



# Uses & Applications of NCA: Mainstreaming Biodiversity (Natural Capital) into Development Planning

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# Outline

- Introduction
- Why the need to mainstream Biodiversity into Development Planning
- Steps in Mainstreaming Biodiversity
- Stages (Activities) to Mainstreaming Biodiversity
- Next Steps & Conclusion



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# Introduction



- Ghana's biodiversity is **degrading at an alarming rate** which is largely due to anthropogenic activities such as unsustainable land use practices, pollution, and illegal mining, among others.
- The **impact of climate change** is also a contributing factor to the loss of Ghana's biodiversity.
- This undermines the country's **ecological integrity and threatens livelihoods, food security, health, and economic resilience**, especially at the **sub-national level**.



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Making Nature Count for People & Planet

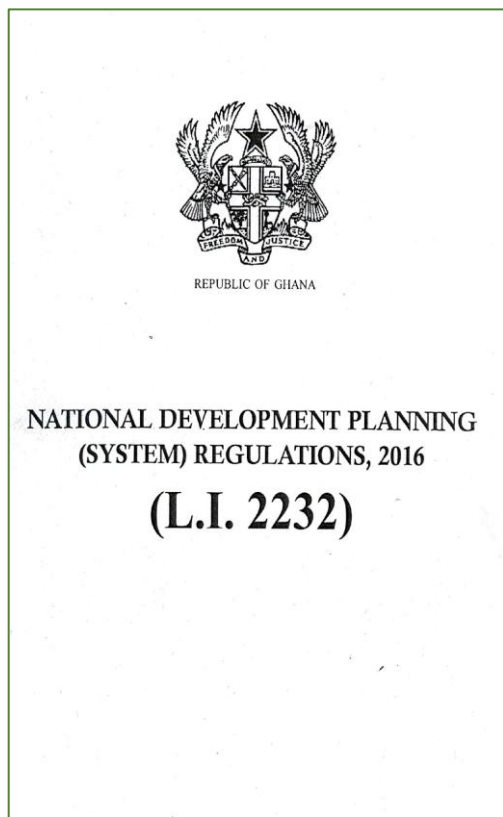


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# Introduction



- As the **apex body** for the Decentralised Planning System of Ghana (the National Development (Systems) Act, 1994 (Act 480) and L.I. 2232, 2016.
- The National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) is mandated to coordinate the preparation of **Medium-Term Development Plans (MTDPs)** at national and sub-national levels.
- The NDPC is also to **integrate cross-cutting themes such as climate change, gender, child protection, and biodiversity** into the MTDPs of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) and Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies (MMDAs).





# Introduction



- **NDPC in collaboration** with Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MEST), Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), Ghana Statistical Service (GSS), and Ministry of Finance (MoF) have **initiated the process of mainstreaming biodiversity-sensitive programmes and projects into the Decentralised Planning System** to address biodiversity loss.
- With the **support of the World Bank, guidelines have been prepared** to facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity into **Medium-Term Development Plans (MTDPs)**.



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# Why the Need to Mainstream Biodiversity into Development Planning?

- Mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning will ensure the following:
  - **Ecological Sustainability:** Biodiversity supports essential ecosystem services such as water purification, climate regulation, pollination, and soil fertility.
  - **Economic Stability:** Natural resources form the basis of agriculture, forestry, tourism, and other local economies. Ignoring biodiversity loss risks economic decline.
  - **Human Well-being:** Biodiversity directly contributes to nutrition, cultural values, health, and disaster resilience, especially for rural and vulnerable communities.



Red Colobus (*Piliocolobus badius*)



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# Why the Need to Mainstream Biodiversity into Development Planning ?

