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Biodiversity Indicators for policy makers

Presentation for the Modelling Workshop 24-26 March 2009, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

By Ben ten Brink Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency (PBL)



- 1. What is PBL?
- 2. What is happening with biodiversity?
- 3. How to indicate?
- 4. Why is it happening?
- 5. Why is it important?

- Governmental, independent
- Feedback & feed forward to policies NOT ADVICE!
- Clients: Netherlands, EU, OECD, CBD, UNEP, FAO, IPCC



4 policy key questions:

- 1. What is happening?
- 2. Why is it happening?
- 3. Why is it important?
- 4. What can we do about it?

PBL activities & products (biodiversity)

Activities:

- Understanding human environment
- Building Tools: indicators & models & monitoring
- Assessments



Products:

- Biodiversity indicators
- Biodiversity model: GLOBIO
- Assessments:
 - GEO1- 4; MEA , FAO-outlooks, OECD outlooks, GBO2, GBO3.
- Partner network



Cooperation with many partners

- UNEP- World Conservation and monitoring Centre
- UNEP -GRID Arendal
- University of Britisch Columbia (Ocean biodiversity)

GLOBIO consortium

- Universities
- Instutes: CSIR (South Africa), Ecosciencia (Ecuador), SINIA and UCA (Nicaragua), CRES, MPI (Vietnam), UNEP-GMS, EOC and Univ. Katsesart (Thailand), KWS (Kenya), ECOSUR, Conabio (Mexico), IRBIO (Honduras), FUNDAECO (Guatemala), La Molina (Peru) ULMRC (Ukrain), AideEnvironment, Wetland International, WWF, e.a.



2. What is happening with biodiversity?

What is biodiversity?

- Many definitions
- Many aspects (richness and abundance)
- Many components
- Many scales: alpha, beta and gamma
- Many organisational levels
- Wild and domesticated
- Many measures
- Which baselines
- How to aggregate

Total confusion

'biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species (genetic), between species and of ecosystems'.

We specified biodiversity as a natural resource ('natural capital') containing all original species with their specific abundance, distribution and natural fluctuations. Ben ten Brink, March 2009

Ecosystem diversity: natural biomes

biomes



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How many species are there? (statistics)

- Estimates beween 2 and > 10 million (dependent on study)
- Focus on visible biodiversity



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Animal species diversity per biome



Plant species diversity



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Biodiversity hotspots

according to Conservation International



3. How do we measure biodiversity?



Scientist - policy maker communication



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Protected area

Decrease in abundance of many original species

increase in abundance of a few, often man-favoured species

as a result of human interventions



homogenisation

Extinction just a last step, species richness may initially increase

Source: Pauly et al., 1998; Ten Brink, 1990, 2000; Lockwood & McKinney, 2001; Meyers and Worm, 2003; Scholes and Biggs, 2005; MEA, 2005.

Process of biodiversity loss: homogenisation



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We also log, plough, burn, convert, burn, pollute and hunt down ecosyste^{Brisen Brink, March 2009}

Schematic view of biodiversity loss



Mean abundance of the original species compared to the original ecosystem

Or: Mean Species Abundance (MSA)

Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency shop analogy

Biodiversity loss A landscape view





degradatio









stine forest











MSA

0%

Grassland







original species







agricultur



Criteria for choosing indicators

Source : UNEP/CBD (2003)

On individual indicators:

1. Policy relevant and meaningful

Indicators should send a clear message and provide information at a level appropriate for policy and management decision making by assessing changes in the status of biodiversity (or pressures, responses, use or capacity), related to baselines and agreed policy targets if possible.

2. Biodiversity relevant

Indicators should address key properties of biodiversity or related issues as state, pressures, responses, use or capacity.

3. Scientifically sound

Indicators must be based on clearly defined, verifiable and scientifically acceptable data, which are collected using standard methods with known accuracy and precision, or based on traditional knowledge that has been validated in an appropriate way.

4. Broad acceptance

The power of an indicator depends on its broad acceptance. Involvement of the policy makers, and major stakeholders and experts in the development of an indicator is crucial.

5. Affordable monitoring

Indicators should be measurable in an accurate and affordable way and part of a sustainable monitoring system, using determinable baselines and targets for the assessment of improvements and declines.

6. Affordable modelling

Information on cause-effect relationships should be achievable and quantifiable, in order to link pressures, state and response indicators. These relation models enable scenario analyses and are the basis of the ecosystem approach.

