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**THE AFRICA LEADERSHIP GROUP ON BIODIVERSITY MAINSTREAMING:  
MAINSTREAMING APPROACHES, TOOLS AND KEY EXPERIENCES**

**Abisha Mapendembe, Programme Officer**

# Biodiversity mainstreaming

*“A great deal more has been written about how and why mainstreaming should be carried out than about what has been learned from mainstreaming practice based on testable and replicable evidence”*

GEF (2016) Biodiversity Mainstreaming in Practice: A Review of GEF Experience. Global Environment Facility, Washington, D.C.

# The NBSAP 2.0 Initiative and the African Leadership Group (ALG)

- 2012 – 2017
- Implemented by IIED and UNEP-WCMC
- Funded by UK Darwin Initiative, BMZ, DFID, GEF and EU
- Supported by CBD, UNDP, UN Environment
- Working with eight African countries: Botswana, Namibia, The Seychelles, Uganda, Ghana, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Implemented in two Phases



# Phase 1: Getting development “into” biodiversity

- 2012 – 2015
- Implemented by IIED and UNEP-WCMC
- Funded by UK Darwin Initiative, DFID, GEF and EU
- Supported by CBD, UNDP, UN Environment
- Working with four African countries: Botswana, Namibia, The Seychelles, Uganda
- Focus on getting development priorities reflected in NBSAPs

## NBSAPs 2.0

MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT



A three-year project to build resilient and effective National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans that influence development decisions and improve outcomes for biodiversity and poverty.



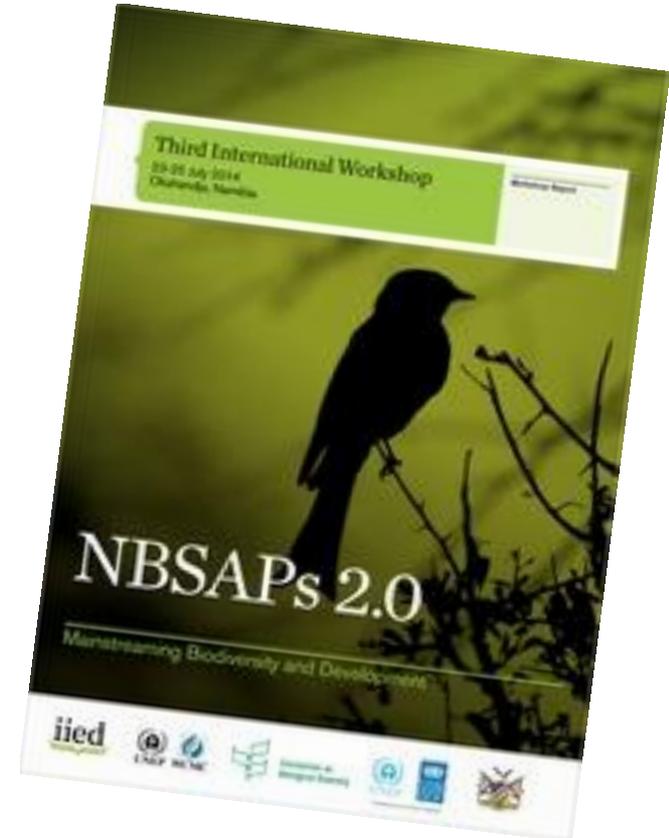
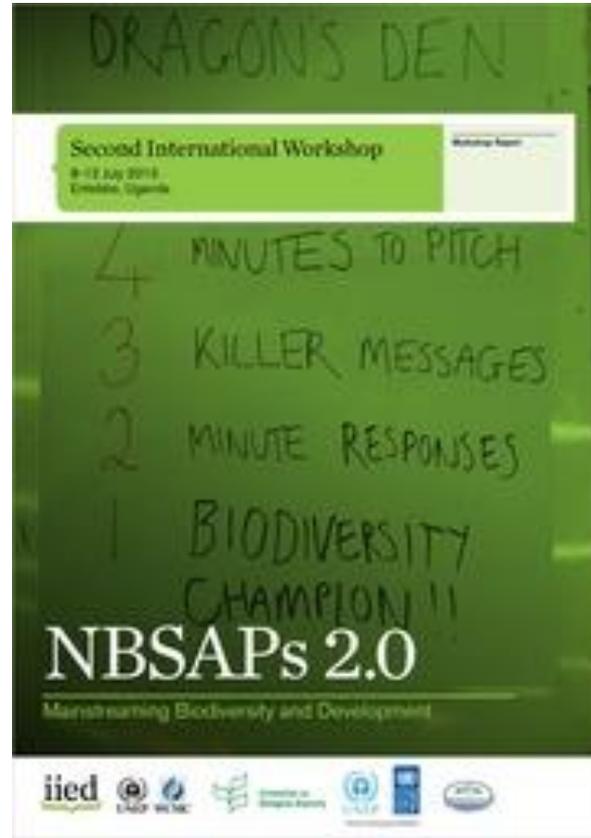
# Approach

