

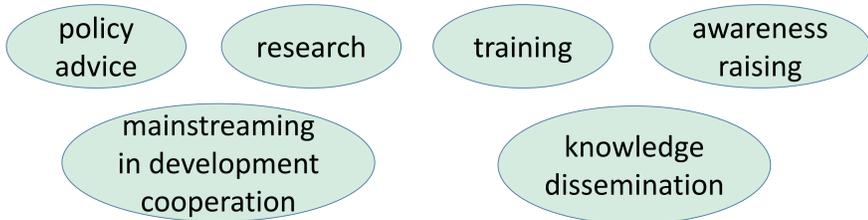
CAPACITY BUILDING FOR ESTABLISHING BIODIVERSITY INDICATORS IN AFRICA

Anne-Julie Rochette, Maarten P. M. Vanhove, Luc Janssens de Bisthoven
CEBioS - Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development
Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, 29 rue Vautier, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
<http://cebios.naturalsciences.be>; ajrochette@naturalsciences.be

Who we are

CEBioS - Capacities for Biodiversity and Sustainable Development

The CEBioS programme provides capacity building on biodiversity policy and research related to biodiversity, thereby promoting sustainable development in developing countries. It is based at the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences and funded by the Belgian development cooperation. Activities include:



on the conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity in the partner countries of the Belgian cooperation.



Archives of the former national parks of Belgian Congo

Archives are scanned and made available online. Managers of protected areas in DRC are trained for the collection of standardized data on habitat dynamics. The archives of RBINS provide a baseline for Congolese ecosystems and ecosystem services.

www.apncb.be/

Policy-relevant science

CEBioS scientists advise and inform various actors within the Belgian governmental cooperation on potential biodiversity-related impacts and opportunities of development policy choices.

They also conduct research with universities and academic development cooperation:

- Biodiversity impact assessment of development projects
- Habitat and vegetation characterisation in Lake Tanganyika and protected areas in Burundi, DRC, Benin
- Fish parasites as indicators of fisheries and ecosystem health (Congo Basin)
- Marine modelling

Publication of biodiversity information

We organize trainings in our partner countries to develop web information portals on biodiversity and on biodiversity policies:

The Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) and the NBSAP cross-linking tool

National CHMs deliver web-based information on:



- the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and its national implementation
- national strategic documents related to the CBD
- the status of biodiversity in the country



This NBSAP cross-linking tool assists countries to report on the implementation of the Aichi targets and their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). A section on national indicators is being developed.



Capacity building for biodiversity research

CEBioS issues grants to researchers from partner countries for capacity building in taxonomy and access to collections in Belgium.

The aim is to strengthen the scientific knowledge on biodiversity and on its linkages with ecosystem services and poverty reduction. Examples:

- Bats as bushmeat and implications for health in DRC
- Annelids as water quality indicators in Benin
- Edible wild mushrooms in Ivory Coast
- Pollinators from protected areas and agricultural land in Burundi



A new activity: Capacity building for establishing biodiversity indicators

With the adoption of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the CBD, countries will have to formulate biodiversity indicators and gather data that will feed these. Improving measurement, reporting and verification of biodiversity, ecosystem services and related policy choices became one of our principal objectives.

