STRATEGIC DIAGNOSTIC TOOL - A GUIDE TO SELECTING STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT TARGETS

Abisha Mapendembe, Programme Officer

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Background

- **All countries are different in their development and biodiversity contexts and state of biodiversity mainstreaming thus one size fits all approach not useful**

- **A country can't finish the task of mainstreaming - always necessary to respond to new information, political debates, economic conditions and level of institutional maturity**

- **Aiming to influence major development plans and decisions is ambitious and takes time to achieve: there are so many aspects of development that could be targeted**

- **Targeting one or two development processes, sectors and/or issues is a good start – LONG LISTS DON'T GET DONE!**
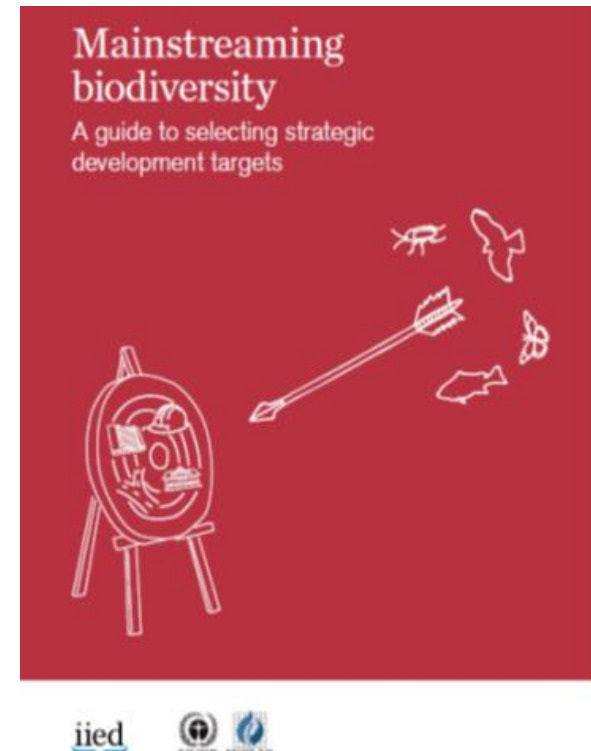
Background

- **The choice of a development target should be strategic, and you need to map the options**

- **Go for the most strategic development targets - i.e. those that will engage and energise development stakeholders**

- **For example, those that in the near term achieve development and biodiversity gains and in the long run shape more integrated institutions.**

- **Biodiversity authorities and interest groups do not often have high influence; it is important that you focus your energies and select the development process sector/issue which will best help the country to make a leap forward in mainstreaming biodiversity across several development needs.**

Purpose and approach
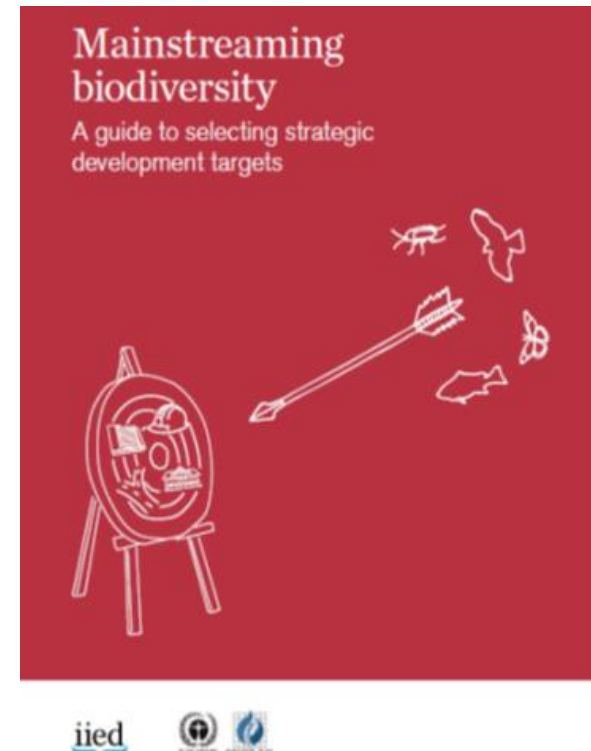
The core of this guide is a two-part diagnostic to:

- **To understand the many ways that biodiversity and development are linked in a country**

- **To identify and assess mainstreaming efforts and approaches used to date**

- **To identify a strategic focal development process, sector or issue for biodiversity mainstreaming**

Mainstreaming biodiversity
A guide to selecting strategic development targets

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Purpose and approach

The core of this guide is a two-part diagnostic to:

- **Part 1 – Scoping: mapping the development 'landscape' for biodiversity. This will produce a long-list of possible development processes and issues for biodiversity mainstreaming, together with their entry points.**

- **Part 2 – Focusing: targeting priority – applying criteria to narrow the choice down to one or two development processes, sectors or issues for biodiversity mainstreaming**

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Two practical options for carrying out the diagnostic exercise

- Depending on what has already been done in country and what ongoing initiatives can be built upon, we suggest two practical options for carrying out the diagnostic exercise:

Option 1 – focus on a cross-sectoral meeting:

- The diagnostic can be kicked off by organising a meeting involving knowledgeable people from biodiversity, development, (local) government and sector interests.

