**inr[ [[roject Document**

# Section 1: Project Identification

**1.1 Project title** Connect: Mainstreaming biodiversity into the heart of

government decision making

**1.2 Project number** GFL: 5730

PMS: 1268

**1.3 Project type**  FSP

**1.4 Trust Fund** GEFTF

**1.5 Strategic objectives**  GEF strategic long-term objective: BD2

**1.6 UNEP priority**

**1.7 Geographical scope** Global National

**1.8 Mode of execution** Internal

**1.9 Project executing** UNEP-WCMC

**Organization**

**1.10 Duration of project** 48 months

Commencing:  April 2016

Technical completion: April 2020

**Validity of legal** 48 months

**instrument**

* + 1. **Cost of project in US$**

**Cost of project USD %**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Cost to the GEF Trust Fund** | **5,000,000** | **20.2** |
| **Co-financing** |  |  |
| ***Cash*** |  |  |
| GEO BON | 1,150,000 | 4.5 |
| Convention on Biological Diversity | 200,000 | 0.8 |
| Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical (IICT) | 104,500 | 0.4 |
| International Institute for Environment and Development | 2,369,279 | 9.6 |
| WCMC | 1,154,000 | 4.7 |
| National Environment Management Authority (Uganda) | 100,000 | 0.4 |
| Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (Ghana) | 600,000 | 2.4 |
| **Sub-total** | ***5,677,779*** | ***22.8*** |
| ***In-kind*** |  |  |
| GEO BON | 1,300,000 | 5.2 |
| Convention on Biological Diversity | 600,000 | 2.5 |
| Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical (IICT) | 22,000 | 0.1 |
| Global Biodiversity Information Facility | 3,250,000 | 13.1 |
| WCMC | 1,150,000 | 4.7 |
| National Environment Management Authority (Uganda) | 1,000,000 | 4.0 |
| Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (Ghana) | 750,000 | 3.0 |
| Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development (Mozambique) | 350,000 | 1.4 |
| BioPAMA | 5,200,000 | 21 |
| BirdLife International | 500,000 | 2.0 |
| **Sub-total** | ***14,122,000*** | ***57.0*** |
| **Co-financing total** | **19,799,779** | **79.8** |
| **GRAND TOTAL** | **24,799,779** | **100** |

**1.12 Project summary**

The **development goal** of this project is to help achieve sustainable development by bringing biodiversity information to the heart of government decision making using actionable biodiversity information (see Appendix 3: Project Results Framework).

The **project objective** is to ensure biodiversity is taken into account in decision making across government sectors by improving development decision makers’ access to and use of biodiversity information and embedding biodiversity information within national development decision making processes.

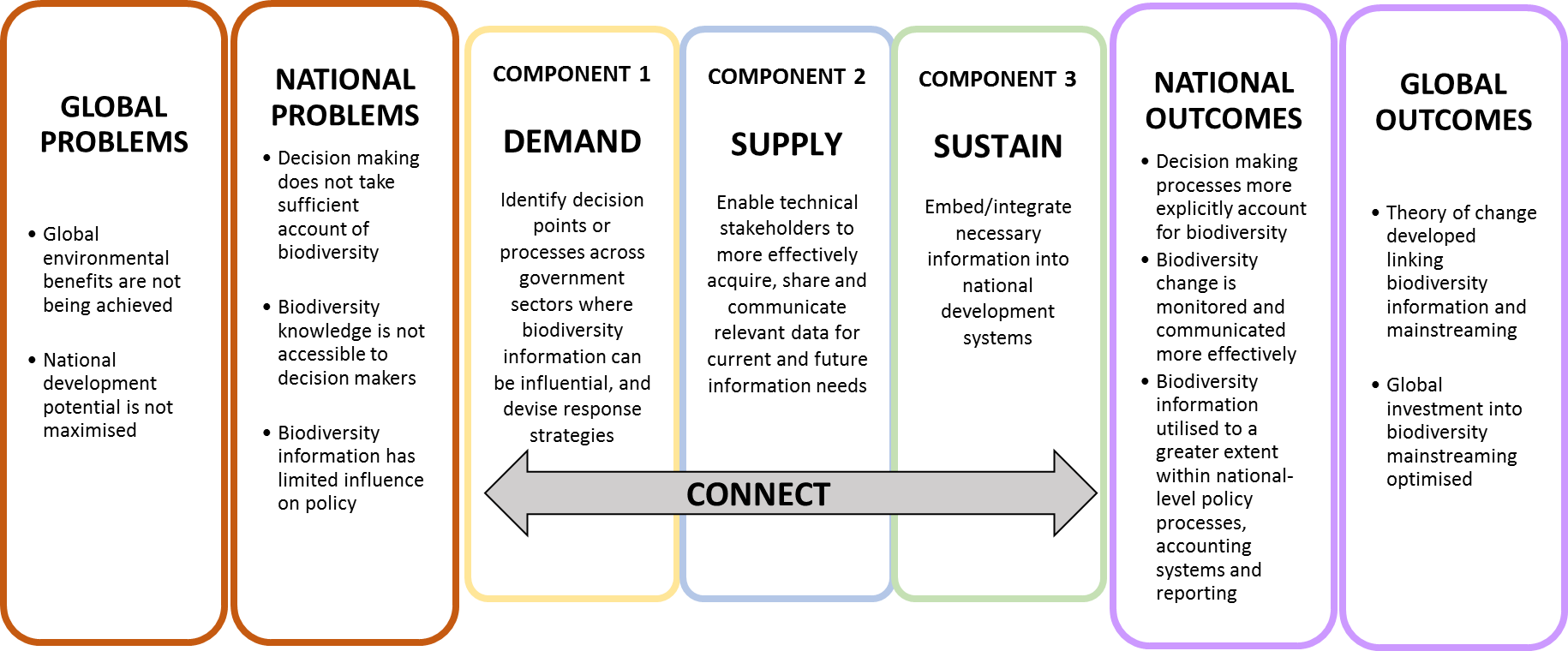
*At a global level, the project objectives are:*

* Biodiversity data, information, and knowledge products, proof-of-concept models, good practices, lessons and tools, developed iteratively and through active showcasing and facilitated interaction with the three demonstration countries
* Improved global understanding of and capacity to use and generate biodiversity information to influence development outcomes
* Revision and development of project theory of change through practice and applied research.

The Connect project will help governments to achieve sustainable development by bringing biodiversity and ecosystem services to the heart of government decision making using actionable biodiversity and ecosystem services information (see Figure 1). It focuses on in depth development of proofs of concept with a small number of carefully selected pilot countries (Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda) to:

1. Clearly understand the in-country demands for, and the barriers to using, biodiversity information within government decision making including clarifying the format, timing and packaging required
2. Mobilise and repackage existing biodiversity data and information from a range of sources (national and international) to meet a number of the above demands; and
3. Strengthen the connection between government decision makers and biodiversity and ecosystem services data providers in order to sustainably provide policy-relevant, spatially explicit information to meet ongoing national needs.

The outputs will be demand-driven, based on country-specific cross-sectoral government information needs for decision making (**Component 1 - Demand**). Each pilot country will develop and trial innovative mechanisms for re-packaging existing biodiversity information into the appropriate formats (**Component 2 - Supply**). Learning from these innovative solutions, the approach will be applied globally, to facilitate the provision of demand-driven biodiversity information to i) decision makers in other countries and ii) facilitating countries’ reporting to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs: also **Component 2 - Supply**) and other international and regional policies and processes. **Component 3 - Sustain** will focus on embedding and integrating biodiversity information into cross-sectoral government systems and processes now and into the future.

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**Figure 1: Connect Project Summary**

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## **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

ABS Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation

ACP African, Caribbean and Pacific nations

AEIN Africa Environmental Information Network

AFRIGEOSS African Global Earth Observation System of Systems

ANAC National Administration of Conservation Areas (Mozambique)

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations

AWF African Wildlife Foundation

BDFA Biodiversity Focal Area

BGCI Botanic Gardens Conservation International

BICS Africa Biodiversity Indicators Capacity Strengthening in Africa

BID Biodiversity Information for Development

BIP Biodiversity Indicators Partnership

BIOFIN Biodiversity Finance Initiative

BON Biodiversity Observing Network

BioPAMA The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme

CARICOM Caribbean Community

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity

CEO Chief Executive Officer

CHM Clearing House Mechanism

CITES Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

CMS Convention on Migratory Species

CNOC China National Oil Company

COMIFAC Central African Forest Commission

CONABIO National Commission of Biodiversity Use and Knowledge (Mexico)

COP Conference of the Parties

CSIR Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Ghana)

CSO Civil Society Organisation

CWR Crop Wild Relatives

DAC Development Assistance Committee

DCC Demonstration Country Coordinator

EAC East African Community

EC European Commission

ECOWAS Economic Community of West African States

EIA Environmental Impact Assessment

ELD Economics of Land Degradation

EMP Environmental Management Plan (Mozambique)

EO Evaluation Office

EOU Evaluation and Oversight Unit

EPA Environmental Protection Agency

EPI Environment Protection Inspector

EU European Union

EU BON European Biodiversity Observation Network

FNR\_Rio Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to National Reporting to the Rio Conventions

FRNR Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources (Ghana)

FSD Forest Services Division (Ghana)

FSSD Forestry Sector Support Department (Uganda)

GBIF Global Biodiversity Information Facility

GBO4 Global Biodiversity Outlook (fourth edition)

GDP Gross Domestic Product

GDSA Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa

GEAP Action Plan for Green Economy (Mozambique)

GEF Global Environmental Facility

GEF STAP Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility

GEO BON Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network

GEOSS Global Earth Observation System of Systems

GhaBIF Ghana Biodiversity Information Facility

GIS Global Information Systems

GMO Genetically Modified Organism

GoM Government of Mozambique

GTZ German Technical Cooperation

IBAT Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool

ICRAF World Agroforestry Centre

IFC International Financial Corporation

IGAD Intergovernmental Authority on Development

IICT Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical

IIED International Institute for Environment and Development

INBio National Institute of Biodiversity (Costa Rica)

INPE National Institute for Space Research (Brazil)

IP Indigenous Peoples

IPBES Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

IPCC Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

ITAUG International Technical Advisory Group

IUCN International Union for Conservation of Nature

KITA Kumasi Institute of Tropical Agriculture (Ghana)

KNUST Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana)

LDCs Least Developed Countries

LGDP Local Government Development Plans

LVFO Convention for the Establishment of the Lake Victoria fisheries Organization

MAAIF Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries (Uganda)

MASA Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (Mozambique)

MDGs Millennium Development Goals

MEA Multilateral Environmental Agreement

MESTI Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (Ghana)

MICOA Ministry for Coordination of Environmental Affairs (Mozambique)

MITADER Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development (Mozambique)

MITUR Ministry of Tourism (Mozambique)

MoU Memorandum of Understanding

MTE Mid-Term Evaluation

MTR Mid-Term Review

MTWA Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (Uganda)

MUIENR Makerere University Institute of Environment and Natural Resources (Uganda)

MUST Mbarara University of Science and Technology (Uganda)

MWE Ministry of Water and Environment (Uganda)

M&E Monitoring and Evaluation

NARO National Agricultural Research Organisation (Uganda)

NBC National Biodiversity Committee (Ghana)

NBC National Biosafety Committee (Uganda)

NBDB National Biodiversity Databank (Uganda)

NBSAP National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan

NBU National Biodiversity Unit (Mozambique)

NDP National Development Plan

NDPC National Development Planning Commission (Ghana)

NEMA National Environment Management Authority (Uganda)

NEPAD New Partnership for Africa's Development

NFA National Forest Authority (Uganda)

NFP National Focal Point

NGO Non-Governmental Organisation

NUB National User Board

OAS Organisation of American States

OECD Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

OPERA Operational Potential of Ecosystem Research Application

PCE Policy Committee on Environment (Uganda)

PEA Political Economy Analysis

PEI Poverty Environment Initiative

PIF Project Identification Form

PIR Project Implementation Review

PMU Project Management Unit

PoW Program of Work

PPG Project Preparation Grant

PROTA Plant Resources of Tropical Africa

PRSP Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

PSC Project Steering Committee

REDD Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

SAARC South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation

SADC South African Development Community

SANBI South African National Biodiversity Institute

SBA Societal Benefit Area

SBSTTA Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

SCBD Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

SEA Strategic Environmental Assessment

SEEA System of Environmental-Economic Accounting

SEEA-EEA System of Environmental-Economic Accounting-Experimental Ecosystems Accounting

SGA Sub Global Assessment

SIBBr Brazilian Biodiversity Information System

SIP Sector Investment Plan

SMART Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-bound

SPTS Strategic Plan for the Tourism Sector (Mozambique)

STAP Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel

SWOS Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service

TEEB The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity

ToC Theory of Change

TOR Terms of Reference

TUC Timber Utilisation Contract (Ghana)

TWG Thematic Working Group

UBoS Uganda Bureau of Statistics

UCC University of Cape Coast (Ghana)

UgaBIF Uganda Biodiversity Information Facility

Ug-CHM Uganda Clearing House Mechanism

UN United Nations

UNCCD United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

UNCST Uganda National Council of Science and Technology

UNDAFs United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks

UNDP United Nations Development Programme

UNEP United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP-DEPI United Nations Environment Programme – Division of Environmental Policy Implementation

UNEP-WCMC United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre

UNFCCC United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

USAID United States Agency for International Development

UTB Uganda Tourism Board

UWA Uganda Wildlife Authority

UWEC Uganda Wildlife Education Centre

WAVES Wealth Accounting and the Evaluation of Ecosystem Services

WD Wildlife Division (Ghana)

WMD Wetlands Management Department (Uganda)

WRC Water Resources Commission (Ghana)

WWF World Wide Fund for Nature

# Section 2: Background and Situation Analysis

## **2.1 Background and context**

1. A great deal of the world’s biodiversity has already been lost; this is a well-substantiated global environmental problem, with considerable consequences for human well-being.[[1]](#footnote-2),[[2]](#footnote-3),[[3]](#footnote-4),[[4]](#footnote-5),[[5]](#footnote-6),[[6]](#footnote-7),[[7]](#footnote-8),[[8]](#footnote-9).[[9]](#footnote-10),[[10]](#footnote-11),[[11]](#footnote-12). Biodiversity and ecosystem services are essential components of a healthy economy, relevant not only to the environment sector but across all sectors of society. Biodiversity and ecosystem services are being impacted in many parts of the world through human activities, as is evidenced by the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4) and many other assessments[[12]](#footnote-13)[[13]](#footnote-14)11. Loss of biodiversity and impacts on ecosystem services will have consequences for a number of sectors, as they will then find it more difficult to achieve their own objectives and aspirations, including for development and poverty reduction.
2. While examples of biodiversity and development alignment exist, too often biodiversity conservation and sustainable use efforts are undermined by decisions from other ministries and sectors that fail to take biodiversity into consideration[[14]](#footnote-15) or who view biodiversity conservation in opposition to development interests. From additional analysis carried out under the GBO-4, it is clear that achieving long-term sustainability will require fundamental change in the operation and management of several primary sectors of the global economy including: agriculture, forestry, fisheries, extractive industries, energy and water and sanitation. These sectors already exert significant direct pressure on the natural resource base, and the consequential loss of ecosystems and their services in these areas will likely be detrimental to their operations over the long term. **Effectively engaging these actors involves embedding biodiversity concerns within these sectors and this is more likely to succeed when biodiversity is aligned with their core values and interest**10.
3. **Achieving sustainable development will require placing biodiversity in the mainstream of decision making.** According to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility (GEF STAP), “*The basic reason why environmental mainstreaming is important is that economic and social development and the environment are fundamentally interdependent – the way we manage the economy and political and social institutions has critical impacts on the environment, while environmental quality and sustainability, in turn, are vital for the performance of the economy and social well-being*.[[15]](#footnote-16) Decisions made at all levels need to take full account of biodiversity across all sectors, in particular the major economic sectors, and governments have a key enabling role to play here. Some decisions can lead to negative impacts on biodiversity because the values of biodiversity are not considered, whereas in other cases decisions are made where sustainable development goals could be better achieved by considering the values/contribution of biodiversity. **In** **cases where biodiversity goals have been aligned to national priorities, they have received considerably greater attention and uptake, with positive outcomes for biodiversity and development**[[16]](#footnote-17). Despite this, decisions are taken that will ultimately affect biodiversity and ecosystem services, but they would appear to be being taken without a full understanding or recognition of the potential affects or their implications.
4. Mainstreaming therefore needs to be seen as the genuine understanding by development decision makers that the future well-being of society depends on defending and appropriately managing the natural infrastructure on which we all rely. Some trade-offs between biodiversity and development are inevitable, and **it is important that decisions are informed by the best available information** and that the trade-offs are clearly recognized and accounted for. Information can also help to identify how biodiversity best supports sustainable development and green economy goals.
5. Seeking to integrate biodiversity conservation and development and poverty alleviation is not a new or even a recent endeavour[[17]](#footnote-18). **But the focus on the role of information in the mainstreaming equation has been somewhat peripheral and generally separate from the kinds of initiatives that produce biodiversity information** (see Box 1 - this observation will be fully explored in the project baseline (Section 2.6) as relevant to each project component).

|  |
| --- |
| **Box 1 Definitions**  **Biodiversity information** – This term is used throughout this document to encompass data information and knowledge on both biodiversity and, where relevant, ecosystem services  **End-users** - Decision makers within key government departments supporting national development objectives. International finance institutions and private sector organisations also have policies which should be guided by biodiversity information, yet without the critical mandate and agenda-setting role of governments.   * Development decision makers - national level and international level (e.g. in bilateral agencies) * Biodiversity policy makers - national/sub-national level and international level   **Data Providers** – Biodiversity technical specialists at the national/sub-national level and/or international level that are suppliers of biodiversity data – e.g. Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) members. UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), BirdLife International, Uganda’s National Biodiversity Data Bank (NBDB), Ghana’s Biodiversity Information Facility (GhaBIF).  **Mainstreaming** – “Biodiversity mainstreaming is the process of embedding biodiversity considerations into policies, strategies and practices of key public and private actors that impact or rely on biodiversity, so that biodiversity is conserved, and sustainably used, both locally and globally”17 |

1. Effectively linking knowledge and action to meet the needs of human development while protecting fundamental biophysical systems has proven to be a difficult task. In order to change this situation, **end-users** (see Box 1) need to have access to biodiversity information that helps them to understand the potential impacts of the decisions that they are taking. At the same time, **data providers** (see Box 1) also require an improved understanding of decision making processes, and how biodiversity information can be most effectively integrated into those processes both now and in the future. This presupposes that the necessary biodiversity information exists, and can be readily brought together in the most appropriate formats, and where this is not the case improvements also need to be made.
2. Effectively connecting these two key target audiences together will create **a shared understanding** of how biodiversity information is used and produced, **streamlining the process** by which this information is mainstreamed into decision making frameworks. However, even when there is political commitment to sustainable development, there is still a difficulty in linking knowledge and action. This has been attributed to a number of barriers or gaps, explored in detail in Section 2.3. Such impediments result in the problems of end-users not getting information that they need and data providers producing information that is not used.
3. Taking this observation into consideration with the constraints listed above, **the identification of suitable ‘entry points’ for biodiversity information into the development agenda is vital[[18]](#footnote-19)**. Entry points may be at national, sectoral or decentralised levels[[19]](#footnote-20). In cases where biodiversity information is made available to end-users, it is often presented in a form that is ‘unusable’. This may be caused by the use of overly technical jargon, incorrect formatting of information or through lack of adequate interpretation with regards to available development options and consequences19. Consequently these barriers leads to decisions being made which do not fully take into account these important data.
4. The ideal scenario envisaged by the project is that governments are able to easily access relevant information about the state and distribution of biodiversity and the potential threats to it; that this information is timely, of good enough quality and presented in an accessible way such that it can be used routinely within the decision making process. To be influential, end-users must view the information as **salient** and **legitimate** as well as **credible**:
   1. Salience refers to the “level of interest and relevance information gathers among potentially interested parties”[[20]](#footnote-21)
   2. Legitimacy involves the perception by relevant audiences of an assessment process as “fair”, having considered the values, concerns, and perspectives of that audience[[21]](#footnote-22).
   3. Credibility means that the information is perceived as “true” or at least better than “competent” (acceptable but not excellent quality) information and that it was derived via standard scientific methods and procedures[[22]](#footnote-23).
5. The challenge of moving information from the realm of knowledge to the realm of action has yielded a large body of work that analyzes "boundaries" in knowledge-action systems[[23]](#footnote-24). Such boundaries demarcate the socially constructed and negotiated borders between science and policy, between disciplines, across nations, and across multiple levels. They serve important functions (e.g. protecting science from the biasing influence of politics, or helping organize and allocate authority), but they can also act as barriers to communication, collaboration, and integrated assessment and action. Managing such boundaries is a fundamental element in effectively linking knowledge to action (see the project theory of change, Section 3.1). While this is a global project (fully explored in Section 2.2), it will focus its interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa, a region rich in both variety and abundance of biodiversity. The three demonstration countries selected are Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda (Figure 2).



