiversity and economic development
  - Has no time to read heavy texts
  - Has a short term horizon-no long term focus
  - Focuses on political survival and is willing to take decisions that hurt biodiversity as long as they guarantee political survival (e.g. fulfilling election promises)
  - Views issues from an economic perspective and understands the economics language better



# Understanding the concerns of policy and decision makers

## Key concerns of policy and decision makers (common development priorities)

- Attainment of rapid economic growth rates (meeting GDP growth targets)
- Poverty reduction and wealth creation
- Reduction in income and regional inequalities
- Creation of Jobs i.e. reduction of unemployment and underemployment
- Food security
- Improved education and health
- Macroeconomic stability
- Increased revenue and foreign exchange earnings
- National security
- Political survival



# Towards Effective Biodiversity Mainstreaming

- **Effective biodiversity mainstreaming therefore implies:**
  - Aligning biodiversity issues and concerns to those of the policy and decision makers
  - Opening a dialogue and creating mutual understanding between biodiversity stakeholders and economic planners, financial managers
    - Demystifying the language used by biodiversity stakeholders and development economists
  - Influencing the national economic development agenda including; policies, plans, decisions, programmes, projects and budgets to prioritize biodiversity issues
  - Identifying and building on existing initiatives, exploiting opportunities for biodiversity mainstreaming including national and international initiatives
  - Generating credible data to make a business case for biodiversity
    - Undertaking Biodiversity economic valuation studies
    - Environmental Economic Analysis studies e.g. undertaking Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA)



# Biodiversity Mainstreaming

## Biodiversity Mainstreaming Implies:

- Prioritizing biodiversity sustainability concerns in;
  - National development agenda
  - Public investments i.e. e.g. the development of infrastructure
  - Policy formulation including macroeconomic and sectoral policies
  - National budgets (including local budgets)
  - Planning at local and national levels
  - Development projects and programmes and putting into account environmental costs and benefits into their calculations



# Aligning Biodiversity issues to the concerns of policy and decision makers



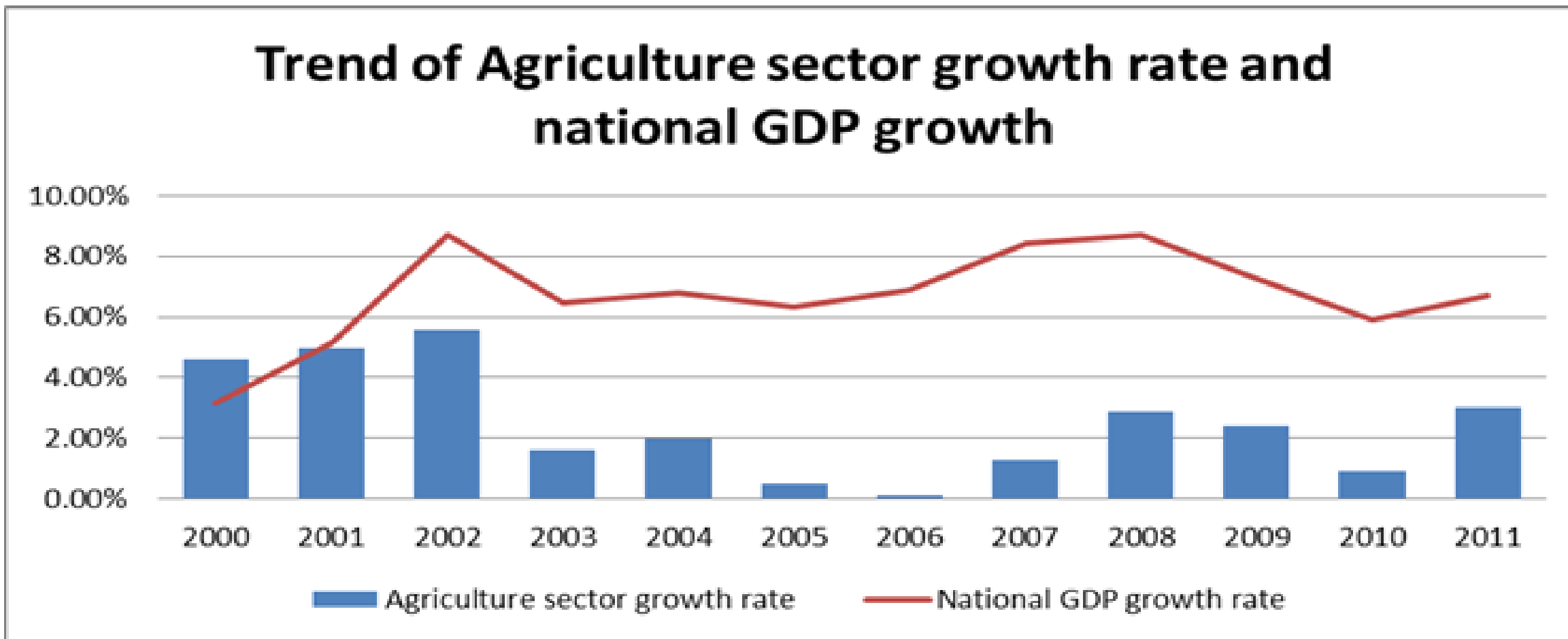
**Demonstrate the important contribution of biodiversity to the attainment of national development objectives. In Uganda:**

