Overview of UNEP-WCMC
Activities and Expertise

Philip Bubb and Claire Brown
UNEP-WCMC
Contents of Presentation

- Who are we?
- What is our goal?
- What do we do?
- UNEP-WCMC’s expertise
  - Data
  - Indicators
  - Assessments
  - Policy
  - Capacity building
- Private sector focus
Who are we?

The biodiversity assessment & policy implementation arm of UNEP

- Founded by IUCN
- Became partnership between IUCN, WWF and UNEP in 1988
- Became partnership between a UK Charity and UNEP in 2000
- 26 years as a Centre of excellence in biodiversity data, information, assessment and policy
What is our goal?

Vision:
A world where biodiversity counts

Mission:
To place authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision-making

Objective:
Through national and global partnerships and networks expand knowledge of biodiversity and the capacity of countries, organizations and companies to contribute to this knowledge, and to use it in their policies and decisions
What do we do?

Monitor, analyse and report the state and value of biodiversity, assess trends and provide early warning of emerging threats.

Support development and implementation of policies and practices relevant to biodiversity from local to global levels.

Build partnerships and capacity to assess biodiversity, implement policy and mobilise information in support of international objectives and national needs.
State and Value of Biodiversity

Core data on ecosystems and protected areas to enable long-term monitoring and development of key indicators.

Biodiversity indicators that help to track progress in meeting globally adopted goals and targets, such as the 2010 biodiversity target, and the Millennium Development Goals.

Focused biodiversity assessments and briefing materials that contribute to cross-sectoral environmental assessments and increased awareness of the value of biodiversity and the importance of its conservation and sustainable use.
Data - Protected Areas

Summary:
The World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) is the most comprehensive global dataset on protected areas. It is managed by UNEP-WCMC in partnership with the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the WDPA Consortium.

The WDPA is a fully relational database containing information on the status, environment and management of individual protected areas.

The data in the WDPA is used to support a number of global and regional assessments, including: the UN List, GEO, GBO, WRR, MA, MDG etc.
Objectives:
Undertake a trial to develop a species population trend indicator for evaluating progress towards the 2010 biodiversity target in Europe.

Summary:
Trial indicator shows a decline of species in nearly all habitats, the largest being in farmland, where species populations declined by 23% between 1970 and 2000.

Partners:
RIVM, EEA, Defra (UK), Swiss Agency for the Environment, Forests and Landscape.
2010 Indicators “Stakeholders”
Global policy relevant assessments undertaken using a variety of biodiversity assessment frameworks depending on the target audience and assessment process (e.g. ecosystem approach, DPSIR etc).
Assessments - World Atlas Series

World Atlas of Coral Reefs
Mark D. Spalding, Corina Ravilious, and Edmund P. Green

World Atlas of Seagrasses
Edmund P. Green and Frederick T. Short

World Atlas of Great Apes and Their Conservation
Policy

- Targeted products and services to support **UNEP and other agencies** and programmes in the development and implementation of their biodiversity-relevant policies and strategies.

- Advice, reporting and information management services to support secretariats, governance and advisory bodies, and governments in implementing **multilateral environmental agreements** relevant to biodiversity.

- Advice and information products to support **private sector** companies in appropriately addressing biodiversity in their decision-making processes and in reporting with respect to corporate social responsibility.

- Advice and support in developing and testing approaches for streamlining and harmonizing biodiversity-related reporting processes, including associated information management practices.
Biodiversity Information Series
Partnerships and Capacity Building

• **Biodiversity information networks** that enhance the contribution of countries and agencies to globally relevant information sources and services, such as 2010 indicators and the World Database on Protected Areas.

• **Accessible information tools**, including electronic infrastructure and standards that will support networks and individual users alike, and ensure reliable access to data to support decision-making.

• **Improved capacity** of governments and organizations to use biodiversity information in policy development and implementation and biodiversity-related reporting, taking account of the Bali strategic plan.

• A new generation of **leaders and advocates for biodiversity** conservation monitoring through an expanded programme of internships, scholarships, training, and placements.
Capacity Building - Biodiversity Indicators

Objectives:
To build capacity to develop operational national-level biodiversity indicators to support planning and decision-making.

To support global and regional development of indicators of biological diversity under the CBD.

Pilot Countries:
Ecuador, Kenya, Philippines, Ukraine.

Partners:
GEF, Swiss Agency for the Environment, Defra, DFID.
Wild Species Trends in Ukraine
Based on Expert Evaluation (1950-2003), n=128
Private Sector – Services to Industry

**Objectives:**
Deliver biodiversity information, analysis and policy services to support private sector and industry partners’ business and strategic needs.

**Service types:**
- Provision of biodiversity data and interpretive reports
- Provision of desktop tools to improve access to biodiversity and conservation data and information
- Provision of expert advice and support for specific industry needs

**Users:**
- Oil companies
- Mining companies
- Industry associations
- Finance groups
- Environmental consultancies
A world where biodiversity counts.

www.unep-wcmc.org