**Figure 2: Map of the African continent with the selected Connect project demonstration countries highlighted in green**.

**Ghana**

1. Biological diversity is an important component of the Ghanaian economy and heritage. Biodiversity is a critical source of food, fibre(in addition to a large range of ecosystem services), recreation and employment for a large percentage of the population[[24]](#footnote-25). The amounts of biodiversity in the country are not thoroughly understood, but there is evidence of species loss as a result of anthropogenic activities[[25]](#footnote-26). The main threats to biodiversity include among others: uncontrolled deforestation, inefficient low input agricultural expansion, hunting and illegal wildlife trade, and wetland degradation[[26]](#footnote-27). Ghana has however taken strides towards integrated biodiversity conservation by ratifying regional and international conventions, but more work is required to strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks. A visit to Ghana during the PPG stage provided some evidence of demand for biodiversity data in government decision making processes (see Annex 2 and 3). However, identifying the appropriate and timely biodiversity data, and who would provide them stood out as some of the main reasons why biodiversity data were not integrated into the local– and national–level decision making processes.

**Mozambique**

1. Biodiversity contributes significantly to the livelihoods of over 80% of the national population, and is the backbone of the Mozambican economy, however, the number of threatened and endangered species (relative to the total number of known species) continues to rise, mostly as a result of anthropogenic activities[[27]](#footnote-28). Although the Government of Mozambique is aware of the importance of biodiversity, and has put in place relevant bodies and legislations to control biodiversity loss, integration of biodiversity data into key government decision making processes remains a major challenge[[28]](#footnote-29). This is deeply rooted in the intricacies of systematisation that impede data access, and poor dissemination of information on biodiversity, including limited assimilation and use of scientific and traditional knowledge[[29]](#footnote-30).

**Uganda**

1. Biodiversity loss remains a major threat to conservation, economic development and livelihoods in Uganda. It is estimated that Uganda is losing biodiversity resources at a rate of about 1% per year. Whilst the demand for biodiversity information is considerably high, and bodies generating this information exist, there is still minimal integration of biodiversity data into critical government decision making processes. This is partly premised on the fact that there is limited communication between government agencies, and cross-sectoral coordination is largely lacking. The biodiversity data available are poorly known, or where they exist, they are not sought for.

For a more detailed description of the background situation in each demonstration country see Annex 2.

## **2.2 Global significance**

1. Many global biodiversity information initiatives and organisations have to date been partly built on the assumption that information provision enables mainstreaming and leads to behaviour change. However, there is a body of evidence and experience showing this is not necessarily the case17 and despite a huge increase in our ability to monitor, measure and communicate about nature, biodiversity is still being lost10. **So far there is limited systematic understanding about how various influential factors play into these equations, how the mainstreaming levers work, and how information about biodiversity ultimately fits into the mainstreaming equation.** What is known is often case- or circumstance specific with limited analysis of its potential relevance for a broader theory of change using biodiversity information to influence outcomes.
2. Governments already use biodiversity information, e.g. in establishing Protected Areas networks and in environmental policy10. Additionally, there are extremely promising developments in a number of countries around the world on indicators, accounting and tools for taking into account ecosystem services and biodiversity[[30]](#footnote-31). Yet much of this work is still very new and experimental, as well as largely externally funded; it is not done by civil servants using domestic budgets as a matter of routine government business. In addition, at the global and regional levels, and in a small number of countries, there are important developments in the acquisition and interpretation of remotely sensed data, and its integration with ground data, to develop near-real time spatially explicit information[[31]](#footnote-32). The routine provision and use of biodiversity information, in a manner that governments consider to be part of their core mandate, would indicate that the information is in demand, and given due consideration in development decisions. Biodiversity would no longer be “invisible” in development decisions.



1. Outcomes of mainstreaming interventions depend on the focus of the mainstreaming that is carried out and may range from ‘upstream’ to ‘downstream’ effects19 (see Table 1). Upstream effects can be seen as where the provision of information underpins a business case for a different governance, policy, or political approach. Downstream effects may be where mainstreaming is operationalized with information “on-the ground”, for example through an evidence-informed management plan at landscape scale. The enabling of a systemic mainstreaming approach through information provision where a rationale and platform already exist (e.g. natural resource accounting) demonstrates effects at the midstream level.

**Table 1: Upstream and downstream outcomes of biodiversity mainstreaming**[[32]](#footnote-33)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DOWNSTREAM  UPSTREAM | **Governance outcomes** | e.g. improved consideration of stakeholder’s and right-holders’ concerns (particularly those who are directly dependent on biodiversity) |  |
| **Policy and**  **Political outcomes** | e.g. High-level sector, fiscal, development and social policies, constitutions and statements of national vision, include biodiversity considerations, and vice versa |  |
| **Plan outcomes** | e.g. Inclusion of biodiversity-poverty linkages in development an poverty reduction strategies and in biodiversity strategies |  |
| **Budget and**  **accounting outcomes** | e.g. evidence of public-private sector resource mobilisation, inclusion of development-biodiversity linkages in national public and sector budgets; inclusion of ecosystem services in national accounting systems |  |
| **Institutional and capacity outcomes** | e.g. strengthened capacity within biodiversity-related institutions to understand development and economic processes and interact in a constructive manner; valuation of the economic importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the economic outcomes undertaken and utilised in decision-making |  |
| **Investment and economic outcomes** | e.g. improved domestic resource mobilization for poverty-biodiversity investments or recognition of potential trade-offs in sector investments such as mining |  |
| **Behavioural outcomes** | e.g. key patterns and processes of production, consumption and waste treatment in sectors and localities are informed by biodiversity and poverty considerations |  |
| **Pro-poor biodiversity management outcomes** | e.g. pro-poor management of ecosystem services, such as medicinal, cosmetic or edible plants; healthcare, wild foods, soil fertility; traditional breeds and crop varieties; water purification; cultural or religious benefits from biodiversity realised |  |
| **Ultimate (biodiversity and development) impacts of these outcomes** | e.g. improved productivity and sustainability of use of biodiversity assets on which the poor depend; protection and management of targeted species populations |  |

1. To date progress in biodiversity mainstreaming tends to be confined to upstream outcomes in many developing countries: biodiversity is included in some development policy documents, and conversely poverty alleviation is recognised in biodiversity policy and plans. However downstream and midstream progress on the ground is thin, as development continues to drive further degradation of ecosystems and loss of biodiversity – and conversely people are not benefiting adequately from ecosystem services.

## 

## **2.3 Threats, root causes and barrier analysis**

**Threats and root causes**

1. Despite large amounts of biodiversity data now being freely available through many global initiatives and organizations, these data are not integrated into national level decision making. Government decision makers do not have (or claim not to have) access to biodiversity information relevant to development decisions (see Annex 3). The threat is that if government decision making doesn’t have access to biodiversity information relevant to development decisions, then biodiversity will not be taken into account properly with knock-on negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services and hence human well-being.



1. The overarching root causes of these threats are: data providers don’t fully understand the demand for biodiversity information (what format, timing, and packaging is needed for decision making); end users are not aware of the biodiversity information that is relevant to their priorities; existing biodiversity information is not supplied in a usable format for end-users, and; there is weak or little connection between end users and data providers. Background work undertaken during the PPG phase provided more detailed information on these threats and root causes (see Annex 3).

**Barrier Analysis**

1. The purpose of this barrier analysis is to identify the key barriers to the use of biodiversity information by end users. This section builds from the overview of barriers presented in the Project Information Form (PIF) to offer a rapid barrier analysis supporting the project design including theory of change. During the PPG phase this barrier analysis was elaborated with key stakeholders[[33]](#footnote-34) at the national and international level (see Annex 3).
2. The main problem is that despite large amounts of biodiversity data now being freely available through the many initiatives and organizations, these data are not integrated into national-level decision making processes. Government decision makers do not have (or claim not to have) access to biodiversity information relevant to decision making (see Annex 3).
3. Several critical barriers stand in the way of advancing towards the preferred long-term solution of: governments being able to easily access relevant information about potential threats to, and changes in, biodiversity and the supply of ecosystem services; that this information is timely, of good enough quality and presented in an accessible way such that it can be used routinely within the decision making process (see Annex 3). An initial analysis of the barriers was conducted with national and international stakeholders during the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) phase, and is summarised here (see Annex 3):
4. **Barriers to do with ACCESS**
5. Access to sufficient quality biodiversity data at the right time is pivotal to determining the use of those data.
   1. **Poorly targeted information initiatives** inhibit the connection between data providers and end users. Data providers are not always identifying the development decision points that tangibly affect biodiversity, nor responding in time with influential evidence in the right format to make their case.
   2. There may be **limited understanding** of how biodiversity information can help address the priorities of end users, and of what biodiversity data are required for their decision making processes.
   3. A **lack of robust information sharing policies** can lead to issues of misuse and/or mistrust with regards to biodiversity data ownership and use. Where there are unclear data confidentiality policies this can mean that opportunities for the sharing of data are limited.
6. **Barriers around WILLINGNESS**
7. Actors within different government sectors have different information needs and communicate in different ways. Decision making processes can be messy and challenging to engage with, and some ministries or sectoral stakeholders are better funded than others, with more established cases for their priorities.
   1. Data providers find it difficult to communicate across **government ministries who have competing priorities**.
   2. Perceptions of **insufficient political will** within these ministries are brought on by inadequate connections between these data providers and end users.
   3. The **lack of inter-ministerial collaboration** and disconnection within and between government ministries is also a major barrier to perceptions of willingness to use, and the mainstreaming of, biodiversity information.
8. **Barriers around CAPACITY**
9. The identification and training of staff within government ministries can provide an improvement in national capacity to use biodiversity information. Related to this, national environmental and/or biodiversity information systems are rarely making good use of recent technological developments. Reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) still relies primarily on narrative templates, with only emerging efforts on indicator-based reporting that uses biodiversity data to generate information on biodiversity change relevant to e.g. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) / Aichi Targets.
   1. Where there is **high turnover of government staff** these efforts are short lived, further highlighting the need for long term partnerships between data providers and end users to be forged and strengthened.
   2. Those countries facing similar constraints in parallel, **may not be sharing experiences, lessons, good practices, tools, etc**. that would boost their collective capacity.
   3. **Inefficient systems** inhibit the capacity of end users to integrate biodiversity information into their work.
10. **Barriers to do with DATA**
11. Despite the rise in those organisations and initiatives concerning biodiversity information (see Section 2.4), data production is still not fully corresponding to needs at a national level.
    1. Data do not exist, are dispersed, in incompatible formats, or otherwise **inaccessible.**
    2. **Inconsistent data monitoring and analytical methods** mean that datasets at different scales are currently not compatible.
    3. When information is made available, it is often several years out of date, or is **not communicated in a timely or relevant manner**. Recommendations made on this basis can therefore be tenuous or obsolete. Other sectors and priorities competing for attention may have more regular, up-to-date or even real-time data.
12. **Barriers to do with the** **EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT**
13. The project will address the barriers listed under 1-4. Other external barriers cannot be dealt with by the project, however an awareness of these barriers provide a useful context to the intervention. An example of this, identified during the PPG phase, could be that national crises may pull decision making attention away from longer-term development planning processes and that priorities in government change rapidly due to external events (e.g. currency fluctuations, trade agreements, natural disasters). Section 3.5 explores these barriers and measures that the project can take to mitigate these.
14. All of these identified barriers have varying relevance to different situations. During the inception phase of the project a rapid appraisal tool will developed for use in further identifying and assessing the key relevant barriers in each demonstration country (see Section 3.5, Appendix 3 and Annex 2 for how the Connect project will address these issues).

## 

## **2.4 Institutional, sectoral and policy context**

**Institutional context – biodiversity information**

1. There is global recognition that biodiversity information initiatives are vital to the conservation of biodiversity. For example, Aichi Target 19 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 states that: *By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied*.
2. In recognition of this, there has been an unprecedented growth in biodiversity information initiatives and organisations:
3. **UNEP-WCMC** is the specialist biodiversity assessment arm of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) based in Cambridge, UK. UNEP works to encourage sustainable development through sound environmental practices, and has an extensive portfolio of activities around biodiversity. To help deliver these, it collaborates with WCMC, a not-for-profit organization with staff that includes over a hundred specialists in the fields of biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as social science, economics, law and information technology.
4. Working with partners worldwide, UNEP-WCMC provides objective, scientifically rigorous products and services to help decision makers learn about the value of biodiversity and apply this knowledge. UNEP-WCMC not only collate and verify data on biodiversity and ecosystem services but also analyse and interpret it, making the results available to our partners in accessible forms. In dozens of projects every year we work with our partners to strengthen the foundations of good environmental management in the following ways:
   * helping to develop a comprehensive knowledge base
   * supporting assessments and valuations of biodiversity and ecosystem services
   * building tools and developing methodologies for understanding the environment
   * providing support to develop policies and institutions to drive change
   * sharing skills and competencies to do all of these things better.
5. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)-mandated **Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)** is the global initiative to promote and coordinate development and delivery of biodiversity indicators in support of the CBD, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA), Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), national and regional governments and a range of other sectors (see also Box 2, Section 2.6). The Partnership brings together over forty organizations working internationally on indicator development to provide the most comprehensive information on biodiversity trends and most recently fed information into the Fourth Edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4)10.
6. The **Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)** is an international open data infrastructure, funded by governments. It allows anyone, anywhere to access data about all types of life on Earth, shared across national boundaries via the Internet. By encouraging and helping institutions to publish data according to common standards, GBIF enables research not possible before, and informs better decisions to conserve and sustainably use the biological resources of the planet.
7. It provides a single point of access (through this portal and its web services) to more than 500 million species occurrence records, shared freely by hundreds of institutions worldwide, making it the biggest biodiversity database on the Internet. Many GBIF Participant countries have set up national portals using tools, codes and data freely available through GBIF to better inform their citizens and policy makers about their own biodiversity.
8. The **Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)** coordinates activities relating to the Societal Benefit Area (SBA) on Biodiversity of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). Some 100 governmental, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations are collaborating through GEO BON to organize and improve terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity observations globally and make their biodiversity data, information and forecasts more readily accessible to policymakers, managers, experts and other users. Moreover, GEO BON has been recognized by the Parties to the CBD in by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in several decisions referring to and endorsing GEO BON's work to build capacity for improved biodiversity observations in support of the Aichi Targets[[34]](#footnote-35).
9. The Biodiversity Observation Network is a Community of Practice with specified tasks in the GEO Work Plan. It is a voluntary partnership that is guided by a steering committee comprising key global, regional and national organizations responsible for biodiversity observations. GEO BON draws on GEO’s work on data-sharing principles to promote full and open exchange of data, and on the GEOSS Common Infrastructure to enable interoperability through adoption of consistent standards.
10. **UNEP Live** aims to support assessment processes through the provisions of substantiated, contextualised knowledge about the environment by developing richer sets of data and knowledge flows and bringing together diverse communities of practice. The aim of UNEP Live is to facilitate the exchange and sharing of latest data, information, assessments and knowledge amongst member countries, research networks, communities of practice, indigenous peoples and society, in order to keep the environment and emerging issues under review.
11. National and regional institutions and initiatives have been established around the world in part to respond to the need for information exchange and technical and scientific cooperation in line with Articles 17 and 18 of the CBD, for example the **National Geomatics Centre in China, National Institute for Space Research (INPE)** in Brazil, National Commission of Biodiversity Use and Knowledge (**CONABIO)** in Mexico, National Institute of Biodiversity (**INBio)** in Costa Rica, **Instituto Humboldt** in Colombia, South African National Biodiversity Institute **(SANBI)** in South Africa, and European Biodiversity Observation Network (**EU BON)** in Europe. Global environmental partnerships, such as **BirdLife International**, contribute to the generation of technical –scientific information. In addition, thematic networks or initiatives are growing, including the **Ocean Biogeographic Information System**; the **Census of Marine Life**; **Global Forest Watch 2.0**; the **World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF);** the **Gateway for the Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership**; and a range of community-based biodiversity monitoring initiatives.

**Institutional context – mainstreaming**

1. The biodiversity community has evolved quite separately to national development and poverty reduction strategies, plans, programmes and information systems. This has led to biodiversity and environmental sustainability not being meaningfully integrated into national development processes (i.e. Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Plans, etc.) and environmental commitments are often unsupported by budget allocations.
2. Ostensibly, biodiversity conservation, human development and poverty alleviation may appear to be separate policy realms with little connection, yet all are important societal goals demanding increasing international attention19. However clear links can be drawn between their objectives, as recognised in the international policy frameworks that guide action to achieve these goals:
3. The CBD acknowledges that *“economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of developing countries”*. In 2002 the Conference of Parties (COP) to the CBD agreed a Strategic Plan which included a target to *“achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss… as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth”[[35]](#footnote-36)*. The new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011- 2020 has a mission to halt the loss of biodiversity thereby contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication[[36]](#footnote-37).
4. One of the main outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference was the agreement by member States to launch a process to develop a set of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, which will build upon the MDGs and converge with the post 2015 development agenda. Goal 15 Target 15.9 states that “by 2020, integrate ecosystems and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies, and accounts”[[37]](#footnote-38).
5. Several initiatives have built upon these frameworks in order to further mainstream environmental priorities into national development plans and policies:
6. The **International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)** is an international development and environment policy research organisation working with partners on five continents. IIED build bridges between policy and practice, rich and poor communities, the government and private sector, and across diverse interest groups. IIED carries out research, advice and advocacy work, contributing to many international policy processes and frameworks, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment and the UN conventions on climate change and biological diversity.
7. The **Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI)** of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is a global programme that supports country-led efforts to mainstream poverty-environment objectives into national development and sub-national development planning, from policymaking to budgeting, implementation and monitoring. With both financial and technical support, PEI assists government decision makers and a wide range of other stakeholders to manage the environment in a way that improves livelihoods and leads to sustainable growth. The overall aim is to bring about lasting institutional change and to catalyse key actors to increase investment in pro-poor environmental and natural resource management. PEI’s work has not focused on biodiversity very strongly to date, and only in Botswana was it raised as a national priority.

