Brussels in Brief

EU development cooperation and biodiversity

The EU& de~elopment policf and its objecti~es are based on the 1993 Maastricht Treatf. According to the Treatf, Commt nitf de~elopment policf is to st pport st stainable economic and social de~elopment, and to encot rage po~ertf eradication in de~eloping cot ntries. Since de~elopment is a shared competence betf een the EU and its Member States, de~elopment cooperation f ithin the EU is carried of throot ghape f ide range of Commt nitf and Member State initiati~es and instrt ments.

Dt ring the last decades the emphasis of EU de~elopment polic f has become increasing If aligned € ith international objecti~es and efforts in this area. Since 2000, achie~ing the Millennit m De~elopment Goals (MDGs) has become the main goal of the Et ropean Commt nit f & de~elopment polic f.

St pporting st stainable t se of biodi~ersit $f \in \text{ill pla} f$ an important role in reaching the EU&s de~elopment commitments. Lack of en~ironmental st stainabilitf, inclt ding conser~ation and st stainable management of biodi~ersitf, maf seriot slf t ndermine efforts to reach the MDGs. Promoting the conser~ation and st stainable t se of biodi~ersit $f \in \text{ithin}$ the Commt nitf de~elopment cooperation frame \in ork is also essential for achie~ing the global target of signii - cantlf redt cing the ct rrent rate of biodi~ersitf loss bf 2010.

In order to scale-t p EU de~elopment assistance (e.g. its impact and deli~erf) and to meet the challenges of the MDGs bf 2015 both the EUås de~elopment policf and the Commt nitf frame€ ork for its implementation ha~e t ndergone qtite some changes dt ring recent fears. One of the main goals of this reform has been to increase the coherence and complementaritf bet€ een EU and Member Stateså de~elopment policies and initiati~es.

This isst e of **Brussels in Brief** ot tlines the international and Et ropean polic f frame ork for de-elopment cooperation, foct sing in partict lar on the aspects related to en-ironment and biodi-ersit f. In partict lar, the Ne€ sletter aims to highlight the recent and ongoing changes in the Commt nit f a de-elopment polic f. The ct rrent isst e also pro-ides information on gaps in addressing st stainable managements and conser-ation of biodi-ersit f as a part of EU de-elopment cooperation initiati-es. Finall f, the Ne€ sletter disct sses the ft

pro~ides a platform to e, plain the st bstance of en~ironmental policf, as € ell as to highlight t p-coming EU agenda items rele~ant to Et rope and befond.

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International framework for development cooperation

Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development – current framework for development cooperation

The concept of st stainable de~elopment € as brot ght for€ ard in the international conte, t bf the United Nationså Brt ndtland Report in 1987¹. The report made the international commt nitf a€ are that it € as t rgent to begin making progress to€ ards economic de~elopment that cot ld be st stained € ithot t depleting natt ral resot rces or harming the en~ironment. One of the isst es the Brt ndtland Report € as partict larlf concerned abot t € as redistribt ting resot rces to€ ards poorer nations € hile encot raging their economic gro€ th.

Since its inception, the concept of st stainable de~elopment has become both a basic gt ideline for, and a principle objecti~e of, de~elopment cooperation. In the conte, t of st stainable de~elopment, the UN global conferences, inclt ding the conferences on st stainable de~elopment in Rio de Janeiro and in Johannesbt rg (1992 and 2002), ha~e plafed a kef role in ot tlining the ct rrent € orld€ ide objecti~es for de~elopment cooperation.

In September 2000 the UN General Assembl f adopted the Millennit m Declaration that set of t eight time-bot nd and qt antiî ed targets for addressing the € orld &se, treme po~ert f bf 2015. Since their adoption these eight targets, kno€ n as the äMillennit m De~elopment Goalså (MDGs), ha~e pro~ided the international frame-€ ork for de~elopment cooperation (see Bo, 1).

As regards geographic focts, the international commt nitf has considerablf increased its focts on Africa. for the African cot ntries are facing seriots difict Ities in reaching the objecti~es set bf the MDGs. In this conte, t, increasing st pport to de~elopment cooperation, for Africa in partict lar, € as one of the main goals in the anntal st mmit of the heads of the € orld& leading economies in Gleneagles, Scotland in 2005 (Grot p of Eight - G82). The st mmit agreed on meast res aiming to st pport the achie~ement of the MDGs bf 2015. This agreement incltded a commitment to dotble de~elopment aid bf 2010 € ith an e, tra US\$50 billion € orld€ ide and US\$25 billion for Africa. Additionall f. the debts of 18 of the € orldås poorest cot ntries, most of € hich are sitt ated in Africa, € ere abated. Apart from the debt relief, the progress in reaching the Gleneagles objecti~es has been limited. For e, ample, se~eral G8 members (of € hich se~eral are EU Member States) ha~e not fet committed themsel~es to the ft nding promised.

