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**BIODEV2030**  
MAINSTREAMING  
BIODIVERSITY

**A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER  
DIALOGUE GROUNDED  
IN SCIENCE:**

PRODUCING AN  
ASSESSMENT OF  
BIODIVERSITY ISSUES  
AND ENSURING  
STAKEHOLDER  
OWNERSHIP

ambition for biodiversity

**BIODEV**  
2030





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## WHAT IS IT?

Practical guide for initiating a multi-stakeholder dialogue based on science.

## WHO IS IT FOR?

Governments, development banks and NGOs or any other organisation wishing to follow a similar mainstreaming approach.

## HOW?

Lessons were drawn from the experience in the 16 countries that tested the BIODEV2030 method between 2019 and 2022.

**B**iodiversity must be mainstreamed into every decision-making process and every sector of activity that contributes, directly or indirectly, to its erosion.<sup>1</sup>

Two conditions are required to achieve this. Firstly, it is necessary to demonstrate the links between production practices and ecosystems (impacts as well as dependencies) at all stages of the value chains. Secondly, all stakeholders, whether biodiversity experts or not (private stakeholders, public decision-makers, NGOs, research institutes, civil society), should be involved so that they can work together to develop and implement transformative changes.

**The BIODEV2030 project proposes a participatory and inclusive science-based approach to mainstream biodiversity into economic sectors and consequently halt its decline by 2030.**

By drawing lessons from the project implementation in the 16 countries that tested the BIODEV2030 method between 2019 and 2022, we were able to identify **two factors of success for grounding multi-stakeholder dialogue in science:**

**1. Produce a scientifically credible assessment**, legitimate in the eyes of stakeholders and relevant for decision-makers, based on scientific data, in order to identify and classify the main drivers of biodiversity loss and link them to production practices.

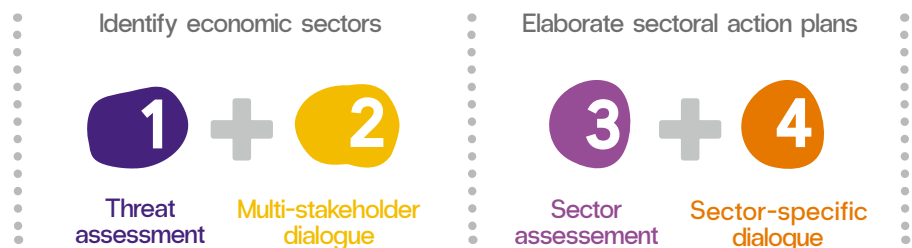
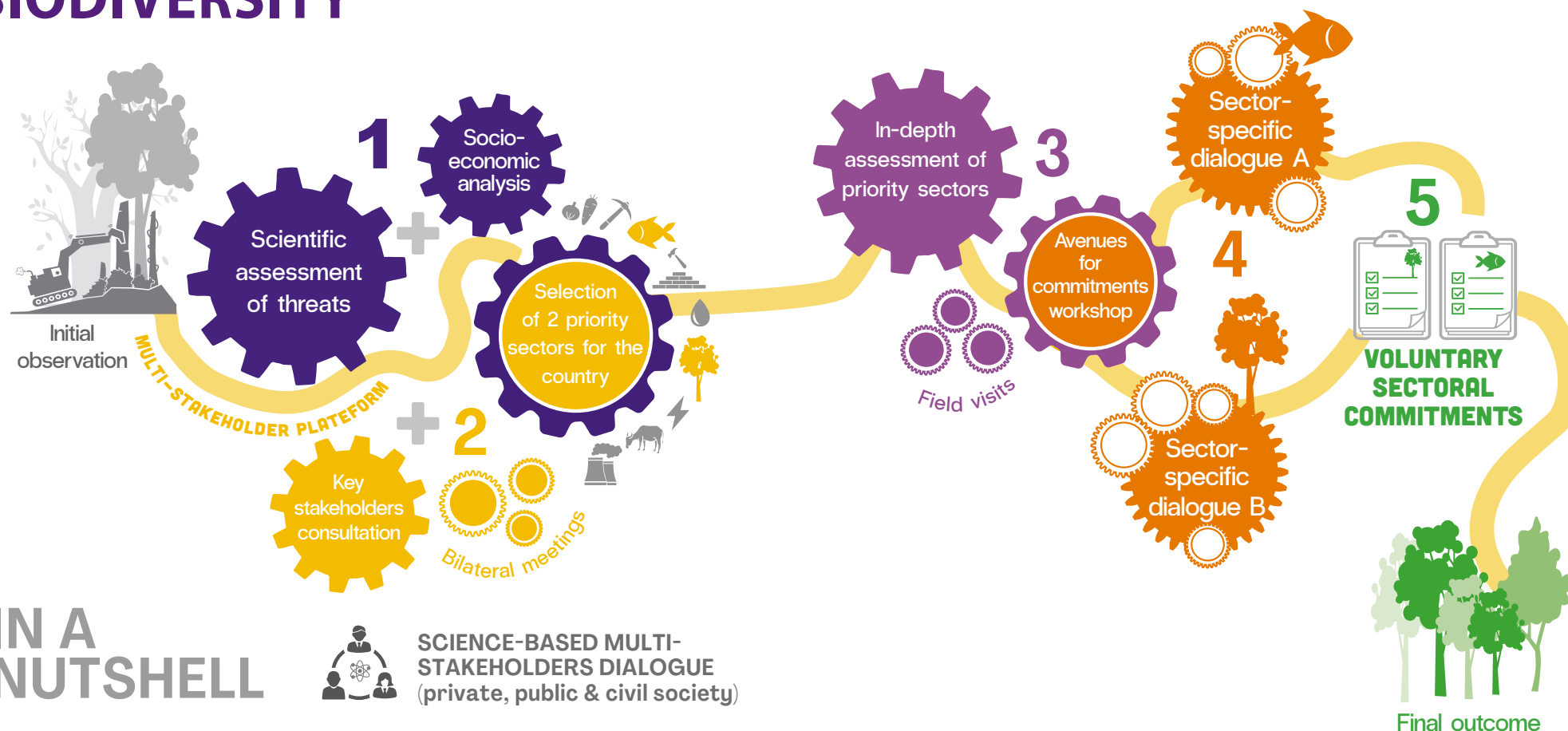
**2. Support the ownership of results** and initiate dialogue between all stakeholders. Debates on assessment findings should lead to the prioritisation of the sectors of activity for biodiversity mainstreaming.

