

# Mainstreaming of Biodiversity

NeFo CBD fact sheet in preparation of SBSTTA-21, 12/2017



Source: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India

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## Mainstreaming of Biodiversity in the Energy and Mining, Infrastructure, Manufacturing and Processing, and Health Sector

At its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP-13) adopted a comprehensive decision on the mainstreaming of biodiversity within and across sectors with a particular focus on the agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism sectors (decision XIII/3). In this decision, COP-13 decided to consider at COP-14 the mainstreaming of biodiversity into the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health. There is consensus among Parties that mainstreaming of biodiversity into sector policies is necessary for a successful implementation of the Convention.

Document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/21/5 identifies scientific and technical matters relevant to the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing (the issue of health was addressed to some extent by SBSTTA-20 resulting in decision XIII/6, and further mainstreaming work is considered in a separate document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/21/4). CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-first meeting (SBSTTA-21) is expected to consider this information and prepare recommendations for the Conference of the Parties, and as appropriate, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI). At the second meeting of the SBI (SBI-2), policy implications of the mainstreaming of biodiversity into these sectors will be considered, including a focus on the current policies, tools and practices of Parties, and further options with respect to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in these sectors.

In relation to the CBD process, both SBSTTA-21 as well as SBI-2 will have to prepare recommendations for COP-14. Key question for SBSTTA-21 is if there is more science and knowledge necessary to improve mainstreaming in these sectors.

### Background

Under the CBD, mainstreaming of biodiversity is supported by Article 6(b), where Parties are requested to "integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in plans, programs and sectoral and intersectoral policies". Article 10(a) calls on the Parties to "integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making."

While COP-13 in Mexico focused on the integration of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into sectoral and cross-sectoral plans with emphasis on agriculture, forestry, fisheries and tourism sectors, COP-14 in Egypt

will tackle the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, manufacturing and processing, and health.

Mainstreaming of biodiversity is also incorporated into the CBD's Strategic Plan 2011-2020, Goal A, which focuses on addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society. Goal B calls on Parties to reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a number of goals that are closely related to the sectors of energy and mining, infrastructure, and manufacturing and processing, *inter alia*:

- Goal 7 (Affordable and clean energy);

- Goal 8 (Decent work and economic growth);
- Goal 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure); and
- Goal 11 (Cities and human settlements).

Given the holistic approach of the 2030 Agenda, these Goals and targets must be achieved while also achieving the goals for biodiversity (Goals 14, 15) and climate action (Goal 13), as well as sustainable consumption and production (Goal 12).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development thus sets out an ambitious framework to address a range of global societal challenges, to promote policy coherence, and to foster integrated implementation across sectors and domains of society. The COP has recognized that the implementations of the 2030 Agenda provides a major opportunity for the mainstreaming of biodiversity and for the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (see e.g. CBD/SBSTTA/21/2/Add.1 "Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development").

We will shortly describe the scope of the first three sectors according to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/21/5. The item of health is considered separately in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/21/4 and addressed in more detail in a separate NeFo fact sheet at [www.biodiversity.de/produkte/faktenblaetter](http://www.biodiversity.de/produkte/faktenblaetter).

### **Energy and Mining**

Energy and mining refers to the extractive industries for fossil fuels, minerals and metals, as well as to renewable energy sources and mining. There is no differentiation with regard to the contribution to climate change adaptation and mitigation of these industries.

### **Infrastructure**

Infrastructure generally refers to the physical structures and facilities that support the operations of a society. It includes buildings, roads, water and sanitation, transportation systems, and energy and communication networks and grids.

### **Manufacturing and Processing Industries**

Manufacturing and processing refers to the transformation of materials, for example through mechanical or chemical means, into products for consumption or sale. The manufacturing and processing sector is generally understood to cover all textiles, wood products, chemicals, plastics, metallic and non-metallic products, electronics, food and beverages, transportation among other things. Manufacturing and processing can further be divided into processes that rely directly on a renewable natural resource and those that have little direct dependence on biodiversity.

