

Biodiversity for Sustainable Development: Opportunities in ABS, PES, REDD+ and International Trade

Nepal Biotrade and Green Economy Week

**Day 3: High-level Consultation on Role of Biodiversity in
Investments, Exports and Poverty Reduction**

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Better off without humans?

- The Anthropocene: a new geological age (but quite possibly very short...)
- Multiple global environmental crises:
 - Climate Change, extreme weather, water wars
 - Biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse
 - Land degradation, crop failures, starvation
 - Pollution, poisons, "peak everything"
 - Extreme inequality, environmental refugees
 - All made worse by population explosion
- Never mind Saving the Planet – Save Homo Sapiens!

Giving us a second chance

- Full extent of peril only recently known – remote sensing, computer modelling...
- Since Rio 1992 concerted global efforts to find better ways of living
- Emerging consensus: conserve what we have left, change course, allocate and use resources more efficiently
- Growth of market-based mechanisms
- An interim solution, but our best plan for the foreseeable future

An example: ABS in the CBD

- Objectives of the CBD:
 - Conservation of biological diversity
 - Sustainable use of its components, and
 - *“fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding .”*

The logic of ABS, multiplied

- Benefit-sharing provides custodians of biodiversity with incentive for sustainable use, which leads to conservation
- Essentially the same thinking driving Green Economy: value what nature provides and take it into account
- Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES)
- Carbon credits and Clean Development
- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
- Books must balance globally, so trade

Many acronyms, only one world

- UNCCD: local problems, local solutions
- CBD: national/regional problems, solutions
- UNFCCC: global problem, can be tackled anywhere (CDM, JI, REDD+)
- BUT international trade and human migration has shrunk the “global village” – now we are all connected, everywhere
- Need to think and act holistically, use systems approach, integrate our actions
- Beginning to affect consumer behaviour (e.g. Organic, Fair Trade...)

New development pathways

- Understanding “global market place” for sustainable living opens many new opportunities for developing countries
- Main opportunity is to “leapfrog” – go straight to a sustainable future, avoid the waste and destruction (e.g. spread of mobile telecommunications in Africa)
- Technology transfer and capacity building aimed at developing new forms of “green economy” (e.g. biotrade)
- Develop national plans for using “toolbox”

Sounds complicated, is simple

- Humanity will change its current way of living, voluntarily or in response to terrible natural and social disasters
- When we change, everything will depend on what we have managed to save
- In the meantime policy makers must do everything they can to make better plans, because when we change we will really need alternatives

Do your best –
it's all you can do