



Sector Programme Implementing the Biodiversity Convention

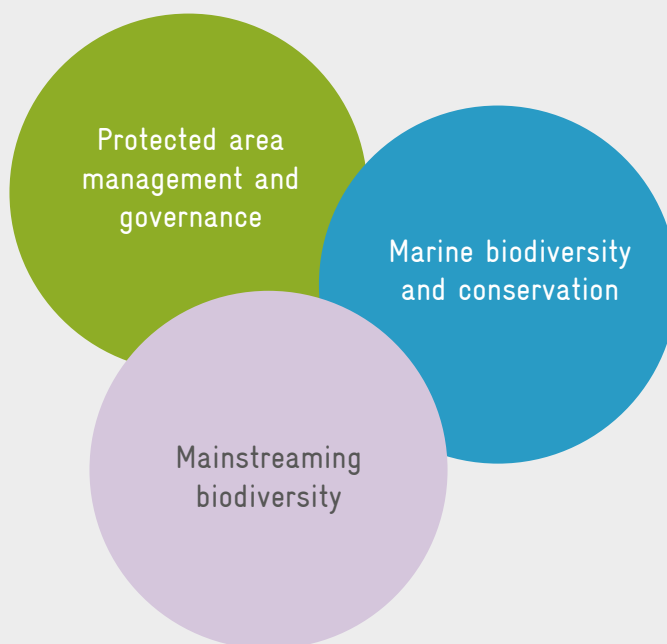
Biological diversity, or 'biodiversity', comprises genetic diversity, species diversity and the diversity of ecosystems – the variety of life on Earth. Healthy ecosystems provide services such as water, energy and food. They play a vital role in processes such as climate regulation. In this way, they create the very foundation of our lives. The loss of biodiversity diminishes these life-sustaining ecosystem services. It is the poorest people, who often depend directly upon natural resources and lack capacity to adapt to changes, who suffer most from this loss. Moreover, developing countries host most of the world's biological diversity. For people in rural areas in particular, functioning ecosystems form the basis of their livelihood. Yet poverty often forces them to overexploit resources. Recognising these interconnections, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity has been an important area of German development cooperation since 1985.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) pursues three interlinked objectives: conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and benefit-sharing. In 2010 the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 including the twenty ambitious

Aichi Biodiversity targets was adopted to advance implementation of the CBD. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization was agreed in the same year.

The purpose of the Sector Programme is to support the implementation of the CBD Strategic Plan. To that end, it advises the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on how to advance the CBD and the German development cooperation's biodiversity portfolio. The programme provides strategic and technical assistance to projects implemented in partner countries and supports human capacity building. Together with German and international specialist organisations, the programme develops and trials innovative methods and tools for improved implementation of the Strategic Plan. It accompanies their application in partner countries, collates the lessons learned and provides input to international specialist networks. The programme has three thematic focuses: protected area management and governance, mainstreaming biodiversity, and marine conservation.

- Advice to BMZ on CBD issues
- Advice to BMZ on biodiversity portfolio development
- Advancing selected CBD issues
- Mainstreaming biodiversity in other fields of cooperation
- Expanding capacity development services



Protected area management and governance

Protected areas are a key element of strategies to conserve biodiversity. This is a central issue of the CBD, and one for which the international community has set a particularly high level of ambition. The adopted target aims to conserve at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas by 2020 through protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures. The designation of protected areas on paper is not enough. The main challenges are to integrate areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services into protected area systems, and to ensure their effective and equitable management and governance. UNESCO Biosphere Reserves are valuable examples of how to combine the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the wider landscape.

Programme priorities:

Provision of training and tools (e.g. protected area toolbox, MARISCO – risk and vulnerability management), governance assessment methodology, collating lessons learned in development cooperation (e.g. on co-management and sustainable financing)

Mainstreaming biodiversity

Nature conservation in a narrow sense will not suffice to achieve the CBD's three objectives. For sustainable development to succeed, the objectives need to be embedded comprehensively and coherently in political, societal and economic decision-making processes. Such 'mainstreaming' requires the systematic integration of biodiversity conservation in the policies, strategies and practices of public and private actors. Many sectors, such as water supply and agriculture, are dependent upon biological diversity and ecosystem services. Yet the same sectors are also responsible for large-scale biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. Sustainable patterns of production and consumption can help to achieve the CBD's objectives while also reducing costs and mobilising additional resources for biodiversity conservation. For the parties to the Convention, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) serve as vehicles for giving greater priority to biodiversity concerns in political and economic decision-making.

Programme priorities:

Provision of training (e.g. on policy advice) and guidance for action, collating mainstreaming successes and challenges in cooperation with partner countries, mainstreaming biodiversity within the BMZ portfolio

Marine biodiversity and conservation

Coasts and seas are vital to climate change adaptation, food security and sustainable economic development. Mangrove forests and coral reefs are particularly species-rich, provide spawning and breeding grounds and, when intact, serve as life-saving barriers against floods and erosion. However, marine ecosystems are severely endangered by a range of anthropogenic pressures such as coastal development.

Programme priorities: Linking regional and international efforts to give greater consideration to Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSA) in policies and management plans, support for the realisation of the BMZ Plan of Action for Marine Conservation and Sustainable Fisheries, input to the Partnership on Regional Ocean Governance (PROG) and identification of relevant regional development cooperation measures, collation of basic technical knowledge, and appropriate development cooperation approaches, training provision and dialogue formats

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