This practical guide presents the lessons learned of BIODEV2030 and is intended for governments, development banks and NGOs or any other organisation wishing to carry out a similar mainstreaming approach.

*Over a period of three years, BIODEV2030 has tested a method to provide governments with the means to identify and initiate, together with the private sector, profound changes in the economic sectors that have a strategic impact on both development and biodiversity. It is based on 3 stages: scientific assessment, multi-stakeholder dialogue and voluntary commitments.*



# BIODEV2030 METHOD TO MAINSTREAM BIODIVERSITY



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# SUCCESS CRITERIA 1

PRODUCE A  
CREDIBLE  
ASSESSMENT,  
LEGITIMATE IN  
THE EYES OF  
STAKEHOLDERS  
AND RELEVANT FOR  
DECISION-MAKERS

**OBJECTIVES:** to identify, classify and link the main drivers of biodiversity loss to productive sectors and practices in order to guide the choice of priority sectors.

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## STEP 1

### RECRUIT A TEAM OF CONSULTANTS AND FRAME THE INTENDED RESULTS

The criteria used to recruit the consultants responsible for carrying out the threats assessment in the 16 BIODIV2030 countries were: an in-depth knowledge of biodiversity and ecosystem issues, specific skills in ecological sciences, system sustainability analysis, and data analysis. Experience in one of the economic sectors presumed to have an impact on biodiversity was also considered an asset. Once the recruitment done, an inception meeting was organised with the governance entity to define the scope of the study, its methodology and expectations. This ensured a common understanding of the objectives of the assessment and increased decision-makers' readiness and buy-in.



#### BROADEN THE SCOPE OF THE TEAM BY MIXING ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC EXPERTS

The team of consultants should not be composed solely of biodiversity experts. Experts in the productive practices of the foreseen economic sectors can provide a different focus from that of species conservation.



## 2 STEP 2 EXAMINE THE COUNTRY'S INSTITUTIONAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CONTEXT

This study, carried out by most countries before or during the threats assessment, provided quantitative and qualitative data on national development dynamics. The socio-economic data gathered provided relevant information for decision-makers to guide them in the choice of priority sectors. It was also helpful to identify key stakeholders to involve in the project and to inform the consultants on the persons and organisations to consult.

## 3 STEP 3 USE A ROBUST SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGY AND TOOLS

The consultants combined 3 complementary methods:

1. Literature review: to collect, analyse and organise key knowledge on biodiversity,
2. STAR<sup>2</sup> metric (scores and maps): to quantify the contribution of different threats to the extinction risk of species,
3. Biodiversity expert interviews: to solicit and aggregate experts' opinions and representations on specific issues.



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(2) Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) metric (Mair et al. 2021). STAR combines data on the extinction risk of species and the threats they face to produce two complementary types of data for threat abatement and restoration.



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By using various data sources (national or even international when necessary), it was possible to triangulate the information obtained and thus increase the robustness of the analysis. The literature review findings and the use of STAR were then refined and expanded on by national experts. Their contribution bolstered assessment legitimacy in the eyes of the stakeholders as it was meant to reflect the national situation more accurately.



