

# Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the context of Food Security & Nutrition



## UN Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogue Geneva 2-3 May 2018

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**Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on  
Biological Diversity**

**STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR  
AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (IFAD)**

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) actively engages in mainstreaming biodiversity in its investments and supports smallholder farmers and fishers in developing countries to eradicate rural poverty and improve food security. The Fund is pleased to be able to contribute to the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity through side events and participation in the high-level segment, and recognizes the historic moment of bringing together Ministers of Environment, Agriculture, Fisheries and Tourism to openly discuss and identify ways of working jointly in a collaborative manner to achieve the 2030 agenda, the Aichi targets, while complying fully with the Environmental Multilateral Agreements.

Biodiversity is about more than plants, animals, and micro-organisms and their ecosystems – the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) recognizes that it is also very much about people and our need for food security, medicines, fresh air, shelter, and a clean and healthy environment.

Today, IFAD recognizes that biodiversity loss is one of the main threats to smallholders and their communities – without biodiversity, livelihoods are not sustainable and food security and nutrition for the entire planet is weakened; climate change is in turn also a serious threat to biodiversity. Many smallholders with whom IFAD works are already reporting impacts on their ecosystems and biodiversity that sustain agricultural production and rural livelihoods.

extinction, with 75 per cent of crop diversity lost between 1900 and 2000.

Between 2010 and 2015, IFAD dedicated just over 11 per cent of total investments to environment and natural resource management (ENRM), including biodiversity specifically.

IFAD's underlying ENRM concept is one of sustainability – ensuring that the use of natural resources benefits the poor through supporting livelihoods and income opportunities without degrading those resources. This is distinct from a more traditional understanding of natural resource management simply as production systems deriving from the use of natural resources.



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# What has IFAD done so far to mainstream biodiversity in food security?

# 1. Policies and Strategies

**“IFAD will pursue “multiple-benefit” approaches that simultaneously enhance biodiversity, increase agricultural productivity and lower greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture sector while contributing to poverty reduction.”**

## IFAD Strategic Framework 2016-2025

### IFAD’s ENRM Policy (2012)

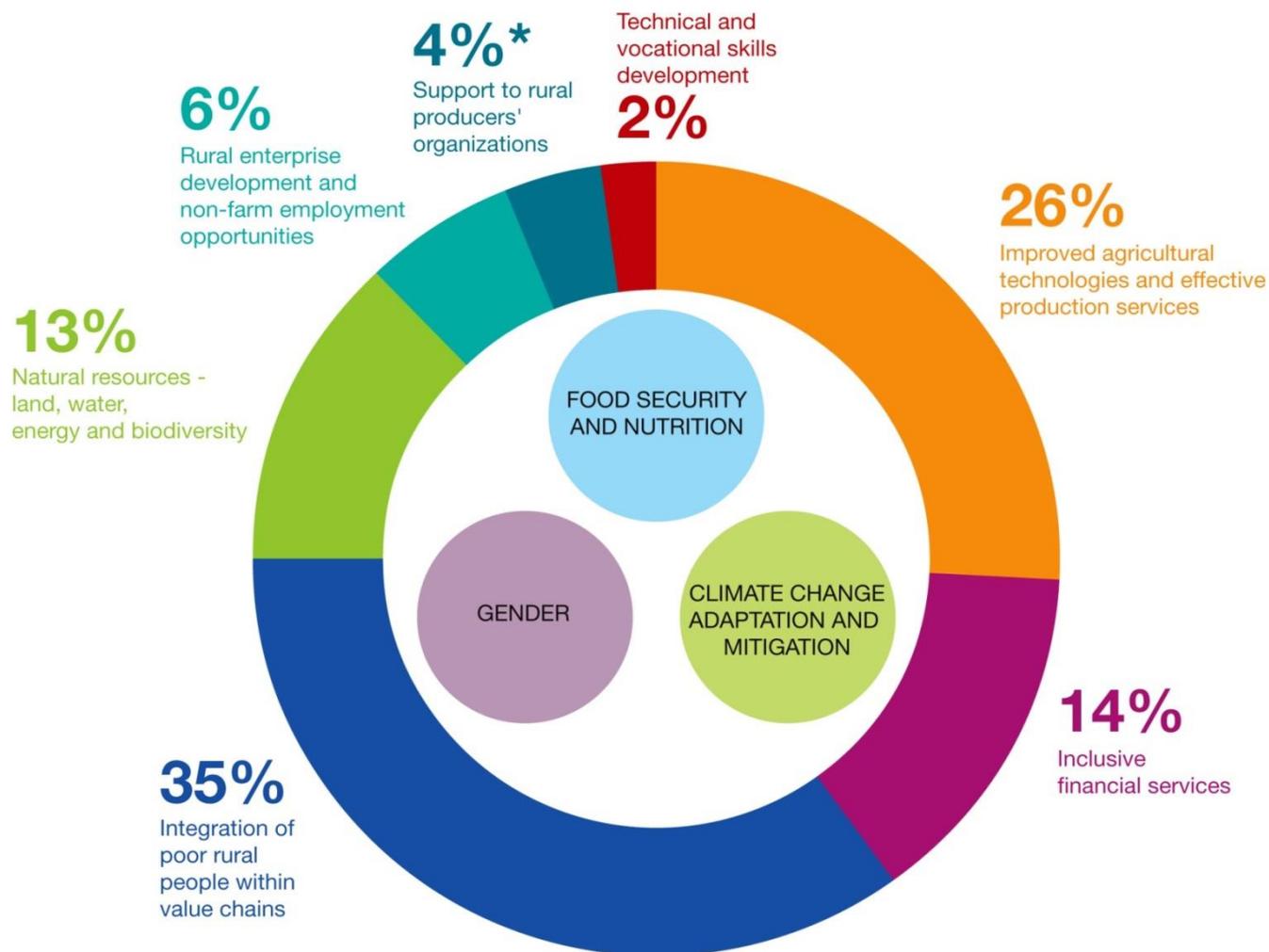
**Focuses on the use and management of the natural environment, including natural resources -raw materials used for socio-economic and cultural purposes, and ecosystems and biodiversity – together with goods and services they provide.**



