



## Darwin Initiative: Half Year Report

(due 31 October 2014)

<b>Project Ref No</b>	19-023
<b>Project Title</b>	NBSAPS 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development
<b>Country(ies)</b>	Botswana, Namibia, The Seychelles, Uganda,
<b>Lead Organisation</b>	IIED
<b>Collaborator(s)</b>	UNEP-WCMC, CBD Secretariat, UNDP, UNEP, PEI
<b>Project Leader</b>	Steve Bass
<b>Report date and number (eg HYR3)</b>	October 2014, HYR3
<b>Project website</b>	<a href="http://www.iied.org/nbsaps-20-mainstreaming-biodiversity-development">http://www.iied.org/nbsaps-20-mainstreaming-biodiversity-development</a>

### 1. Outline progress over the last 6 months (April – Sept) against the agreed baseline timetable for the project (if your project has started less than 6 months ago, please report on the period since start up to end September).

This project is now in its final year. Considerable progress has already been made against each of the planned outputs, as reported in our last annual report. Since April, the following additional progress has been made:

#### ***Output 1: Existing mainstreaming experience analysed***

The remaining activities not yet fully complete under this output are: further development of the draft mainstreaming guidance; and further dissemination of the state of knowledge paper.

**Draft guidance:** The guidance that we produced as the tool “Ten Steps to Biodiversity Mainstreaming” was reviewed at the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual project meeting, held in Namibia in July 2014. Feedback from the working session – as well as additional insights on mainstreaming indicators generated at the workshop – are being incorporated into a revised version of the guidance. This is currently under review by the project partners and will be finalised as an end of project output. In addition to the overall guidance on the mainstreaming process, an additional tool providing guidance on reviewing revised NBSAPs for their attention to poverty and development issues has been drafted and is currently being piloted against Malawi’s draft revised NBSAP.

**State of Knowledge Paper:** Following on from the GEF Expert workshop on biodiversity mainstreaming in October 2013 at which Dilys Roe presented the paper, a draft journal article was produced for Science, combining the NBSAPs 2.0 and GEF experiences. While Science rejected it, the journal Conservation Letters has expressed interest in publishing a review article and a meeting is planned at the forthcoming IUCN World Parks Congress in November to take this forward.

#### ***Output 2: Mainstreaming diagnostics***

As reported in our last annual report, this output has principally been achieved through the completion of diagnostics in each project country. Ongoing peer review was highlighted in our annual report and has also continued in this latest 6-month period. At the project workshop in Namibia, a full session was devoted to peer review of the Botswana draft revised NBSAP, the outcomes of which will be incorporated into the final strategy. Reflections on the peer review experience can be seen in a short film: <http://www.iied.org/talking-about-mainstreaming-biodiversity>

### **Output 3: Mainstreaming capacities strengthened**

Over the last 6 months the project has continued to build mainstreaming capacity. The primary “hands-on” mechanism for doing this was through the annual project workshop which was hosted by the Government of Namibia in July 2014. The workshop focussed on co-constructing indicators of mainstreaming success from economic, social and institutional perspectives as well as the more commonplace environmental viewpoint; but also included “clinics” on communications, valuation and implementation challenges including developing synergies amongst Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The workshop added Malawi, Zimbabwe and South Africa to the four project countries – their participation being made possible through a complimentary project led by UNEP-WCMC and funded through the EC-UNEP ENRTP Strategic Cooperation Agreements. The full report of the workshop is available here: <http://pubs.iied.org/G03827.html>. Following the model of the previous two workshops, the African Leadership Group agreed a statement – in this case, the “Windhoek Statement” which promotes their a vision of mainstreaming success ( <http://www.iied.org/statements-workshop-reports>)

To inform the workshop a background paper was written which reviewed mainstreaming targets and indicators of selected NBSAPs from countries at different stages of their mainstreaming process, and the approaches to assessing the success of mainstreaming biodiversity and other issues into development. It is available here: <http://pubs.iied.org/G03828.html>.