### **Health**

Human health is highly interlinked with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as shown in the state of knowledge review carried out jointly by CBD and WHO in 2015. SBSTTA-20 considered this review and these interlinkages, resulting in Decision XIII/6 on biodiversity and health being taken by COP13. This decision outlines a number of relevant activities for governments (but interestingly the word 'mainstreaming' is not mentioned). For information on recent activities and the SBSTTA-21 document on biodiversity and human health, see respective NeFo fact sheet at [www.biodiversity.de/produkte/faktenblaetter](http://www.biodiversity.de/produkte/faktenblaetter).

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## Mainstreaming biodiversity: approaches, tools, gaps and opportunities

Five broad and interconnected approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity in the above sectors are recognized in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/21/5:

- (a) Strategic economic and development planning;
- (b) Economy- and sector-wide policies, laws and regulations, and economic incentive measures;
- (c) Spatial planning across landscapes and seascapes;
- (d) Measures at the scale of the site or production-plant;
- (e) Supply-chain measures.

COP-13 adopted decision XIII/3 on mainstreaming, which included numerous provisions on cross-cutting issues (such as incentive measures, certification schemes, and accounting for the values of biodiversity), engagement in relevant international processes, and engagement of key actors, which are relevant for mainstreaming biodiversity in the sectors considered here.

There is a range of tools and practices available to support these approaches, with a plethora of guidance tools and mechanisms specifically geared towards businesses seeking to support the mainstreaming of biodiversity into their operations and decision-making. Many tools and mechanisms are of a cross-cutting nature while others focus on specific sectors. Supporting tools considered in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/21/5 are e.g.:

- Environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment
- Multilateral environmental and social safeguard standards

- Voluntary corporate standards and policies
- Tools to support spatial and urban planning
- Assessing, reporting and disclosing dependencies and impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Valuation and incentive measures
- Certification

### Gaps and Opportunities

According to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/21/5, the trends, potential impacts, and possible approaches and tools for mainstreaming biodiversity in the sectors considered are broadly known. The complexity and the scope of these sectors, however, warrant additional work to support discussions of these topics and the development of recommendations for consideration at COP-14.

For instance, Parties may be encouraged to give greater attention to these sectors in future iterations of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. Parties with greater experience in managing industries in the sectors considered should share their experience with other countries, particularly within the same region and contexts. The clearing-house mechanism, together with partner organizations, could facilitate such exchanges. There is potential for the wider application of strategic environmental assessments of policies as well as a need for regional and interregional cooperation in spatial planning to address the challenges from expanding infrastructure, especially transport and energy transmission networks, in order to protect the most valuable sites for biodiversity and minimize ecosystem fragmentation. Businesses may be encouraged to identify and assess their dependencies on biodiversity as well as their impacts, as a step towards addressing such dependencies and impacts. Similarly, there are great opportunities to better integrate consideration of biodiversity and ecosystems into urban planning.

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Many international entities engaged in processes relevant to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the sectors considered could support the mainstreaming of biodiversity in these sectors.

The nature and magnitude of impacts on biodiversity will depend in large part on decisions related to the economic and development path of countries, as well as on broader societal trends, such as population growth, urbanization, economic trends, consumption patterns, technological development, and social development priorities.

## NeFo observations

As mainstreaming is a key issue for national implementation of the CBD as well as the SDGs, a more programmatic approach should be developed. The current document takes a quite passive approach and is quite unclear concerning the process of bringing to COP-14 the results of SBSTTA-21 and SBI-2. This should be clarified and complemented by a more pro-active approach.

It remains unclear why mainstreaming is such a hard task for almost all Parties. It is striking that no systematic assessment on gaps in policies and tools has been done and no further advice on how to enhance mainstreaming is included in the document as addressing these gaps would likely enhance the effectiveness of efforts to mainstream biodiversity in various policies. Finally, potential partners in mainstreaming such as other UN entities or sectors are not invited to participate in the effort or to report on their work.