7. Sensitive

Indicators should be sensitive to show trends and, where possible, permit distinction between humaninduced and natural changes. Indicators should thus be able to detect changes in systems in time frames and on the scales that are relevant to the decisions, but also be robust so that measuring errors do not affect the interpretation. It is important to detect changes before it is too late to correct the problems being detected.

On the set of indicators:

8. Representative

The set of indicators provides a representative picture of the pressures, biodiversity state, responses, uses and capacity (coverage).

9. Small number

The smaller the total number of indicators, the more communicable they are to policy makers and the public and the lower the cost.

10. Aggregation and flexibility

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Indicators should be designed in a manner that facilitates aggregation at a range of scales for different purposes. Aggregation of indicators at the level of ecosystem types (thematic areas) or the national or international levels requires the use of coherent indicators sets (see criteria 8) and consistent baselines. This also applies for pressure, response, use and capacity indicators.

How do we measure biodiversity?

Macro-ecological indicators

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Towards a set of macro-ecological indicators



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4. Why it happens?

Natural ecosystem

	crops	Water basin		National Park	
		Shrimp farm		golf	
	timber plantation	cattle	road		city
			Energy crop		,



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Swap services for goods March 2009

5. Why is it important?



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Avoid a lose-lose, or else...



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Assessing biodiversity change

the more the better ?





Indicator	species	Baseline	assess. principle
RLI	tax groups	viability	risk extinction
STI	tax groups,	1980	more -> better
LPI	cross section	1970-2000	more -> better
NCI	cross section	pre-industrial	naturalness + agri
BII	cross section	present PA	naturalness
MSA	cross section	low impact	naturalness

They vary in:

assessment principle, averaging, truncation, plague species, stepwise aggregation, species or ecosystem equity/weighing, distinction between agriculture-natural, exotics,



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Criteria check

	MSA	Red list	SR	Species trends (LPI)	Trophic index
Homogenisation	+	+/-	-	+	+
Trends in abundance	+	+/-	-	+	+
Model human impact	+	-	-	+	+
Measurable	+	+/-	-	+	+
Scale independent	+	-	-	+	+
Communicate	+/-	+	+/-	-	+/-
Policy relevant	+	+	-	+/-	+/-



MSA-GLOBIO as tool to support policies

An illustration:

- From business-as-usual scenario <-> 6 policy options
- From global <-> national
- From 3000 BC <-> 2050 AD
- From boreal <-> tropical rain forest

Assessments Can we achieve the 2010-target?

Six policy options GBO2:

- 1. WTO liberalisation agricultural marked (higher effi
- 2. WTO + Poverty alleviation in Africa
- 3. Sustainable meat production (less meat?)
- 4. Climate mitigation (max + 2°C; 450 ppm)
- 5. Sustainable forest (wood plantations)
- 6. Protected areas (20% per biome)



Baseline scenario (OECD business as usual)



How do we calculate biodiversity? N

No biodiv data!



Not all pressures & options & biomes!

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Baseline scenario

Sources: OECD, IEA, FAO

Scenario (2000 -> 2050):

- Current policies
- Kyoto
- 1.5 x global population
- 2.5 x global energy use
- 3 x income per person
- 1.8 x food efficiency


Human population in Antropocene





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Klein Goldwijk et al., 2008

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3000 BC



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Biodiversity loss A landscape view





degradatio









stine forest











MSA

0%

Grassland







original species







agricultur



Biodiversity in 1970 (MSA)

Biodiversity in 1970 (MSA)



Biodiversity in 2000 (MSA)

Biodiversity in 2000 (MSA)



Biodiversity in 2030 (MSA)

Biodiversity in 2030 (MSA)



Biodiversity in 2050 (MSA)

Biodiversity in 2050 (MSA)



Global biodiversity loss: 70% -> 63% - 59%



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Biodiversity loss accelerates



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Zooming in on Europe: loss not halted



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Zooming in on Latin America & Caribbean



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Zooming in: South East Asia



Mean species abundance (as % of original) in 1970

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Zooming in



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Zooming in



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h. h.

Mean species abundance (as % of original) in 2030

Zooming in on regions (MSA in 2000-2050)

OECD Environmental Outlook



Zooming in on regions (MSA in 2000-2050, quality > 80%)





Zooming in on biomes (MSA in 2000-2050)



Zooming in on biomes (MSA in 2000-2050, > 80% quality)



Grasslands in 2000



Biodiversity of grasslands in 2000 (Mean Species Abundance)

D 2007

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Grasslands in 2050



Biodiversity of grasslands in 2050 (Mean Species Abundance)

D 2007

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Forest in 2000

Biodiversity of forests 2000 (Mean Species Abundance)



Forest in 2050

Biodiversity of forests 2050 (Mean Species Abundance)



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Full implementation of WTO Doha Round from 2015 Expectation: higher productivity/ha

- + 6.5% agricultural area
- in latin America & Southern Africa
- 20% OECD-Europe & N-America
- -1.3% biodiversity
- Not higher production/ha but cheaper production, "trashing" natural ecosystems



Option 2: Trade lib. + poverty alleviation SS-Africa

ODA: investment 0,7% GNP Expectation: safes biodiversity in long term !