**Sectoral context**

1. In May 2012, ten African heads of state, in collaboration with some public and private sector partners, held a two day summit where sustainability was at the center of the deliberations. The summit resulted in the **Gaborone Declaration for Sustainability in Africa (GDSA),** where countries recommitted to implementing all conventions and declarations that promote sustainable development. The overall objective of the Declaration is “To ensure that the contributions of natural capital to sustainable economic growth, maintenance and improvement of social capital and human well-being are quantified and integrated into development and business practice.” This was propelled by the signatories’ realization of the limitations that GDP has as a measure of well-being and sustainable growth. GDSA signatories include: Botswana, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa and Tanzania. By signing the GDSA, countries agreed to:
   1. Integrate the value of nature into national policies and programmes;
   2. Reduce poverty by transitioning to practices that promote sustainable employment, food security, sustainable energy and the protection of nature; and
   3. Build knowledge, capacity and networks to promote leadership and a new model of sustainable development.
2. In March 2015 54 African Environment Ministers signed the **Cairo Declaration on Managing Africa’s Natural Capital for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication**. This Declaration included a call to elevate the status of natural capital in national planning and financing to that of strategic national resources and be managed and used in that context in order to secure its sustainability and contribution to economic development and environmental stability. The Declaration also sought support from a wide range of partners to provide financial and technical support by fostering cooperation, knowledge-sharing and technology development on good practices in building inclusive green economies.
3. From an economic perspective, biodiversity is an important part of a country’s natural capital stock. It is the biotic element of ecosystems which has an important role in how ecosystems function and deliver ecosystem services that support economic activity and human well-being.
4. Natural capital is one of a range of capitals (included human, social and man-made capital) the total stock of which economists agree needs to increase in per capita terms for development and wellbeing to increase over time. Neglecting the value of biodiversity and therefore degrading natural capital without accounting for this is a significant economic risk. The measurement of all capitals and the integration of this into decision making and economic planning is crucial to sustainable development.
5. The need for more effort in this area is visible through the emergence of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; The Stiglitz, Sen, Fitoussi Commission; The Stern Review of the Economics of Climate Change, The TEEB Study and The ELD Initiative; UNEP’s Green Economy work programme; the emergence of the Natural Capital Coalition and the Natural Capital Declaration bringing together policy makers and investors at the Rio+20 Conference; the New Climate Economy Report and the agreement of the Sustainable Development Goals and negotiations around their financing. The cumulative impact of this work is an increasingly powerful global voice which demands that environmental goals are met alongside economic and social goals, both as desirable outcomes in themselves, but also to ensure economic and social progress can be sustained for this generation and generations to come. This implies that synergies and trade-offs between objectives must be well understood and reflected in how we achieve them.
6. From a biodiversity perspective this means improving the understanding of the links between changes in biodiversity and the ability to deliver on other economic and social goals and communicating this clearly to ensure that the relationship can be taken into account in how we progress towards meeting our aims.
7. Business as usual is not an option, as biodiversity tends not to be considered in market prices and it is not measured in business or national accounts resulting in its value tends being neglected. From an economic perspective this is inefficient, it leads to excessive degradation of biodiversity, and under investment in maintenance of the natural environment. It also makes meeting both biodiversity and connected social and economic goals more costly. This is because social and economic goals have to be met with an inefficient level of biodiversity to underpin them, and / or biodiversity goals have to be met in a scenario where resources are required to overcome perverse economic and social incentives (which neglect the value of biodiversity) alongside any other investment needs. In a world with a growing population and increasing demands on our land and seas, maintaining such a level of inefficiency will become increasingly intolerable. This is illustrated in the example below:
8. A 2012 report to the Convention on Biological Diversity[[38]](#footnote-39) estimated the resource requirements needed to meet its 20 globally agreed Aichi Targets. Target 5 of these 20 looks at reducing the rate of habitat loss. The costs of halving wetlands loss are estimated to be in the order of US$33bn per year. Meeting this target would likely lead to significant benefits and hence it was presented as an investment, however, a large proportion of the cost of achieving the target is assumed to derive from paying compensation for loss of potential earnings (or opportunity costs) to those carrying out activities which would degrade wetlands under business as usual. Whether such activities would continue to be rewarded by the market however (and hence justify the level of compensation that might be required) can also be impacted by the economic and institutional environment.
9. That is, if businesses impacting wetlands in some way faced more of the wider costs of so doing, they would make different decisions. US$30bn of the US$33bn resource requirement is made up of payments relating to opportunity costs*.*

**Policy context**

1. Current global policy on biodiversity and ecosystems creates numerous reporting obligations and information demands at the national level.
2. MEAs such as the CBD require Parties to provide assessments of progress through regular national reporting and self-assessment. These feed into analyses such as the GBO-4 which drew together evidence on progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Targets, extrapolated future trends and identified policy relevant actions to accelerate progress towards the targets10. Similar national reporting obligations exist for other MEAs such as Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
3. Other expressions of global policy include the adoption of ecosystem assessment processes following the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment published in 2005. The subsequent establishment of IPBES has mirrored the role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on climate change, and similarly sits at the intersection of science and policy. As various thematic, regional and national assessments are commissioned, demands for biodiversity information will grow further. The IPBES Task Force on knowledge and data is addressing matters of consistency of data use and standards including that of indicators.
4. Natural capital accounting is becoming increasingly adopted throughout Africa as part of a suite of tools to underpin the validation of moves towards a green economy. Through a number of global initiatives, including the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting-Experimental Ecosystems Accounting (SEEA-EEA)[[39]](#footnote-40), Wealth Accounting and the Evaluation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES)[[40]](#footnote-41), and The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB)[[41]](#footnote-42) the framework for ecosystem accounting as part of natural capital accounting is being advanced. This is yet another initiative for which countries will have to gather, review, analyse and report biodiversity information.
5. For a detailed description of the institutional, sectoral and policy context within each demonstration country, see Annex 2.

## **2.5 Stakeholder mapping and analysis**

1. An extensive landscape of international, regional and national stakeholders and initiatives are focused on providing and using biodiversity information. During the PPG phase, those major stakeholders and their potential roles in the project were identified (Table 2). Extensive engagement with these stakeholders was then undertaken in order to correctly identify the key issues and barriers they are facing and making sure that the objectives of this project address these. Stakeholders that we engaged with during the PPG phase included both international and national data providers and end-users in order to gain a complete picture of the landscape.
2. During the project preparation phase the project team has involved a professional stakeholder engagement company because stakeholder engagement underpins this project. This company will continue to be engaged during the full project execution. The project has been designed with an initial inception phase which focuses on in-depth engagement with stakeholders, understanding their specific needs, and planning the following phases of the project to specifically address these needs. However, it will be an iterative process throughout the lifetime of the project rather than a one-off exercise, thereby ensuring that the project outputs are salient, credible and legitimate. The engagement of these stakeholders across geographical scales will contribute to effective implementation of project activities (see Appendix 4) and dissemination of project results (see Section 3.10). A more detailed stakeholder analysis for each of the demonstration countries is included in Annex 2.

**Table 2: Key stakeholders and their involvement in the Connect project**

| Stakeholders | Type of involvement |
| --- | --- |
| Implementing and Executing Partners | |
| United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)  UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)  Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity (sCBD)  International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)  Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Ghana  Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development (MITADER), Mozambique  National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Uganda | * Lead/ co-lead respective project work packages (See Section 4) * Provide project oversight through the Project Steering Committee (see Section 4) * Responsibility for project deliverables (see Appendix 6) |
| Global organisations and initiatives | |
| United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)  Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)  Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON)  BirdLife International  World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)  International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)  Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)  Biodiversity Indicator Partnership (BIP) members | * Provide opportunities for collaboration with respective ongoing projects (see Section 2.6 and 2.7) * Potential data providers / information product providers to address decision points identified in Component 1 (see Section 3) * Learning from the approach and outcomes of the project and seeking to replicate the approach in improving their information products (see Upscaling Strategy Section 3.1) |
| Regional organisations and initiatives | |
| Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development  Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC)  Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)  Conservation Alliance  South African Development Community (SADC)  East African Community (EAC)  Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)  African Union  Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)  South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)  Organisation of American States (OAS)  Caribbean Community (CARICOM) | * Provide opportunities for collaboration with respective ongoing projects (see Section 2.6 and 2.7) * Potential data providers / information product providers to address decision points identified in Component 1 (see Section 3) * Learn from and adopt similar practices for mainstreaming as those showcased by the project within their respective groups of countries * Provide a platform for regional dissemination of project results |
| Demonstration country organisations and initiatives (see also Annex 2) | |
| National government bodies/departments (e.g. Ministry of Environment, Forestry Commission, National Development Planning Commission, Agriculture, National Statistics Offices)  Private companies  Academic/research institutes  Non-governmental Organisations  Civil Society Organisations  Women’s Groups and Organisations | * Undertaking/Target of project interventions * Members of National User Boards * Recipients of capacity building * Potential data providers / information product providers to address decision points identified in Component 1 (see Section 3) * Ensure the equitable representation of diverse value systems within the project interventions |
| Other national organisations and initiatives | |
| National Geomatics Centre (China)  National Commission of Biodiversity Use and Knowledge (CONABIO; Mexico)  National Institute of Biodiversity (INBio; Costa Rica)  Instituto Humboldt (Colombia)  South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI; South Africa) | * Potential data providers / information product providers to address decision points identified in Component 1 (see Section 3) * Share best practice and lessons learned for mainstreaming biodiversity information to the demonstration countries * Learn from the approach and outcomes of the project and seek to replicate the approach in improving their information products * Learn from and adopt similar practices for mainstreaming as those showcased by the project |

## **2.6 Baseline analysis and gaps**

**Context and Issue**

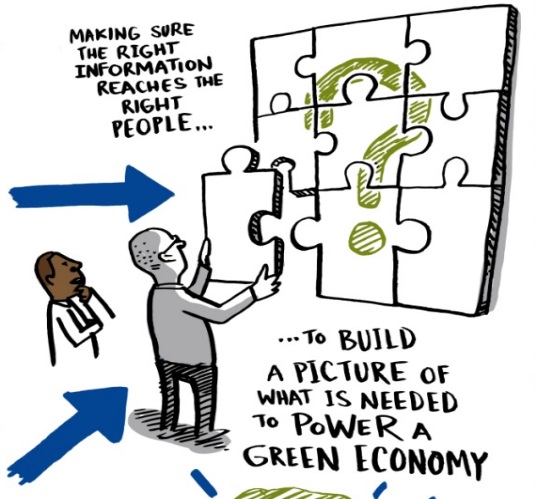
|  |
| --- |
| **Component 1: Demand - Mainstreaming entry points, and response strategies**  ***OUTCOME 1: Decision points or processes across government sectors are identified where biodiversity information can be influential, and the barriers to data sharing identified*** |

1. There are currently many initiatives to integrate biodiversity considerations into government decision making and reporting processes. Amongst existing efforts are those around development planning, integrated national accounting, and revised NBSAPs (for example, initiatives such as the NBSAPs 2.0 project, BIOFIN, and the NBSAP Forum). TEEB is a strong instance of an initiative stimulating the awareness of the value of biodiversity, and various TEEB spin-off initiatives are increasingly starting to provide technical support to allow specifically economic information about biodiversity and ecosystems to be taken up in government systems. There are also numerous initiatives that are intending to get systems in place that draw on biodiversity information, such as the Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES), the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA), and Advancing Natural Capital Accounting. These initiatives, however, do not necessarily bring to bear data or information about biodiversity specifically, nor assist countries with the technical aspects of this. There is still a lack of understanding of how end-users receive and use biodiversity data and information, what data and information they do and would use in their decision making, and what format and packaging they require this data and information to be in in order to support their decision making.
2. Working extensively on mechanisms for successful mainstreaming is the UNDP-UNEP Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI), which does bring environmental data into national development accounting systems, yet little of its country-led programming focuses on biodiversity information (except Botswana). UNEP also has a large portfolio of GEF projects around agricultural biodiversity, including projects associated with mainstreaming and the use of biodiversity information[[42]](#footnote-43). The UNDP-GEF Biodiversity Mainstreaming portfolio is large, with several examples of using biodiversity information to support decision making[[43]](#footnote-44). However these projects are not necessarily networked or facilitated with a view to sharing lessons and up-scaling efforts around biodiversity data and information. A preliminary review of GEF mainstreaming projects that have used the provision of information as an enabling mechanism for mainstreaming is presented in Annex 4.

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| **Component 2: Supply - Capacity to respond (using appropriate information)**  ***OUTCOME 2: Technical stakeholders (i.e. technical staff in governments and supportive institutions) are more easily able to acquire and share relevant data, and use this to communicate effectively, for current and future information needs.*** |

**A change in paradigm about data sharing, collaboration and networking**

1. In order to effectively achieve sustainable targets and the many different international commitments in Africa there is an increasing demand for biodiversity data, information, and knowledge. In addition, biodiversity-related questions are not only being asked by scientists but also by policy makers, the media and civil society. To answer such questions and measure progress against commitments made at different scales there is a need for data of an appropriate salience and legitimacy, as well as credibility (which includes the quality of data). This is not necessarily just about collecting more data, but also about accessing and using existing datasets more effectively and efficiently.



1. Understanding of biodiversity is rapidly improving; advances are driven primarily by integration of data from different sources, enabled by interoperable data and metadata standards, interoperability, and enhanced computational power. These advances are underpinned by a change in paradigm about data sharing, collaboration and networking. The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) is an example of where data sharing, collaboration and networking has mobilised overwhelming evidence to track the Aichi Targets. The BIP is an example of a sustainable, credible partnership at the global level where data providers have been successfully mobilized to meet the demands of end users (focused mainly on reporting on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; see Box 2). In addition to this, major global initiatives to collate and enhance open access to data and analytical tools and increase scientific robustness of biodiversity data are now in place including GBIF for species occurrence data sharing; Protected Planet for protected areas data; GEO BON for capacity building for biodiversity observations, data management, analysis and reporting and coordination of biodiversity observation networks.
2. Despite large amounts of biodiversity data now being freely available through initiatives and organizations across scales (see Section 2.4, Institutional, sectoral and policy context), these data are often not integrated into national level development decision making (see also Section 2.3 Barrier analysis for more detail).

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| **Box 2. The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)**  The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) is a global initiative established in 2007 in response to CBD Decision VII/30, with substantial funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to assist in monitoring progress towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target. The BIP was subsequently endorsed by the CBD in Decision VIII/15.  The BIP is a showcase example of connecting end-users with biodiversity information from data providers. The Partnership brings together over forty organizations working internationally on indicator development to provide the most comprehensive information on biodiversity trends in support of the CBD, MEAs, IPBES, national and regional governments and a range of other sectors. |

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| --- |
| **Component 3: Embed/integrate necessary information into national development systems**  ***OUTCOME 3:* Policy frameworks, including accounting and reporting systems, across a range of sectors are incorporating biodiversity considerations** |

1. At the heart of the problem is that most of the initiatives that exist to get biodiversity taken up as a priority, or taken into account in national accounting systems, are not well-linked to the initiatives that are working to put the necessary data in place, and address barriers to data acquisition and sharing. The disconnect between biodiversity mainstreaming and biodiversity information initiatives is a global problem which is proving to be a barrier to embedding biodiversity within decision making processes in most countries. These barriers can be so profound that they may dictate the success or failure of mainstreaming efforts over the long-term. The continuing loss of biodiversity is evidence of the failure of these mainstreaming efforts, or indeed that they are not sufficient, so far.
2. Initiatives such as EU BON, GEO BON, GBIF, Protected Planet and OPERAs sum up a solid investment of governments and organisations in the mobilisation and accessibility of biodiversity and ecosystem services information. Yet many of them do not take into account and/or fully address the main barriers identified here, i.e. that biodiversity information is not integrated into government decision making, as they may not see the direct relevance to national development priorities, the format, packaging and timing of the information provided may not align with their information and decision making needs, and they may not be well connected or have built trust-based relationships with data providers.
3. A few ongoing initiatives that are attempting to address this issue directly, including UNEP Live (embedding environmental data within UNEP reporting systems), ProEcoServ (integrating ecosystem assessment, scenario development and economic valuation of ecosystem services into sustainable national development planning) and the IGAD Biodiversity Programme (assessing national policies and developing regional policy frameworks for biodiversity management within the Horn of Africa). These very specific projects are restricted either to one geographical area or specific reporting requirement, and can therefore only form part of the solution. Furthermore, many of these initiatives are externally funded, and systems that have been set up have not been taken over by domestic budgets. One reason for this may be that governments are not be convinced that these systems are truly addressing national development priorities. Another reason for the failure of many projects to successfully integrate biodiversity into decision making is that evidence-based policy making and decision making is a complex and multi-faceted process (see Box 3).

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| **Box 3. Evidence-based policy making and decision making**  **Evidence-based policy** is public policy informed by rigorously established objective evidence. It is an extension of the idea of evidence-based medicine to all areas of public policy. An important aspect of evidence-based policy is the use of scientifically rigorous studies such as randomized controlled trials to identify programs and practices capable of improving policy-relevant outcomes. However, some areas of knowledge are not well served by quantitative research, leading to debate about the methods and instruments that are considered critical for the collection of relevant evidence. **Good data**, **analytical skills** and **political support** are seen as the important elements[[44]](#footnote-45).  There is somerecent preference for the term “evidence-informed” rather than “evidence based”, as few would discount the role of public opinion, political expediency, and ideology as shaping even the most rational use of research evidence[[45]](#footnote-46). |

1. In summary the baseline is that biodiversity information not being used sufficiently within government decision making to halt biodiversity loss (see Section 2.6). There have been many initiatives at the international, regional, and national level that are trying to tackle the issue that this project will learn lessons from, build upon and leverage in order to sustainably embed biodiversity information within national level decision making.

## 

## **2.7 Linkages with other GEF and non-GEF interventions**

1. Working closely with partner organisations and initiatives is key to fulfilling the objectives of this project. This project will seek to align closely with the following projects:

**GEF programmes and investments**

1. This project will depart from achievements in other GEF projects dealing with different aspects of biodiversity information and mainstreaming, including natural capital accounting initiatives. Although relevant, they do not form part of the financial baseline for this project (a note is made where these have been updated since the PIF):
   1. **Biodiversity Indicators Partnership** (GEF-funded from 2007-2011): Implemented by UNEP. The CBD-mandated BIP is the global partnership (with over forty organizations) to promote and coordinate development and delivery of biodiversity indicators in support of the CBD, other MEAs, IPBES, national and regional governments and a range of other sectors. The BIP is an example of where GEF funding has catalyzed the creation of a long term initiative, as it continues to connect data providers (BIP indicator partners) with end users (the CBD Secretariat (sCBD) and other MEAs) under other funding streams.
   2. **Support to GEF Eligible Countries for Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 17 through a Globally Guided NBSAPs Update Process** (2014-2016): Implemented by UNDP and UNEP. The NBSAP Forum is a partnership between sCBD, UNEP, UNDP, Governments, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and others, working to provide coordinated support for NBSAP revision and implementation.
   3. **ProEcoServ** (2012-2016): Implemented by UNEP. The ProEcoServ project is piloting the bundling of ecosystem services and the integration of ecosystem services approaches into resource management and decision making. It focused on countries where an ecosystem assessment had taken place within the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, and emphasized the policy applications of assessment outputs.
   4. **UNDP-GEF Biodiversity Mainstreaming portfolio** (described in detail under Component 1 baseline, below). These projects focused on in-country mainstreaming efforts with limited up-scaling to other countries, and without a common theory of change that was built upon and elaborated for wider use.
   5. **UNEP** has a large portfolio of GEF projects around agricultural biodiversity, including projects associated with mainstreaming and the use of biodiversity information[[46]](#footnote-47).
   6. **Global Forest Watch 2.0** (2013-2016): Implemented by UNEP. A mapping application that unites satellite technology, open data, and crowd-sourcing to guarantee access to timely and reliable information about forests.
   7. **Migratory Soaring Birds Project** (2010-2015, second phase, from 2015 on, being negotiated): BirdLife International project aims to integrate migratory bird information into key sectors of our societies including agriculture, energy, hunting, tourism, and waste management in eleven Middle-East and North-east African countries.
   8. UNEP GEF project on ***In situ* Conservation of Crop Wild Relatives Through Enhanced Information Management and Field Application, a global multi-country project implemented in Armenia, Brazil, Bolivia, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan.** The objective of this projects was enhanced conservation of crop wild relatives in project partner countries and enhanced capacity to use information to support their conservation and sustainable utilization. One of the major outputs of this project is a Global Portal ([www.cropwildrelatives.org](http://www.cropwildrelatives.org)) that offers a wealth of information on wild relatives of crops**.** By making such information widely accessible the (CWR) Global Portal contributes to more effective conservation and sustainable use of wild relatives through better-informed decision making by policymakers, researchers and conservationists. Information sources include the project’s country partners, international partners (BGCI, FAO, IUCN, and UNEP-WCMC), and data from other countries, accessible via the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).
   9. UNEP GEF project on *Improving Brazilian Capacity to Conserve and Use Biodiversity through Information Management and Use*. This project aims to ensure data-driven policy design and implementation by facilitating and mainstreaming biodiversity information into decision-making and policy development processes. This will be achieved by: (i) consolidating the infrastructure, instruments, tools, and technology required to qualify, gather and make the biodiversity information contained in the resources of the country’s biological collections freely available online through the Brazilian Biodiversity Information System (SIBBr); (ii) strengthening institutional and taxonomic capacities to ensure continuous uploading and updating of information into SIBBr; and (iii) development of products and services that will allow key decision-makers to establish policies that integrate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use objectives into the operations of the productive sectors.
   10. **The** GEF-funded project on **Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to National Reporting to the Rio Conventions** (FNR\_Rio) (2009-2012): reviewed reporting processes in six LDCs and SIDS. This project recommended that there were four key areas needing attention: strengthening institutional arrangements for reporting; strengthening national systems of monitoring and reporting; enhancing capacity for data collection and analysis; and enhancing reporting quality including through improvements in the use of data and information. It is worth noting that pilot countries recognised that these recommendations were as relevant to implementation as to their reporting obligations.