- **Global and National Commitments:** Ghana's obligation under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and SDGs requires **the integration of biodiversity into national and sub-national policies and plans.**
- **Informed decision-making:** Recognizing biodiversity as a form of natural capital ensures **its value is reflected in budgets, development strategies, and impact assessments, etc.**

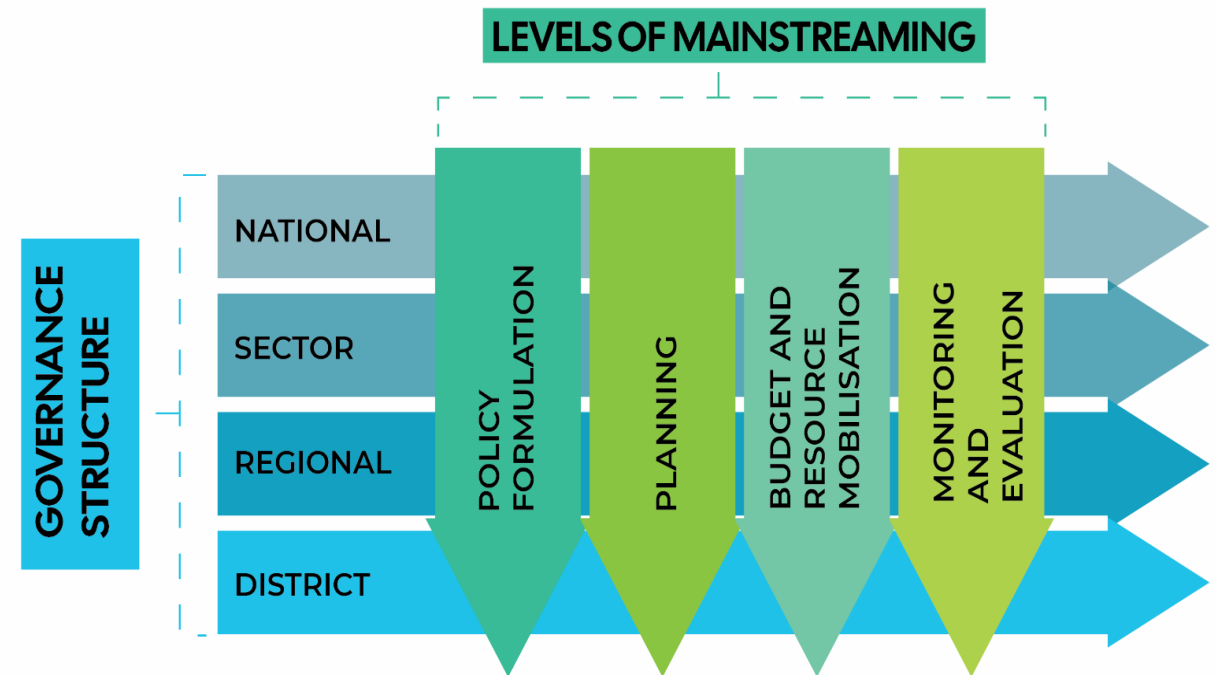


Figure 1: Levels of Mainstreaming



# Steps In Biodiversity Mainstreaming

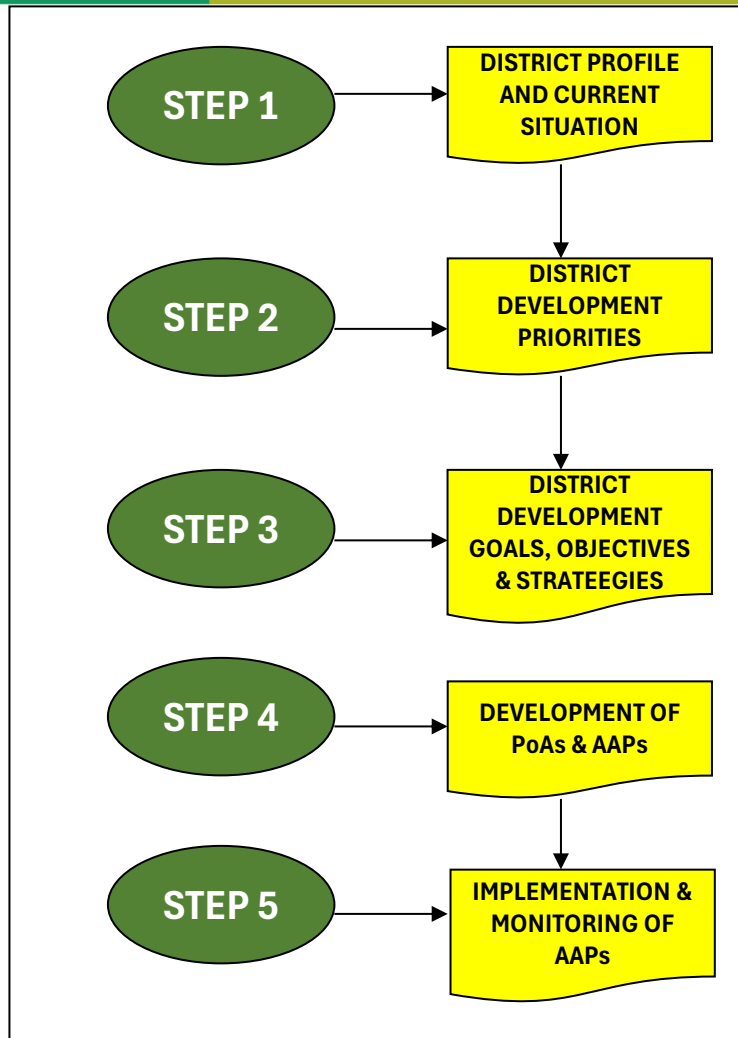


Figure 2. Steps in Biodiversity Mainstreaming

Steps	Expected Deliverables/ Outputs	Outcomes
<b>Step 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness raising and sensitization on biodiversity conservation</li> <li>Performance Review highlighting on biodiversity conservation issues</li> <li>Conduct Situational Analysis capturing District Vulnerability to biodiversity loss</li> <li>Summarize regional/ District Development issues including biodiversity conservation issues</li> <li>Conduct POCC on regional/District Development issues including biodiversity conservation issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key stakeholders' awareness on biodiversity conservation created.</li> <li>Biodiversity conservation issues reflected in performance review.</li> <li>Situational Analysis report reflecting the district vulnerability and risk to biodiversity loss.</li> <li>District Development issues capture biodiversity conservation issues.</li> <li>POCC analysis highlights biodiversity conservation issues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased knowledge of the value of biodiversity</li> <li>Improved biodiversity-sensitive practices.</li> <li>Better understanding of the state of biodiversity in the district.</li> <li>Biodiversity-sensitive development activities in the district.</li> <li>Biodiversity internalized in the strategies of the district for implementation.</li> </ul>
<b>Step 2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritize District Development issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritized District Development issues incorporate biodiversity conservation issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity issues captured in district prioritized development issues</li> </ul>
<b>Step 3</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Goal/obj. &amp; strategies with biodiversity conservation issues included.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity conservation incorporated in District goals, objectives and strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>District goals, objectives and strategies capture biodiversity conservation</li> </ul>
<b>Step 4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Programme of Action (PoA), Annual Action Plans (AAP) and Budget with biodiversity issues captured.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity conservation issues incorporated in PoAs, AAPs and Budget.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity conservation issues reflected in PoAs, AAPs and Budget</li> </ul>
<b>Step 5</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity integrated in the implementation of AAPs &amp; M&amp;E .</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity issues reflected in the implementation of AAPs and M&amp;E</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved biodiversity and nature positive development in the district including green jobs, conservation of indigenous species, eco-tourism, preservation of sacred grooves etc.</li> </ul>



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# Stages to Mainstreaming Biodiversity