### PAY ATTENTION TO THE COMPLEMENTARITY OF THE METHODS USED AND OF THE EXPERTS CONSULTED

For the results to be credible, the advantages and limitations of each of the three methods used have to be clear to consultants and stakeholders, as well as the compromises made between data accuracy and data representativeness. The experts provide technical knowledge and/or know-how and enhance the scientific credibility of the study.



### CONDUCT INTERVIEWS WITH EXPERTS FROM ECONOMIC SECTORS

This allows for greater precision in the identification of the specific production practices that were causing biodiversity decline at the national level. Such interviews also anticipate on the priority sectors in-depth analysis to come, and thus help save time.

### RESOURCES



See our 12 operational recommendations for carrying out the scientific assessment on the main threats to biodiversity. Vergez (2022).



# 4 STEP 4 CONSULT KEY STAKEHOLDERS

The consultants were also able to consult key stakeholders, including from the private sector and local communities, via online questionnaires. This survey was the opportunity for them to express their interests and concerns and therefore to validate, invalidate or complement the assessment findings. This exercise was crucial to increase the social acceptability of the threats assessment findings.



*"In Madagascar, the consultants recruited to carry out the threat assessment first suggested carrying out a stakeholder analysis. This enabled us to plan for the consultation of important stakeholders for the project and to anticipate the level of efforts required to mobilise them on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in the economic sectors."*

*"During the consultations, private sector stakeholders speak about their difficulties and give their points of view on each question asked. With these meetings, the reality on the ground is brought forward and taken into account in the implementation of the project."*

Dr Augustin Orou Matilo -  
Benin's National  
Focal Point - CBD\*



*We then contacted them by sending two questionnaires: the first to private companies and trade unions, the second to ministries, public institutions, NGOs, associations and foundations. With this consultation, we gathered inputs from stakeholders for the analysis of erosion drivers. This was a valuable opportunity to obtain their thoughts on the sectors that have the greatest impact on biodiversity, on current commitments and on the difficulties faced by private sector stakeholders and the leverage used to increasingly take biodiversity into account in their activities."*

**Jean Chrysostome Rakotoary - BIODEV2030 project manager in Madagascar**

\*Convention on Biological Diversity

# 5 STEP 5 CLASSIFY THREATS AND LINK THEM TO ECONOMIC SECTORS

The threat assessments identified the main threats to biodiversity and enabled us to determine the economic sectors responsible. **This prioritisation was useful to structure the debates between scientists and public and private decision-makers.** It also helped reach decisions rapidly on priority sectors (less than a year between the beginning of the assessments and the selection of sectors by stakeholders).



*"It is to be expected that scientific data will be used by policy makers, but its use by the private sector is a challenge. This data should be used to raise awareness for the private sector to take action."*

M. Fred Onyai - Representative  
of Uganda's National Focal  
Point - CBD





# SUCCESS CRITERIA 2

SUPPORT  
THE OWNERSHIP  
OF THE RESULTS  
AND INITIATE  
THE DIALOGUE

**OBJECTIVES:** to set up a dialogue with and between stakeholders so that they take ownership of the scientific threats assessment findings, discuss its conclusions and select the priority economic sectors for biodiversity mainstreaming.

## 6 STEP 6 IDENTIFY THE STAKEHOLDERS IN THE DIALOGUE

The stakeholders invited to discuss the findings of the threat assessment were identified with the technical teams from the ministry of environment and sectoral ministries. The pre-identifications and consultations during the assessment facilitated this process.



### ENSURE THE REPRESENTATIVENESS AND THE RIGHT LEVEL OF RESPONSIBILITY OF STAKEHOLDERS

The over-representation of public and higher education and research organisations can lead to the self-censorship of stakeholders, especially private ones, when discussing the results. It is recommended to target high-level participants with scientific expertise and a link to the sectors of activity to facilitate decision-making.



### SECURE THE SUPPORT OF TOP-LEVEL MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVES

Their support in the organisation of the dialogue and the invitations to stakeholders helps to establish the legitimacy of the process and increase stakeholder engagement. The involvement of sectoral or economic and finance ministers promotes the strategic and political mainstreaming of the process.

## STEP 7 FAMILIARISE STAKEHOLDERS WITH THE CONTENT OF THE ASSESSMENT

The organisation of bilateral meetings with certain stakeholders – previously identified as important for the multi-stakeholder dialogue – enhanced the understanding and buy-in of the threat assessment findings. In addition, this stage was an opportunity to assess their level of involvement in the project and to prepare the future discussions on the choice of priority sectors.