**Non-GEF initiatives**

1. Furthermore, a few existing and future initiatives contribute to to ensuing biodiversity is taken into account in decision making across government sectors by improving end users access to and use of biodiversity information and embedding biodiversity information within national decision making processes. Several of these initiatives will contribute to the baseline co-financing of the proposed project*:* 
   1. **JRS Biodiversity Foundation (**ongoing**)** support including e.g. recent grants that will create a better understanding of the policy landscape among African countries that shapes the supply of and the demand for biodiversity information. As indicated in Section 3, there has been little research to date to understand whether and how national policies are supporting biodiversity information access and how biodiversity information, in turn, supports sound policy. Recently announced (Jan 2015) JRS grants target this knowledge gap (total $150,000; 2015-2017): [African Technology Policy Studies Network](http://jrsbiodiversity.org/grant/atps/) – Biodiversity Informatics Policy Landscape; and [Conservation International Foundation](http://jrsbiodiversity.org/grant/conservation-international-foundation/) – GDSA Country Policy and Bioinformatics Projects Review; and [Institute of Policy Analysis and Research Rwanda](http://jrsbiodiversity.org/grant/ipar-rwanda/) – Biodiversity Informatics Policy Research.
   2. **Satellite-based Wetland Observation Service** (SWOS; 2015-2018; $5,601,100**)**: coordinated by Jena-Optronik. The objectives of SWOS are to (1) promote and underpin the consideration of wetlands in the implementation of key policy areas, (2) develop an operational, standardized monitoring service and service portal for wetlands and their ecosystem services, (3) provide a unique entry point to easily locate, access and connect wetland information via the service portal, (4) use the new possibilities offered by the Sentinel satellites and (5) further develop existing approaches, in particular the GlobWetland II approach.
   3. **The NBSAP Forum** (2014-2016; $1,000,000): provides support for action and implementation on NBSAPs through 2020 (non-GEF funded portion, also tied to GEF funding via support to countries for their NBSAP revisions, and eventually their GEF Biodiversity Focal Area (BDFA) projects).
   4. **NBSAP 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development** (2012-2015 $720,000; 2015-2017 $270,000): UK Government Darwin Initiative-supported project advancing biodiversity-development mainstreaming and African leadership for this.
   5. **Advancing Natural Capital Accounting** (2014 and ongoing, implemented by TEEB): to assist countries and the business community in efforts to embark on Natural Capital Accounting.
   6. **SANBI: Mobilizing Africa’s Biodiversity Data** (2014-2015; $250,000): aims to develop a Biodiversity Data Mobilization Strategy for Africa, whilst enhancing regional collaboration and capacity in biodiversity informatics.
   7. **IGAD Biodiversity Programme** (2014-2020): assessing existing national policies and information systems and developing regional common policy and information frameworks for biodiversity management in South Sudan-Ethiopia, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Kenya-Somalia.
   8. **The Biodiversity Finance Initiative** (BIOFIN: 2012-2015; $20,000,000; managed by UNDP): aims to develop a methodology for quantifying the biodiversity finance gap at national level, improving cost-effectiveness through mainstreaming of biodiversity into national development and sectoral planning, and developing comprehensive national resource mobilising strategies.
   9. **UNEP Live** (on-going): a cutting-edge, dynamic new UNEP information platform to collect, process and share global environmental science and research.
   10. **OPERAs** (2013-2017; $12,000,000): an EU-funded research consortium focusing on [ecosystem services](http://www.operas-project.eu/glossary#ecosystem_services) and [natural capital](http://www.operas-project.eu/glossary#natural_capital) science and on enabling stakeholders to apply these concepts in practice.
   11. **GEO BON**: (ongoing): working with national and regional partners to develop a targeted toolkit (BON in a Box) that will serve to lower the threshold at which a national or regional biodiversity observing network can be established or enhanced. The development of BON in a Box starts with a process of engagement with decision makers and technical biodiversity information providers to identify and clearly indicate the information needs of decision-makers as well as identify existing information and capacity that can be deployed. The toolkit and the development of the biodiversity observing system is then developed and structured to directly serve these information needs and builds, as much as possible, on existing capacity. This work is currently being piloted in Latin America and will be expanded to other regions, including Africa through the Connect project. Such an initiative directly addresses the need for better, more accessible and discoverable biodiversity information that directly serves decision makers’ needs. It also addresses the fact that biodiversity information is not integrated into government decision making, as they may not see the direct relevance to national development priorities.
   12. **AFRIGEOSS** (ongoing): developed within the GEO framework to strengthen the link between the current GEO activities with existing capabilities and initiatives in Africa and provides the necessary framework for countries and organizations to access and leverage on-going bilateral and multilateral EO-based initiatives across Africa, thereby creating synergies and minimizing duplication for the benefit of the entire continent.
   13. **EU BON** (2013-2017; $12,993,102): an EU-funded research consortium building the European biodiversity observation network.
   14. **Global Biodiversity Information Facility** (GBIF: ongoing country funding): provides a single point of access to more than 400 million species records, shared freely by hundreds of institutions worldwide, making it the biggest biodiversity database on the Internet.
   15. **Protected Planet** (ongoing; $787,400 per year; UNEP-WCMC): an online portal for open-access to the World Database on Protected Areas.
   16. **ICRAF** (ongoing): Work by the World Agroforestry Centre to develop open-access maps of ecosystem resilience, diversity and degradation.
   17. **The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity** (TEEB: ongoing): a UNEP-facilitated global initiative focused on drawing attention to the economic benefits of biodiversity.
   18. **Sub-Global Assessment Network** (SGA Network; $2,000,000; ongoing; UNEP-WCMC)**:** a common platform for practitioners involved in ecosystem assessment at regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national levels.
   19. **Biodiversity Indicators Capacity Strengthening (BICS) in Africa** (2008-2010, $504,000, UNEP-WCMC): building capacity on indicator development. Funded by the UN Development Account, through UNEP.
   20. **Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BioPAMA**, 2012-2016**):** aims to address threats to biodiversity in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, while reducing poverty in communities in and around protected areas. Specifically, the programme will enhance existing institutions and networks by making the best available science and knowledge available for building capacity
   21. **BirdLife’s Datazone:** is a web-based resource that houses the *State of the World’s Birds* (and thematic reports focusing on species, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas [IBAs] etc.), country profiles, and other topics, and provides powerful analyses and information to guide evidence-based action on the ground, and better inform and influence decision-making, at local, national, regional and global scales.
   22. **The Africa Environmental Information Network** (AEIN) is a multi-stakeholder capacity building process that aims to harness and enhance access to information and knowledge to support the management of Africa's environmental resources as assets for sustainable development. AEIN is designed to provide a broad framework for the effective harnessing of information and knowledge on environmental resources, and how people are affected by changes in the environment. This knowledge will be channelled into decision-making processes, particularly within the framework of national socio-economic development priorities, as well as the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).

**UNEP-WCMC’s range of biodiversity data, information, and knowledge initiatives**

1. UNEP-WCMC works with a large range of international, regional, and national partners to develop and publish biodiversity and ecosystem services data, information, and knowledge products through a range of ongoing projects:

**Mind the Gap:** Enabling data-informed decision making by replicating successful sub-global indicator initiatives to fill global indicator gaps

1. The Mind the Gap project (2015-2018) takes an innovative, targeted, and cost effective approach to fill key global gaps in the knowledge and evidence base relating to biodiversity and the pressures on it – specifically gaps in the biodiversity indicator suite (an essential source of evidence for reporting biodiversity change and the impact of policies and actions to conserve biodiversity). Gaps will first be identified and then prioritized. Then, successful indicators for these gaps will be identified at the sub-global scale. These local successes will then be investigated to find ways to replicate them in other contexts and at other spatial scales. Finally, these indicators will be developed and scaled up to the global level to fill the global gaps. In doing so, this project will help to strengthen the knowledge and evidence base relating to biodiversity and the pressures upon it, leading to a better understanding of the global, regional, and national status and trends in biodiversity, and consequently providing evidence to inform actions to prevent biodiversity loss.

**NBSAPS 2.0: From Policy to Practice**

1. The project (2015-2016) will work with the environment ministries and agencies in selected African countries with the objective of incorporating biodiversity-development mainstreaming plans into project countries’ revised NBSAPs (the main project purpose) such that they are implemented, measured and reciprocated in national development plans and processes.

**Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Development**

1. This project (2015-2016) will contribute to the capacity development of selected countries (to be decided) in Sub-Saharan Africa to mainstream biodiversity considerations into their development planning processes (e.g. finance, infrastructure, agriculture, forestry and mining).

**Sub-Global Assessment (SGA) Network**

1. The SGA Network is a global community of practice for those involved in ecosystem assessment at a global, regional, national and sub-national scales providing on-line support, information and in person training. The Network promotes and facilitates improved capacity in undertaking and using ecosystem assessments at regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national levels.

**Ecosystem Information for Natural Capital Accounting**

1. Within UNEP, UNEP-WCMC is leading on a programme of work (2015-2016) under the title of Ecosystem Information for Natural Capital Assessment. The work includes developing knowledge packages around indicators and assessments, and providing a global community of practice to support practitioners and country focused support on mainstreaming such information. Most of the project will be focussed in the African region.

**Protected Planet Report for Africa**

1. Using data from the World Database on Protected Areas, the most comprehensive database of its kind hosted and managed by UNEP-WCMC, and building on the Protected Planet Report 2014, this project will provide a detailed regional analysis of protected areas information for Africa to be delivered by 2016.

**The Integrated Biodiversity Assessment Tool (IBAT)**

1. IBAT is designed specifically to provide businesses with a coherent, consistent picture of important biodiversity data in a single online portal. Developed through a partnership comprising four highly respected environmental organizations, IBAT compiles critical biodiversity data in accordance with globally accepted standards. A research and conservation planning version is being developed for non-commercial users.

**The Online Reporting System (ORS)**

1. ORS provides a standardized, easy-to-use and inexpensive tool to help the parties and secretariats of MEAs track progress towards national and international commitments, and to effectively manage critically important issues such as wildlife trade.

**UN REDD**

1. Current work in Uganda continues into mid 2016 in support of UN REDD national programmes through the provision of the safeguard help desk and includes mapping work on forests. This is also supplemented by the provision of global GIS modules and training materials available to UN REDD countries globally.
2. Depending on government decision makers’ needs, UNEP-WCMC commits to repackage, reformat and/or reanalyze existing UNEP-WCMC biodiversity and ecosystem services information products and services and make them available for national decision making within the three demonstration countries of the Connect project (see Section 3.1) as well as providing specific demand-driven training under this to build capacity for biodiversity and ecosystem services information management, analysis, and interpretation.

**UNEP Programme of Work**

1. As implementing agency for the Connect project, UNEP is a key partner for UNEP-WCMC. Many projects within UNEP Sub-Programme 3, Ecosystem Management and Sub-Programme 7 Environment Under Review are undertaking activities which directly support or which will benefit from the implementation of the Connect project. These include VANTAGE (Strengthening decision-making through valuation and accounting for natural capital for green economy) , UNEP Live (UNEP’s on-line data portal which aims to support assessment processes through the provisions of substantiated, contextualised knowledge about the environment for diverse communities of practice) thematic and integrated mapping services (including several African projects e.g. Africa Mountains Atlas, Uganda Wetlands Atlas) and Post 2015 tools and capacity development for monitoring and reporting on SDGs. The project specifically links to Sub-Programme 3 (Ecosystem Management) Expected Accomplishment A(c) “Services and benefits derived from ecosystems are integrated with development planning and accounting, particularly in relation to wider landscapes and coastal zones and the implementation of bio-diversity –related MEAs)”: Output 1 “Cross sector-awareness and understanding of the importance of biodiversity and ecosystems services for sustainable development is improved through technical support, partnerships and targeted outreach”. It also links to Sub-Programme 7 (Environment Under Review) Expected Accomplishment (c) “The capacity of countries to generate, access, analyse and communicate environmental information and knowledge is enhanced”: Output 731 “Global best practices are identified and/or developed to build capacity and catalyse access by governments, major groups and other stakeholders to information tools, and provide technology support to generate, validate, contribute to, access and communicate integrated environmental data and information”.

**The Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), GBIF Africa, and the Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) project**

1. The Biodiversity Information for Development (BID) project (2015-2020) is a Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) (see Section 2.4) project funded by the European Commission to identify and meet the capacity needs for mobilization, discovery and use of biodiversity data for research and policy. It will fund projects that establish and strengthen national or regional biodiversity information networks and systems, adapting the model in use by the GBIF network. GBIF, through the BID project, will work closely with this Connect project to establish or strengthen national biodiversity information networks and systems in each of the Connect project demonstration countries. There are currently GBIF national nodes in both Ghana and Uganda. However, there is much work to be done to strengthen these nodes and embed them within government decision making processes. Through the Connect project GBIF will explore the potential to establish a national biodiversity information facility in Mozambique and provide funding for the establishment of such a node if needed. Through this collaboration between the *Connect* and BID projects, we will increase capacity at the national level to mobilise and manage biodiversity information for decision makers. We will also work closely with GBIF Africa to help realise their vision ‘A world in which Africa’s biodiversity information is freely and universally available, in service to science, decision making and the public good for a sustainable future in Africa’.

# Section 3: Intervention strategy

## **3.1 Project rationale, policy conformity and expected global environmental benefits**

**Project rationale**

1. The rapid depletion of the world’s biological resources is leading to disastrous impacts on the ability of this natural resource base to provide benefits to humans (described in Section 2.1). Currently, decisions taken across government sectors do not fully take into account potential long-term negative consequences on the natural resource base, leading to unintended impacts on biodiversity and subsequent detrimental effects on their economies. This trend is set to continue unless action towards more sustainable development is stepped up considerably at the national level10. The project will address the barriers[[47]](#footnote-48) and root causes of this issue (set out in detail in Section 2.3) in order to move from the existing baseline situation (see Section 2.6) towards achieving the objective of assisting governments to achieve sustainable development by bringing biodiversity to the heart of government decision making using actionable biodiversity information[[48]](#footnote-49).



1. The Connect project aims to address these barriers by helping end users understand how biodiversity information can be used to inform key decision points or processes via:

* **Component 1: Demand** - empowering stakeholders with appropriate information for decision support
* **Component 2: Supply** - providing capacity and creating the infrastructure for addressing future needs; and
* **Component 3: Sustain** - providing the means to sustain and grow the connections made beyond the project lifespan.

**Project demonstration countries**

1. The project will work in three countries in different regions of Sub-Saharan Africa[[49]](#footnote-50). Each demonstration is designed to investigate the role of biodiversity information and the potential impact of this information within decision making in different sectoral contexts. Each demonstration country would have a similar governance structure to enable comparability and have enough in common to facilitate peer-to-peer support. The participating countries are Ghana, Uganda, and Mozambique (Figure 2).
2. These demonstration countries all adhere to the selection criteria (see Annex 2). Annex 2 describes the demonstration cases in more detail, including information on: the background and context; institutional and legal frameworks; stakeholder mapping and intervention strategy.
3. Although all of the demonstration countries are in Africa, many of the factors affecting decision making are common globally (see Section 2.6). The project will explore these factors in depth by testing the project theory of change (see Section 3.4) in the three national level demonstration countries in order to draw lessons that can be interpreted and applied at a global scale. The global relevance of the project will partly be ensured through an International Technical Advisory Group (ITAUG; see Section 3.1 and Appendix 8) comprising world-leading experts on biodiversity information management and mainstreaming.

**Policy conformity**

1. The Connect project will directly address BDFA Objective 2 Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscape/seascapes and sectors and, more specifically, Outcome 2.2 Measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity incorporated in policy and regulatory frameworks. The outcomes of the project are designed to build on earlier GEF investments, as well as ensuring the capability and confidence of actors in tackling evolving and emerging issues both nationally and globally – thereby ‘future-proofing’ over the long-term.
2. The long-term objective (at a GEF biodiversity mainstreaming portfolio level) is that all governments are able to easily access relevant information about the distribution/status of, potential threats to, and changes in biodiversity as applicable/relevant to its key development questions; that this information is seen as legitimate, delivered in a timely manner, of good enough quality and presented in an accessible way such that it can be used routinely within the decision making process. Government policies and decisions would therefore appropriately factor in and apply measures that take into account the value of biodiversity to sustainable development, while contributing to and facilitating green economic growth and poverty reduction.
3. The Connect project will collaborate with partners at the CBD Secretariat (as well as other MEAs) and the IPBES Secretariat to ensure that outputs of the project are relevant to global and national policy reporting and implementation. In particular the project will help to improve future national reporting and assessments of progress to the CBD (and other MEA secretariats) in two ways: it will improve the demonstration countries’ capacity to report on these policies and processes through increased accessibility to, and ability to use, biodiversity information; and it will support other countries through the upscaling approach, encouraging adoption and replication of the lessons learned regionally and globally. In so doing the project will help in the creation of more accurate assessments of progress towards the Aichi Targets and associated policy-focused responses.
4. The Connect project contributes directly to the achievement of the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its associated Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including Target 2 and 19 as identified in the Project Summary. The CBD urges Parties to revise and update their NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan and as noted in COP 10 Decision X/2  to “...use the revised and updated national biodiversity strategies and action plans as effective instruments for the integration of biodiversity targets into national development and poverty reduction policies and strategies…”. Revision and updating of NBSAPs should take into account new or improved biodiversity information. Linked to this is CBD COP 10 Decision X/6, which recognises “the urgent need to improve capacity for mainstreaming the three objectives of the Convention into poverty eradication strategies and plans (e.g., Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, national development plans) and development processes.” The project will result in the improved capacity for mainstreaming in the three demonstration countries.
5. The work of IPBES in providing credible information and policy tools for decision makers is still in its early days. The development of regional and thematic assessments through the IPBES Programme of Work will increase the need for biodiversity information and enhanced capacity, to which this project will contribute. One of the four pillars of IPBES is focused on building capacity - an identified need under this is to address the conversion of scientific/social assessments of biodiversity into a format easily understood by policy makers. The Connect Project speaks to this need, as does UNEP-WCMC’s role in support of the SGA Network (see Section 2.7).
6. The Connect Project Steering Committee and ITAUG (see Section 4) will provide oversight in terms of following the progress of international initiatives such as IPBES and the SDG indicator process. Where relevant, the Connect project will seek to improve the demonstration countries’ ability to report on the biodiversity and ecosystem services indicators within the SDGs when these are finalised to the United Nations Statistics Council. Indeed UNEP-WCMC, through the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, will be closely involved in this process and the EC-funded Mind the Gap project (see Section 2.7) on global biodiversity indicators that will inter alia examine how development of Aichi Target indicators still under development have synergy with the SDG reporting process.
7. UNEP-WCMC are also involved in mobilising biodiversity and ecosystem services information for regional reporting and policy implementation in Africa within the context of the Gaborone Declaration and the Cairo Declaration on Managing Africa’s Natural Capital for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication (see Section 2.4). This project will draw in additional experience and knowledge to help further the building of partnerships and regional collaboration in terms of policy conformity.