Mainstreaming biodiversity into some of the sectors selected for COP-14 and concerned here is challenging as the dependency on biodiversity and ecosystem services is limited.

Dialogue and communication across sectors, at all relevant levels, as a key action to enhance mainstreaming should be highlighted in the further process (see Korn et al. 2017).

## Main issues for consideration by SBSTTA-21

As mainstreaming is necessary for reaching the SDGs and the CBD 2050 vision, a clear link to the conclusions in document CBD/SBSTTA/21/2 (Scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity) and a more comprehensive approach towards mainstreaming should be considered.

SBSTTA-21 should consider to add background information to the document for SBI-2 on how to proceed towards COP-14.

Following Korn et al. (2017:33), a programmatic approach should be developed “to guide the CBD in the coming years. Programmatic approaches are increasingly used at the international level to effectively emphasize synergistic programs that transcend national borders. By strengthening country ownership, promoting integration of global environmental concerns into decision making, and increasing opportunities for co-financing, a programmatic approach aims at delivering synergistic results that benefit all and would not be achieved by individual projects, because it provides recipient countries with significant leverage to influence sector-wide transformational projects.”

SBSTTA-21 should consider that the UN Environment’s International Resource Panel is addressing extractive industries and that assessments, data and knowledge on the environmental threats and impacts of the extractive industry produced by the Panel can assist the mainstreaming agenda under the CBD if issues relevant to the CBD are addressed.

## Glossary

- Mainstreaming** Key consideration for the mainstreaming of biodiversity is that actors in all relevant sectors, including those outside of the environmental and natural resource sectors, must understand the importance and value of conserving biodiversity. To facilitate activities for the mainstreaming of biodiversity, outreach and education across government agencies is key as well as communication strategies that link biodiversity conservation to other sectors such as the ones discussed here (see Young et al. 2013).
- SDGs** The Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The SDGs are unique in that they call for action by all countries, poor, rich and middle-income to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

## Literature and further reading

- CBD-SBSTTA – Convention on Biological Diversity/Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (2017a): Document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/21/4: BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN HEALTH. Montreal, 18 p. – Online, URL: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/116a/87f4/bc31e371b99e7b3d828d83a3/sbstta-21-04-en.doc> [23 November 2017]
- CBD-SBSTTA – Convention on Biological Diversity/Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (2017b): Document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/21/5: MAINSTREAMING OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE ENERGY AND MINING, INFRASTRUCTURE, MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING, AND HEALTH SECTORS. Montreal, 18 p. - Online, URL: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/8f3a/1121/6734c3a8082948ad3ee71a44/sbstta-21-05-en.pdf> [21 November 2017]
- CBD-SBSTTA – Convention on Biological Diversity/Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (2017c): Document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/21/2/Add.1: BIODIVERSITY AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. Montreal, 13 p. - Online, URL: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/4a22/3eba/a499b54091a1c1e22bb7b54e/sbstta-21-02-en.pdf> [21 November 2017]
- Korn, H., Dünfelder, H., Schliep, R. (Hg.) (2017): Report of the European Expert Meeting in Preparation of SBSTTA-21. November 1 - 3, 2017. BfN-Skripten. German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation – BfN. Bonn, 51 p. - Online, URL: [http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/BfN/service/Dokumente/skripten/Vilm\\_Report\\_2017\\_SBSTTA-21\\_prep\\_gesamt.pdf](http://www.bfn.de/fileadmin/BfN/service/Dokumente/skripten/Vilm_Report_2017_SBSTTA-21_prep_gesamt.pdf) [21 November 2017]

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Young, J. C., Watt, A. D., van den Hove, S., and the SPIRAL project team (2013): The SPIRAL synthesis report: A resource book on science-policy interfaces. - Online, URL: <http://www.spiral-project.eu/content/documents> [21 November 2017]

## IMPRINT

The Network Forum on Biodiversity Research Germany (NeFo) is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The project is jointly operated and coordinated by the Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research - UFZ Leipzig and the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin (MfN).



Please find further information on the NeFo project and team at [www.biodiversity.de](http://www.biodiversity.de).