



5-Dimensions of Mainstreaming – A Reflection Framework for Practitioners

A hands-on, easy-to-use assessment tool for biodiversity mainstreaming

Human development options depend on how we manage and use biodiversity. Human wellbeing, in its broadest sense and many key economic sectors which are driving growth in developing countries including agriculture and fisheries, food and nutrition, water, energy, and tourism depend on nature. Biodiversity mainstreaming aims at ensuring coherence between biodiversity and development objectives in order to tackle the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and secure the natural basis for sustainable development. It is „the recognition and integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services and development considerations across different levels of governance and entry points (e.g. national, sectoral, local), through a variety of approaches and mechanisms, so as to achieve sustainable biodiversity and development outcomes“ (IIED 2013). The need for mainstreaming biodiversity considerations is recognized not only in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), its Strategic Plan 2011-20 and the Aichi biodiversity targets, but also a requirement for achieving the SDGs.

Mainstreaming is a complex process, involving changes and coordination at different political levels and groups of society. It takes different shapes according to the context as well as over time. This complexity often hinders the identification of mainstreaming challenges and possible responses, as well as the assessment of progress.

To reduce complexity it is helpful to identify basic areas (or dimensions) in which mainstreaming becomes evident. For example, mainstreaming is detectable in how far institutional arrangements allow for multi-sectoral collaboration. It becomes evident in the degree of which policies are coherent and corresponding instruments are in place to solve multiple use conflicts. Successful mainstreaming is also observable in the social sphere if there is consensus among people about the importance of biodiversity conservation. It is as well reflected in the financial resources available for biodiversity conservation.



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Description of the 5-dimensions framework

The 5-dimensions framework aims at providing practitioners with a structured and an easy-to-use approach to reflect on mainstreaming in their specific working contexts. Due to its basic nature it is applicable in different contexts and can be used with varying depth of information (ranging from a rough profile to a in-depth analysis) according to the specific demand and time budget.

The framework describes 5 dimensions on a continuum.

- (1) Institutional arrangements,
- (2) Range of (policy) topics,
- (3) Societal anchoring,
- (4) (Policy) Instruments, and
- (5) Financial resources.

On the one side of the continuum biodiversity is not mainstreamed at all while on the opposite side of the continuum biodiversity is totally mainstreamed. The framework allows for a relative assessment along each dimension. The resulting profile describes a status quo of biodiversity mainstreaming in a given context. It provides a starting point for a more systematic discussion about biodiversity mainstreaming, helping to form a common understanding among different stakeholders on how biodiversity mainstreaming is taking shape in a given context, where progress has been and can realistically be made in the future. Identifying this intended progress needs considering trade-offs and eventually balancing positive biodiversity and overall development impacts.

Figure 1: The 5 Dimensions of Mainstreaming Framework – Overview

No mainstreaming	Full mainstreaming
Institutional arrangements	
Biodiversity is taking shape as an area of action for the Ministry for Environment (MoE). Biodiversity policies are initiated, planned, implemented, monitored and reported on under the responsibility of the MoE only.	Biodiversity policies are initiated, planned, implemented, monitored and reported on by all relevant ministries. Coordination mechanisms are in place, successfully aligning objectives and dealing with trade-offs. Strong coordinating institution.
Range of topics	
Biodiversity policies and programs focus narrowly on protection measures.	Biodiversity policies address all Aichi Targets. The multilateral environmental agreements are implemented in an integrated and synergetic manner at national, sub-national and local levels. Biodiversity is key element of SDG implementation.
Societal anchoring	
Conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services is not considered important by the general public. Only a limited number of actors participate in any measures to conserve biodiversity.	Broad societal consensus about importance of biodiversity. Producer and consumers align their behaviour with conservation objectives. Many stakeholders, including scientific community and the private sector, participate actively.
Instruments	
Tendency towards „soft“ instruments (informative measures and voluntary/cooperative instruments) to raise awareness for biodiversity and ecosystem services. No complementary mix of instruments.	Complementary mix of instruments developed and implemented. Coherent legal framework developed and implemented. Regulatory/ command & control, economic and fiscal or planning instruments set strong incentives for biodiversity conservation. Monitoring and evaluation (ex-ante & ex-post) in place.
Financial resources	
Emerging (small) budget for implementation of biodiversity protection within the MoE. Resources from domestic public sources with a high share of resources from ODA.	Many resources for biodiversity conservation. Budget from a variety of sources: domestic public finance from different sectors, mobilized through a variety of instruments (including environmental fiscal reforms) investments by private sector. High share of domestic resources.

Application of the framework

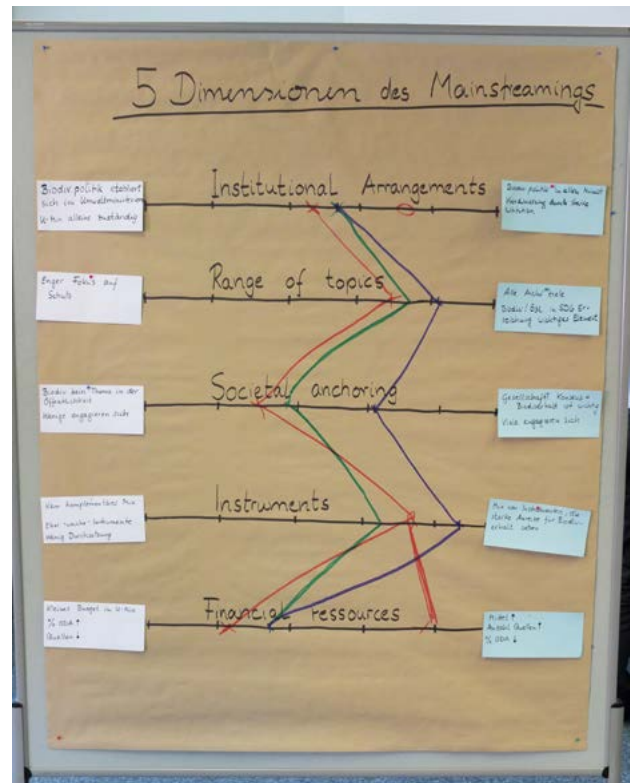
The framework was developed and tested at several occasions in capacity development measures for biodiversity policy advisors in German development cooperation as well as for government representatives of partner countries.

Its application includes three steps:

0. Introduction of the 5-dimensions framework.
1. Assessment of the current situation in each dimension resulting in a “mainstreaming profile” at national or sector level.
(Where are we at?)
2. Definition of the desired and realistically feasible progress in each dimensions based on the “profile”.
(Where do we want to get to?)
3. Identify contributions to achieve this progress.
(Who can do what to move towards the desired mainstreaming status defined in step 2?)

The framework was successfully used, for example, in a two-day training session held in Mexico with participants from the Ministries of Environment, Fisheries, Agriculture and Tourism in June 2016. The evaluation showed that the 5-dimensions framework proved to be useful for participants to structure their thinking around the challenges and possible responses to biodiversity mainstreaming in Mexico.

Figure 2: Application of the 5-Dimensions Framework – Example Mainstreaming profiles (three different cases)



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The sectoral programm

The GIZ Programme „Implementing the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)“ is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). It provides advice to BMZ as well as ongoing bilateral and regional development cooperation projects to contribute to the enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the further development of the CBD. To this end it provides advice to BMZ regarding the integration of biodiversity and development issues into national and international policy processes, and it supports bilateral projects and programmes in partner countries conceptually, technically and through capacity building measures. Thematic focus areas include mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors, governance of terrestrial and marine protected areas, National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and financing of biodiversity conservation, amongst others.

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