- **Establishment of the African Leadership Group (ALG)**
- **Technical support and capacity development**
- **Peer-to-Peer learning and support - workshops and events**
- **Profile building – website, videos, presentations: leadership**
- **Co-development of tools**
- **Consensus-building – ALG “statements**

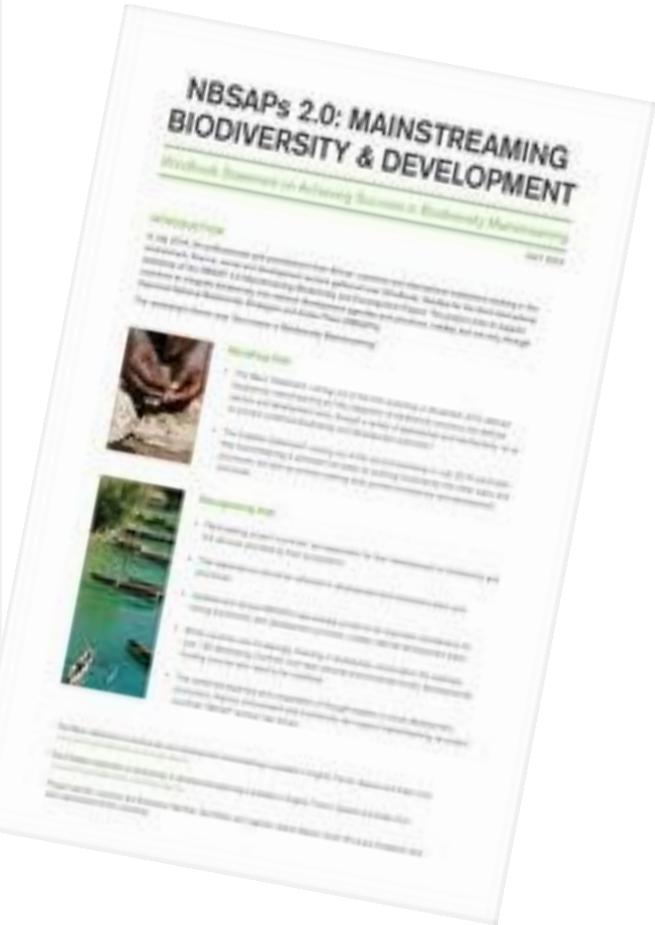
# African Leadership Group on biodiversity mainstreaming

- Informal group whose membership comprises eight African countries plus a few independent members from across Africa who offer relevant mainstreaming expertise and experience
- ALG members mainly Environment, Finance, Planning, Development and sectoral officials –acted as champions and leaders in mainstreaming in country!
- ALG role is to offer support and leadership on different aspects of the link between biodiversity and poverty and on mainstreaming biodiversity
- ALG took lead role in scoping, trialling and assuring proof of concept of the frameworks, tools and processes of the NBSAPs 2.0 Initiative and were/are open towards sharing their experiences (+ve and –ve) of biodiversity mainstreaming.