- Agriculture a biodiversity based sector contributes to 66% of employment, 40% of export earnings, 23% of GDP, provides inputs to the agro-based industries and is the basis of national food security
- Tourism in 2014/15 contributed US\$ 1.8 billion (9.9% of GDP) and 592,500 jobs
- Forests contribute 6-8% of GDP, employs about 1 million people in formal and informal activities, over 96% of the population depends on Biomass energy
- Fisheries
  - Major source of protein and is a leading export commodity
  - Leading non-traditional export





# Agriculture trends and national development



Computed from data in MAAIF and UBOS abstract editions



# Biodiversity in development: What policy and decision makers need to know

- **Biodiversity and job creation**

- Unemployment continues to be a major challenge especially among the youths and women
- Biodiversity based sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry and tourism continue to remain the largest job providers, incomes and livelihoods for the majority in Sub-Saharan Africa

- **Biodiversity and Food Security**

- Food and Nutritional Security (FNS) are some of the pressing needs, 40% of Ugandans do not have access to adequate food and nutrition
- Without biodiversity there is no food, agriculture is built on biodiversity



# Biodiversity in development: What policy and decision makers need to know

- **Biodiversity and health**

- Approximately 80% of Ugandans depend on indigenous herbal medicine

- Investment in the continued productivity of biodiversity is pro-poor, equitable, rural based and confers gender benefits

- Investment in Biodiversity generates high returns per unit compared to other investments

- Public investments Vs returns in ENR sectors

- Agriculture 4% of budget, returns 23% of GDP and 40% of exports
- Tourism less than 1% of the budget returns 9% of GDP over US\$ 1.8 bn

## Biodiversity is a Social Safety Nets in times of economic hardships

- Source of food and livelihood sustenance in times of economic hardships e.g. during unemployment, recessions, SAPs

# Natural Medicinal Plants in Uganda



***Tonic root is perceived as a sexual stimulant***



***Aloe vera treats various illnesses***



# Repositioning biodiversity to the top of the national development agenda

- **Increasing the visibility of biodiversity in economic planning and decision making:**
  - Align biodiversity to the key issues and concerns of policy and decision makers;
  - Align national development to biodiversity
  - Identify and exploit opportunities for biodiversity mainstreaming
  - Undertake biodiversity valuation studies to demonstrate the contribution of biodiversity to meeting national development priorities and the costs of its degradation;
  - Undertake biodiversity accounting to establish the changing stocks and flows of biodiversity and their implications to the attainment of national priorities;



# The Process of Biodiversity Planning in Uganda

- NBSAP review process began with a capacity building workshop
- 4 thematic working areas/groups with team leaders were formed based on competence and institutional mandates
  - Policy, legislation and institutional frameworks
  - Aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity
  - Biotechnology and biosafety
  - Biodiversity and National development
- Each of the TWGs had clear TORs- basically to carry out stocktaking and assessment through collating and synthesizing existing information and baseline information used to guide the review process.
- The reports generated by the thematic groups fed into the work of the consultant hired to prepare NBSAP.



# Ensuring that development outcomes were included in the NBSAP



## Integrating Development into NBSAP

- The working group for biodiversity and national development was focused on ensuring development outcomes were included in the NBSAP.
- The group had representative from Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, National Planning Authority, NEMA, Uganda Bureau of Statistics, CSOs among other institutions.

