



Resource Mobilisation for Biodiversity Conservation

Nature counts!

08.2015

POLICY BRIEF 1

THE VALUE OF BIODIVERSITY

What is biodiversity?

The natural abundance of planet earth is the basis of our existence. If we are to combat poverty, it is essential that we preserve nature and the foundations of life, from which we derive wealth and wellbeing.

Biodiversity is biological diversity, the sum of species diversity, genetic diversity within species, and ecosystem diversity. In other words it describes the variety of life on earth.



Genetic diversity is all the different genes contained in all the living species, including individual plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms.



Species diversity is all the different species, as well as the differences within and between different species.



Ecosystem diversity is all the different habitats, biological communities and ecological processes, as well as variation within individual ecosystems.

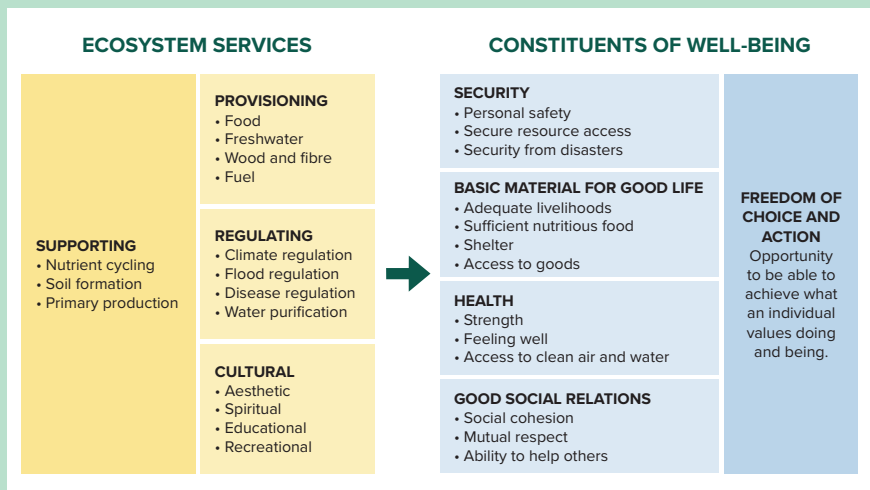
What is the problem?

Geological records show that there have been at least 5 mass extinction periods in the history of the earth, and today we are facing another period of extinction, known as the Anthropocene epoch (the human epoch). Humans are directly responsible for some of the fastest rates of species extinction ever seen, and we are potentially changing the earth beyond its capacity to sustain us.

But even before reaching a point where life on earth for humans may become impossible, the loss of biodiversity is dangerous and its immediate consequences include:

- Fewer opportunities for livelihoods, health and education
- Fewer marine resources
- Less potable water
- Reduced agricultural and forestry resources
- Lower income for disadvantaged communities
- Increased risk from natural disasters

How am I affected?



What is the solution?

THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE?

There have, historically, been many people who were aware of our dependence on biodiversity and the need to conserve it, but in the 1960s when the first images of the planet began to capture the global imagination, there was a collective realisation of how finite earth is. From this many different notions of our interactions with biodiversity were born and popularised.

These ideas resulted in many movements, discussions, summits, agreements and key moments, all of which culminated in the Rio Earth Summit of 1992, and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



Convention on Biological Diversity

Namibia is a party to the International Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) of the United Nations, an international treaty that is often seen as the key document for sustainable development.

The Convention has three main goals:

- **conservation** of biological diversity (or biodiversity);
- **sustainable use** of its components; and
- **fair and equitable sharing** of benefits arising from genetic resources.



Aichi Targets

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets are a set of 20, time-bound, measurable targets agreed by the Parties to the CBD in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, that have been translated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) by the 193 Parties to the Convention.



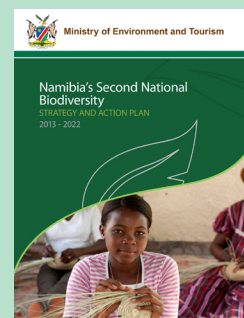
Resource Mobilisation

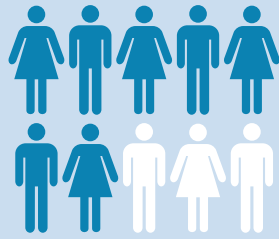
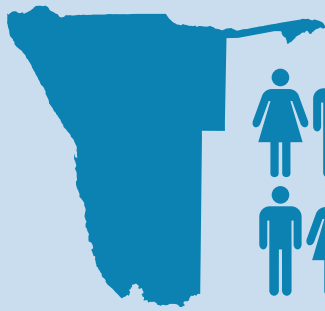
The CBD has recognized that a lack of the sufficient financial resources is one of the main obstacles to achieving the Convention's objectives.

