

WHAT TO DO? Policies, Investments and Actions for Country and Global Progress

WHY IS BIODIVERSITY CRITICAL?

MDG 1 ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY AND HUNGER/END POVERTY AND HUNGER

TARGET 1:
Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1 a day.

- The poor depend on biological resources for as much as 90% of their livelihood needs. Loss of biodiversity compromises income and livelihood of poor people, in all regions, particularly Sub Saharan Africa.
- The poorest regions of the World are also experiencing significant ecosystem degradation. Biodiversity is concentrated in the poorer regions of the world, and can be used in myriad ways to improve peoples' and societies' incomes and well-being.
- Biodiversity sustainable use initiatives are demonstrating positive gains in poverty reduction in many parts of the world.
- Biodiversity plays a central role in many climate change adaptation strategies aimed at protecting poor people's livelihoods and food security. Poor people are most vulnerable to climate change.

- Investment in ecosystem services to produce synergistic effects across several targets. For example, investment in watershed protection provides benefits in terms of water availability and soil conservation for agriculture. (MDG 1. 3 targets), and clean water, reduction of waterborne diseases and flood protection (MDGs 4, 5, 6).
- Governance reform to ensure poor people's access to resources and land tenure.
- Decentralization of responsibility for managing natural resources.
- Convergence of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with national development strategies such as PRSPs for sustainable development.
- Consideration of biodiversity impacts (both negative and positive) in shaping of policies, programs and projects, with strategic environmental assessment.

TARGET 2:
Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.

- Since many poor people's livelihoods depend on biodiversity, the loss of biodiversity could lead to a loss of these livelihoods and thus to more people joining the ranks of the unemployed.
- Sustainable use of biodiversity in agriculture, forest management, wildlife management, or biodiversity-based product development offers a source of stable secure job creation.

- Sustainable use for sustainability of income.
- Select or develop policies and actions that maximise the number of employed over time.

TARGET 3:
Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.

- Biodiversity is the source of all food production and thus is critical to the 800 million people suffering from hunger.
- Ecosystem degradation in agricultural systems leads to lower yields, and higher food prices, reversing poverty reduction gains both in rural and urban areas, and pushing millions deeper into poverty.
- Biodiversity related ecosystem services such as watershed protection, pest control, nutrient recycling, and pollination sustain productivity in agricultural systems.
- A majority of country actions and reports on progress with the MDGs recognise the direct dependency between environment and food.
- Genetic diversity is what allows adaptation to climate change, to crop pest, and diseases.

- Reduce subsidies that lead to unsustainable agriculture.
- Promote markets for biodiversity-friendly agricultural goods.
- Incorporate ecosystem considerations in agricultural policies.
- Empower people with knowledge on sustainable agricultural systems.
- Protect and restore ecosystems.
- Promote integrated pest management.
- Encourage local actions for responsible "shopping" in the forest for food and construction materials, kitchen utensils, wrapping, toys, etc.

MDG 2 ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION

TARGET 1:
Ensure that, by 2015, all boys and girls are able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

- Ecosystem degradation and the loss of biodiversity is associated with more time being spent by women and children collecting resources such as fuel and potable water. This reduces time spent at school.
- Through its link with food and livelihood security (MDG 1) and health (MDG 6), biodiversity has implications for people's ability to afford education and thus on education rates and people's school attendance and cognitive capacities affecting quality of learning.

- Include biodiversity within primary school curriculum.

MDG 3 PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

TARGET 1:
Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015.

- Women have unequal and insecure access to land and other natural resources, limiting their opportunities and ability to access productive assets.

- Integrated strategies to promote gender equality and environment.
- Enhanced women's role in decision making at all levels.
- Factor in gender equality in resource tenure reforms.

MDG 4 REDUCE CHILD MORTALITY

TARGET 1:
Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.

