

Soliciting Experiences on Linking Conservation and Development

1. Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) form one of the most comprehensive international set of guiding principles to achieve poverty reduction in a sustainable manner. The MDGs offer time bound targets coupled with indicators for realising the Goals. IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme, Asia (RBP) aims to improve understanding of the linkages between poverty, health and the environment to support the countries of Asia to address these challenges and achieve the Millennium Development Goals. This activity will build on previous assessments of the MDGs to assess the level of action at the field level for achieving the MDGs. Since 2002, IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme, Asia (RBP) has been convening meetings to involve local communities in understanding the linkages between poverty, environment and development through the regional sessions of Global Biodiversity Forum sessions. Through these meetings, communities and their representatives have identified the need for their involvement in the realisation of MDGs and suggested that until their experiences are better understood by policy makers there will be little role for them to participate in local actions at country level on achieving MDGs. This collaboration between IUCN and various Community Based Organisations and their representatives is being strengthened by the activity described in this proposal thereby providing the voice of communities to be heard at the MDG +5 Review meeting to be held in September 2005.

2. Background and rationale

The linkages between poverty and the environment are a growing area of research and action. But there is still a need for further evidence to determine how actions at the field level are addressing the MDGs. The outcomes of this study will enable improved understanding of ways to ensure national and regional policies are reflective of community needs in the areas of poverty, livelihoods and natural resource protection as well as are based on needs and aspirations of communities.

An improved understanding of these key issues will assist in promoting an effective conservation and poverty focused agenda in achieving the MDG targets.

3. Outputs

We solicit brief (about 2000 – 3000 words) write-ups from stakeholders, primarily community based organisation and communities themselves on each of MDGs with a specific focus on what MDGs mean to them, what their roles can be besides outlining how their actions at the local level are addressing the MDGs. This will be used to compile a set of experiences and / or case studies for consideration at various meetings leading to MDG +5 Review Meeting to be held in New York in September 2005.

4. Analytical approach and questions to be answered

RBP will liaise with those interested in contributing to this publication to determine answers to the following questions:

- How are the MDGs perceived to be important for development in the local community?
- How do local communities see environmental protection and development outcomes linking together to achieve the MDGs?
- How can local communities support actions to meet MDGs?
- Has the local community faced any policy or political barriers in achieving outcomes for MDGs? If so, what they are?
- What are the recommendations to the MDG Review process from local perspective?

The analysis seeks to: (a) demonstrate the links between poverty, health and environmental resources; (b) understand how conservation and development can be linked to achieve the MDGs and (c) ways to overcome the political, institutional and policy challenges to addressing MDGs at a community level.

Those interested in sending their contributions are requested to write to

Mr. Azain Raban
Programme Officer
IUCN Regional Biodiversity Programme, Asia
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

e.mail: azr@iucnsl.org

by 20th April 2005. While doing so mention the title of your contribution, which MDG does it relate to and the prospective authors. Kindly include a 15 line summary of the article as well.

The initial submissions of ideas will be assessed by a small group of experts from UNDP Equator Initiative and RBP for possible inclusion in the publication. Once selected, we will need the first drafts of full articles by 30th June 2005 latest. Efforts will be made to print the edited final selection of articles by mid August 2005.

Thanks for your interest!