- + 3% agricultural area /+ 25% SS Africa
- + 40% SS-African GDP!
- 0.4% biodiversity / -6% SS Africa

Key question:

• Does demographic transition take place after 2050?



Option 3: Sustainable meat production

Global production standards

- Improving animal welfare
- Avoiding epidemic deseases
- Limiting N-emissions

Expectation: less agricultural area

5% decrease consumption

- 2% agricultural area
- + 0.3% biodiversity

Option 4: Climate mitigation by biofuels

Max temperature rise: World energy use: Energy crops: 2 °C (after 2100)* 400 -> 650 (250 EJ efficiency increase) 23% total energy use

Expectation:

- mitigates climate
- causes habitat loss
- medicine worse than diseas?



- + 10% agricultural area
- mitigate climate effect

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Baseline



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Biofuele option



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Option 5: Sustainable forestry

Wood plantations meet demand by 2050

Expectation: safeguarding current forest

+ 6.5% agricultural area brake-even around 2040 + 0.1% biodiversity



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20% each ecological region hotspots endemic & critically endangered species

Expectation: significant reduction of the rate of loss



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6 options compared



Liberalisation: trade off from Europe to Latin America



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Biodiversity loss Latin America per pressure



High biodiversity footprint Zooming in on the Netherlands



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Development & biodiversity inversely related over time?



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Conclusions

- 1. Biodiversity loss will continue
- 2. Individual measures just ripples
- 3. Measures may even worsen initially
- 4. Free trade trashes biodiversity
- 5. Is there a way out?
 - 1. intensify, intensify intensify land use...
 - 2. smart options
 - 3. efficiency increase
 - 4. protection networks
 - 5. conserve forest in stead of biofuels
 - 6. Green development mechanism?
- 6. Fundamental choices unavoidable
 - 1. Biodiversity utilization space?

- 1. Past present future
- 2. Substitute for lacking data
- 3. Cheap
- 4. Target evaluation
- 5. Target exploration
- 6. Cost-effective options
- 7. Share per pressure & sector

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Thank you !

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Policy support



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- Natural Capital Index (NCI)
- Relative Mean Species Abundance of Original Species (MSA)
- Changes in extent of ecosystems and biomes (using Remote Sensing and models)
- Nitrogen deposition: Model
- Extent of Protected areas (UNEP-WCMC)

Indicator: Extend of natural ecosystems



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Indicator: number of species?





Biodiversity hotspots (Brooks, 2006)



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Biodiversity hotspots (Brooks, 2006)

 Hotspot strategies that prioritize high threat

 Hotspot strategies that prioritize low threat





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Fair comparison?



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cators

State of the Environment report:

- Forest area halved in 20 years
- Crane population became viable
- Starling population twice target
- Defoliation decreased: 70% -> 75%
- Lynx from vulnerable to nearly extinct
- Red dear population doubled

Assessments principles/baseline (1980) (viability) (policy target) (natural state) (extinction risk) (the more the better)

State of country



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Time frame



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Time frame



Fair comparison?



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Many single indicators



Aggregation: composite indicators for overview



Species Assemblage Trend Index



From single indicators to composite indicators





Example: RLI, STI, NCI, LPI, BII, MSA

		baseline	baseline
Indicator	species	(year/value)	assess. principle
RLI	tax groups	extint	risk extinction
STI	tax groups,	1980	more -> better
LPI	all or cross section	1970-2000	more -> better
NCI	all or cross section	pre-industrial	naturalness + agri
BII	all or cross section	present PA	naturalness



MSA: Quality times Quantity



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The Mean Species Abundance

- Mean abundance of original species relative to pristine
- Relative to minimum of natural population
- Higher than natural set to 100%
- Average of original species only





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Zooming in on Latin America & Caribbean (area)





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Example: Forest land-use change and MSA





Future NCI-natural

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NCI- scenarios: The Netherlands



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Implementation: The Netherlands



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Has biodiversity loss been halted?



Extent



Intactness/integrity?