Continued efforts have been made to extend the work beyond the immediate project team, and in addition to inviting more countries to participate the project team also planned and delivered – in association with DEFRA – a side event at the CBD CoP 12 in Korea to showcase the work of the project and to reach out to other interested countries. From the COP12 side event other countries such as Ghana,, Ethiopia, Senegal, Tanzania and Kenya expressed their deep interest to engage with the project.

Mainstreaming capacity is also being scaled up through the wide dissemination of tools and guidance and presentations at relevant regional and global conferences/workshops. These include the CBD Regional Resource Mobilisation Workshops for Asia (held in Thailand) and Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (in Germany) and the Italian Presidency EU Experts Workshop “Advancing together on Biodiversity Resource Mobilisation”. The project tools are increasingly being used by others - for example by Birdlife International in its September workshop “Mainstreaming biodiversity: tools and approaches” which brought 11 countries from the Rift Valley/Red Sea Flyway together to focus on mainstreaming biodiversity in agriculture, energy, waste management, tourism and hunting. The project website has received 1323 visits in the last 6 months and download stats for project publications to the end of September 2014 are as follows: Developing the business case for biodiversity – 257; Ten steps to mainstreaming biodiversity – 208; a rapid diagnostic tool: biodiversity mainstreaming – integrating biodiversity, development and poverty reduction – 138.

### **Output 4: Key elements for improved NBSAPs in place**

Prior to the third annual workshop the project team conducted an informal review of the latest draft NBSAPs for each of the partner countries and it was clear that they had all made good progress under this output. Indeed the improvement in mainstreaming capacities is evident in the quality of the revised NBSAPs that the country teams are now producing. Namibia’s NBSAP, which was peer reviewed during the second annual project workshop held in Entebbe, Uganda in July 2013, has now been approved at Cabinet level; Botswana’s is in final draft form and was peer reviewed at the meeting in Namibia; Uganda and The Seychelles are in the final stages of drafting their NBSAPs and Botswana has further strengthened its final draft on the basis of review comments. All show clear links to key development sectors and have made a business case for biodiversity. In revising their NBSAPs, all successfully involved a diverse range of stakeholders, particularly from key sectors and ministries responsible for national and local planning and finance. In the long term, these stakeholders will be essential for ensuring that biodiversity and development are mainstreamed in key national planning processes, sector

policies and plans, and potentially the SDGs at national level – the focus of our Darwin Post Project award.

The workshop also provided the country partners an opportunity to influence development assistance policy. Representatives from the OECD Development Assistance Committee presented a scoping paper on biodiversity mainstreaming that is aimed at development assistance agencies. The African Leadership Group provided feedback on the paper; its recommendations for how biodiversity aid can be more coordinated and more responsive to country needs have been incorporated into the OECD's paper.

**2a. Give details of any notable problems or unexpected developments that the project has encountered over the last 6 months. Explain what impact these could have on the project and whether the changes will affect the budget and timetable of project activities.**

No notable problems

**2b. Have any of these issues been discussed with LTS International and if so, have changes been made to the original agreement?**

Discussed with LTS: Yes/No

Formal change request submitted: Yes/No

Received confirmation of change acceptance Yes/No

**3a. Do you currently expect to have any significant (eg more than £5,000) underspend in your budget for this year?**

Yes  No  Estimated underspend: £

**3b. If yes, then you need to consider your project budget needs carefully as it is unlikely that any requests to carry forward funds will be approved this year.** Please remember that any funds agreed for this financial year are only available to the project in this financial year.

If you anticipate a significant underspend because of justifiable changes within the project and would like to talk to someone about the options available this year, please indicate below when you think you might be in a position to do this and what the reasons might be:

**4. Are there any other issues you wish to raise relating to the project or to Darwin's management, monitoring, or financial procedures?**

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the Darwin Initiative for its continued support both through the award of a Post Project Grant and through the joint side event at the CBD CoP 12.