### POPULARISE THE CONCLUSIONS BY ADAPTING THEM TO EACH STAKEHOLDER

A good shared understanding of the conclusions and issues by all the stakeholders can influence the choice of the sectors in which to accelerate biodiversity mainstreaming. If the conclusions correctly incorporate stakeholders' perspectives, practices and prior knowledge, greater ownership will be achieved.

© WWF Madagascar



*"The method is not successful because it is imposed but rather because it involves everyone. There are debates, but with scientific-based arguments, the stakeholders are able to find a middle ground thanks to a common understanding of the issues."*

M. Guy Faller Constant Ganga  
Louamba - Congo's National  
Focal Point - CBD



## STEP 8 HOLD A NATIONAL WORKSHOP TO SHARE THE RESULTS



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This one or two-days workshop was a key moment that brought together all the stakeholders. Priority sectors for the next stages of the project were selected on the basis of clear criteria shared by all. The methodology and conclusions of the study were presented and discussed by the stakeholders. It must be ensured that each participant has the opportunity to read the threat assessment and the agenda before the workshop.

### PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THE FACILITATION OF THE MEETINGS

The facilitators took care to encourage exchange, participation and decision-making by organising work by mixed groups or by expertise, using interactive digital tools or distributing questionnaires to collect the opinions and interests of stakeholders.

*"It is important to find a recipe that recognises everyone's interests and that does not marginalise the stakeholders. Their capacities need to be strengthened by producing and sharing data and assessments. This makes it possible for them to engage in dialogue, to emulate."*

M. Amadé Ouedraogo -  
Burkina Faso's National  
Focal Point - CBD







*"In Guyana, we used digital collaborative tools designed to foster more effective and efficient teamwork among participants. They were useful to limit interference and to focus on listening to and gathering information from stakeholders. The interactive nature of the workshop had many benefits. For example, the positive atmosphere created by the use of innovative tools made the workshop less tiring and made participants much more receptive and productive."*

Devon Dublin - BIODIV2030 project manager in Guyana

## STEP 9 SELECT THE PRIORITY ECONOMIC SECTORS

Thanks to the threats assessment, the link between the main threats and the key sectors was easily demonstrated. While the choice of priority economic sectors was based on the results of the threats assessment, other criteria were also to be taken into account (economic, social, institutional, willingness or structure of stakeholders). In order to improve the transparency of the decision-making process and maximise stakeholder engagement, the criteria for selecting sectors were clearly defined.



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### SPECIFY THE SECTORS OR REGIONS

Reaching this level of detail at the end of the national restitution workshop facilitates the implementation of the next stages of the BIODIV2030 method. The consultants will be able to carry out an in-depth analysis of the sector more rapidly and thus identify in greater detail the production practices with the most impact and the stakeholders in the value chain that need to be mobilised for the next phases of the dialogue.



*"In Ethiopia, the assessment of national threats identified agriculture – crops and livestock – and logging as the main economic sectors responsible for the decline in biodiversity. The report also identified 4 sub-regions that were particularly rich in biodiversity and under significant pressure. During the national restitution workshop, stakeholders discussed and integrated these results to decide on the sub-sectors to be mobilised and the priority regions for action. They considered various criteria such as the pressure exerted on biodiversity, their importance in the national GDP and the local economy, the organisation of the stakeholders in the sectors, and the presence of institutions at regional level. Finally, the choice was made to target cereals and livestock in the Bale eco-region and coffee in the Natural Forest in the Southwest, along with timber harvesting in these two regions."*

Abdeta Robi - BIODIV2030 project manager in Ethiopia

## STEP 10 SUMMARISE AND POPULARISE THE THREATS ASSESSMENT REPORT AND ITS FINDINGS

The threat assessments were summarised in the form of a policy brief at the end of the national workshops in order to facilitate the dissemination of the results. Explaining the conclusions in lay terms should be anticipated as soon as the study has been framed in order to select the most appropriate media for a specific target group of decision-makers. Workshops for journalists can be organised to raise awareness and to train them on biodiversity issues so that they can contribute to the public debate.

**"Publishing a report is not enough. Official copies must be sent to the different ministerial authorities. We must then meet with them to present and explain the work carried out."**

Dr. Augustin Orou Matilo -  
Benin's National Focal  
Point - CBD



# 3 YEAR PROJECT

**OUR MISSION:**  
To foster sectoral commitments in favour of biodiversity

**OUR SOLUTION:**  
Through a science-based multi-stakeholder dialogue

**7 ECONOMIC SECTORS OF ACTION**

- Agriculture
- Livestock breeding
- Extractive sector
- Fisheries
- Forestry
- Energy
- Infrastructures

**+650 STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED**

- State actors
- Private sector
- Civil society organisations
- Indigenous people
- Local communities







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FUNDING



COORDINATION



IMPLEMENTATION

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