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# 2. Financing- Loans, grants, GEF



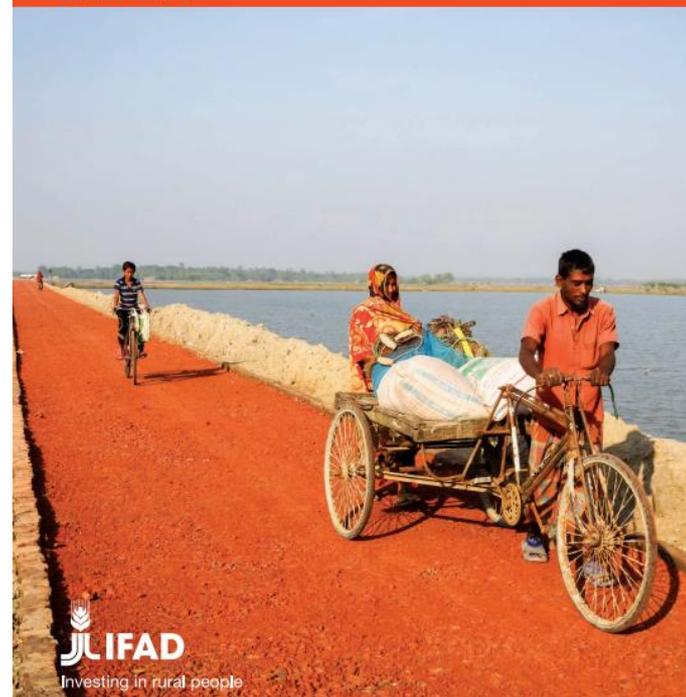
# 3. Technical Support to IFAD's operations

- **Use of SECAP procedures-** includes guidance statement on biodiversity, forests, fisheries, livestock
- **Technical expertise** in various themes- Climate and Natural Resource Management, Fisheries, Livestock, Agronomy, Water, Food security and Nutrition etc
- Technical assistance to projects to maximise positive environmental impacts of agricultural value chains to avoid downward risks

## Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures

Managing risks to create opportunities

2017 EDITION



# 4. Global Advocacy and Partnerships



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change



RESEARCH PROGRAM ON  
**Climate Change,  
Agriculture and  
Food Security**



**GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY**  
INVESTING IN OUR PLANET

**CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL**



**United Nations**  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification

Adaptation for  
Smallholder  
Agriculture  
Programme

**ASAP**



**Convention on  
Biological Diversity**



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# 5. Knowledge Management

## ETHIOPIA

### Community-Based Integrated Natural Resources Management Project

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) brings together 183 countries, the private sector, civil society organizations and international institutions to address global environmental problems. The GEF-IFAD partnership promotes win-win solutions to deliver both global environmental benefits as well as significant gains for rural poor people.