## Other Government Ministries

- Ministry of Water and Environment
- Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development was involved for planning and budgeting purposes



# Ensuring that development outcomes were included in the NBSAP



- Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities was to capture trends on biodiversity
- Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries was to provide status of agro biodiversity (crop and fisheries biodiversity)
- Ministry of Local Government to provide status of use and conservation of biodiversity at local and community levels and oversee implementation of NBSAP at the local government level.
- Ministry of Labour Gender and Social Development to provide trends of gender involvement and social development issue in biodiversity conservation.
- Ministry of Trade, Cooperatives and industry to provide information on bio-trade.





# The Process of Biodiversity Planning in Uganda

## Composition of TWGs

- Technical staff from Government MDAs, Local Governments, Academia and Research institutions, Private Sector, CSOs, NGOs.
- Representative of MEAs of other Conventions; UNFCCC, CITIES, RAMSAR, UNCCD and CMS.
- The members had diverse expertise and professional backgrounds;
  - Economists, Taxonomists, Foresters, Botanist, Zoologists, Lawyers, Statisticians, Biotechnologists, Bioinformatics, Hydrologists, Soil Scientists, Information Scientists, ICT Specialists, Teachers, Environmental Scientist, GIS And Remote Sensing Specialist, Veterinary Scientist, Accountants.



# Benefits of multi-sectoral TWGs with representation from key sectors

- Created opportunity for mainstreaming of the NBSAP in national development frameworks including the NDPII and other sectoral plans, policies and programmes
- The best available up-to-date information for institutions were provided
- Sharing of information and experiences
- Capacity built among members on review and updating of NBSAP
- Strengthened institutional collaboration and networking
- Increased transparency among stakeholders
- Increased ownership of the NSBAP report
- Wide publicity of the NBSAP



# Benefits of Biodiversity Mainstreaming: Entebbe Expressway





# Benefits of Biodiversity Mainstreaming

- Biodiversity integrated in the National vision 2040, NDP II, Sectoral Plans, Presidential Manifesto of the ruling party
  - Presidential directives on Forests, Wetlands, Fisheries
- Implementation of biodiversity targets included Budget Call Circular of 2017/2018, NBSAP and Green Growth combined as a programme in 2018/2019 for implementation
- Biodiversity integrated in the national monitoring and evaluation frameworks
  - Biodiversity targets and indicators developed
- Biodiversity concerns integrated in development projects especially in the development of infrastructure
- Increased resource flows to biodiversity related concerns-Projects



# Benefits of Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development

- Carried out Biodiversity expenditure review, Institutional and Policy reviews and finance needs and gap analysis under the UNDP supported BIOFIN project
- A National Biodiversity Fund has been established with support from development partners and CSOs
- Gender mainstreamed in the NBSAP, therefore it is a gender responsive NBSAP
- Implementation of the national targets is on-going by the target champions in the different sectors



# Challenges Experienced in Uganda's Biodiversity Planning Process

- Coordinating a large group of people from different institutions and professional backgrounds
- Keeping the thematic groups committed and focused on their activities
- Balancing time for NBSAP review process and official duties
- Getting the true situation of the state of biodiversity and interventions
- -Addressing new and emerging issues as well as exploiting opportunities



# Experiences and Lessons from Uganda's Biodiversity Planning

- Combining the use of the thematic groups and the consultant enriched the review process of the NBSAP.
- Assigning institutions as biodiversity champions facilitated the mainstreaming process and is expected to facilitate implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation.
- The use of thematic working groups creates ownership, capacity building, sharing of expert knowledge and publicity of the NBSAP process.
- Involvement of the MFPED and NPA early created a better understanding of how biodiversity contributes to national development targets and the role that national financing can play.
- Need for a good blend of TWGs and consultancy inputs, careful selection of Consultant.



# Key Messages

- The economic importance of biodiversity in wealth creation, employment, livelihoods and poverty reduction needs to be recognized at all policy and decision making levels
- Measurement of Biodiversity and its integration into decision making and economic planning is crucial for sustainable development
- Biodiversity accounting will improve the visibility of biodiversity in decision making and facilitate the setting of targets for planning and policy interventions





**THANK YOU!**