Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net) Phase II Project

"Implementation of Component I in Ethiopia of Post-National Ecosystem Assessment Results Framework"

Monitor and Evaluate the Performance Gaps of National Biodiversity Platform
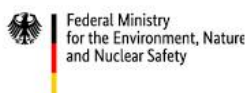
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ABSTRACT/ SUMMARY

Ethiopia is endowed with diverse flora and fauna. The country's geographical position, ecological diversity, huge altitudinal variation, cultural diversity and the like has its own contribution for it. Biodiversity conservation needs the active participation several actors such as international, national, regional and local actors and government, nongovernment and local communities. In order to bring such actors together and bring knowledge-based information for decisionmakers, national biodiversity platform is very important. Therefore, this survey was conducted with the objective to assess, monitor and evaluate the status of awareness and engagement of key stakeholders on National Biodiversity Platform (NBP), performance gaps of National Biodiversity Platform of Ethiopia and exploit opportunities to enable the platform to meet its mission and facilitate commitment by stakeholders. The study was conducted on key stakeholders by collecting qualitative data on the status of awareness of key stakeholders on NBP, the level of participation of stakeholders in NBP and performance gaps of the NBP. The result has showed that 71 % of the key stakeholders (KS) or member of the stakeholders know/ have prior information about National Biodiversity Platform (NBP) or any other Biodiversity related platforms, on the contrary, the majority (71%) replied that their institution is not a member of the NBP. This shows that, though an institution or a key stakeholder is a member of the NBP, most of them didn't institutionalize or didn't mainstream into their organization or there is an information gap between the focal point and other members of the same organization. Surprisingly all the none members (100%) would like to be a member of the platform in the future. The general goal of a National Biodiversity Platform (NBP) is to bring together key knowledge holders and decision-makers in collaborative relationships. In order to realize such objective, first and for most the stakeholders themselves should have a clear knowledge and understanding of the platform itself, the objective of its establishment and internalizing or institutionalizing the shared tasks of the platform and actively engaged in implementation of its major activities. Just participating in a meeting and being simply a member as most of the key stakeholders replied will not bring any change for biodiversity conservation in general and implementation platform objectives in particular. Therefore, establishing active, motivated subcommittees and task forces; preparing a clear strategic plan with adequate budget; make in place a monitoring and evaluation scheme with a clear accountability of each participating stakeholder is very crucial.

1. INTRODUCTION

Human well-being, long-term economic progress and biodiversity are inseparably linked. Realizing local, national and international aspirations and biodiversity related commitments on sustainable development depends on healthy ecosystems Therefore, decision-makers need access to knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services which fits their information needs. Further, different sectors of society need to be included in the dialogue on how conservation and sustainable use of BES and sustainable development can be realized.

For enabling such inclusive and meaningful discussions and collaborations across all sectors of society, multiple countries have established or are establishing science policy-practice interfaces for biodiversity at the national level often called National Biodiversity Platforms (NBPs). The overarching goal of a NBP is to bring together key knowledge holders and decision-makers in collaborative relationships that lead to the better consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services to society and human well-being in decision-making towards sustainable development. Examples of biodiversity-focused science-policy-practice platforms are the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which operates at the international level, the main objective of IPBES is to "strengthen the science policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, long-term human well-being and sustainable development." The objectives of its work programs are: assessing the state of knowledge, building capacity, strengthening the knowledge foundations, supporting policy, communicating and engaging with members and stakeholders, and improving the effectiveness of the platform.

National biodiversity platforms are science-policy-practice interfaces which convene key stakeholders in dialogue and collaborations that lead to an improved consideration of biodiversity

and ecosystem services in decision-making. These platforms can provide a wide suite of benefits to different stakeholder groups and rights holders. A NBP is a science-policy-practice interface working at the national level. It convenes actors from different sectors to support greater integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services considerations into decision-making. Therefore, NBPs help to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services. There is a diversity of stakeholders with social, cultural and environmental knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services which have relevance for informing decision-making on sustainable development. These stakeholders include scientists, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, practitioners, civil society, private sector and policy-makers, among others. Science-policy-practice interfaces are transdisciplinary initiatives working at the intersection of sectors, stakeholders and knowledge systems facilitating interactions with the objective of improving consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in decision-making.

There are many benefits in establishing NBPs. Policy, science and other knowledge systems are connected in various ways (e.g., policy often aims to be evidence-based; science funding often relies on policy decisions), yet sometimes this relationship is not effective. Science-policy-practice interfaces, of which NBPs are an example, are specifically intended to bridge this knowledge-action gap. For example, information is not presented in usable forms for policy or society, or research processes do not include valid and useful insights from multiple knowledge systems. Altogether, despite the growing knowledge on biodiversity and ecosystem services, decision-making is not proceeding consistently in the direction and pace which is needed to adequately address biodiversity loss.