- A one day session should be enough to provide outline answers to many of the in Part 1: a draft meeting agenda is suggested in Box 1, on page 4.

- After the meeting, follow-up research may be needed to validate the workshop's initial answers, add detail, propose a focal development process/ sector/issue, and then return the full diagnostic to the group

- *Botswana, Ghana, Namibia, Malawi, Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe used Option 1 .*

Box 1: Suggested agenda for one-day workshop

Welcome and purpose of meeting – to scope development processes/sector/ issues for which biodiversity mainstreaming is a priority

Scoping answers to Part 1 questions on:

1. Development-biodiversity links

2. Development policy and planning processes

3. Development debate

4. Development implementation and financing

5. The stakeholders and their capacities

6. Mainstreaming efforts to date

Prioritisation (see Part 2)

1. Apply seven criteria to select the priority focal development process/sector/ issue

2. Consider the capacity requirements to drive biodiversity mainstreaming

Agreeing next steps:

- Follow-up research to answer some questions in more detail (if needed)
- Write up the results of the meeting

Two practical options for carrying out the diagnostic exercise

Option 2 – focus on a working group (existing or newly-formed):

- **Some countries may wish to form a working group involving knowledgeable people from biodiversity, development, (local) government and sector interests to map the development 'landscape' for biodiversity (Part 1)**

- **Then move on to propose a strategic development process, sector or issue.**

- ***Uganda went for Option 2 using thematic working groups from their NBSAP revision process.***

Part 1 – Scoping: mapping the development 'landscape' for biodiversity

- **Questions to ask**: The idea is to get a picture of recent and current development debate, policy, plans and activities, to identify where there are the biggest needs for mainstreaming biodiversity, and the opportunities for doing so.

- *Timeframe***:** Looking back over the last three to five years may be an adequate timeframe.

- *Timeframe*: Looking forward, the time frame could be when the current national development plan will finish, or for shaping upcoming major plans such as for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- *Politics of development*: Markets, foreign relations, the dynamics of the informal economy and civil society, as well as party politics, should not be ignored..

Part 1 – Scoping: mapping the development 'landscape' for biodiversity

Development-biodiversity links both positive and negative

- *Dependence of development on biodiversity* (e.g. what sectors, enterprises or stakeholder groups depend most on what aspects of biodiversity, and for what benefits?)

- *Vulnerability of development to biodiversity problems* (e.g. what sectors, enterprises or stakeholder groups are vulnerable to biodiversity problems and what major problems have they suffered in recent years?)

- *Biodiversity dynamics* (e.g. where is development degrading biodiversity and where is biodiversity being restored and better protected?)

- *New potentials of biodiversity* (e.g. where are stakeholders giving greater attention to biodiversity, and for what purposes?)

Development policy and planning processes

- *Core development processes addressing biodiversity* (e.g. how do the national development plan, sector plans, and/or local plans address biodiversity priorities and constraints and are there opportunities to influence the review, revision or drafting of a new plan?)

- *Traditional and cultural institutions* (e.g. where have indigenous peoples', chiefs' and traditional land management systems been effective in connecting environment and development issues?)

Part 1 – Scoping: mapping the development 'landscape' for biodiversity

Development implementation and financing

- *Business models and development control processes* (e.g. are there particular sectors, enterprises or instruments that routinely fail to incorporate biodiversity interests in their planning and activities?)

- *Government expenditure* (e.g. how much of the current government investment/recurrent budget is directed towards biodiversity and for what purposes?)

- *Fiscal policy and procedures* (e.g. what government revenue is directly dependent on the status of biodiversity?)

- *Investment in biodiversity, foreign and domestic* (e.g. who is investing directly in conserving and managing biodiversity and why? And what planned investment threatens biodiversity, where and how?)

Part 1 – Scoping: mapping the development 'landscape' for biodiversity

Stakeholders in mainstreaming and their capacities

- *Protagonists supporting positive biodiversity-development links* (e.g. who have been champions in seeking positive outcomes?)

- *Antagonists* (e.g. who have undermined desirable biodiversity-development outcomes?)

- *Effective 'bridges' linking biodiversity and development interests* (e.g. which partnerships, alliances, institutions or processes have brought biodiversity and development stakeholders together?)

Development debate

- *Debate and 'policy space' that could help to mainstream biodiversity* (e.g. what are the best fora for discussing biodiversity-development links?)

