

BIODIVERSITY HELPS TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Viewgraph 1 **Introduction**

Explain what intend to cover

Viewgraph 2 **What is biodiversity?**

- goes way beyond individual species, important though they are, right through to the totality of biological processes which includes the human species.
- other natural processes relevant eg, energy flows, water circulation atmospheric circulation.

Viewgraphs 3, 4 and 5 **What does biodiversity mean?**

- key message is biodiversity is inclusive rather than exclusive
- quote from Tom Lovejoy in his recent Reith lecture on biodiversity
- very interesting quote from UK Department for International Development “Biodiversity matters”.

Viewgraph 6 **How does biodiversity help to achieve sustainable development?**

- Sarah Boyack’s challenge
- take the four main aims set out in UK Government’ Strategy for Sustainable Development May 2000.

Social progress and social equality.
Effective protection of the environment
Prudent use of natural resources
Maintaining high and stable levels of economic growth and employment

- added ethical and moral considerations.

Viewgraph 8 Identified eight elements of biodiversity’s contribution to sustainable development - will take each in turn

- Viewgraph 9
Viewgraph 10
- (1) Ecosystem services: very obvious series of processes which basically support life.
 - (2) Sustainable use of biological resources: can use biological resources that it is within the capacity for regeneration, eg soil for production, production of fuel and fibre, harvesting of protein from the seas.
 - (3) Genetic resources: importance of earth resources at the genetic level with ingenuity of science and technology to

provide greater productivity (pest resistant crops, natural medicines (the cure of cancer).

- (4) Equitable sharing of genetic resources: recognising imbalance in geographical distribution globally and imbalance of need globally, therefore CBD demands equitable sharing.
- (5) Nature itself: recognition that the “wonder of nature” is of great value and is a benefit for its own sake in terms of social well-being and ethical and morale considerations.
- (6) Individual species: important component in the web of life and the food chain and important for their social and economic “trophy” value.
- (7) Species and habitats: essential element of the overall system, important interaction and dependency, important because of economic and social benefits.
- (8) Protected areas for biodiversity: selected because nationally and globally areas were “primacy of biodiversity/nature” is sought (not always achieved) and reinforces all of the other contributions. Can be seen therefore as a contribution in its own rights as well as a means of connecting biodiversity with sustainable development.

Viewgraph 11

Look at the totality of the eight biodiversity contributions to the five aspects of sustainable development.

- very subjective scoring admittedly but all scores are above 50%, should nature itself have zero for economic, ethical issues appear to me to be high, economic scores are low but perhaps have great potential.

Action for Biodiversity for Sustainable Development

Viewgraphs 12,13,14

- Problem to-date too many actions that are purely for individual species or groups of species within their habitats rather than the more integrated approaches and the links into the other components of sustainable development.

Very short five point agenda:

- (1) Knowing what’s happening: obsession with the indicators as opposed to looking at the totality of the state/pressure/response approach that is true and environmental audit. Indicators own their own without context and without clear objects not value.
- (2) Protecting special particularly through protected areas in terrestrial and marine environments and focused species and habitat action plans.
- (3) Integrated approaches to the totality: the ecosystem approach

in the jargon, SNH's zonal programme and equivalence in England, for instance English Nature's natural areas.

- (4) Influencing attitudes and awareness: importance of getting over a wider messages -

Year 2000 Reith lecture. literature, websites etc.

- (5) Advocating changes in policies, law and application of resources: using objective information of knowing what is happening, understanding of public attitudes, and being strategically opportunistic.

Conclusion

Considerable amount achieved but much further to go to address all components of CBD and to ensure all connections of biodiversity to sustainable development are understood and acted upon.