- The CBD has stated the need for the mobilisation of financial resources.
- Aichi Target 20 states "A substantial increase from the current levels by 2020, at the latest, of the mobilisation of financial resource for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 from all sources".
- The CBD Resource Mobilisation Strategy gives orientation which steps are required for the increased mobilisation of financial resources at the national level. Namibia is currently working on developing a national Resource Mobilisation strategy for Biodiversity Conservation with support of the ResMob project.

WHAT IS NAMIBIA'S POLICY RESPONSE?

Following remarkable success with the first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and 40% of its territory protected under conservation schemes, how Namibia plans to conserve its biodiversity is formulated in NBSAP2 (2013 – 2022), as approved by Cabinet. It is the guiding document on how to implement the Aichi targets on a national level.





70% OF NAMIBIA'S POPULATION IS ECONOMICALLY DEPENDENT ON BIODIVERSITY.

Priority for economic well-being and poverty alleviation

The healthy state of our biodiversity is a valuable resource for Namibia, with the potential to provide exceptional benefits for well-being.

Natural resource-based sectors, including mining, fisheries, agriculture and tourism, are the basis of the Namibian economy, and around 70 percent of Namibia's population is directly dependent on the natural resource base for income, food, medicinal and health needs, fuel and shelter.

This situation demands that biodiversity, and the ecosystem services it provides, are maintained and enhanced as far as possible for sustainable development.

What are Namibia's 5 biodiversity strategies?

Namibia's five strategies on biodiversity are stated in the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP2) for 2013 – 2022.

Protection

NBSAP 2 targets establishment and continuous, effective management of conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, for instance spatial protection (parks, conservancies, community forests etc.), and species oriented protection through SEAs and EIAs.

Access and benefits sharing

NBSAP 2 targets development and implementation of an effective access and benefits sharing framework. For instance, Namibia is a regional leader in the development of indigenous natural products and is as a result a leader in the current formulation of ABS policies.

Mainstreaming

NBSAP 1 was environmentally oriented, but NBSAP 2 aims to integrate biodiversity into planning for development, poverty alleviation, land use, sustainable use of natural resources and climate resilience.

Restoration

NBSAP 2 aims to restore the structure, functions, and/or key ecological processes within degraded ecosystems. The conservancy movement is an example of restoration, particularly of wildlife.

Enabling implementation

NBSAP 2 aims to develop a broader enabling environment for national biodiversity planning, including communication, research and data management.

What is the objective of the ResMob project?

The Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH – commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and nuclear Safety (BMUB), is currently implementing the Resource Mobilisation for the Biodiversity Strategy of Namibia Project (ResMob).

The overarching project goal is to improve Namibia's capacity to mobilise financial, human, technical and knowledge-based resources for biodiversity conservation, specifically to support the implementation of the objectives outlined in the second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP 2). The key product of the project will be the preparation of a national Resource Mobilisation Strategy for Biodiversity Conservation, including concrete policy options, economic instruments and communication plans.



Natural capital accounting

By measuring the economic value of nature, ecosystems and the benefits they bring, the value can be documented and integrated into national accounting as a basis for government policy and management. Natural capital accounting must demonstrate the value of biodiversity in Namibia to justify calls for resources. Two types of accounting systems are needed: environmental-economic accounts and ecosystem accounts. Both accounting systems are based upon international standards and guidelines aiming to add environment aspects (natural capital accounting) to national accounts and to gross domestic product (GDP) as the most important progress indicator.



Resource mobilisation

An expenditure report has been drawn up documenting all public and private funding spent on conserving biodiversity. This will be compared to funding needed to implement the biodiversity strategy. To make up the financing shortfall, proposals will be developed to introduce economic financing tools such as taxes or charges or even phasing out environmentally harmful subsidies or other economic instruments.



Skills development

The project is developing customised training programmes, cooperating with tertiary education institutions, strengthening environmental economics in Namibia and supporting the Environmental Economics Network of Namibia (EENN). The EENN brings together like-minded individuals working together to protect Namibia's inimitable biodiversity by promoting and mainstreaming the use of environmental economics within Namibia.

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ResMob is a joint project of the Ministry of Environment and Tourism and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.



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