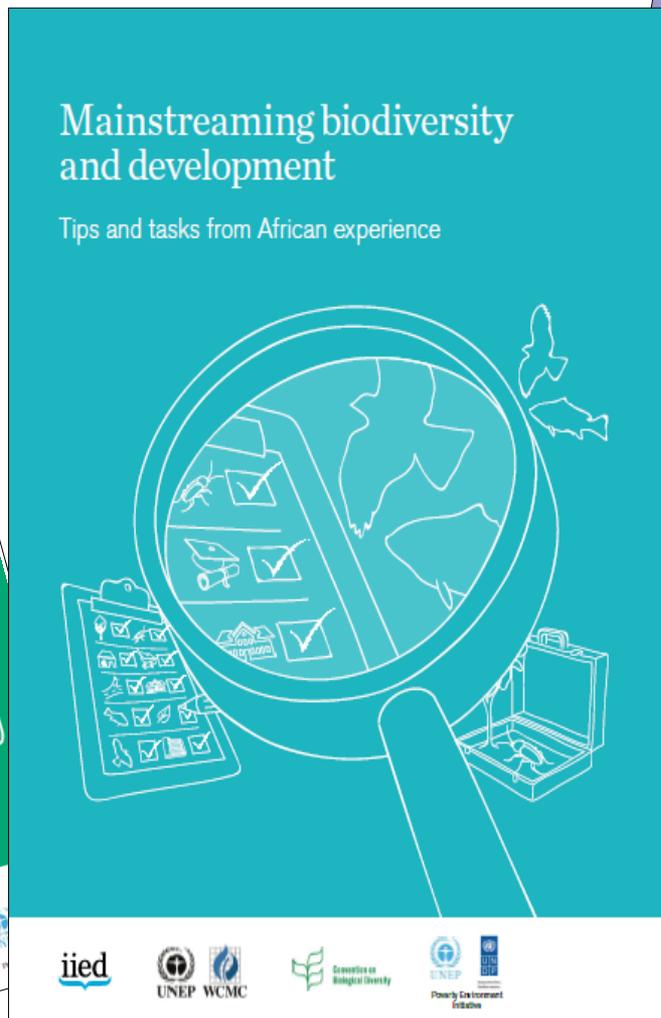
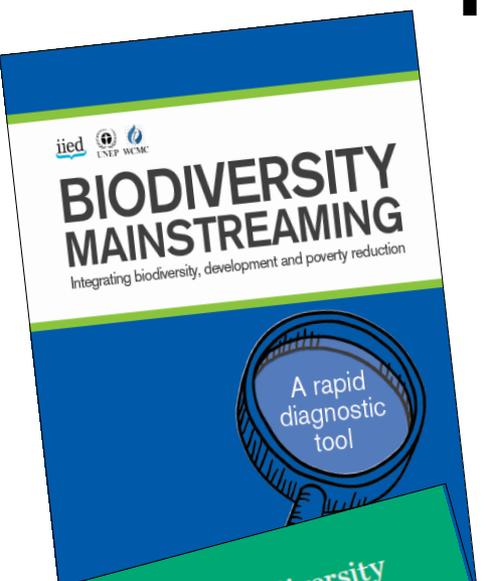
# International project workshops