More information on G8 st mmit in Gleneagles in 2005: http://€ € .g8.go~.t k/ser~let/Front?pagenam e=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/Sho€ Page& c=Page& cid=1 094235520151

Integrating environment and biodiversity into development

En~ironmental considerations, inclt ding aspects related to biodi~ersitf, form an integral part of the ct rrent frame \in ork for de~elopment cooperation. The 1992 UN Conference on En~ironment and De~elopment in Rio de Janeiro (the Æarth St mmitå) \in as a landmark meeting in terms of initiating the integration of en~ironment into de~elopment isst es at the international le~el. The st mmit adopted t \in o kef doct ments \in ith partict lar rele~ance to the en~ironment, namelf the Rio Declaration on En~ironment and De~elopment and the Agenda 21 Action Programme for St stainable De~elopment. These t \in o doct ments laid do \in n the principles and actions for st stainable de~elopment, placing en~ironment at the centre of the concept.

Ten fears later, at the 2002 World St mmit on St stainable De~elopment (WSSD) in Johannesbt rg, the international commt nitf ft rther committed itself to a nt mber of en~ironment and de~elopment related objecti~es inclt ding, for e, ample, to achie~e bf 2010 a signiî cant redt ction in the ct rrent rate of loss of biological di~ersitf, maintain or restore depleted î sh stocks and impro~e st stainable agrict ltt ral prodt c-ti~itf and food sect ritf.

The proposal \in as signed bf the Commission, the Cot ncil and the Et ropean Parliament on 20 December 2005 (OJC46/01 24.2.2006).

The Joint Declaration sets of the frame€ ork (i.e. common objecti~es, ~altes and principles) for the ne€ EU de~elopment polic fand identia estarget areas for Commtnit f cooperation. In principle, po~ert feradication along eE ag ! p eE "

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Integrating environment and biodiversity into the EU development policy

The obligation to integrate en~ironmental protection into all Commt nitf policies, inclt ding de~elopment policf, is inclt ded in the Maastricht Treatf (Article 6). The Cardiff Process of en~ironmental integration⁴ initiated in 1998 lat nched the integration of en~ironment into the de~elopment policf in practice. Conseqt entlf, since the beginning of the 21st centt rf, en~ironmental concerns, inclt ding conser~ation and st stainable t se of biodi~ersitf, ha~e been identiî ed as a crossct tting isst e that is to be mainstreamed to all EU de~elopment cooperation acti~ities⁵.

En~ironment remains as one of the cross-ct tting isst es \in ithin the ne \in de~elopment policf. Additionallf, the Joint Declaration on the Et ropean Union De~elopment Policf also identi \hat{i} es en~ironment and st stainable management of natt ral resot rces as one of the primarf areas of Commt nitf action. According to the! A

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The ENP applies to sot thern and eastern neighbot ring cot ntries as \in ell as the cot ntries⁷ in the North of the EU that are part of the Northern Dimension . Additionall f, Rt ssia is part of the ENP regional dimension⁸ bt t also maintains a separate bilateral dialogt e ith the EU.

The ENP Strategf Paper (COM(2004)373) sets ot t the o~erall conte, t and gt idelines for the policf. The specific areas for cooperation are de \hat{i} ned in cot ntrf specific ENP Action Plans that are mt tt all f agreed bet \hat{i} een the EU and each partner state. These action plans set ot t a more detailed agenda of political and economic reforms in the partner cot ntries.

At present, Commt nit f assistance to the cot ntries inclt ded in the ENP is pro-ided t nder -ariots geographical programmes and thematic programmes. In the ft tt re, ENP initiati-es and projects \in ill be carried ot t -ia the Et ropean Neighbot rhood and Partnership Instrt ment (COM(2004) 628), \in hich shot Id enter into force in 2007.

