

Forest biodiversity assessment & protection: experience in collaboration and opportunities for multiple benefits

Workshop on reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
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UNEP...

**... assists Parties,
especially developing
countries,**

**in response measures to
climate change**

**& in fields such as
capacity building,
mitigation, adaptation
and public awareness**



UNEP-WCMC...

...is the biodiversity *assessment & policy* implementation arm of UNEP

Supporting and working with:

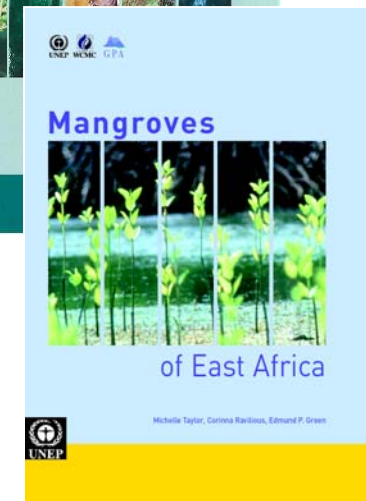
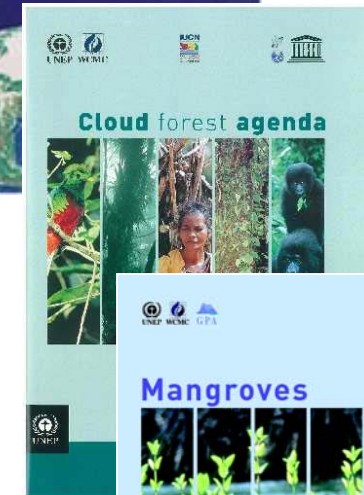
UN agencies, conventions, IGOs,
governments, industry, NGOs

Avoided deforestation provides an
opportunity for mutual benefits
under climate and biodiversity
conventions



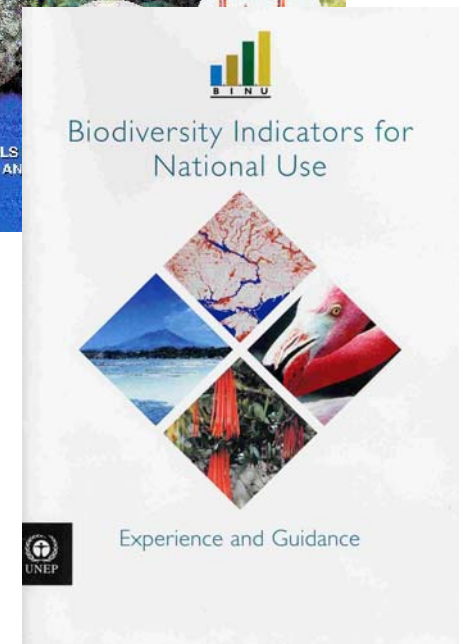
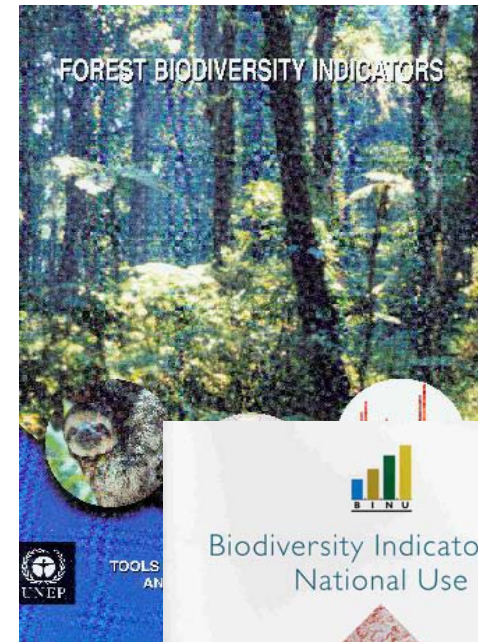
Assessment and monitoring activities

- Forest mapping: substantial work on forest mapping and atlases 1987-2000
- Global assessments: input to
 - *FAO Forest Resource Assessment*
 - *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment*
 - *Global Environment Outlook*
- Habitats: mangroves, cloud forests, mountains, land cover modelling
- Forest species: threatened trees, great apes
- Pressures on forest and responses: fragmentation, protected areas, forest restoration