# ALG Consensus Statements

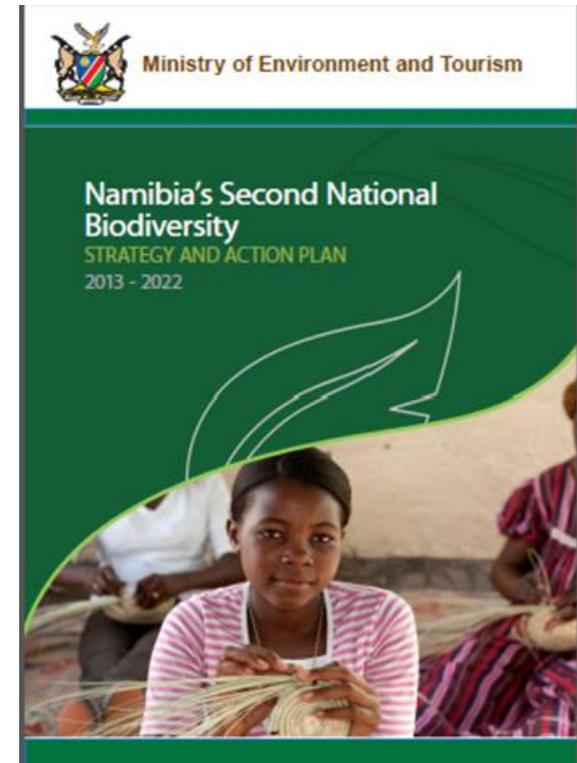


# Co-developed Tools



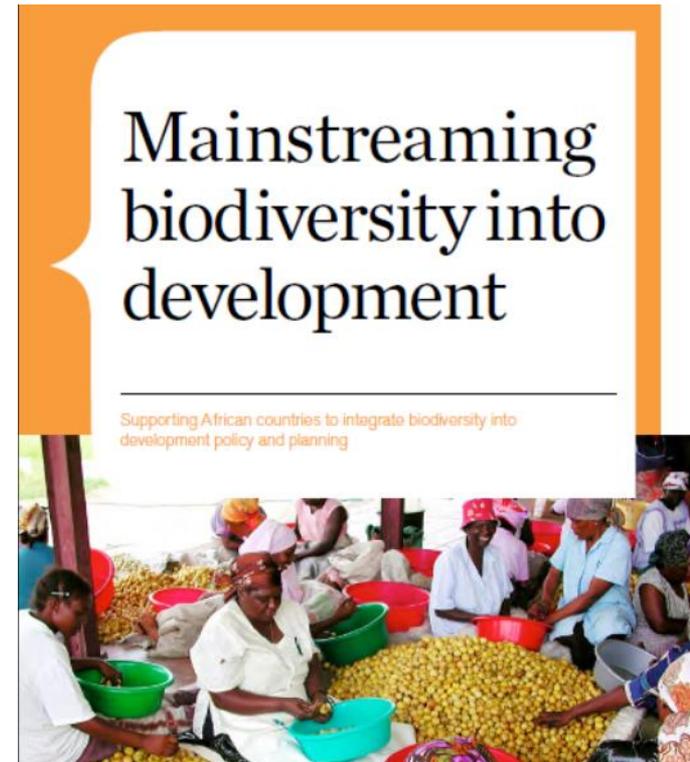
# Phase 1 achievements

- Improved in-country links between biodiversity, development and finance managers who are now coordinating and helping to make a business cases for biodiversity
- Improved links between countries, including peer review of revised NBSAPs, development processes, and mainstreaming plans
- The four countries produced revised NBSAPs that address their national development priorities and issues.
- The promotion of the ALG's lessons and commitment via Statements (e.g. Maun 2012, Entebbe 2013, Windhoek 2014)
- The co-development of simple, practical and tested guidance documents and tools
- Improved global links through inputs from and collaboration with the UN Environment and UNDP's Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI), UNDP's Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN), the NBSAP Forum and CBD
- One of the very first practical examples of real-life biodiversity and development reciprocal mainstreaming - has explicitly taken steps towards developing a community of practice.