- *Debate and 'policy space' that could threaten biodiversity* (e.g. what current policy or business debates and plans could lead to potentially harmful decisions for biodiversity?)

- *Biodiversity values of different development stakeholders* (e.g. so any businesses, civil society groups and development authorities express particularly strong biodiversity values?)

- *Public commentary on biodiversity in development* (e.g. how have media and civil society opinions on biodiversity in development evolved?)

Part 1 – Scoping: mapping the development 'landscape' for biodiversity

Mainstreaming efforts to date

- *Mainstreaming initiatives* (e.g. what recent, current or planned efforts are there to mainstream biodiversity environment or climate change into development plans and activity?)

- *Results of 'reciprocal mainstreaming' to date* (e.g. what development priorities or constraints are already reflected in the NBSAP and other (sectoral, local) biodiversity plans? Do they match with national development plan priorities?)

- *Use of biodiversity safeguards and related procedures* (e.g. what biodiversity issues, innovations and conditionalities have arisen from Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)?)

- *Development information available on biodiversity* (e.g. how is biodiversity captured in development metrics, monitoring and accounting – e.g. in natural capital accounting (NCA)?

- *Communications approaches* (e.g. what means are proving effective in conveying biodiversity information to development actors at different levels?)

Part 2 – Focusing: targeting priority development processes or issues

Seven criteria are suggested to select priority development processes, sectors or issues for biodiversity mainstreaming, though you may want to adjust or add to these

- 1. *High profile today* – inspires or concerns many stakeholders (e.g. jobs, poverty reduction)
- 2. *Future-relevant* – will be more high-profile in future years (e.g. resource shortages, SDGs)
- 3. *Magnitude of likely outcomes* – affects prospects for many groups and many ecosystems (e.g. farming)
- 4. *Tractable* – many organisations are ready to handle it and there is political will (e.g. five-year planning)
- 5. *Urgency* – high threat of biodiversity and development problems if not tackled (e.g. land conflicts)
- 6. *Learning and institution-building* – scope for stakeholders developing integrated approaches
- 7. *Critical path* – the 'next step' will build on progress to date and unleash more

Assessing capacities to mainstream biodiversity and development

- **Which biodiversity and development institutions, and 'bridges' will be needed to drive mainstreaming for the selected development process, sector or issue?**

- **Do they have adequate capacity?**

- **How can any capacity gap be filled?**

- *ALG experience: requested tools to support national process (e.g. Tips and templates for writing about biodiversity for policy and media material, Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance).*

Presenting the results of the diagnostic

- A description of the overall development 'landscape' from a biodiversity point of view (results of Part 1)

- A description of the selected development process, sector or issue – for example, the national development plan review, agriculture sector strategy formulation, public expenditure review, REDD strategy, tourism strategy - and why it is chosen (results of Part 2)

- The entry point to begin mainstreaming – influencing a national development plan, for example, or sector policy review working group or drafting group, informing a parliamentary committee, synthesising evidence

- Capacity needs and capacity building activities

- The expected outcome – for example, an improved development plan, budget, information source, capacity

- The anticipated impact – hoped-for top-line improvements in biodiversity and developmental terms.

Examples of mainstreaming targets and anticipated outcomes from ALG countries

Country	Mainstreaming target	Planned outputs/outcomes
Botswana	• National Development Plan and Vision • District Development Plans and Processes	• Biodiversity emphasised in national and district development plans • Increased budget allocation to biodiversity • Development actors participating in national biodiversity forum
Ghana	• Medium Term National Development Policy Framework (2018-2021) with emphasis on agriculture, fisheries and forestry sectors	• Key stakeholders sensitised and influencing NDP revision • Biodiversity highlighted in sector plans
Malawi	• Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS II) • National Land Policy • EIA Guidelines and Regulations • National Adaptation Plan (NAP)	• Biodiversity prioritised in MGDS 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

Examples of mainstreaming targets and anticipated outcomes from ALG countries

Country	• Mainstreaming target	• Planned outputs/outcomes
Namibia	• National Development Plan (NDP5) • Integrated Communication, Education and Public Awareness Strategy developed on environmental issues	• Biodiversity prominent in NDP5 • Increased public awareness and support for biodiversity • Biodiversity included in national accounts • Degraded landscapes restored
Seychelles	• 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).	• 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	• Energy Sector Development Plan (2015/16-2019/20). • National Development Plan (NDPII)	• Biodiversity priorities reflected in energy sector plan • Increased awareness of biodiversity issues amongst development planners • Increased budget allocation for biodiversity • Decreased deforestation for energy
Zambia	• Seventh National Development Plan (NDP7)	• Biodiversity emphasised in the plan • Increased financial resources
Zimbabwe	• The national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) strategy	• Statement of intent to address biodiversity in SDGs adopted • SDG15 highlighted as a national priority

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THANK YOU!

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