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## The Biodiversity Advantage

Global benefits from smallholder agriculture

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## DJIBOUTI

### Programme to reduce vulnerability to climate change and poverty of coastal rural communities (PRAREV)

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**ASAP**

Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme

Launched in 2012, the Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) channels climate and environmental finance to enable smallholder farmers who participate in IFAD projects to increase their resilience. Through ASAP, IFAD is systematically integrating climate resilience into the overall IFAD portfolio.

## MEXICO

### Mitigating Climate Change Through Sustainable Forest Management in the Southern States of Mexico



The designations employed and the presentation of the material in the map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IFAD concerning the delimitation of the frontiers or boundaries, or the authorities thereof.

**gef**

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**PROJECT SUMMARY**

Total cost: US\$18.5 m  
Approved IFAD loan: US\$5 m  
GEF: US\$5 m  
Other contributions: Government of Mexico US\$7 m; Beneficiaries US\$1.5 m

Project period: 5 years (2011-2016)  
Executing agency: National Forestry Commission of Mexico (CONAFOR)

### ISSUES

Although the rate of deforestation in Mexico has decreased in recent years, national forests are undergoing a continuous process of deforestation and degradation. Data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) show that in 2010, Mexico had 64.8 million hectares of forests, with an annual loss of 155,200 hectares (0.23 per cent). Between 2002 and 2007, 62 per cent of areas with forest cover were lost or altered in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor across Campeche, Chiapas and Oaxaca states. Deforestation in the southern states is primarily driven by land use change, housing developments, anthropogenic forest fires and pests. These phenomena are particularly harmful since the Southern and South-Eastern parts of Mexico have the highest amount of biodiversity. In addition, the forestry sector in Mexico contributes 10 per cent of national greenhouse gas emissions. There is an important potential for carbon sequestration in forest ecosystems which store high densities of carbon per unit area. Sustainable forest management, forest regeneration, forest plantations and agroforestry systems all play a vital role in removing carbon at the regional or landscape level.

### ACTIONS

### ISSUES

Lake Tana is the largest lake in Ethiopia and covers an area of about 3,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Along with its 80 rivers and streams, it accounts for about 60 per cent of the total surface water of the country. The Lake Tana Watershed includes about 250,200 hectares of irrigable land but only about four per cent has been developed.

The quality of the watershed has deteriorated at an alarming rate mainly because of severe land degradation resulting from poor agricultural practices, deforestation, over-grazing, population pressure which has increased land fragmentation, encroachment on fragile hillsides, over-exploitation of wetlands, and insecurity of land tenure. Land degradation has also resulted in massive soil erosion, which has silted water bodies and threatened the livelihood of about 4,000 fishing households.

Land degradation is accompanied by the release of carbon into the atmosphere which contributes to the build-up of greenhouse gases (GHGs). It is estimated that about 20 per cent of all greenhouse gases emanate from carbon losses associated with farming and in particular, practices such as burning crop residues and the use of animal dung for fuel, which are common practices in rural households. Soil erosion will further increase the vulnerability of rural households to climate change and will further increase the vulnerability of rural areas where food insecurity, drought and famine. The effects of climate change are already being felt in Ethiopia with exceptionally heavy floods recurring in rural areas where flooding was hardly ever experienced before. This has resulted in the loss of life, cropland, and community and productive assets.

### ACTIONS

The Community-based Integrated Natural Resources Management Project is located in the Lake Tana Watershed within Amhara National Regional State. The project covers 21 Woredas (districts) comprising 347 kebeles. Project operations

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

Total cost: US\$27  
IFAD loan: US\$13  
GEF grant: US\$5  
Spanish Fund: US\$7  
Government of Ethiopia US\$2.78m  
Beneficiaries 1 million  
Project period: 2010-2017  
Executing agency: Agricultural Development Bureau  
Project Admin: (BOE) National Institute for Agricultural Extension

**PROJECT SUMMARY**

Total cost: US\$13.3 million  
Approved IFAD loan: US\$4.1 million  
ASAP grant: US\$6.0 million