**Global environmental benefits**

1. The project is a **global showcase** of how to support governments to achieve sustainable development by bringing biodiversity to the heart of government decision making using actionable biodiversity information. The project design achieves a balance of “deep” interventions in a small number of related countries, with “broad” engagement and showcasing at the global level. The latter will be achieved through peer engagement at a sub-regional level and links to the global level via an ITAUG and up-scaling efforts. The project will deliver proof of concepts linking biodiversity information and mainstreaming to the global community through a focus on national demonstrations thereby optimising global investments made into biodiversity mainstreaming, allowing for better outcomes for biodiversity management and providing greater return on investments by donors.
2. The Connect project’s interventions at a national level aims to assist three national governments to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity, by supporting them in accessing credible and legitimate information on biodiversity in a way which is salient to national development policies, frameworks and land-use decisions. This will be done by demonstrating the contribution that biodiversity and ecosystem services can make across government sectors (see Annex 2). With biodiversity information utilised far more, government measures will factor in and put in place measures to to take full account of biodiversity value in sustainable development., By the end point of the project, national agencies and officials within the demonstrations will have the information, relevant tools, capacity and commitment to conserve biodiversity (see Section 3.7).
3. While working nationally, the global impacts of the project are assured through the project’s up-scaling strategy (described in detail in Annex 1: Theory of change and design considerations), which involves:

* **Embedding the project in the CBD:** working hand-in-hand with the CBD secretariat to ensure project alignment with global priorities, and taking advantage of opportunities for dissemination and formalisation of the project’s proven approaches. Within the implementation phase, the project would engage CBD Focal Points at certain points to get their feedback on the project results as they become available (either through SBSTTA workshops or surveys).
* **International Technical Advisory and Up-scaling Group (ITAUG):** while the name suggests an advisory group, the role of the ITAUG should be **both advisory and up-scaling.** It is to be constituted of countries/organisations that play an appropriate capacity development role in their respective regions (they largely meet this criteria already) and bring (near) global coverage. The terms of reference for the ITAUG are provided in Appendix 8. Additionally, project funds will be made available for ITAUG members bringing forward project outputs in their respective regions, **e.g. via regional workshops, translation costs, etc.** (see budget Appendix 1 and 2).
* **Regional organisation engagement:** through knowledge transfer activities the Connect project will engage with relevant regional organisations and initiatives in order to inform them of project outputs and outcomes.
* **Dissemination strategy:** The project has an emphasis on research, lessons synthesis and knowledge management. The project will benefit from partnerships with academic and technical partners to study a set of research questions and yield new peer-reviewed literature on the basis of its findings. For example, the recent ‘World Development Report: Mind, Society and Behaviour’[[50]](#footnote-51), published by the World Bank, explores the relationship between human decision making and development policy. The project will draw on this, and other recent literature, working with academic specialists in this area, to identify influencing factors on development decision maker’s behaviour once information identified as salient, credible and legitimate is in their hands (the latter aspect to be covered through leveraged co-financing).
* **Theory of Change:** A validated and improved theory of change (see Annex 1) will be an important project output to support up-scaling. This ‘testing’ of the project theory of change will provide critical lessons regarding the dynamics for mainstreaming, and in particular which elements should be focused on when aiming to turn data, information and knowledge into tangible outcomes for biodiversity.

## **3.2 Project goal and objective**

1. **The Project Goal is to** help achieve sustainable development by bringing biodiversity information to the heart of government decision making using actionable biodiversity information (see Appendix 3: Project Results Framework).
2. **Project Objective:** To ensure biodiversity is taken into account in decision making across government sectors by improving development decision makers’ access to and use of biodiversity information and embedding biodiversity information within national development decision making processes.
3. *At a global level, the project objectives are:*

* Biodiversity data, information, and knowledge products, proof-of-concept models, good practices, lessons and tools, developed iteratively and through active showcasing and facilitated interaction with the three demonstration countries;
* Improved global understanding of and capacity to use and generate biodiversity information to influence development outcomes;
* Revision and development of project theory of change through practice and applied research.

1. T*he specific national level project objectives are:* (see also Annex 2).
   1. To clearly understand the in-country demands for, and the barriers to using, biodiversity information within government decision making including clarifying the format, timing and packaging required.
   2. To mobilise and repackage existing biodiversity data and information from a range of sources (national and international) to meet a number of the above demands; and,
   3. To strengthen the connection between government decision makers and biodiversity and ecosystem services data providers in order to sustainably provide policy-relevant, spatially explicit information to meet ongoing national needs.

## **3.3 Project components and expected results**

1. The ultimate objective of the project is that decision making processes in the three demonstration countries more explicitly account for biodiversity information leading to sustainable development outcomes, and that the lessons from this will be disseminated and shared at the regional and global level. The project will do this by:
   1. understanding the potential and unexploited **demand** for biodiversity information (Component 1);
   2. **supply**ing that window of opportunity with salient, credible and legitimate information, supported by other enabling interventions (Component 2); and
   3. embedding that information within decision making processes (Component 3 - **Sustain**).
2. The long-term change that the Connect project will support and the beneficiaries of this are described here:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Problem statement** | End-users are not using important information about biodiversity when making decisions due to barriers of access, willingness, and/or capability (detailed in Section 2.3) | *Links to project outcome 1: Decision points or processes across government sectors are identified where biodiversity information can be influential, and the barriers to data sharing identified* |
| **Desired change in behavior** | That end-users are using salient, legitimate and credible information (see Section 2.1) about biodiversity (overcoming barriers of access, willingness and capability; see Section 2.3) | *Links to project outcome 2: Technical stakeholders (i.e. technical staff in governments and supportive institutions) are more easily able to acquire and share relevant data, and use this to communicate effectively, for current and future information needs.* |
| **Desired long-term outcome** | Government policies and decisions appropriately factor in and apply measures that take into account the value of biodiversity to sustainable development, contributing to and facilitating green economic growth and poverty reduction. | *Links to project outcome 3: Policy frameworks, including accounting and reporting systems, across a range of sectors are incorporating biodiversity considerations.* |

1. The project will achieve its objectives through three main components. **Appendix 3,** *Project Logical Framework*, contains the Project Results Framework and a listing of the main Components, Outcomes and Outputs. **Appendix 4**, the Workplan, provides a complete listing of the Key Activities by component and output as well as an indication of the timeframe. Components and their outcomes, and the outputs and activities necessary to achieve them, were specifically defined during the PPG phase in response to a process of participation and joint reflection on the part of the national partners in Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda based on the findings of the different background studies and consultations that were undertaken during the PPG.
2. Further details on specific activities under each component are provided in the section below.

## **3.4 Intervention logic and key assumptions**

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| **Component 1: Mainstreaming entry points and response strategies**  **OUTCOME 1: Decision points or processes across government sectors are identified where biodiversity information can be influential, and the barriers to data sharing identified** |

**Intervention logic**

1. During the inception phase of the project, the project will give thorough consideration to the **political and economic contexts** in each of the demonstration countries through strategic interventions such as Political Economy Analysis (see Section 3.1) [[51]](#footnote-52). This will assist in revealing the relationships (both visible and hidden) between key actors involved in producing (or obstructing) meaningful changes within the demonstration countries, a vital step in triangulating responses to identified barriers. The project will also seek to understand the context and current capacity of development decision makers and technical stakeholders in terms of competencies, resources and enabling conditions. Potential bottlenecks in the embedding of biodiversity information into decision making frameworks would also be identified through the systematic stakeholder mapping of potential ‘champions’ and ‘blockers’[[52]](#footnote-53). A stakeholder analysis will allow for identification of the key players in each demonstration and engage these actors in the project through the national User Boards early on in order to ensure that:
   1. Buy-in at the national level is secured
   2. Effective solutions are designed and implemented successfully
   3. Longevity of the project is maintained by creating ‘champions’ to take the work forward
2. Through the guidance of the national User Boards and the Political Economy Analysis, an effective and politically feasible strategy will be developed to take advantage of the **mainstreaming entry points** in each demonstration country. During this phase, development decision makers will be encouraged to be more transparent about how decisions are made, and how and when information is used in decision making processes. Sharing their views, interests and concerns with data providers, will help frame a response strategy that is **mutually engaging, useful and relevant[[53]](#footnote-54)**. This strategy will clarify the spectrum of “**push and pull**” for biodiversity data and build an enabling environment for the embedding of the biodiversity information mobilised in Component 2 into decision making processes. Strategies developed within Component 1 will be heavily vetted by national and international partners to ensure the project entry points and intervention strategies are designed for best possible impact. The active engagement of experts with long term in-country experience will also be key element.

**Activities and outputs**

*Output 1.1: Multi-sectoral development decisions and/or processes identified that have an unmet demand for / potential to be influenced by relevant biodiversity information:*

1. The project will work with a set of motivated countries – Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda - to identify the government development decisions or processes that have a demand for relevant biodiversity and ecosystem services supply information that is currently not being met. The preliminary step in each country would be to undertake a Political Economy Analysis in order to understand the political and economic contexts in which the project will work. Through a national level workshop, each country would identify and assess either decision points or other “windows of opportunity” that biodiversity information and analyses would feed into. This may be linked to recently updated NBSAPs or NBSAP development processes, depending on the stage and possible entry points identified (across government sectors). It will involve a user needs assessment identifying national priorities and information needs for biodiversity, including, for example, key questions about development options (e.g. to allow palm oil plantations or new agricultural development policies). This will also include sectors other than natural resource management sectors for which biodiversity information should be critical and where changes in decisions will have significant impact, for example, national accounting with finance ministries. A vital element of this is responding to these nationally identified priorities with an innovative strategy and mechanism, which is the focus of Output 1.3. The above activity will help to create a proof of concept for each demonstration country, which subsequent activity will help to validate.

*Output 1.2: User groups at national level advise on, review and validate project outputs:*

1. The process in each country would be led through and advised by a national User Board established to: (i) provide expert input throughout the life of the project; (ii) ensure continued relevancy of all outputs; and (iii) engage with and provide ownership of the project by all stakeholders, including the national CBD focal point and relevant project authority. This group would also act as a user group to review and validate project outputs.

*Output 1.3: An innovative strategy to mainstream biodiversity information into identified decision processes is devised in each demonstration country:*

1. Through the guidance of the national User Board, as well as the national project team, an analysis of the decision making framework for each demonstration will be undertaken. The results of this will be used to develop a strategy to take advantage of the mainstreaming entry points in each country. This strategy will clarify the spectrum of “push and pull” for biodiversity data. For example, in some cases processes need biodiversity data and information and decision makers are not aware of its availability, in other cases there are decision points where biodiversity information could be factored in but is not requested. There are even more cases where there are reporting demands (such as CBD reports and State of the Environment reports) or planning processes that could make use of biodiversity data but have difficulty accessing it (see Section 2.6).

*Output 1.4: Targeted interventions devised to neutralize or address identified barriers to biodiversity data sharing in each demonstration country:*

1. Within Component 1, each country’s User Board would identify the most important barriers to biodiversity data sharing. . A desk study, completed by in-country project teams, will also review information on barriers to data sharing gathered from the outputs of meetings held during the PIF and PPG phase of the project (see Annex 3). Strategic, well-targeted interventions will then be devised to neutralise or address these barriers. Furthermore, even if systems can be set up and some barriers to exchange can be withdrawn, there needs to be enough political and/or senior civil service level demand to continue to budget (with domestic funds) for systems and adapt them to future needs.

*Output 1.5: Upscaling approach devised and implemented, including improved identification of entry points / response strategies achieved by sharing experiences, lessons, good practices, tools, etc. between countries and globally:*

1. Each country will develop and document a proposed upscaling approach synthesising improvements to existing interventions and any novel approaches which have been developed to address barriers to data sharing based on their particular experiences that other countries can learn from, whether at national level or in a specific sector where a strong case can be made that biodiversity information can influence development decisions and outcomes. Up-scaling (**Output 1.5**) will be a critical part of this, and every, outcome. Opportunities to engage with the **communities of potential user countries and potential implementing partners** (described in Section 3.9 on Replication and upscaling approaches) will be sought in order to validate project outputs at each stage and provide a forum in which to share lessons learned. The ITAUG (see Section 4) will provide a global oversight of the project and ensure that the experiences, lessons, good practices, tools, etc. are shared, between countries and globally, in order that each participating country and other countries will become iteratively better at influencing development decisions and processes using biodiversity information.

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| **Component 2: Capacity to respond (using appropriate information)**  **OUTCOME 2: Technical stakeholders (i.e. technical staff in governments and supportive institutions) are more easily able to acquire and share relevant data, and use this to communicate effectively, for current and future information needs.** |

**Intervention logic**

1. How information is produced, vetted and disseminated is a strong determinant on the potential influence it may have[[54]](#footnote-55)[[55]](#footnote-56)20[[56]](#footnote-57). Several studies[[57]](#footnote-58)20[[58]](#footnote-59)21[[59]](#footnote-60)[[60]](#footnote-61)[[61]](#footnote-62)[[62]](#footnote-63) indicate that there is strong scientific evidence showing that:
   1. The process by which information is generated and delivered affects the potential of that information process to influence outcomes
   2. The extent of influence depends on the relationship of the audience to the information
   3. Information influence depends far more on its conduct than on its content
   4. Information influence is relational, that means that we cannot evaluate information influence in general, but only its influence with different potential audiences.
2. It is well recognised that transforming scientific evidence into ‘usable knowledge’ is not a straightforward process[[63]](#footnote-64),[[64]](#footnote-65),[[65]](#footnote-66),[[66]](#footnote-67),[[67]](#footnote-68). Indeed, as Vogel et al. remark, the reality is that all too often “the scientific output is more likely to be mismatched to user requirements, i.e. not what practitioners need; it may not be delivered in time or in appropriate formats; those interacting do not communicate well; scientists feel their credibility is negatively affected by collaborating with practitioners; stakeholders do not feel their legitimate concerns are addressed; and so on”[[68]](#footnote-69)
3. To be influential, potential users must view the information as **salient** and **legitimate** as well as **credible** (see Section 2.1). The project will employ pre-emptive strategies to increase the chances of producing information that is perceived as salient, legitimate and credible by government decision makers. This will include repackaging and reformatting existing information knowledge products to be restructured around the identified decision-makers’ information needs. Evidence shows that information influence is relational, and highly dependent on the relationship of the audience to the information. To account for this the project will instigate and nurture **strategic project partner** relationships based on trust and effective communication. This will improve the perception of legitimacy and credibility, and will also improve the understanding of the decision maker's information needs and requirements (salience).

**Activities and outputs**

*Output 2.1: Biodiversity information products and processes utilizing innovative mechanisms and technologies are developed / strengthened and trialed to respond to the demands for biodiversity information*

1. As appropriate to the proof of concept selected within each country (identified in the PPG phase and validated under **Output 1.1**), an effort would be made to respond to the key data needs and opportunities identified. Indicatively, this could involve, in each country as appropriate: reviewing the current state of knowledge, where this information is housed/stored, in what format and by whom; a rapid data mobilisation exercise, including sourcing and repackaging of existing data (not new data gathering or monitoring); and/or identifying global or regional datasets that can be relevant at national level.
2. Working with key projects such as the GEO BON ‘BON in a Box’ Project, the GBIF ‘BID’ Project and the BioPAMA project (see Section 2.7), a national action plan to meet the demand for biodiversity information identified under **Output 1.1** would also be developed by each country. These efforts could consist of, as appropriate to each national context: transforming existing data into a format which is understood and easily accessible to development decision makers and is relevant to key questions (form, timing, packaging, language, availability, accessibility, etc.) and/or global data products/ tools downscaled to be nationally relevant (e.g. “ProtectedUganda.net” a national portal for ProtectedPlanet.net). Here, national data could feed into global products to refine data or be used to update or revise nationally relevant communication products already in existence, e.g. national State of the Environment Report.

*Output 2.2: Public sector capacity to respond to future requests or opportunities for biodiversity information (including data standards, data management, technologies, reporting systems, etc.) is built/enhanced*

1. The project would enhance public sector capacity to respond to this and other future requests or opportunities for biodiversity information . Indicatively, as relevant to each national context, this may involve: developing data standards and data collection protocols; developing data management, analysis and reporting systems; outreach from regional technical, mentoring, or targeted training on systems for national accounting, development processes, or permitting / approvals systems; closer collaboration with natural capital accounting initiatives, specific sectors or national-level systems; and/or streamlining processes to identify and fill data gaps.

*Output 2.3: Establishment or formalization of partnerships necessary for the acquisition, sharing and delivery of biodiversity information and catalyzing the further development of national biodiversity monitoring networks.*

1. Fundamental to the above activities is partnership development and analytical support (data validation, processing, etc.) to make remotely-sensed and in-situ data products available and applicable nationally, as well as ensuring relevant data are validated, endorsed by competent national institutions (e.g. statistical offices) and incorporated into national data management systems. This is likely to require an iterative dialogue between end-users and providers. The project would therefore support, including via the development of the BON in a Box project, the establishment or formalisation of partnerships necessary for the acquisition, sharing and successful delivery of biodiversity information, as well as catalyzing the further development of national biodiversity monitoring networks.

*Output 2.4: Up-scaling approach devised and implemented including that capacity for responding with appropriate data information is improved iteratively by replication and transfer of these innovative mechanisms and technology between countries and globally:*

1. The first three outputs of Component 2 will result in tried and tested examples of how innovative technologies and mechanisms can respond to national biodiversity data needs. As well, improved systems will be in place to deliver ongoing and relevant biodiversity information to support decision-making. These showcases can not only become shared lessons for national, regional, and global initiatives and organisations but could potentially be replicated or rolled out for other countries Opportunities to engage with the **communities of potential user countries and potential implementing partners** (described in Section 3.9 on Replication and upscaling approaches) will be sought in order to validate project outputs at each stage and provide a forum in which to share lessons learned.

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| **Component 3: Embed/integrate necessary information into national development systems**  **OUTCOME 3: Policy frameworks, including accounting and reporting systems, across a range of sectors are incorporating biodiversity considerations** |

**Intervention logic**

1. Efforts under this component will focus on better understanding the attitudes and motivations of government decision makers in terms of using biodiversity information within their everyday work. There is a diversity of barriers that exist for most sustainable behaviour and simply providing information alone cannot address these71. According to the Overseas Development Institute[[69]](#footnote-70), there is a very wide variety of activities to influence behavioural change in key actors. One way to categorise them is to distinguish between approaches that take the ‘inside track’, working closely with decision makers, versus ‘outside track’ approaches that seek to influence change through pressure and confrontation. There is also a distinction between approaches that are led by evidence and research versus those that involve values and interests. Figure 3 shows these four possible approaches to policy influencing.



**Figure 3. Policy influencing approaches**

1. Instead of having an advocacy/outside track approach to influence behaviour and policy, the project will work closely with the national User Boards in order to have a more Advising/inside track approach. This would entail working with decision makers to influence their behaviour through the provision of authoritative information about biodiversity and ecosystem services (evidence/science-based). Cross-ministerial fora will be established to align development priorities and biodiversity data and priorities and the capacity of development decision makers to incorporate biodiversity information into their processes will be enhanced.

