



**STATEMENT BY**

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**ON THE OCCASION OF**

**FIRST PROJECT WORKSHOP FOR NBSAPS 2.0: MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY  
AND DEVELOPMENT**

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Dear Friends,

The integration of biodiversity in national development and sectoral agendas is crucial to the fulfillment of the three objectives of the Convention. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity stresses the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and several of the Aichi Targets refer directly or allude to this important task.

However mainstreaming is not easy, and achieving truly effective and lasting integration can be elusive. This is why it remains a challenge for most Parties. Much experience already exists in this area. We know that mainstreaming requires a sustained effort, over many years and on many fronts. It requires a varied set of skills, and knowledge, including in technical, institutional and strategic communications realms. It requires committed individuals to champion the necessary political and institutional change. Important changes can and must come from within governments. At a minimum, the objectives of socio-economic policies and biodiversity policies should not run counter to each other.

This may seem like a tall order, but it is guaranteed to pay off by allowing countries to better manage their biodiversity so as to ensure the availability of essential ecosystem services. A strategic socio-economic approach for biodiversity and ecosystem services can promote enhanced policy integration and policy coherence and thus not contribute only to better biodiversity policies, but also to more sustainable socio-economic development.

The NBSAPs 2.0 project, led by UNEP WCMC, IIED, UNEP-UNDP Poverty Environment Initiative is a very welcome mechanism of support and capacity building to Parties for mainstreaming. The project has selected to work with Botswana, Namibia, Seychelles and Uganda, 4 countries that have already made substantial progress in mainstreaming, and that are already an important source of inspiration for other countries in the region and beyond. The project's plan to closely accompany the NBSAP revision processes of these four countries, its development of tools such as the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Rapid Diagnostic Tool, and its efforts to foster the African leaders' network are innovative and will definitely enrich the existing CBD NBSAP and mainstreaming guidance to Parties.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife & Tourism (MEWT) of Botswana for hosting this first project workshop and wish you all the best in this week's deliberations.

Thank you,