# Phase 2: Getting development “into” biodiversity

- 2015 – 2017
- Implemented by IIED and UNEP-WCMC
- Funded by UK Darwin Initiative and BMZ
- Supported by CBD, UNDP, UNEP
- Working with eight African countries: Botswana, Namibia, The Seychelles, Uganda + Ghana, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe
- Focus on getting biodiversity priorities reflected in national and sectoral development plans



# Approach

- **National workshops – mainstreaming targets and entry points (NDPs, sector plans, SDG plans)**
- **International capacity development workshops – mainstreaming tactics, communications etc**
- **Tools to support identified capacity needs**
- **Lesson learning and international guidance**

# International project workshops



# ALG Consensus Statements

## Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Policy and Planning

Harare Statement on using NBSAPs as a tool for mainstreaming biodiversity into national and sectoral development policies

November 2014

**Introduction**

In November 2014, representatives from the governments of Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe gathered in Harare, Zimbabwe, for the inaugural meeting of the **Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Policy and Planning Initiative**. This was a landmark occasion as it was the first time that such high-level representatives from African Policy Institutes to address a subject as broad and multi-faceted as mainstreaming biodiversity into national and sectoral development policies.

The **Biodiversity Leadership Group (BLG)** is a partnership comprising representatives from the working NBSAPs in Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The initiative has been established to guide national and sectoral development policies.

**In opening this statement, the African Leadership Group identifies the following objectives:**

- To **strengthen** biodiversity and conservation leadership in the continent by the African Policy Institutes (APIs) and other development partners.
- To **strengthen** the capacity of APIs to lead and coordinate the implementation of NBSAPs in their respective countries.
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## Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development Policy and Planning

Accra statement on mainstreaming biodiversity in practice

November 2014

**Introduction**

The African Leadership Group (ALG) convenes the panel program during week 11-12 of the meeting. The ALG also convenes the Biodiversity, NBSAPs and Development Policy and Planning Initiative. The program aims to the African Leadership Group in advancing biodiversity in practice. The ALG also convenes the Biodiversity, NBSAPs and Development Policy and Planning Initiative. The program aims to the African Leadership Group in advancing biodiversity in practice.

**Objectives**

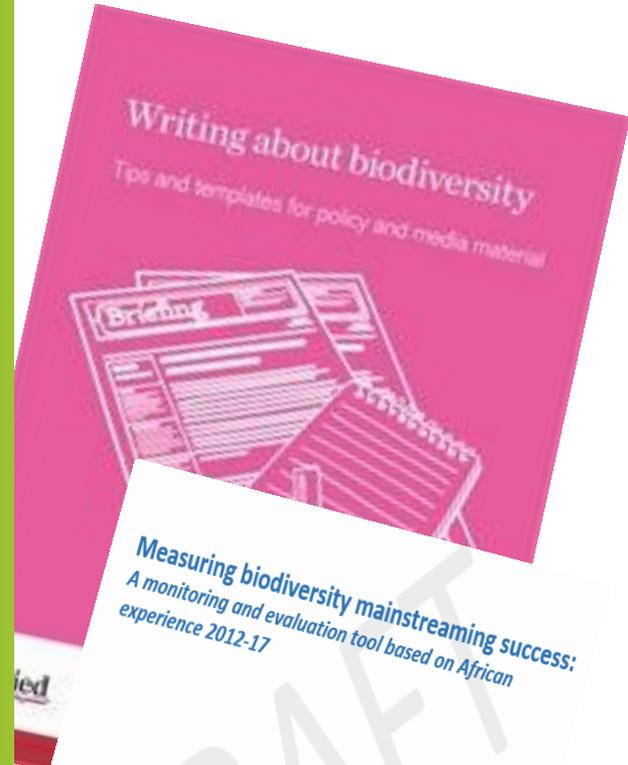
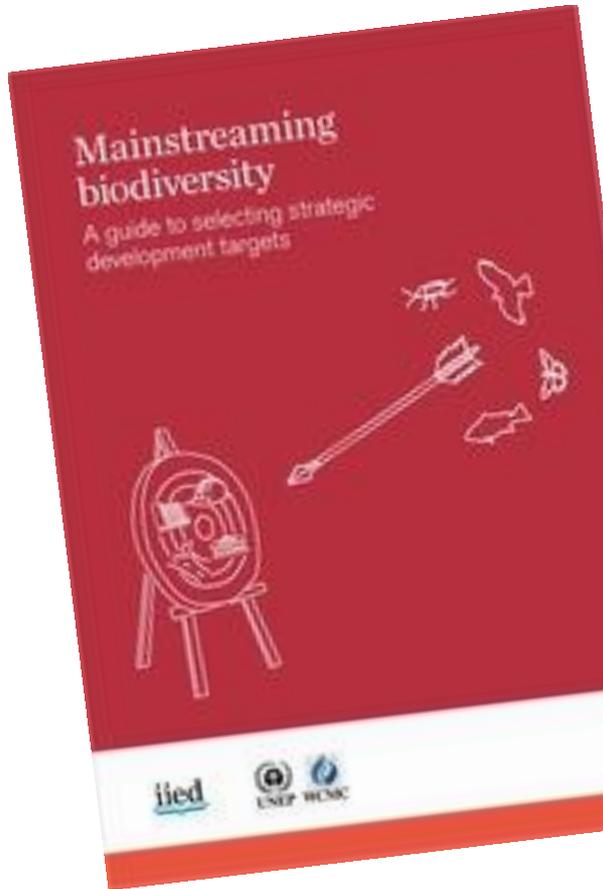
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**Key findings**