- 25% of global disease burden and 33% of childhood disease burden is associated to environmental factors, yet those factors are not yet factored in prevention and cure.
- Availability of clean water is essential to health and the sustained provision of clean water is largely dependant on biodiversity.
- Vaccines, developed with biological diversity, have slashed deaths from measles.
- Child mortality is often caused by malnutrition and under-nourishment.

- Increasing water quality and treatment potential, sanitation and waste management.
- Invest in biodiversity based watershed protection for improved access to clean water and means to prevent water related diseases, such as diarrhoea.

MDG 6 COMBAT HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND OTHER DISEASES

TARGET 3:
Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

- Human health is highly dependent on a healthy well functioning environment; maintaining and restoring biodiversity opens up much needed options to combat major diseases such as malaria and hemorrhagic dengue.
- Health care needs of the majority of people continue to be met primarily with traditional medicines. Herbs in particular remaining an important medicinal staple worldwide and most plant species continue to be harvested from the wild.
- Availability of safe drinking water provided by ecosystem services is essential to health and partly due to biodiversity loss.
- Biodiversity filters toxic substances from air, water and soil and breaks down waste that can cause poor health.

- Environmental improvements.
- Expanded development for biodiversity based health treatment options.
- Increase understanding of potential impacts of climate change on medicinal plants and on major vectors and their distributions.

MDG 7 ENSURE ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

TARGET 1:
Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources.

- Immediate action is needed to contain rising greenhouse gas emissions; deforestation and forest degradation contribute 20% of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Biodiversity is key to the functioning of ecosystems.

- Strengthening the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Further develop national capacities to set environmental priorities — recognising biodiversity and other ecosystem services, and to mainstream biodiversity in development processes.
- Build in Ecosystem Based Adaptation in development plans.
- Designate forest and other land for multiple benefits of biodiversity conservation and reduced emissions.

TARGET 2:
Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss.

- Biodiversity loss directly affects the quality and quantity of ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, watershed protection, soil fertility, recycling of nutrients, control of erosion and pollination of crops and trees.

- Increase marine areas conservation and other protected areas.
- Improve fisheries management to reduce depletion of fish stocks.
- Address direct drivers and pressures of biodiversity loss.

TARGET 3:
Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

- Half of the world's population continue to face a scarcity of water.
- Clean water and effective sanitation is largely dependent on biodiversity.

- Increase nature based technologies offering low cost feasible solutions to urban and rural areas access to water and sanitation.
- Improved integrated water management.
- Double efforts to meet the global sanitation target.

TARGET 4:
By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.

MDG 8 DEVELOP A GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

TARGET 1:
Address the special needs of least developed countries, landlocked countries and small island developing states.

- Development aid has been falling, in general and in particular for environmental sustainability, jeopardizing commitments to double aid to Africa for 2010.

TARGET 2:
Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.

- Market access for most developing countries is so far little improved. Trade-related assistance is too small and can contribute to biodiversity loss. Subsidies such as some agricultural subsidies can contribute to reduce biodiversity and do not always promote good practices. Money spent on domestic agricultural subsidies overshadow money spent on development aid.

TARGET 3:
Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt.

- While poor availability and high prices are barriers to access to essential drugs in developing countries, local plant sources are the basis for pharmaceuticals and their access and benefit sharing is a fundamental objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

TARGET 4:
In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.

- Development assistance to increase substantially to meet the MDG commitment related to environmental sustainability.

- Aid responsive to Country priorities, empowering country systems to integrate environmental sustainability in development.

- Ensure climate change financing offers a new development outlook reversing the loss and restoring biodiversity and related ecosystems.

- Redirect flows from subsidies to aid ensuring coherence to avoid unintended consequences on biodiversity loss.

- Support the development of biodiversity-based markets to offer a source of in-country finance income and help developing countries shoulder less debt, such as for example, the cut flower market of South Africa.

- Support the development of a global mechanism for Biodiversity access and benefits sharing regimes.