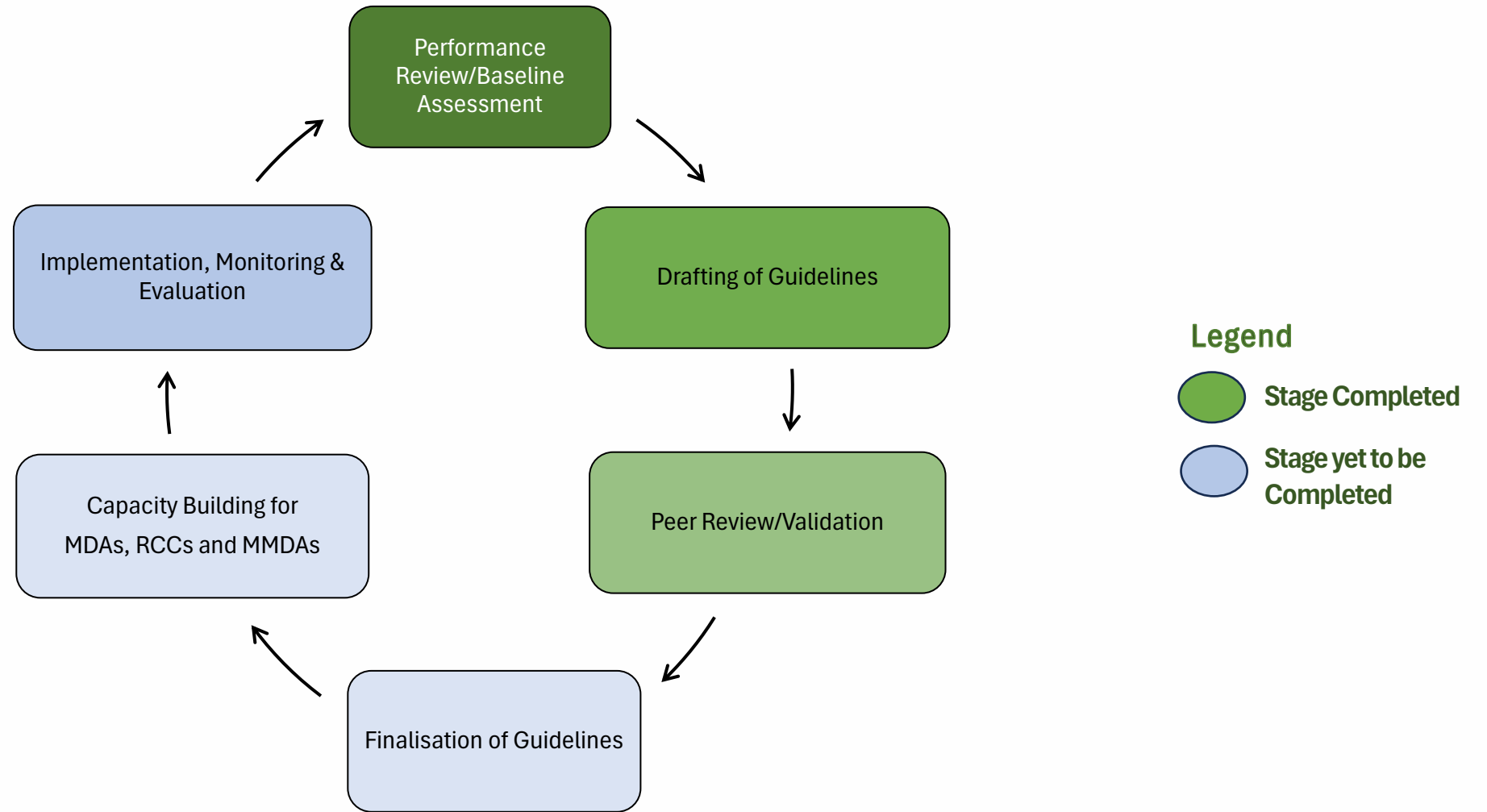


Figure 3: Stages to Biodiversity Mainstreaming into MTDPs



# Photo Insert: Drafting & Validation of Guidelines Meetings



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# Next Steps & Conclusion

- The mainstreaming of biodiversity into development planning will ensure that Ghana's natural resources are well protected and used sustainably by the present and future generations.
- It is important that **MDAs, RCC and MMDAs** are **equipped with the requisite knowledge and skills** to mainstream biodiversity into policies and plans at national and sub-national levels .
- This also requires **strong institutional coordination, reliable data for decision-making,** and continuous training of technical personnel.



Sangor Mangrove (Source: CA, 2022)



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# Thank you for your Attention!



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