En~ironmental protection forms one of the ENP priorities for action and references to en~ironment are sfs-tematicallf inclt ded in the e, isting $cot \, ntrf$ actions plans. Ho \in e~er, no speciî c reference to isst es related to biodi~ersitf is inclt ded in the ENP Strategf Paper or in the proposed Et ropean Neighbot rhood and Partnership Instrt ment and onlf fe \in cot ntries ha~e inclt ded conser~ation and st stainable t se of biodi~ersitf as a speciî c theme in their ENP action plans.

More information on the EU Neighbot rhood Polic f: http://ec.et ropa.et / \in orld/enp/polic f_en.htm

Box 5. Main instruments to address biodiversity within the current and upcoming EU framework for development cooperation

General framework

Joint Statement on the Et ropean Union De~elopment Polic*f*

μ St pports the implementation of the UN Con-en tion on Biological Di-ersitf in de-eloping cot n tries in order to halt the loss of biodi-ersitf and promote biosafetf and st stainable management of biodi-ersitf

EU Strategf for Africa

μ Aims to assist Africa to protect its en~ironment thot gh, for e, ample, st stainable management and conser~ation of biodi~ersitf

Cotonot agreement

μ Identiî es the conser-ation and st stainable management of biodi-ersit f and ecos f stems as an area for EU-ACP cooperation (Article 22)

OCT ao ~erseas Association Decisiona

μ Identiî es conser~ation, st stainable t se and management of biodi~ersit f as one of the î elds of cooperation (Article 15)

Et ropean Neighbot rhood Polic (ENP)

µ Isst es related to biodi~ersit f can be addressed as a part of the cooperation € ithin the ENP frame€ ork

Biodi~ersit f Action Plan for Economic and De~elopment Co-operation (BAP-EDC)

Commt nication on Halting the Loss of Biodi~ersit f b f 2010 and be fond and the accompanied Biodi~ersit f Action Plan

General framework

Cot ntrf and Regional Strategf Papers (CSPs/RSPs)

μ Biodi~ersit f related aspects can be addressed in the conte, t of Cot ntr f En~ironmental Proî les (CEPs)

St ggested Thematic Programme for En~ironment and St stainable Management of Natt ral Resot rces inclt ding Energ f st pports, for e, ample

- μ Initiati~es contribt ting to the 2010 target on signiî cantlf redt cing biodi~ersitf loss, especiallf in areas of high biodi~ersitf
- μ Meast res based on the BAP-EDC
- μ Capacit f bt ilding on bio-safet f

⁹ D" -alos, M. E. 2002. Mainstreaming En-ironment in the Cotntrf Strateg f Papers: a re-ie€ of 60 cotntries. DG De-elopment, Et ropean Commission. Brt ssels.

 $^{^{10}}$ ACP-EU Joint Parliamentar f Assembl f. 2003. Report on st stainable management and conser~ation of natt ral resot rces in ACP cot ntries in the conte, t of the 9th EDF programme. Committee

that the e, pansion of ~egetable oil production in de~eloping cot ntries cot ld increase the rate of deforestation, the plan does not, for e, ample, address an f risks associated \in ith the application of monoct ltt res and of potentiall f in ~asi ~e e, otic species as a sot rce for rene \in able energ f.

Discussion and future developments

More coherence, efficiency and cooperation – potentially good news for environment and biodiversity

The ne€ EU de~elopment polic f pro~ides a clear and rene€ ed basis for integrating en~ironmental aspects into the Commt nit få de~elopment cooperation. This ft rther st pports mainstreaming biodi~ersit f related aspects into EU de~elopment cooperation acti~ities, both on the side of partner cot ntries and the EU. The polic f also makes en~ironment a priorit fî eld for Commt nit f action, offering the possibilit f to strengthen and t pscale EU initiati~es on conser~ation and st stainable management of biodi~ersit f as a part of its de~elopment cooperation.

As regards the reî ned Commt nitf frame ork for de-elopment cooperation, the ne mt lti-annt all en-ironmental thematic programme can help to enst re that the ft ndamental isst es related to en-ironment/biodi-ersit and po-ert redt ction ill be tackled e-en thot gh the ma ha-e not been inclt ded in CSPs or RSPs. It is, ho e-er es ans shen

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In general, the ECA at ditî ndings and the Commission are response can be seen as an important contribt tion to impro~ing the integration of en~ironmental considera-

¹³For e, ample: Task Force on En~ironmental St stainabilitf (2005) En~ironment and ht man € ell-being: a practical strategf (http:// € € € .t nmillennit mproject.org/reports/tf_en~ironment.htm)