

CBD & National Accounting Systems

Opportunities and Challenges

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**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

The Convention on Biological Diversity

- One of the three Rio Conventions, signed in 1992
- 193 Contracting Parties
- Supreme body: Conference of Parties (COP)
- 3 Protocols : Biosafety (2003), Liability and Redress (biosafety), Access and Benefit Sharing (genetic resources)

Three main objectives :

- Conservation of biological diversity
- Sustainable use of its components
- Fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources



From IYB to UN Decade for Biodiversity

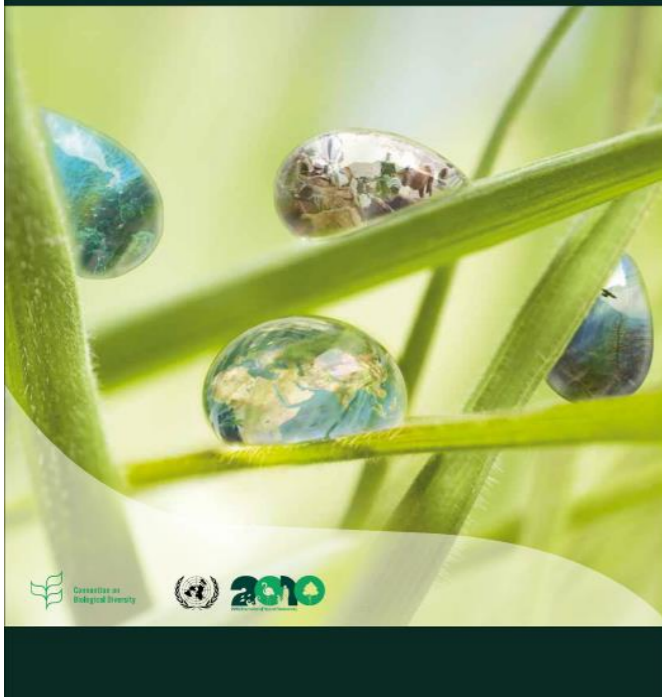


2010 International Year of Biodiversity



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Global Biodiversity Outlook 3



UN S-G, at high-level meeting, stresses urgent need **to reverse alarming rate of biodiversity loss, rescue natural economy.**

« Conservation inseparable from fight against poverty », says GA President

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity : 2011-2020



- **Framework** for all Conventions and stakeholders.
- **Vision:** *Living in harmony with nature.* By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.
- **Mission** Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet's variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication
- **20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets**

Some novice questions

- Is it normal (ethical ?) that an oil slick or a tsunami have positive impacts on GDP ?
- How (much ?) Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services contribute to wealth of nations and people (poor !)?
- How to incorporate the degradation of the Planet (Natural / Ecosystem Capital ?) in the major economic (and political ?) compass for development ?
- How to calculate Ecological Footprint (and liability) taking into account globalization and international trade ?
- Are we accumulating and hiding ecological debts for future generations ? How to re-integrate them into our financial and economic system (Now !)?

CoP decisions

📍 2006 CoP 8 Curitiba: a call for research and tools!

- Dec VIII:25 / 7. Encourages relevant national, regional and international research institutions to strengthen research activities including research cooperation and exchange at national, regional and international levels including through South-South cooperation and/or the establishment of regional research consortia as appropriate, in order to promote a common understanding of valuation techniques among governments and stakeholders, on, *inter alia*:
- (a) Integration of the values of biodiversity resources and functions and associated ecosystem services into national accounting and decision-making, taking into account the conceptual framework of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment;

📍 2010 CoP 10 Nagoya: a call for decision and action!

- Target 2 of the Biodiversity Strategic Plan (2011-2020)

By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

Opportunities

- Rio 2012's rendez-vous and MDGs: towards a new cap?
- Beyond GDP agitation: towards a new compass?
- TEEB follow-up ...
- Political and technical will
e.g.: Pan-African Conference / Biodiversity and poverty alleviation;
- An instrument for mainstreaming biodiversity into development, sectoral and intersectoral activities
- Standardization, ...

Pan-African Conference on Biodiversity: “**Biodiversity and Poverty Alleviation**: What Opportunities for Africa?”
Libreville, 12–17 September 2010
Road map for a green economy in Africa

We, the African ministers of environment and of economic planning, (...) Recommend that the following measures be taken : (...)

- (g) Establish and improve **systems for managing data** on the use and conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, including assessment of their economic value;
- (h) **Update national accounting systems to take into account the value and deterioration of biodiversity and ecosystem services;**
- (i) **Encourage revision of the accounting system of the United Nations** on economy and the environment, taking into account biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- (j) **Adopt standards** for environmental accounting, particularly for biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- (k) Build **national capacity**, (...)

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Challenges

- **Demystifying:**
 - ✓ the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Complexity for accounting community
 - ✓ the National Accounting Systems for biodiversity community
- Pragmatic and **multi-scale approach** (useful for management and decision making-processes)
- Development of **concrete tools** and good practices guides
 - ✓ appropriate for developing countries
 - ✓ powerful for other countries
- Invest and build **capacity** for national (and other level) institutions (for data collections and appropriate accounts)

G8: Carta di Siracusa on Biodiversity

- *“Reform of environmental governance at all levels is essential to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem services into all policies, to turn the current weaknesses in economic systems into opportunities and to boost sustainable development and employment, taking particular account of the circumstances of developing countries”*

