

What role for the CBD in addressing challenges in ecosystem restoration?

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The presentation outline

- The CBD in perspective:
- The CBD in action
- The obligations of Parties and other governments
- Examples of restoration activities

The CBD in perspective

- What it is [the global agreement addressing all aspects of biological diversity: genetic resources, species and ecosystems];
- its objectives [conservation of biological diversity; sustainable use of biological diversity; the equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources] ;
- who constitute it [192 state Parties and a regional economic integration, the EC];
- how does it function[at various levels from working groups (Article 8(j) and Protected Areas), subsidiary bodies including the intergovernmental Committee of the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP), the Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the Conference of the Parties (COP)the decision making body].

The CBD in action

- The CBD programmes: 7 thematic areas and 18 cross-cutting issues which include the ecosystem approach, Protected Areas and new and emerging issues.
- Meetings of COP and the other subsidiary bodies involve Parties, other governments and other stakeholders including the indigenous and local communities
- After getting the right information either through COP, AHTEG or other, dissemination to Parties and others goes out in the form of: COP decisions; Technical Series, UNEP/CBD Issue Paper series; Principles/Guidelines/ other tools; booklets and brochures.
- ALL THESE ARE IN PLACE TO **OVERCOME CHALLENGES** EXPERIENCED BY PARTIES AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS

The obligations of Parties

- Implement the decisions of the COP
- Report about experiences in national reports or brief communications to the Secretariat
- Seek help* whenever necessary

*Help could be in the form of technical, technological, scientific or even finance.

The Ecosystem Restoration

- received extensive coverage through discussions on the Ecosystem Approach. The issue reached prominence during the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan in 2010, when the new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 containing 20 headline targets was adopted. Under **Targets 14 and 15**, Parties have agreed that by 2020, they would restore ecosystems of particular importance to water security, human health, livelihoods and well-being and enhance ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks, through conservation and restoration. This target includes the restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems.

- **Target 14:** By 2020, **ecosystems** that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, **are restored and safeguarded**, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.
- **Target 15:** By 2020, **ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced**, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby **contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification**

- The process of ecosystem restoration is actively managing the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed, **The degraded, damaged or destroyed ecosystem could be a decommissioned mine field, an agricultural field, a rice paddy, oil spill field, oil drilling site, etc.**
- The process is synonymous with the **ecosystem approach and its 12 principles and this has been vigorously discussed and decided at COP VII / 11 and also at COP IX/7.**
- The approach is applicable to the management of various sectors or biomes eg. "integrated river-basin management", "integrated marine and coastal area management", and "responsible fisheries approaches",

- **Apply the Ecosystem approach** as much as possible as recommended by the COP
- It is necessary to **produce or develop national/local guidelines** for restoration with close **participation** of all stakeholders in the planning, monitoring and reporting;
- Every form of information about the restoration attempt including successes and failures must be **disseminated and shared**

- As much as possible: apply **science**, use **local materials** [understand the peculiarities of the landscape/ species to be restored/recovered...implying ecological and taxonomic knowledge]

Examples

- **Namibia** on the reestablishment of a keystone species, saltbush (*Salsola nollothensis*) on an arid coastal environment. A collaborative project between the Namdeb Diamond Corporation and the Millennium Seed Bank Partnerships.
- **Ghana** on the reestablishment of mangrove species (*Rhizophora sp.* and *Avicennia sp.*) in the coastal swamps of Ghana. A rehabilitation project supported by the Darwin Initiative

- The two examples cited illustrate benefit of **partnerships** in restoration making it possible to investigate practical field questions with scientific, technical and technological sophistication

Thank you