- **Successful** mainstreaming can only come to fruition if the continent is to reach a level where biodiversity is integrated into national and sectoral development policies.
- **The African Leadership Group (ALG)** provides a platform for the African Policy Institutes (APIs) to lead and coordinate the implementation of NBSAPs in their respective countries.



# Co-developed Tools



# Phase 2 achievements

Country	Key successes
Botswana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Vision 2036 now has an environment chapter with biodiversity featuring prominently</li><li>• NDP 11 about to be endorsed and includes NBSAP activities</li><li>• An increase in budget allocated to biodiversity is expected given it is in the NDP</li><li>• Also expecting a strong biodiversity element in the new environmental management act and EIA act</li><li>• Mining and tourism sectors are now contributing to an environment fund.</li><li>• Nature tourism identified as an economic priority</li></ul>
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Managed to influence the NDP commission including getting attention of the DG</li><li>• <b>The Medium Term Plan incorporates aspects of the NBSAP as a tool for mainstreaming biodiversity into all sector plans especially agriculture, forestry and fisheries.</b></li><li>• Also managed to influence the Green Economy transition process and the long term development plan formulation process with strong emphasis on biodiversity now in the plan</li><li>• As a result are now expecting more attention to biodiversity in sector and district plans</li></ul>
Malawi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have managed to get biodiversity into many new policies/plans inc physical planning policy, EMA, EIA guidelines etc</li><li>• Public – private conservation partnerships established</li><li>• <b>30% increase in the current budget allocation to the Ministry of Environment</b></li></ul>
Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biodiversity prominent in NDP5 (was alluded to but not prioritised in NDP4)</li><li>• Have developed a communication strategy on economic value of biodiversity</li><li>• Working on mainstreaming into other national strategies inc SDGs and Harambee prosperity plan</li></ul>

# Phase 2 achievements

Country	Key successes
Seychelles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement in Blue Economy Road Map process and subsequent buy in to include biodiversity</li> <li>• Plans for a coordination mechanism between different sectoral policies and plans put in place</li> <li>• Tourism sector awareness raised</li> </ul>
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Biodiversity was already in the NDP but have now also been able to influence the budget process – biodiversity in the Budget Court Circular 2017/18 for the first time. This means that sectors and districts have to indicate the financial resources they are going to allocate to biodiversity</b></li> <li>• Have participated in sector working groups in preparation of sector development plans</li> <li>• Have managed to make the case for biodiversity helping contribute to Uganda achieving middle income status by 2020</li> <li>• Are expecting NR accounting to be increased and to influence GDP calculations</li> <li>• Presidential directives made on forest restoration and wetlands</li> </ul>
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>One member of the mainstreaming team invited to serve on the technical team finalising the NDP</b></li> <li>• Sectoral ministries have been involved in national biodiversity stakeholder meetings</li> <li>• Expecting that biodiversity will be in the NDP</li> <li>• Adoption of smart planning - which has also helped identify priority biodiversity areas</li> </ul>
Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have managed to engage with the Ministry of Macro Planning and Investment promotion</li> <li>• Top mgmt. in various sectors</li> <li>• <b>Have engaged with SDG domestication process and as a result an additional focus on climate and environment has been included with the National Biodiversity Forum on the steering committee</b></li> </ul>