**Activities and outputs**

*Output 3.1: Strategies and measures for integrating biodiversity information into decision-making recommended by national user boards, based on iterative review and assessment of results, are identified and implemented:*

1. Here, the project will utilise the outputs from Components 1 and 2 to embed them into national systems as appropriate thereby ensuring that promising initiatives demonstrated via Components 1 and 2 become institutionalised into national business-as-usual. To initiate this process, the national User Boards would lead a process to review experiences, assess lessons and findings, and provide recommendations to carry forward project outputs (an initial review may also feed into a mid-term project review). Stakeholders will secure opportunities and undertake the necessary efforts (e.g. necessary cooperation agreements put in place) to ensure that recommended measures are integrated into future planning, government decisions, investments, system development and implementation as appropriate

*Output 3.2: Capacity of decision makers across government sectors to respond (supported by biodiversity knowledge products) is enhanced:*

The project would also build the necessary capacities and provide technical support so that public officials (and, if applicable, other stakeholders) are able to act on these recommendations, e.g. by embedding proof-of-concept outputs into their ongoing national systems. Technical support and expertise may also be provided through a regional technical partner to the project. Through the project, identified research questions (see Section 3.1) will be studied and peer-reviewed literature published in order to disseminate the global lessons and experiences of the project. Capacity building would be tackled through a number of perspectives including the scale which was required (e.g. examining the capacity of individuals, organisations and networks), and also through examining the different components of capacity such as competencies, availability of resources (materials, services, or other assets and the external social or working environment that either enables or constrains the achievement of objectives.*Output 3.3: Up-scaling approach devised and implemented, including that capacity for embedding biodiversity information into national systems planning, and reporting processes is enhanced iteratively by sharing experiences, lessons, good practices, tools, etc. between countries and globally:*

1. Ultimately, as with each of the project components, the final output (**Output 3.3**) is a dedicated effort to seek out sharing, exchange and up-scaling opportunities reflective of a global project on embedding biodiversity information into national systems. Opportunities to engage with the **communities of potential user countries and potential implementing partners** (described in Section 3.9 on Replication and upscaling approaches) will be sought in order to validate project outputs at each stage and provide a forum in which to share lessons learned, especially in creating momentum for sustainable dialogues between data users and providers beyond the life of the project.

**Key assumptions**

1. The project proponents have made assumptions about which interventions will work based on past experience, reviews and research. These assumptions are listed in this section, however the project design is intended to allow for flexibility, which means that the interventions can be amended (with PSC oversight) if existing assumptions prove to be unfounded, or if new insight comes to light within the timeframe of the project. Building in a flexible 12 month inception phase to the project gives project teams the chance to conduct in depth discussions with stakeholders to validate the project implementation plan across the components.
2. A **key assumption** of mainstreaming projects to date is that providing data, knowledge and/or information can be fed into a set of interventions to ultimately improve decision making. However, currently there is a lack of evidence regarding the extent to which improved awareness of/ access to information leads to the use of this information in decision making. Mainstreaming in all its forms and settings will only work if people change their behaviours[[70]](#footnote-71). Yet recent work shows conclusively that increasing knowledge by itself does not lead to a change in behaviour[[71]](#footnote-72). We have limited understanding about how various influential factors play into these equations, how the mainstreaming levers work, and how information about biodiversity ultimately fits into the mainstreaming equation.
3. Through the interventions and applied research component, the project will seek to gain an understanding of **how, when, by whom, and under what conditions biodiversity information and knowledge can be effectively used to influence outcomes in development decision making** in three demonstration countries. Strategic interventions under each of the three components have been designed to address this key assumption in order to test the theory of change (see Section 3.1) and provide lessons on the circumstances under which the provision of biodiversity information can (or cannot) lead to behaviour change by development decision makers. The project will combine the lessons from previous mainstreaming work (see Annex 4 and 5), together with a strong research component (see Section 3.1) and a theory of change developed iteratively with project partners across national, regional and global scales in order to provide the best possible circumstances for integration of biodiversity information into decision making. The lessons and experience gained will then be disseminated through project communication materials and peer-reviewed literature to provide global lessons on mainstreaming biodiversity information.
4. Another overall assumption is that **biodiversity data are not lacking.** For example, there are data housed in various global databases, however where these datasets are applicable, they are not used nationally. There may also be data generated at the national and sub-national level that is not currently considered by decision makers. The question is, *Why?* Understanding this is fundamental - what exactly is the problem and how to overcome it, will be explored through the project emphasis on credibility, legitimacy and saliency. The project workplan sets out the project activities, and details the reasoning behind these (see Appendix 4).

## **3.5 Risk analysis and risk management measures**

1. A series of risks that the Project faces in trying to reach its objectives was considered during the PIF and PPG phases. At the same time, critical assumptions were formulated (see Section 3.4 and Project logical framework, **Appendix 3**), the attainment of which is expected to minimize the respective risks. During the PPG phase, assessment and analysis of the main barriers were taken into account by designing a commensurate strategy of intervention for the issues that the Project and its key partners are in a position to address. Aspects that remain outside the reach of the Project represent risks. However, these have been classified as relatively low, resulting in a high sustainability probability for the Project. The risks and some of the measures for mitigation considered for the Project are:

| Risk | Impact | Likelihood | Mitigation measure | Ongoing measure(s) |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| National and international partners in the project have insufficient resources to implement the project | **High**  Lack of or loss of resources e.g. through budget changes, anticipated funding not realised etc. | Low | Qualitative capacity assessment carried out at during the PPG phase. | Full capacity assessment carried out at inception stage and then periodically through the project lifespan  Seeking out additional resources / leveraged co-financing through the project |
| Political, economic and security situation becomes unstable | **High**  National crises pull decision making attention away from longer-term development planning processes; priorities in government change rapidly due to external events (e.g. currency fluctuations, trade agreements, natural disasters) | Low | Selected demonstration countries have sufficient level of stability and good prospects as executing partners within the project timeframe (see Selection criteria Section 3.1) | Periodic monitoring through open communications will enable the national User Board to recognise and respond to the dynamism of real-world decision making and priority-setting and be responsible to emerging development decision points. If a national crisis or other significant external event occurs, the User Board will be tasked with considering how such events can be responded to through the project approach. For example, what is the relevance of biodiversity and ecosystem services to the crisis (e.g. forest intactness / flood risk), and are there any new entry points for biodiversity information that present themselves? |
| The inception phase of the project fails to provide sufficient background knowledge of the situation within the demonstration countries in a timely fashion | **High**  Adequate steerage is not given to the project implementation plan  Implementation plan delayed with knock-on effects for project outputs | Low | Demonstration country selection criteria (see Section 3.1) designed to address this risk  Strong stakeholder engagement through the National User Boards  Activities such as Political Economy Analysis and Capacity assessments to be conducted (see Workplan; Appendix 4) | Strong continued stakeholder engagement and partnerships with other projects  Project Steering Committee to provide guidance and oversight to maintain momentum towards planned mid-term and final milestones and targets |
| There is tension between mainstreaming and other biodiversity efforts at national level | **Medium**  Mainstreaming can be a long-term process; governments might redirect efforts to issues where they feel immediate gains can be made (e.g. Protected Areas) | Low / Medium | Project identifies key stakeholders during the PPG phase and inception phase in order to build relationships and synergies with ongoing biodiversity efforts in each demonstration country | Project communications emphasise value of mainstreaming to biodiversity over the long-term; emphasise that it doesn’t replace other biodiversity management approaches |
| Individual project partner priorities are redirected away from the project | **Medium**  Specific project activities are not delivered satisfactorily | Low | International partners are identified that are already committed to similar work, can’t shift priorities in project lifespan | Regular project meetings and other communications with project partners to ensure priorities remain aligned |
| Development decision makers/ other end-users are inaccessible to the project | **High**  Incorrect entry points identified  Tools/information products are not used in decision making processes | Low | Key audience groups such as environment, development and finance ministries are engaging with during the PPG phase and inception phase to secure buy-in from project outset | The national User Board to be co-chaired by an influential development leader / decision maker from the target audience |
| That the wrong entry points are identified in Component 1 (see workplan Appendix 4) | **High**  Component 2 of the project fails to improve decision making outcomes | Low / Medium | User group is tasked with ensuring the strategy – should be a high-level and influential group with sufficient knowledge of the national context to reach the best-possible outcome | Strategies developed within Component 1 are heavily vetted by national and international partners to ensure the project entry points and intervention strategies are designed for best possible impact  (before proceeding to Component 2 at national level) |
| The products and services re-packaged through the Connect project are not used by end users | **High**  There is insufficient use of the tools to have an impact or influence on decision making outcomes | Low | Peer review, vetting of project specifications by National User Boards and ITAUG | Tracking the products and services built into Component 3 (see Appendix 3: Results Framework) |
| Identified national User Board members are not representative and/or ineffective | **Medium**  The advice of the User Boards is irrelevant and leads to the production of ineffective tools | Low | Members of the User Board will be selected to ensure that they  are senior enough in their governments to be influential  Project partners are involved in the vetting of members of the national User Boards to ensure that this is an effective body with sufficient seniority and respect to lead the national work effectively. | Continued project monitoring to ensure that the national User Boards and project partners are being as influential as possible  The nominated User Board would be jointly chaired by the CBD focal point with another eminent person from the development sector (e.g. head of national planning agency).  Advice of peers through the regional groups and ITAUG |
| The required data or information is unavailable and/or cannot be accessed | **High**  There are problems of accessibility of data, including time lags  Data quality issues, i.e. resolution not good enough | Low | Qualitative feasibility study during PPG phase to ensure that the demonstration countries there are existing available data (see Annex 2)  Clear commitment from data provider project partners to respond to end user feedback on their data and information (quality, availability, validity, salience, etc.) | Share feedback with data providers on quality and usefulness of the data and if necessary, additional analysis brought to bear to translate the information bringing it to a useful state  Leveraging co-financing if opportunities to improve data or information are identified through the project (e.g. from bilateral/other donors at national level already investing in those sectors, private sector partners, etc.)  Close partnering with credible, peer reviewed data sources and partners |
| Entrenched power relationships may not be amenable to influence e.g. corruption, collusion between actors, other factors outside project influence | Medium  Identified entry points are inaccessible – tools/information products are relevant but still not integrated into decision making processes | Low | Carry out a political economy analysis in the inception stage of the project, within each demonstration country | Continued project monitoring and communication between national project teams and the global Project Management Unit |
| Turnover / attrition of institutional knowledge | **Medium**  That capacity cannot be built to successfully access entry points beyond project lifespan | Low | Project designed to have multiple participants at national level in order to spread risk of increased staff turnover.  *Information products will be co-designed by both the data providers and the end-users. This will allow for the greater uptake of information products in end-user processes, rather than by specific individuals, as the products will be seen as salient, credible and legitimate for those processes. Capacity building will also take place once the information products are developed to ensure the full understanding of the end-users, with a view to making the information products as technically accessible as possible. Data providers will be incentivised to provide salient, credible and legitimate information products which utilise their existing biodiversity data (see Annex 1, Project Theory of Change)* | Sub-regional and global sharing of lessons learned  Long term partnerships in place with MOUs ensuring continued collaboration |

## **3.6 Consistency with national priorities or plans**

1. All participating countries have ratified the CBD and have either revised or are revised their second-generation NBSAPs. The outputs of this project correspond to *inter alia* the following national obligations under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adopted at COP 10 as the overarching framework on biodiversity: Development of NBSAPs, clarifying national biodiversity objectives, targets and implementation strategies; Monitoring and reporting on progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (particularly Target 19, however potentially applicable to the monitoring and reporting on all Aichi Targets); and Provision of National Reports on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention. The project will contribute in particular to the achievement of Targets 2 and 19.
2. Participating countries will have developed Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), National Development Plans (NDPs), development “visions” (Vision 2020, 2030, etc.) and/or other comparable documents that set out development and poverty reduction approach of the country, and often set a course to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at national level. These have consequent implementation, investment/budgeting, monitoring and reporting frameworks. Furthermore, there are relevant sectoral policies and other frameworks that are relevant to national development priorities, e.g. agriculture, land management, mining, forests. Finally, United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) describe the collective response of UN country teams to these national development priorities and systems. The project will support both countries obligations in the implementation of the applicable biodiversity strategies and frameworks, as well as those for national development. During the project lifespan it will also look for national implementation links to e.g. post-2015 sustainable development goals and IPBES science-policy capacity building.
3. The Connect project will directly support on-going biodiversity conservation initiatives in Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda. Annex 2 states in more detail the Connect project consistency with national and international efforts for each demonstration country.
4. In fulfilment of the provisions of Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), **Ghana** developed a National Biodiversity Strategy in 2002. That strategy has served to promote some helpful initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services. Ghana has now revised the 2002 National Biodiversity Strategy and subsequently developed an Action Plan for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Ghana also has also developed a UNDAF 2012-2016 and the Connect project will work to strengthen, and input into this, and other, on-going work in line with priorities identified. Biodiversity is named as a development priority for Ghana’s UNDAF under Thematic area 2[[72]](#footnote-73). In addition, UNDAF output 3.8 refers to “Biodiversity and land management issues, with a special focus on water bodies and afforestation, assessed and integrated at the national and local level” (page 48).
5. **Mozambique** has undertaken a review of the second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) having worked through the first NBSAP for the period 2003-2010. This was designed to implement the three main objectives of the CBD, namely: reduce and prevent biodiversity loss, promote its value, and carry out legal and institutional reforms to ensure better planning and implementation of the strategy. The 2003-2010 strategy was only partially implemented due to constraints related to weak institutional capacity, limited mainstreaming of biodiversity issues into sectoral activities, as well as poor inter-sectoral coordination[[73]](#footnote-74). In line with the Connect project aims, the current vision of country’s biodiversity includes some of the following, 1) to increase the integration of the biodiversity issues within the sectors and local governmental plans and budgets, 2) to increase the level of public awareness of the socioeconomic value of biodiversity, 3) to increase the allocation of resources for the integral implementation of all priority actions identified for each of the biodiversity components, 4) to improve the sharing of biodiversity data in order to improve the research capacity and the management of biodiversity, in addition to improving the dissemination of the information and the collaboration between the data collating institutions and those using the data, and to 5) improve institutional coordination[[74]](#footnote-75). Mozambique also has also developed a UNDAF 2012-2015, under this “improve sustainable management of natural resources” is listed as a national development priority[[75]](#footnote-76).The Connect project will work to strengthen, and input into this, and other, on-going work in line with priorities identified.
6. **Uganda** has developed the second National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (hence forth “NBSAP2”) for the period, 2015 to 2025, having developed its first NBSAP in 2002, and implemented this for 10 years, albeit with financial constraints. The NBSAP is the main tool for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at country level. NBSAPs provide governments with a framework for implementing its obligations under the CBD, setting of conservation priorities, channeling of investments and building of the necessary capacity for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the country. The NBSAP2 shows strong evidence for the need of GEF funding to enable the country achieve several of its objectives (elucidated in the NBSAP2), in particular: 1) to strengthen stakeholder co-ordination and frameworks for biodiversity management, 2) to put in place measures to reduce and manage negative impacts on biodiversity, 3) to enhance awareness and education on biodiversity issues among the various stakeholders and 4) to promote innovative sustainable funding mechanisms. These objectives are clearly consistent with our project aims of connecting demand and supply, to develop sustainable mainstreaming of biodiversity information into government decision making processes. Uganda also has also developed a UNDAF 2016-2020 and the Connect project will work to strengthen, and input into this, and other, on-going work in line with priorities identified. Protection of biodiversity falls under UNDAF outcome 3.1, Natural resources and climate change[[76]](#footnote-77):

To achieve rapid progress in environmental protection, natural resources rehabilitation, climate change resilience, the country should develop and implement appropriate policies and regulatory instruments. Since Uganda is on the verge of beginning oil exploitation and mining industry expansion, it is critical that the appropriate regulatory instruments are put in place early on, in order to minimize the negative impact of mining on ecosystems and biodiversity and create conditions for continuous diversification of productive activities.

## 

## **3.7 Incremental cost reasoning**

1. Integrating biodiversity into development decision making is essential for biodiversity management to succeed. Many projects and initiatives have tried to do this but few have succeeded over the long-term. Some of the reasons for this are detailed in Sections 1 and 2; the barriers are many, diverse, and often-situation specific. With a tipping point of at least $15M in investments we can analyse the common threads, and build and improve the way we can target information into mainstreaming processes, leading to more effective conservation outcomes and thus more effective use of future national and donor funding for biodiversity conservation.
2. In each of the countries, the baseline situation includes a suite of projects/initiatives designed to mainstream biodiversity into different aspects of development including production sectors and a suite of projects/initiatives for biodiversity information management. What is lacking is a good model linking them together, building on all of the available knowledge and lessons about how biodiversity information can influence decisions and outcomes. This is often exacerbated by the lack of collaboration and integration between the actors with a vested interests, including due to different technical language (jargon) and frames of reference.
3. Accordingly, the baseline case for the project is based on a continuation of current activities, where mainstreaming and information production and management continue separately. Information fails to influence at the appropriate level, and mainstreaming operates at anecdotal or superficial levels, without data to make or sustain the case for biodiversity. In this business-as-usual scenario current rates of loss of biodiversity and habitats would be expected to continue.
4. Without the components proposed in the project, countries risk losing an opportunity for a globally relevant, systematic production and mainstreaming of biodiversity information using good data and information. Globally, the world would lose the benefit of the analysis, both of previous cases, and the “live” analysis of three in-depth demonstrations, of how biodiversity information can influence decision making. In the absence of this Project, the conservation of biodiversity will remain divorced from national development goals and receive less support from public policy and demand and support for biodiversity information production will continue to suffer. Ecosystems particularly rich in diversity will continue to face the threat of genetic erosion and the loss of valuable species, and these valuable resources will not be conserved and integrated into addressing the Sustainable Development Goals to reduce hunger, poverty, and malnutrition.
5. Furthermore, implementation of the Project will also help meet national priorities and will provide means for both organizations and countries to benefit through shared best practices, tools and experiences in the sustainable management of biodiversity. Without this Project, an opportunity to enhance the sustainable use of valuable biodiversity to meet conservation and development goals will be lost.
6. GEF resources will be used to generate global environmental benefits that will see sustainable management practices implemented that lead to improved conservation. This will be underpinned by improved biodiversity information production with parallel measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity mainstreamed into relevant policies, programmes, and regulatory frameworks. These interventions will in turn support the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity to improve the livelihoods of the poor, and contribute to poverty reduction by allowing local communities to practice alternative livelihoods and biodiversity friendly production systems, thereby reducing pressures on natural systems and associated biodiversity resources.
7. The value added of GEF resources also lies in supporting the case for the benefits of biodiversity for development, where domestic investments could be made that currently are not supported but that hold considerable potential and, with it, the capacity to deliver global environmental benefits when steered into areas of global biodiversity importance.
8. Due to its global multi-country nature, the Project will be well placed to promote exchange, sharing and learning between countries and to bring Project outcomes and experiences to a much wider international arena for greater impact. As well, the reach of this Project will be extended through its strategic partners who are conducting complementary initiatives in many regions of the world. The ability to replicate and up-scale project results, as well as mainstream, is much more considerable in the context of a global Project. Further, the scope to link and build on the range of national and global initiatives now underway (see Section 2.4 and 2.7) presents considerable opportunities, which benefit most effectively from a global approach that encourages sharing and exchange of information and resources between countries.
9. Through a global approach the Project will be in a greater position to contribute significantly to the tracking of relevant global indicators in the area of biodiversity. UNEP, as the global agencies responsible for implementation, and UNEP-WCMC, the main executing partner, are very much embedded in the relevant global processes and mechanisms to ensure that Project results and outcomes feed into the monitoring of relevant global indicators. As a global Project, Connect could also contribute to informing global discussions on development and management of biodiversity information systems such as GBIF.
10. Baseline expenditures amount to over US$56,275,602 while alternative has been estimated at US$80,925,381. The incremental cost of the Project, US$24,649,779, is required to achieve the Project’s global environmental benefits. Of this amount US$5,000,000 (representing 21%) is being requested from GEF. The remaining amount of US$ 19,799,779 (79%) of the total cost will come from the Governments of Uganda, Ghana, Mozambique and international partners and donors. The figure includes both in-kind and cash contributions. For further detail, please refer to Section 3.1: Global environmental benefits.