Quality distribution

Biodiversity in 2000 (MSA)



Change in extent/biome

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Habitats & Species Eu interest



STI birdseanch Butterfeies09



species abundance


Findings on state (fictitious, as example, based on the indicator set):

Overall, biodiversity loss has not been halted. Homogenisation continues.

- 1. All ecosystem types lose area except for forest.
- 2. At the species level less-vulnerable species show slight improvements, while more-vulnerable species show further decline. Consequently the Red List grows. The number of invasive alien species rapidly grows.
- 3. Less then 10% of the ecosystems have kept their original integrity. About x% of the ecosystems have lost their capability to produce goods & services.
- 4. Agro-genetic diversity is low and probably continues to decline.
- 5. Zooming in, most species and habitats of European interest are in an unfavourable conservation status.



Will the 2010-target be met?

Rate of Biodiversity loss in OECD Baseline



Do threats decrease(HIPPOC)?



Some pressures have decreased, but not sufficiently:

- 1. Urbanisation and infrastructure continue to expand, leading to habitat loss and fragmentation.
- 2. Number of alien invasive species rapidly increase
- 3. Eutrophication declines in aquatic systems and by N-deposition, but absolute levels are still too high
- 4. Agriculture intensifies, especially in the east. At the expense of HNV.
- 5. Marine fish is over-exploited
- 6. Climate change will worsen

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Is agriculture sustainably managed?

Footprint State Development of apriculture and grazing areas in Europe Grange Agendian 100% -100% Food Area used otal agriculture outside Europe HNV farmland 0% Agricultural area 1960 2005 HNV area Pressure Response N-input 200 N-input % Biodiversity-friendly farmland 40 STI farmland birds & butterflies 0 Aari-env. schemes Organic farm N-input time Potentially supporting practices % of Cattle Population consisting of native bree % of Native Cattle Breed Endangered Netherland Geneticental Assessment Agency % organic fammingink, March 2009 N-balance

Is forest sustainably managed?

Yield

State



Is fisheries sustainably managed?



Sustainable use in fisheries, forestry and agriculture is not on track, yet.

- Fisheries are managed unsustainably. Most stocks are overexploited. The yielding technique is unselective, resulting in high ecosystem losses due to discards (x% biomass)and bottom trawling
- 2. Forests are managed unsustainably from an ecological perspective. The biodiversity is low, and Europe has a large timber footprint outside its borders.
- 3. Agriculture is highly efficient, but the wild and agro-biodiversity are low and severly in decline. High Nature Value farmland is decreasing. The food and fodder footprint outside Europe is large. High N-input leads to a major leakage into the environment. Biodiversity supportive policies are not effective in halting the loss.
- 4. The European footprint outside Europe of its entire consumption corresponds with an area similar to Europe.

Goods&services ????



Awareness



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Findings on goods & services: ??????

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the law has

What can we do about it?



Proteced area in 39 EEA countries (16%) Nationally designated



% total EU expenditure on Life project 1995 - 2006 Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency Measures are taken but not sufficiently to halt the loss

- 1. Protected area increases towards 16% of Europe's area ??
- 2. Europe's budget for biodiversity conservation is 0.066% of the total budget, and is decreasing
- 3. Public awareness is growing



Fishing down the foodweb (Pauly, 1998)



We also log, plough, burn, convert, burn, pollute and hunt down ecosystems

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Criteria check

	MSA	Red list	SR	Species trends (LPI)	Trophic index
Homogenisation	+	+/-	-	+/-	+
Trends in abundance (CBD)	+	+/-	-	+	+
Model human impact	+	-	+/-	+	+
Measurable	+	+/-	+/-	+	+/-
Scale independent	+	-	-	+	+
Communicate	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+/-
Policy relevant	+/-	+	+/-	+/-	+/-

Mean species abundance a sub sample



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Threats

→ State indicators

Agriculture (HNV-intensive) Forestry (lightly use- plantation) Fisheries (capture-aquaculture) Built up Infrastructure Invasives Pollution Ndep • [N+P] Climate change Fragmentation **Fragmentation rivers** Fire Hunting

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Ecosystem services

- Provisioning services:
 - food, water, timber, fiber
- Regulating services:
 - regulation of climate, floods, disease, water quality, waste treatment
- Cultural services:
 - recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, spiritual fulfillment
- Supporting services:
 - soil formation, pollination, nutrient cycling

Trade:	+ 6,5%
Poverty:	+ 3,1%
Meat:	- 2%
Climate:	+ 10%
Plantations:	+ 6,5%
Protected:	0%

