

2010 Outline of UNEP-WCMC Capabilities

An outline of Capabilities

With a few exceptions mentioned below, the Centre has the competence to address **almost any** aspect of science, assessment and policy analysis related to biodiversity and ecosystems. However, the Centre is currently particularly strong in the following areas:

- Mapping and quantifying carbon and freshwater in terrestrial and coastal ecosystems;
- Assessing the role of ecosystems in climate mitigation and adaptation;
- Assessing and monitoring biodiversity and other possible benefits areas under REDD+;
- Mapping, quantifying and valuing critical coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Defining and mapping critical areas for biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- Developing biodiversity and ecosystem services indicators;
- Partnering for national and sub-national level ecosystem assessments;
- Building the capacity and competencies of developing world partners e.g for NBSAPs;
- Assessing species in key MEAs such as CITES;
- Global biodiversity modelling and prioritisation;
- Assessing the impacts of agricultural development on biodiversity and ecosystems;
- Undertaking protected area gap analysis and management effectiveness;
- Producing tools for data integration and risk assessment;
- Reviewing the sustainability of natural resource supply chains in business;
- Assessing the impact of extractive industries on biodiversity and ecosystems;

UNEP-WCMC is custodian of a range of important global datasets such as the World Database of Protected Areas and the world database on critical coastal ecosystems. We produce the UNEP indicators to measure progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and we undertook much of the work underpinning the 3rd Global Biodiversity Outlook, the flagship product of the Conference on Biological Diversity. We act as Secretariat for a range of small global processes such as the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, the Conservation Commons and the Global Marine and Coastal Data Partnership.

There are two major areas in the field of biodiversity in which we recognise that the Centre does have significant in-house expertise, these are Access and Benefit Sharing and the impacts of genetically modified organisms on biodiversity. We are also currently strengthening our capacity in the field of resource economics.