# Phase 2 achievements

- **Sharing lessons for mainstreaming biodiversity at CBD COP 13 event attracted a huge response from respected actors in the mainstreaming arena**
- **The ALG has matured into an effective group that shares lessons very openly and enthusiastically and has officially asked IIED and UNEP-WCMC to explore ways of providing continued support to their mainstreaming activities**
- **The ALG has asked to be used as a catalyst and motivator for other regions of Africa and the world – this can benefit CBFP countries**
- **The SCBD have reached out to IIED and UNEP-WCMC to explore how we can work together to scale-up the ALG and replicate the leadership approach in other regions.**

# Successes of the African Leadership Group

- Enriched national NBSAPs in terms of their development coverage
- Improved the biodiversity coverage of several national, sub-national and sector development plan
- Peer reviewed mainstreaming plans and activities between countries
- Co-produced five international statements at the ALG annual meetings and promoted them at the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of Parties meeting – encouraging other countries with practical ways to ensure biodiversity and development are integrate
- Co-produced and tested eight guidance documents and tools on biodiversity mainstreaming (which this document synthesises), and
- Formed a knowledgeable and influential community of practice embracing biodiversity, development and finance; sectors such as energy and agriculture; and officials, academics and civil society.

# ALG reflections and looking to the future

The ALG's annual meetings, revealed several important lessons that could be replicated elsewhere and reinforced by a postgraduate-level thesis on the work of the ALG prepared by a Malawian colleague (Musasa, 2016):

- *Inclusion* – Participation of people from biodiversity, finance and development authorities as 'coequals' in the group; also deliberately bringing in those from civil society and business
- *Recognition* – Group members being seen as 'mainstreaming champions', whether they be from biodiversity or development sectors, from authorities or other stakeholders
- *Shared voice* – Co-production and co-promotion of constructive narratives and principles for integrating biodiversity and development – in the ALG's case, annual declarations on biodiversity mainstreaming at the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of Parties meetings
- *Focus* – Group members taking a lead in defining and identifying priority mainstreaming entry points, targets and implementation plans for mainstreaming.

# ALG reflections and looking to the future

- *Group dynamic* – Informal nature and relatively small size of the group so that they can get to know one another; plus the idea of all group members being champions
- *Peer approach* – Enabling group members both to learn from one another in a 'safe space' but also be motivated to compare well with colleagues (i.e. peer pressure)
- *Purposive meetings* – Face-to-face meetings and workshops to share mainstreaming progress made, lessons learned, challenges and develop solutions
- *Demand-driven tools* – Co-development, testing and implementing tools and guides to meet country mainstreaming capacity needs
- *Technical and financial facilitation* – For the ALG this was provided by IIED and UNEP-WCMC. Facilitation enabled activities to take place in spite of ALG members' busy schedules and provided an independent means for cross-country lesson learning and guidance development.

# Replicating the approach in CBFP countries

- This approach/model can work in the CBFP countries – focus on identifying and creating national champions in strategic ministries and agencies to drive the (e.g. finance, planning, energy, mining, agriculture etc.)
- Tools and guidance from the existing ALG
- Mentoring from the existing ALG
- Proposal to scale up the approach in the region



**THANK YOU**