## 

## **3.8 Sustainability**

1. The project strives for sustainability by ensuring that outputs (especially biodiversity information products) are embedded within (multiple) decision making processes. Indeed, all of project Component 3 is dedicated to sustainability of project outputs, i.e. ensuring that biodiversity data and information are integrated into government decision making and utilised to a greater extent within national-level policy processes, accounting systems, investments frameworks and/or reporting, as well as formalizing the partnerships and networks required to realize this. This ensures that they are useful and used, and therefore raises the likelihood that they will be invested in. The indicator of success is that after the project lifespan, governments invest in and allocate appropriate staff to these systems as a matter of course. Equally, by focusing on efficient uses of available data to create products and feed into systems, the costs of sustaining them are minimised.
2. This project is innovative in its linking up of biodiversity mainstreaming and data barriers, specifically a focus on **multi-scale and multi-sectoral use of existing biodiversity information**. To date, work on creating biodiversity indicators has been largely global in scope and limited to specific audiences, with associated national capacity support based on raising awareness of indicator development processes rather than investing in developing useful knowledge products from available data. There have been few tangible links between initiatives focusing on within-country development priorities and consequent information needs and those focusing on regional or global needs, or between work on information needs in a biodiversity-specific decision making context (e.g. CBD, NBSAPs) and work in other contexts (land use planning, national accounting, etc.). There has been little or no joined up efforts to make better use of what data we have. As such, opportunities have been lost and gaps have remained unfilled. At the same time there has been little integration of disconnected efforts to improve monitoring systems, to create indicators and reporting products, and to mainstream biodiversity into decision making.This project takes a synergistic approach:
   1. **It will find and make efficient use of available data, creating linkages and adding value across sectors and scales.** It will take state of the art monitoring products being developed in ‘high capacity’ countries and at regional to global scales and make them available at national scale to ‘lower capacity’ countries. It will create comparable national knowledge products in target countries that can be aggregated for regional and global use. It will bring together constituencies from different sectors with similar information needs.
   2. **It will build resulting information products into existing and varied decision making processes.** It will take an iterative, rather than linear, approach to the generation and use of biodiversity information, recognising that the “push and pull” forces of data availability and decision maker needs cross-pollinate each other and can be mutually reinforcing. It will explore new avenues for using biodiversity information in various decision making contexts. It will focus on means to ‘formalize’ or embed information products within government processes, for example by working with competent national entities such as national statistical offices. Information products will be co-designed by both the data providers and the end-users. This will allow for the greater uptake of information products in end-user processes, rather than by specific individuals, as the products will be seen as salient, credible and legitimate for those processes. Capacity building will also take place once the information products are developed to ensure the full understanding of the end-users, with a view to making the information products as technically accessible as possible. Data providers will be incentivised to provide salient, credible and legitimate information products which utilise their existing biodiversity data (see Annex 1, Project Theory of Change).
3. The project will ensure financial sustainability by building on ongoing national level commitments and initiatives. The required ownership will be built within the demonstration country governments in order that project outcomes will be maintained once the project is completed. For example, the National User Boards will be created from existing networks, with additional expertise brought in where necessary.

## 

## **Replication**

1. Replication is defined as the project’s scalability through broader adoption by others (outside the initial GEF investment). This is achieved through making scale and scalability explicit considerations in project design. The focus of the Connect project is on developing and testing proofs of concept and sharing lessons regionally and globally provides an enabling platform for scaling up the direct national benefits of the project more broadly. Within this, the creation of national biodiversity information products such as spatially explicit land cover change maps or aggregate population abundance measures from global data sources or the collation of widely distributed local data provides quick win opportunities for other countries to adopt. The fact that Parties to the CBD have called for the development of simple, cost effective indicators for widespread national use, to help overcome barriers and fill information gaps, including looking to other sectors and aggregating from national to global, suggests that there is likely to be significant interest in and demand for the products, tools and lessons emerging from the project.
2. Cutting across all three components is the project upscaling strategy (see Figure 1). This is built into the project design and is intended to scale the intervention across geographies (beyond the national level). The purpose is explicitly to increase the chances of replication or broader adoption by others. Scaling up can be looked at in several ways, e.g.: (i) Designing interventions that have the potential to be grown or taken up more widely within the country of initial investment. This is handled through project Component 3. (ii) The project’s scalability through broader adoption by others (outside the initial GEF investment). This is achieved through making scale and scalability explicit considerations in project design. Most mainstreaming projects have confined themselves to (i); this project’s up-scaling strategy deals with the latter (ii).
3. While the barriers to mainstreaming biodiversity information are common globally, it is expected that lessons drawn from the project will be most relevant to those countries within the African and Sub-Saharan African region. However, using the steerage of an International Technical Advisory Group (ITAUG; see Section 4 and Appendix 8), the project will address scaling up through external communications, directed at two key communities:
   1. **A community of potential user countries,** i.e. other countries that may learn from and adopt similar practices as those showcased by the project. The project will work through other relevant multilateral regional structures (in addition to SADC, EAC and ECOWAS covered above), the African Union, ASEAN and SAARC in Asia, OAS and CARICOM in Latin America and the Caribbean, the EU, the Arab League etc. Replication can also be achieved through sharing experiences and lessons with developed countries as well e.g. via the OECD and its Development Assistance Committee (DAC). This will be achieved through linking the project into UNEP and UNEP-WCMC’s normal operations, as well as those of other project partners.
   2. **A community of potential implementing partners,** i.e. biodiversity data-holding organisations and/or countries that may learn from the approach and outcomes of the project and seek to replicate the approach in improving their information products. The project will work with technical partners such as the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP; Global), National Geomatics Centre (China), CONABIO (Mexico), INBio (Costa Rica), Instituto Humboldt (Colombia) in Latin America, SANBI (South Africa), the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (with 23 country members in East and Southern Africa) and COMIFAC in Africa, IUCN etc. Again, this will be achieved through linking the project into UNEP and UNEP-WCMC’s normal operations, as well as those of other project partners.
4. In addition to providing key advice to project planning and implementation, the ITAUG (see Appendix 8) member countries will be selected as key drivers of south-south cooperation and special attention will be paid to supporting ITAUG members in using project learning to advance their respective south-south cooperation goals around biodiversity management. The knowledge and experience of the ITAUG members in the use of biodiversity information within their countries will be fed back into the demonstration countries in order to guide efficient project implementation. The knowledge networks for these two communities will be established following a stakeholder engagement plan and maintained through communication channels such as a project website, project publications, regular meetings and workshops. Specific means of communication and sharing will be designed in consultation with active members of each community at the start of the project. Engagement will continue throughout the lifetime of the project and will be designed to keep interested stakeholders updated and aware of project’s progress, achievements and lessons learned. Meetings of regional project partners will be held in the margins of international biodiversity conferences (e.g. CBD SBSTTA / COP) so as to maximise the opportunities to showcase the work of the project. Three of the annual ITAUG meetings will be held in each of the three demonstration countries to allow for meaningful dialogue with the key actors in each country. Finally, specific bilateral relationships between the three demonstration countries and actively engaging members of the knowledge networks will be fostered and supported by the project allowing for in-depth transfer of experiences and capacity through the use of in-country training. The project would also foster an active collaboration with IPBES, to support up-scaling efforts. One of the functions of IPBES is building capacity for improving the science-policy interface at appropriate levels, and the outcomes and outputs described in this project would help address capacity building needs that have already been discussed in the context of IPBES. The project, as described elsewhere, also intends to share it progress and outcomes with other biodiversity related MEAs´ constituencies. The issue of synergies is both important and being dealt with by UNEP-WCMC and others.Mainstreaming has been described as a “work in progress”[[77]](#footnote-78). Therefore, in order to push this work forward research should be carried out on the actual process of mainstreaming. However, as the GEF STAP notes17:
   1. “Few project results have been published in peer-reviewed journals, but an intuitive sense suggests that significant progress has been made in developing the evidence base on successful interventions.”
5. Projects to date have therefore not been designed optimally for replication as they have failed to: work with a common theory of change; feed lessons to a common source; or set up optimal monitoring and evaluation systems. This has led to an obvious and important need for the practitioners of mainstreaming to publish in the peer-reviewed literature – a need that will be addressed through the research questions and strategy of the project.
6. An important intervention, integrated into all components of the project, is the production of applied research results aiming for peer-reviewed research literature based on the lessons, knowledge and experience gained throughout the project. Understanding the conditions under which information and knowledge are used in decision making is a vital step towards the achievement of global environmental benefits[[78]](#footnote-79). A full literature review will be undertaken in Component 1 in order to inform research carried out through the project.
7. Factors influencing development decision makers will be identified and studied, such as those highlighted in the recent World Bank publication ‘World Development Report 2015: Mind, Society and Behaviour’[[79]](#footnote-80). The project will benefit from partnerships with academic and technical partners (to be identified by Work Package 5 lead organisation – see Section 4) to study such questions and yield new peer-reviewed literature on the basis of its findings. Together with this, the project will draw on other recent literature and investigate specific examples of where biodiversity information has successfully influenced and changed decisions.
8. Based on the collective knowledge and experience of mainstreaming practitioners globally, a sufficient suite of operational models are now available upon which to build an overarching theory of change for biodiversity mainstreaming16. Within this, the important role of information provision can be explored and interventions developed effectively around this factor. The initial theory of change for the project (see Section 3.1), developed in collaboration with mainstreaming experts, will be tested and refined through the demonstrations in order to produce a unified version by the end point of the project. The conceptual development and testing of this theory of change will be co-created with the input from both the scientific and development communities[[80]](#footnote-81).
9. The project proponents will work with co-financing partners to bring other countries on board in different piloting capacities during the project lifespan.

## **3.10 Public awareness, communications and mainstreaming strategy**

1. The Connect project’s upscaling approach (Section 3.1), is built directly into the three project components (See Appendix 3). At strategic intervals, project progress will be disseminated through the national stakeholder workshops and annual ITAUG meetings. The project team will also seek out opportunities to publicize project outputs by attending regional meetings (such as GBIF node meetings, regional conferences etc.) and international fora (for example side events at CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) meetings and CBD Conference of the Parties). Feedback on project plans, outputs and activities will be actively sought from attendees to all meetings, workshops, side events etc. This information will be reported to the ITAUG and Project Steering Committee in order to inform strategic decisions regarding the project implementation.
2. The development of a **bespoke communications strategy** is also part of the project workplan (see Activity 1.5e, Appendix 4). During the inception phase of the project, all stakeholders will be consulted on the design and implementation of this strategy in order to maximize project reach and impact. This strategy will include the **design of a dedicated project website**, which is planned to display: regular project progress updates from each demonstration country team and ITAUG members; workshop presentations, reports and other outputs; and published journal papers.
3. **Capacity building to complement activities under Components 2 and 3** is a vital element in streamlining the mainstreaming process within the demonstration countries, equipping stakeholders with the knowledge and tools to take the project work forward. The project focus on producing tools and knowledge products that are perceived as salient, legitimate and credible (see Section 2) will also facilitate the mainstreaming of such outputs into the regular day-to-day business of end users.
4. As the project will work synergistically with a range of current biodiversity information and mainstreaming organisations and initiatives (see Section 2.7, further opportunities to capitalize on these partnerships will be sought in terms of **sharing communication channels** (e.g. the SGA Network quarterly newsletter). This strategy will maximize project reach while also providing added value for both the Connect project and other partner projects.

## **3.11 Environmental and social safeguards**

1. The Connect project poses few environmental or social risks. The project focuses on the mobilisation of currently available biodiversity information and re-packaging of existing tools and knowledge products to feed into government decision making processes. As government decision making processes are generally long term activities, with impacts seen over a longer time period than the project lifetime, the need for environmental and social safeguards is limited. The proposed project will ensure environmental social safeguards are provided[[81]](#footnote-82), and that that social and economic issues are adequately addressed. National User Board and ITAUG recruitment processes will include the engagement of experts in social and economic issues.
2. The project will fully be in compliance with all applicable domestic and international law.
3. Women play a large enabling role in the management of natural resources in Africa. The distinctive roles, responsibilities and knowledge of men and women are highly differentiated and therefore it is critical to understand how these variables affect processes of ecological change, viable livelihoods and the prospects for sustainable development. Many descriptions of gender roles are simplified and do not capture the fact that the gendered division of labor is constantly renegotiated in response to new situations and economic necessity. Women have also taken on new tasks and responsibilities, and more rights exist at least on paper than at any time before. It’s difficult to capture here various possible scenarios or contexts that gender relations can take place; we try to handle gender issues throughout the document.
4. The project is designed and implemented in such a way that both women and men (a) are able to participate fully and equally; (b) receive comparable social and economic benefits; and (c) do not suffer disproportionate adverse effects during the development process. Any interventions as a sub-national level will utilize good practices in participation and use a ‘gender-transformative’ approach. The inequitable distribution of rights, resources and access to social goods – as well as some cultural rules and norms – result in highly asymmetrical relationships of power between men and women. This constrains the ability of many women to take action on biodiversity. However, poor and marginalized men often contend with similar constraints vis-à-vis other relationships of power. Therefore, more recent approaches to ‘empowering’ both women and men to challenge and change deeply rooted inequalities; such approaches have been advanced in the sphere of climate change adaptation, less so in biodiversity management but inspiration can be drawn from their lessons. Such efforts are characterized as ‘gender-transformative activities’, which strive to examine, question and change rigid gender norms and imbalances in power relationships in order to increase people’s resilience. Gender transformative activities encourage critical awareness among men and women of gender roles and norms; promote the position of women; challenge the distribution of resources and allocation of duties between men and women; and/or address power relationships between women and others in the community, such as service providers or traditional leaders.[[82]](#footnote-83) Gender specific indicators have been included as part of the Connect project results framework (see Appendix 3).
5. The project team will ensure to be flexible in its activities, strategies, and objectives so that both women and men can influence, participate in, and benefit from the project. We will take a gender-targeted approach to ensure that:

* When targeting women for certain activities as decision makers and/or participants, the project team will ensure men are sensitised on the rationale behind.
* Context-based gender analysis is conducted. On the understanding that gender issues vary from context to context and can change over time.

**Gender mainstreaming**

Efforts to promote gender equality will be integrated in all aspects of project activities and management, through conscious integration of gender-based groups in project activities. The project will fully comply with UNEP gender guidelines, which are incorporated into the various parts of the project design, project framework activities, the budget, and the monitoring framework. IP-related and gender disaggregated data will be collected to monitor project impacts following GEF and UNEP guidelines on Social and Environmental Safeguards, which include specific guidelines for the involvement of Indigenous Peoples. A gender plan for the project will be developed during the inception phase to ensure that all gender-related considerations have been identified, and to suggest required interventions.

**Table 3: Applicable items and response to UNEP checklist for environmental and social issues**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | |
| **Environmental impacts** | |
| 1. The Connect project would not cause any losses to precious ecology, ecological, and economic functions due to construction of infrastructure, as it does not include components on infrastructure development. |
| 1. Ecosystems related to the Connect project are envisaged to be somewhat degraded. However, it is an objective of the project to strengthen management of these ecosystems to support their sustainability. |
| 1. The Connect project is not likely to cause any impairment of ecological opportunities within the demonstration landscape or at the national level. |
| 1. The Connect project does not involve issues that would directly or indirectly cause increase in peak and flood flows, including from temporary or permanent wastewaters. |
| 1. The Connect project will not cause air, soil, or water pollution, soil erosion and siltation, increase of waste production, hazardous waste production, use pesticides, or cause excessive noise or traffic. |
| 1. The Connect project will not cause a threat to local ecosystems due to invasive species |
| 1. The Connect project will not cause Greenhouse Gas Emissions except for those of normal transportation and use of facilities, in these circumstances emissions will be minimised. |
| 1. At all stages, as applicable, The Connect project will encourage the use of environmentally friendly technologies at the local levels with government, organization, and community stakeholders |

|  |
| --- |
| **Social impacts** |
| 1. The Connect project will, on all of its implementation, respect internationally proclaimed human rights including dignity, cultural property, and uniqueness and rights of indigenous people. |
| 1. The Connect project is unlikely to cause social problems or conflicts related to land tenure and access to resources |
| 1. In its design, The Connect project incorporates measures to allow affected stakeholders’ information and consultation. At the demonstration site the project will be heavy on stakeholder engagement. |
| 1. The Connect project does not contain implementation aspects that would cause change to legal beneficial uses of land or resources. |
| 1. The Connect project will not include technologies that would cause land use modification that may change present social and economic activities. |
| 1. The Connect project will not cause dislocation or involuntary resettlement of local communities, or cause uncontrolled in-migration to possibly overload social infrastructure. |
| 1. The Connect project will include transparency measures to avoid corruption and promote adequate and equitable use of project financial and otherwise resources. |

1. The Connect project will take into full consideration the need for gender equality in all project workings, including the process of assessing the implications for women and men of planned action in all areas and at all levels. The project will ensure that the concerns and experiences of stakeholder women and men are an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of project resulting policies and programs, with the purpose of ultimately achieving gender equality. The project will assess the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in any area and at all levels. As indicated the project will ensure gender is incorporated in the necessary operations, monitoring and reporting, such as: Training, Workshops, Meetings and Monitoring.

**Table 4: Elements of gender mainstreaming to be incorporated into the Connect project implementation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **The Connect project planned aspects during implementation** |
| **Awareness** | Steps will be put into place to increase the awareness of gender mainstreaming issues and benefits in all project measures, and in particular those entailing action planning and implementation and policy strategies. |
| **Participation** | Processes will be put into place to encourage and ensure meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes and policy development, at the project demonstration levels. |
| **Assessment** | During the project inception period, initial assessments will be conducted to identify gender mainstreaming needs and opportunities, and to establish a baseline with regards to gender issues and initial conditions, particularly for implementation and action planning |
| **Strategy** | In line with the initial assessments, the project will develop strategies and ensure that its action plans are gender-sensitive, promote gender equality, and engage both women and men in interventions and the necessary decision-making processes |

1. The Connect project will address within its implementation strategy the following actions to ensure gender considerations:

* Ensure that sufficient staff time and financial resources are made available for gender mainstreaming
* Use gender-sensitive language
* Implement participatory methods that include women and women’s organizations
* Include gender mainstreaming in monitoring and reporting
* Ensure gender equality in human resources elements of strategy development and implementation
* Ensure that the organizations involved in strategy development have a gender strategy or policy
* Require that staff involved in strategy development report on gender aspects of their work

# Section 4: Institutional Framework and Implementation Arrangements

**Implementing Agency**

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will implement the project and bring to bear its combined body of scientific and empirical experience of critical relevance to the objectives of the project. UNEP has provided global leadership and encourages partnership in biodiversity conservation as well as a wealth of experience on mainstreaming biodiversity into policies, programmes and practice. As the GEF Agency for this project UNEP will provide a platform for a collaborative partnership between several national and international organizations which will bring the best available expertise in science and knowledge from the scientific community to partners who are working at the development interface at the national level, with the overall aim of mainstreaming biodiversity into sustainable development.