Capacity building – monitoring & indicators

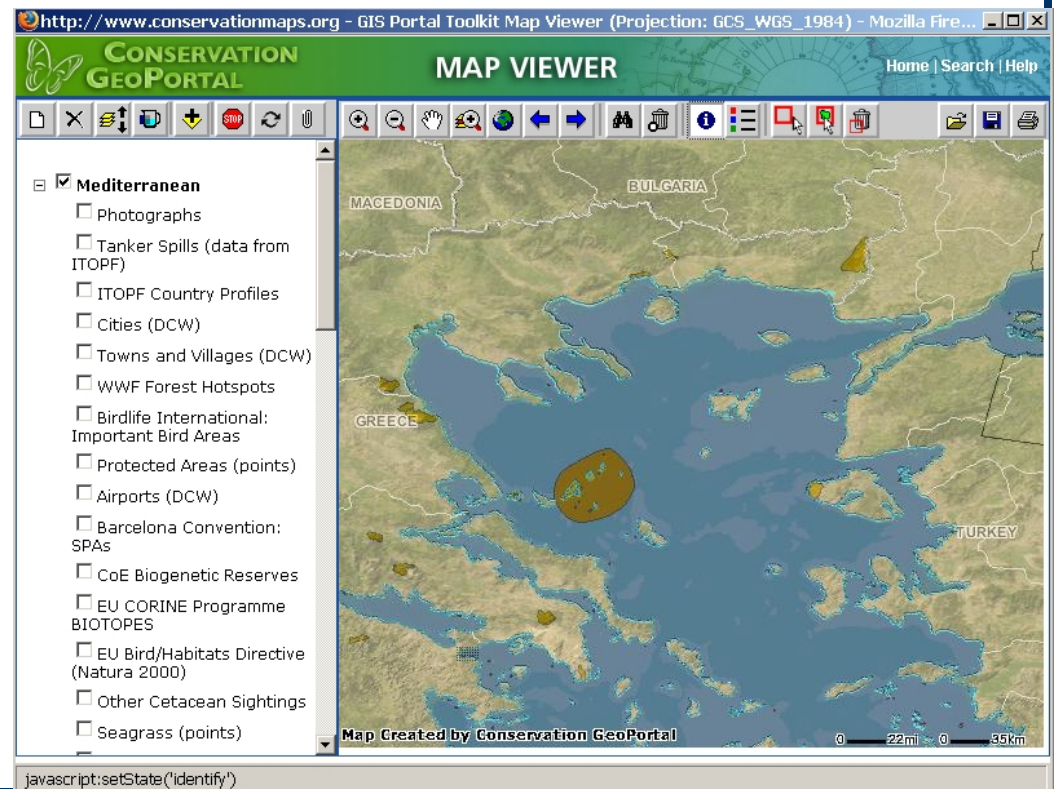
- Internationally adopted targets such as 2010 biodiversity target require indicators; including **trends in ecosystem extent**
- Supporting development of indicators at global, regional and national scales
- 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
- Facilitating national collaboration through workshops to share experience



Data sharing example

- World Database on Protected Areas
- IMAPS (interactive maps)
- Conservation Geoportal

UNEP-WCMC works with partners on data standards, collates and harmonises data from a range of scales and shares the results.



Multiple benefits of avoided deforestation

- Carbon storage is just one ecosystem service provided by forests
- Avoided deforestation is also critical for biodiversity conservation and other ecosystem services
- Potential for multiple benefits – reducing emissions, reducing biodiversity loss and maintaining other services
- Design of mechanism is crucial in ensuring delivery of multiple benefits



Opportunities for Parties

Potential for:

- Simultaneously meeting obligations of several conventions/mechanisms
 - UNFCCC, MDGs, CBD, UNCCD, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, UNFF...
- Sharing monitoring systems?
- Emergence of new additional funding?

Areas for consideration in developing a mechanism to deliver multiple benefits (i)

- What is the relative importance of different drivers of forest loss?
- What are the impacts on carbon sinks of forest fragmentation, CO₂ concentrations and climate?
- How do we identify potential winners & losers under different mechanisms?



Areas for consideration in developing a mechanism to deliver multiple benefits (ii)

- How can we minimise the impacts of leakage on biodiversity?
- What are the best methods of monitoring and reporting on ecosystem service benefits at multiple scales?
- What role could protected areas play in implementing the mechanism?



What sort of support and guidance might Parties require...

- ... in identifying opportunities for multiple benefits?
- ... in developing and implementing monitoring programmes?
- ... in benefiting from lessons learnt elsewhere?
- ... in sharing data?