**Cofinancing:**  
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) US\$0.1 million;  
World Food Programme (WFP) US\$0.3 million

**Other contributions:** Republic of Djibouti US\$2.6 million; Recherche Scientifique de Djibouti US\$0.2 million; Caisses populaires d'épargne et de crédit US\$0.06 million; beneficiaries US\$0.04 million

**Programme period:** 6 years (2015-2021)  
Executing agency: Ministry of Agriculture, Water, Fisheries and Livestock  
**Beneficiaries:** 107,000 smallholders (ASAP: 86,000)

**Programme objectives:** increase incomes, enhance food security and reduce vulnerability

# What are the notable examples of biodiversity mainstreaming in IFAD's practices?

# Protecting fisheries value chains affected by climate (Djibouti)

**Aim:** Protect coral reef system and mangroves and expand options for sustainable livelihoods, especially for women and men.

## **Specific actions:**

- Capacity Development in conservation and sustainable fishing for fishers
- Investing in renewable energy equipment (ice plants, coolers and insulated containers to improve the conservation of fish products).

## **Impacts:**

- Protection of fisheries value chains affected by climate change.
- Over 200 ha. of mangroves rehabilitated and protection of coral reefs in 15 sites, vital for local fish stocks

## Community-based integrated NRM project (Ethiopia)

**Aim:** Improve HH incomes and FS as through sustainable land management and improved ecosystem integrity

### **Key actions:**

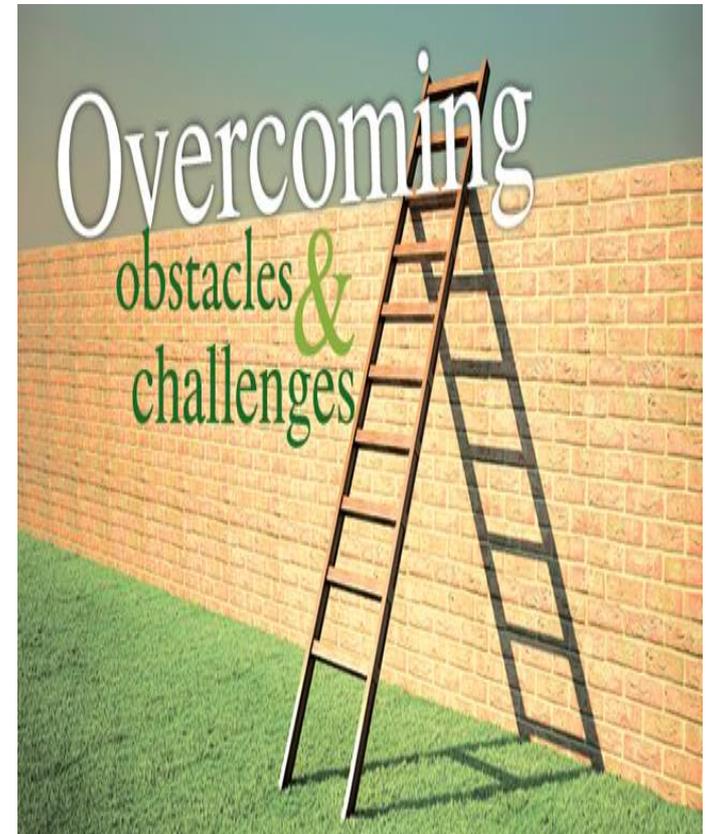
Implementation of exclosure zones of highly degraded communal land “social fencing” system

### **Impacts:**

- Increased biodiversity when coupled with a cut and carry **system and implemented over a large area.**
- Water infiltration and vegetative cover have both shown marked increases.

# What are the main challenges and obstacles? What needs to change?

1. Awareness on biodiversity conservation and its sustainable use
2. Policy and institutional constraints
3. Population growth and urbanisation
4. Limited evidence
5. Silo approach to mainstreaming issues in FAD



# What are the next steps and how can we ensure facilitating mainstreaming in our practices in the next years?

- Development of Climate and Natural Resource Management strategy (to include biodiversity)
- Horizontal integration of mainstreaming themes (Climate & Environment, gender, nutrition, youth) and Indigenous People
- Finalisation of the Nutrition Sensitive Value Chains guide for IFAD projects
- Continue building capacities of governments and communities
- Corporate indicators and targets: to capture impact on biodiversity
- Integrate biodiversity into supervision templates to capture project changes in to biodiversity