UNEP through its Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) will be responsible for overall project supervision to ensure consistency with GEF and UNEP policies and procedures and will provide guidance on linkages with related UNEP and GEF-funded activities. DEPI will also monitor implementation of the activities undertaken during the execution of the project and will provide the overall coordination and ensure that the project is in line with UNEP Medium-Term Strategy and its Program of Work (PoW). More specifically DEPI shall provide project oversight to ensure that GEF policies and criteria are adhered to and that the project meets its objectives and achieves expected outcomes in an efficient and effective manner. Project supervision is entrusted to the DEPI /GEF TaskManager a. Project supervision missions by the Task Manager and will be stipulated in the project supervision plan to be developed during project appraisal phase;

1. More specifically DEPI will:

* Enter into an Execution Agreement with UNEP-WCMC as the lead executing agency for the provision of services to the project; Have a representative on the project steering committee; Report to the GEF Secretariat on the progress against milestones outlined in the CEO approval letter; Inform the GEF Secretariat whenever there is a potentially substantive co-financing change (i.e. one affecting the project objectives, the underlying concept, scale, scope, strategic priority, conformity with GEF criteria, likelihood of project success, or outcome of the project); Be responsible to submit the overall annual Project Implementation Review report to the GEF Secretariat and Evaluation Office and rate the project on an annual basis in terms of progress in meeting project objectives, project implementation progress, risk, and quality of project monitoring and evaluation, and report to the GEF Secretariat through the Project implementation Review (PIR) report; Review and clear manuscripts prepared by the Executing Agency before publication, and review and agree any publishing contracts; Undertake a mid-term management review of the entire project or request the Evaluation and Oversight Unit (EOU) to perform an independent mid-term evaluation; Ensure that Evaluation Office (EO) of UNEP arrange for an independent terminal evaluation and submits its report to the GEF Evaluation Office; As deemed appropriate, facilitate access to information, advisory services, technical and professional support available to UNEP and assist the Executing Agency to access the advisory services of other United Nations Organizations, whenever necessary; and Manage and disburse funds from GEF in accordance with the rules and procedures of UNEP.

**Executing Agency**

1. UNEP-WCMC will be responsible for overall execution of the project. UNEP-WCMC will be responsible for ensuring that financial and technical reporting requirements are met, preparing biannual progress, quarterly financial and annual summary progress reports for DEPI based on inputs from the respective Work Package teams.

**Institutional Framework**

1. The project will be implemented through a series of **Work Packages**, advised by **National User Boards** in each of the demonstration countries and an **International Technical Advisory Group (ITAUG)** anddisseminated through engagement with existing regional groups(Figure 4).

**ITAUG**

**WP2**

National engagement

**IIED**

**WP1**

National Project Management Units

**National Ministry of Environment in Ghana, Mozambique and Uganda**

**WP3**

Data and Tools

**UNEP-WCMC**

**WP4**

Regional and global engagement

**CBD Secretariat**

**and UNEP-WCMC**

**WP5**

Research

**UNEP-WCMC Science Unit**

**WP6 Global** Project Management Unit

**UNEP-WCMC**

**Regional Groups**

**Figure 4: Connect Project work package structure. Each work package will be expected to report to the Global Project Manager under Work Package 6.**

1. The **Work Packages** will be coordinated by the GPMU. Each of the lead organisations for these work packages will be responsible for their respective deliverables as described in Appendix 5. The proposed lead organisations and Work Package functions are described here:
2. Work Package 1: National Project Management Units (see also Annex 2)

**Lead organisation:**  Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MESTI), Ghana; Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development (MITADER), Mozambique; and National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Uganda.

**Functions:** To support the project on in-country implementation; coordination of demonstration country activities; liaising with core partners and local stakeholders, liaison with Work Package 6; participation in and contribution to National User Board, Regional Group and ITAUG Meetings

1. Work Package 2: National level stakeholder engagement

**Lead organisation:** IIED

**Functions:** To support the project on national level stakeholder engagement; liaising with core partners and local stakeholders, liaison with Work Package 6; convening and management of National User Boards; facilitation of demonstration country workshops

1. Work Package 3 – Data and Tools

**Lead organisation:** UNEP-WCMC

**Functions:** To support the project on data mobilisation; provide data, tools and information products; provide capacity development for use of data, tools and information products; liaison with Work Package 6; participation in and contribution to National User Board, Regional Group and ITAUG Meetings where appropriate.

1. Work Package 4 - Upscaling

**Lead Organisations:** CBD Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC

**Functions:** To support the project on regional and global up scaling strategy (sCBD); liaising with core partners and local stakeholders (sCBD); liaison with Work Package 6 (UNEP-WCMC); convening of Regional Groups and ITAUG (UNEP-WCMC); organisation and facilitation of Regional Group and ITAUG meetings (UNEP-WCMC).

1. Work Package 5 – Research

**Lead Organisation:** UNEP-WCMC Science Unit

**Functions:** To support the project to undertake applied research within each project component, develop lessons learned, generate evidence to underpin the production of peer-reviewed literature

1. Work Package 6 – Project Management

**Lead Organisation:** UNEP-WCMC

1. **Function:** Day-to-day project coordination of all activities and oversight of budget, contracts, and reporting; provides direction to partners and consultants to the project; provides technical support to each project component.The **ITAUG** will have three main functions: the technical/scientific review of outputs for strength and validity (see Section 3.1 Research); the upscaling of project lessons (see Section 3.1 upscaling); and horizon-scanning and highlighting links with other emerging initiatives and new related areas of study or approaches. Information on the proposed ITAUG can be found in Appendix 8.
2. The Connect project will engage with **existing regional groups** in order to disseminate project progress and outputs. Representatives from the National User Boards, national project management units and the ITAUG will attend strategic regional meetings as deemed appropriate during the lifetime of the project. Feedback will be sought from meeting attendees on the Connect project and how the project model may be replicated in their respective countries.
3. **National User Boards** will be set up in each demonstration country. Where cross-ministerial or multi-stakeholder biodiversity forums already exist (for example the National Biodiversity Committee in Ghana – see Annex 2), the Connect project will seek to build upon these groups to incorporate those additional stakeholders identified during the inception phase of the project (see Appendix 4 and Section 5). These User Boards will be responsible for input to, and validation of, national level project outputs (for example, a set of recommendations on the follow-on work at country level in Component 3 – See Appendix 4). Proposed User Board members for each demonstration case are discussed in Annex 2.

# Section 5: Stakeholder participation

1. The Connect project will **work collaboratively at the national, regional and global level** with those stakeholders identified during the PPG phase (see Section 2.5). This will be followed up with a detailed stakeholder analysis during the project inception phase (see Appendix 4) to ensure that the members of the national User Boards and the ITAUG are best placed to provide sound technical advice and oversight of the project activities and outputs.
2. The implementation plan for the project has been checked and validated at the PPG phase by the project key partners. This will be further elaborated and validated collaboratively during the lifespan of the project (see Appendix 4) in order to guarantee continued relevance of the project. **Flexibility will be key to enable new stakeholders to be integrated into the project groups** as deemed appropriate. The project communication plan will focus on maximizing stakeholder engagement within, and dissemination outside of, the focused project teams.
3. The Project Steering Committee (see Section 4) will be responsible for ensuring the **fair representation of a broad range of stakeholders** within the ITAUG and national User Boards. Engaging these groups early on will allow for buy-in at the national level and the provision of sound advice at the global level.
4. There will be annual ‘all-hands’ project meetings to bring together project stakeholders across levels, immediately following the annual face-to-face ITAUG meetings (see Appendix 4). These meetings will take place in each of the demonstration countries in turn, **encouraging the sharing of project experiences between participants**, as well as fostering discussions around lessons learned and future implementation strategies. Regular project meetings and communication via online tools such as Skype and Gotomeeting will be held in the interim period.
5. Through engagement with the CBD, IPBES and other MEA Secretariats, national level MEA focal points will be kept informed of project progress and outputs. The upscaling strategy (see Section 3.1) will include the **availability of funds for project replication within countries outside of the demonstration countries**, providing further benefits to a broader range of stakeholders than identified during the inception phase. Existing regional assemblies such as GBIF regional groups, the African Leadership Forum (NBSAP 2.0: Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Development project – see Section 2.6), IGAD, SADC etc. will be engaged with in order to build upon these networks for project dissemination.
6. The national User Boards will meet face-to-face at four national workshops per demonstration country. Bilateral engagement, both face-to-face and virtually will be essential for **building and maintaining the required project momentum to enable the successful realization of project objectives**. One of the major barriers to data and information sharing is issues around data mis-use and mis-trust between data providers and end users (see Section 2.3). Fostering an atmosphere whereby stakeholders feel comfortable in the sharing of their data for common gains will be vital. The project will therefore draw on the collective experience of key project partners such as IIED and Prospex to build the necessary relationships between national level stakeholders. End-users will be called upon to review and validate the tools and information products produced, and the data providers will be required to maintain flexibility in the application of those tools. This will be critical to the success of the demonstration country interventions and the subsequent provision of robust lessons to be upscaled.
7. Gender considerations are essential to the implementation of this project as they are often left as heads of households while men migrate for employment. The rights of women in access to the resources that they are so critical in managing and protecting is not well balanced. In the face of biodiversity loss and natural capital degradation, the vulnerability currently felt by groups such as women, children and the elderly will be exacerbated. Therefore, women will be a key beneficiary of interventions under this project, and will play a strong role. Furthermore, project indicators are to be broken-down by gender where applicable and gender concerns incorporated in the planning of specific activities. A gender plan for the project will be developed during the inception phase to ensure that all gender-related considerations have been identified, and to suggest required interventions.

# Section 6: Monitoring and evaluation Plan

1. The Project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures. Substantive and financial project reporting requirements are summarized in **Appendix 8**. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by WCMC- UNEP and DEPI. A costed project M&E Plan is presented in Appendix 6. Costs mentioned in this tool are fully integrated in the project budget, presented in Appendix 1.
2. The project M&E plan is consistent with GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework presented in Appendix 4 includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as mid-term and end-of-project targets. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks included in Appendix 6 will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether project results are being achieved. The means of verification and the costs associated with obtaining the information to track the indicators are also summarized in Appendix 6. Other M&E related costs are also presented in the Costed M&E Plan and are fully integrated in the overall project budget.
3. UNEP will be responsible for managing the mid-term review/evaluation and the terminal evaluation. The Project Manager and partners will participate actively in the process. The purpose of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) or Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) is to provide an independent assessment of project performance at mid-term, to analyze whether the project is on track, what problems and challenges the project is encountering, and which corrective actions are required so that the project can achieve its intended outcomes by project completion in the most efficient and sustainable way. In addition, it will verify information gathered through the GEF tracking tools .
4. The GEF tracking tools are attached as Appendix 13. These will be updated at mid-term and at the end of the project and will be made available to the GEF Secretariat along with the project PIR report. The mid-term review/evaluation and terminal evaluations will verify the information of the tracking tool.
5. The project Steering Committee will participate in the MTR or MTE and develop a management response to the evaluation recommendations along with an implementation plan. It is the responsibility of the UNEP Task Manager to monitor whether the agreed recommendations are being implemented. An MTR is managed by the UNEP Task Manager. An MTE is managed by the Evaluation Office (EO) of UNEP. The EO will determine whether an MTE is required or an MTR is sufficient.
6. An independent terminal evaluation (TE) will take place at the end of project implementation. The EO will be responsible for the TE and liaise with the UNEP/DEPI Task Manager throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes:
7. to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and
8. to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP and executing partners.
9. While a TE should review use of project funds against budget, it would be the role of a financial audit to assess probity (i.e. correctness, integrity etc.) of expenditure and transactions.
10. The TE report will be sent to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the EO in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the EO when the report is finalised. The evaluation report will be publically disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process.
11. The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

# Section 7: Project Financing and Budget

## **7.1 Overall project budget**

1. The overall project budget is US$24,799,779 comprising US $5,000,000 and $US19,799,779 from co-financing. Details of the budget according to UNEP budget lines are found in Appendix 1 and 2.

**Table 5. Financial summary**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Baseline** | **Alternative** | **Increment** | **GEF** | **Co-financing** |
| **Component 1** | 20,150,000 | 22,270,000 | 2,320,000 | 1,000,000 | 1,320,000 |
| **Component 2** | 34,135,602 | 47,139,102 | 13,353,500 | 2,850,000 | 10,503,500 |
| **Component 3** | 1,990,000 | 9,991,279 | 8,126,279 | 850,000 | 7,276,279 |
| **Project management** | 0 | 0 | 1,000,000 | 300,000 | 700,000 |
| **Total** | **56,275,602** | **79,400,381** | **24,,779** | **5,000,000** | **19,799,779** |

For detailed budget per demonstration country see Appendix 13a-c.

## **7.2 Project co-financing**

1. A total of US$19,799,779 is committed as co-finance from 10 sources. Of this, US $5,677,779 is in cash and US $13,772,000 is in-kind (see Table 6 for details). The breakdown per project component is given in Appendix 2.

**Table 6. Co-financing by source and component in USD.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name of co-financer** | **Classification** | **Cash** | **In kind** |
| GEO BON | Others | 1,150,000 | 1,300,000 |
| CBD | Multilateral Agency | 200,000 | 600,000 |
| GBIF | Others |  | 3,250,000 |
| Instituto de Investigação Científica Tropical (IICT) | Others | 104,500 | 22,000 |
| WCMC | GEF Agency | 1,154,000 | 1,150,000 |
| IIED | Others | 2,369,279 |  |
| BioPAMA | Others |  | 5,200,000 |
| BirdLife International | Others |  | 500,000 |
| National Environment Management Authority (Uganda) | National Government | 100,000 | 1,000,000 |
| Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (Ghana) | National Government | 600,000 | 750,000 |
| Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development (Mozambique) | National Government | 0 | 350,000 |
| **Total** |  | **5,677,779** | **14,122,000** |

## **7.3 Project cost-effectiveness**

1. The Connect project is built on **collaborative partnerships, sharing of project outputs and alignment with ongoing current work** at both the national and international level. During the PPG phase every effort was made to identify, contact and collaborate with all relevant projects, both within the demonstration countries (see Box 4; Annex 2) and at the regional and international level. These efforts will continue throughout the project implementation via continued monitoring by project teams and horizon-scanning by the ITAUG (see Appendix 8).

|  |
| --- |
| **Box 4. The Clearing House Mechanism and BIOFUND projects in Mozambique**  The Mozambique Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development have received funding to develop a national Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), as required under the CBD. However, the information required is currently scattered in different organisations, including universities. During consultations during the PPG phase, Ministry staff highlighted that they are looking to integrate biodiversity into their green economy work yet require the necessary information to do so.  BIOFUND Mozambique aims to support the conservation of aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources, including the consolidation of the national system of conservation areas. During consultations in the PPG phase, BIOFUND reiterated that the main barrier to information sharing in Mozambique is the fact that information is inconsistently collected and stored. BIOFUND have recently funded projects to create a national biodiversity database and have produced habitat maps primarily to inform biodiversity offset schemes.  It appears that these initiatives are not well linked. For example BIOFUND were not aware of the Ministry’s attempts to develop a CHM portal and vice versa. The Connect project could usefully build on the work of these initiatives and to provide quick wins in terms of connecting these data providers and end users. |

1. This is a global project, designed to provide lessons on a global scale through an upscaling strategy (see Section 3.1). However, in order to produce relevant and useable lessons which can be replicated across the globe, the project will **work deeply in three demonstration countries**. This number was chosen to allow the necessary focus for project activities that may not be achieved if funds were spread further across four or more demonstration countries; however focusing on only one or two countries may not allow for the necessary variation between demonstrations. The demonstration selection criteria (see Section 3.1 and Section 3.5) was developed in order to ensure cost effectiveness and mitigate against risks. Indeed, point seven in the criteria states “**Cost-effectiveness: building on existing work in the countries so to maximise project impact and ensure that the GEF investment brings added value**”.
2. During the PPG phase, a ‘twinning’ approach was considered. This would entail the pairing of a ‘leading’ nation with an ‘advancing’ nation across three distinct geographic regions. However, this strategy was rejected in order to provide the best value for project funds and to allow for **dynamic sharing of project experiences between peers** in the Sub Saharan region. In order to still allow for a regional element, the project will engage stakeholders through the identification of existing regional groups and the ITAUG (see Section 3.1).
3. The Connect project is not facilitating the collection of new data, but maximizing the potential of existing data and information available at the national level (see Box 5 and Annex 2). The identification, mobilization and re-packaging of existing data and information into a useable and accessible format for end-users will maximize the potential of these data and build on the significant efforts already made.

|  |
| --- |
| **Box 5. National Biodiversity Data Bank, Uganda**  The Ugandan National Biodiversity Databank (NBDB) is currently housed at Makerere University in Kampala. The database holds mostly species occurrence data with some additional associated information such as breeding status. Some funding has been identified to support the development of a national biodiversity database within National Environment Management Authority (NEMA). This could potentially be used to support the NBDB at the university with a duplicate, automatically up-dated database sitting in NEMA. National NGO Nature Uganda and the NBDB have a data sharing agreement in place where Nature Uganda pledges not to set up their own database but rather use the NBDB. This illustrates the desire for the long-term sustainability of the NBDB within Uganda. However there is currently a disconnect between the data providers in Uganda (such as the NBDB, Nature Uganda, etc.) and government end users (NEMA, Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBoS)). This is where the Connect project could add significant value to ongoing initiatives at the national level. |

1. Linked to this, existing biodiversity groups or forums within each demonstration have been identified (Box 6, Annex 2). **Re-convening and/or reinvigorating these networks**, as opposed to the formulation of new groups, will lead to cost effectiveness in the coordination of the national User Boards. Integrating new members into an existing group will **streamline the initial trust building phase** necessary to create meaningful networks of individuals.

|  |
| --- |
| **Box 6. National Biodiversity Committee, Ghana**  Previous efforts have been made in Ghana to bring together the various biodiversity data and information that is currently ‘scattered’ across different government ministries, organizations and individuals. A National Biodiversity Committee (NBC) was convened by a consultant from the Centre for African Wetlands for this purpose, but has been dormant for some time. Discussions with partners in Ghana uncovered a need for the Connect project to reconvene the NBC to address issues of data management and provision to serve current national requirements. |

1. The forging of long term associations between data providers and end users is the cornerstone of the Connect project. These partnerships will be built to last beyond the project lifespan and serve as real world examples of how identified barriers can be removed to provide mutual benefits and sustain the cost effectiveness of the project.

# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Budget by project components and UNEP budget lines

## Appendix 2: Co-financing by source and UNEP budget lines

## Appendix 3: Results Framework

## Appendix 4: Workplan and timetable

## Appendix 5: Key deliverables and benchmarks

## Appendix 6: Costed M&E Plan

## Appendix 7: Summary of reporting requirements and responsibilities

## Appendix 8: Terms of Reference

## Appendix 9: Co-financing commitment letters from project partners

## Appendix 10: Endorsement letters of 3x GEF National Focal Points

## Appendix 11: Checklist for Environmental and Social Issues

## Appendix 12: Project Supervision Plan

## Appendix 13: Tracking tools

# Annexes

## Annex 1: Theory of change and design considerations

## Annex 2: Demonstration Country Information

## Ghana

## Mozambique

## Uganda

## Annex 3: National level background materials:

## Workshop report: Integrating biodiversity into sectoral decision making

## Workshop report: African data for African Managers

## Workshop report: Pretoria

## Mission report: Demonstration country visits

## Annex 4: Lessons learnt in other mainstreaming projects

## Annex 5: Lessons learnt from ‘Mobilising Africa’s biodiversity data’

## Annex 6: Letters of support

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43. The UNDP-GEF biodiversity mainstreaming portfolio includes projects that: (i) Promote the holistic valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services to strengthen the business case for investments by governments and the private sector; (ii) Internalize the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services within national and sub-national plans, policies and accounting frameworks, and (iii) Promote engagement with sectors in production landscapes and seascapes to mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem management objectives. [↑](#footnote-ref-44)
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47. All of the external environment barriers within developing countries cannot be addressed – the project must work within the bounds of reality. [↑](#footnote-ref-48)
48. This section will also describe the project rationale, geographic scope and theory of change. For demonstration country-specific information on intervention design and implementation, see Annex 2. [↑](#footnote-ref-49)
49. A shortlist of demonstration countries was selected using a set of criteria set out at the PIF stage The PIF criteria stated that the countries must:

    1. Be GEF-eligible;
    2. Be rapidly developing through agriculture, extractive sectors, or other growth sectors that present a high risk to biodiversity; alternatively, there is an unexploited opportunity to restore, rehabilitate or protect biodiversity;
    3. Have a demonstrated willingness to act on biodiversity loss and are amenable to building the capacity within their governments to respond effectively (addressing motivation, at least amongst key biodiversity stakeholders in the country);
    4. Be capable and motivated to offer a showcase example / play a leadership role within their region and globally.

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