Interviewed NBPs said that stakeholders have benefited from the NBP synthesizing, translating and distilling knowledge from various fields into formats and language more accessible to various

audiences. Further, by bringing different groups together, NBPs have facilitated the co-creation of new knowledge and solutions.

National Biodiversity Platform should be able to clearly identify and address gaps at the science policy practice interface within the national context. Once the gaps have been identified, the purpose of having an NBP becomes clearer and this helps to define its objectives and mandate. Gaps can be identified by mapping a) existing science-policy-practice initiatives and mechanisms, b) knowledge needs, c) relevant policy processes, d) national priority and e) stakeholders. Ideally, these exercises are done together with relevant stakeholders and knowledge holders.

Ethiopia has different ecosystems that range from Afro alpine region at the highest elevation to desert and semi desert settings at the lower elevations. Because of these, the country is endowed with diverse animal, plant and microbial species. This makes Ethiopia one of the top 25 biodiversity-rich countries in the world.

Although Ethiopia is endowed with such highly invaluable biological resources and associated community knowledge systems, these assets have been confronted with multitudes of natural and anthropogenic challenges which resulted in depletion of biological diversity as well as the ecosystems services they render; so that, the country contains part of the two of the world's 36 biodiversity hotspots, namely: the Eastern Afro montane and the Horn of Africa hotspots. Furthermore, the country is known for its cultural diversity for there exist more than 80 language groups practicing diverse farming systems and acquiring well developed local knowledge.

As it is well recognized, such dwindling of the vital resources and associated benefits was a prerequisite for considering taking appropriate interventions such as conducting a National Ecosystem Assessment and also establishing a National Biodiversity Platform. This arrangement will help to enhance the engagement of scientists, policy makers, civil society, private sector and

local communities in science-policy processes. Furthermore, it facilitates communication of policy to science and vice versa, so as to promote the undertaking of policy relevant research and at the same time enable the use of scientific evidence in policy making. Likewise, the Platform helps to inform the business sector about the role of biodiversity and enables the use of science for assessing biodiversity benefits, risks and dependence.

2. OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this assignment is to assess, monitor and evaluate the status of awareness and engagement of key stakeholders on NBP, performance gaps of National Biodiversity Platform of Ethiopia and exploit opportunities to enable the platform to meet its mission and facilitate commitment by stakeholders.

Specific objectives:
1. Conduct assessments to evaluate performance gaps by the NBP
2. Devise mechanisms for monitoring performance of the NBP
3. Identify opportunities for strengthening the performance of the NBP
4. Conduct assessment to identify the status of awareness of key stakeholders on NBP

3. LITEATURE REVIEW

3.1. Trends and different perspectives of M&E performance

3.1.1. Trends of M&E performance on NBP/BES

The trends and Status of M&E the performance gaps of Global, Regional and/or National Biodiversity Plat forms involves the systematic collection and analysis of data to assess the progress, effectiveness, impacts of initiatives, projects/ programs performance of the biodiversity and ecosystem services what would be addressed conservations, protections and rehabilitations performed. Hence monitoring and Evaluations is an ongoing process utilized by specific institution and /or organizations to track whether their desired goals are being achieved.

Different authors defined monitoring and evaluation in different ways depending up on the area of working principles, thematic themes, long term plans, strategies, projects and program in terms of public Government sector institutional and private or Organizational structural arrangement (MOFED, 2008). Specially the business monitoring and evaluation schemes are strictly different in public and/or government development policies, strategies, plans, programs considering their visions and missions; owing that what to be addressing the primary goals, objectives and outcomes, again what will be the desired effect and/or impact of the Monitoring and evaluation would be achieved taking in to account the efficiency and effectiveness of the performances of the Institution either Global, National, Regional and or at local level (MEA, 205;TEB,2010). Almost any M&E system, platform or approach would be expected to consider both outputs and outcomes, and some go further to look at impact level. But in larger development programs and projects at National and global level in general and the direction of M&E performances gaps also needs to be considered at sector based and local level in particular (INTRAC, 2015).

The countries experiences and trends of M&E performance can vary country to country; this is because of the fact that determines the access of funds, national plat forms/frame works, sector specific conservation, protection and management policies, strategies, and law can used as a tool for developing NPB; the experience from the Gambia development of the Framework for monitoring ecosystems-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (ICRAF, 2002) used as a tool of monitoring and evaluating performance of ecosystem based adaptation measures in general and

monitored and evaluate conservation of biodiversity in particular, work in support of biodiversity (OECD, 2021) developed best supporting for M&E performance of NBP/BES as a framework in the following areas of disciplines properly.

➢ Delivering analysis and recommendations on targets and indicators for a Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework,

➢ Developing good practice on the design and implementation of policy instruments for biodiversity conservation,

➢ Tracking economic policy instruments and finance for biodiversity,

➢ Identifying and assessing subsidies harmful to biodiversity,

➢ Evaluating approaches to mainstream biodiversity across economic sectors and policy areas for sustainable utilization of ecosystem and biodiversity conservation,

➢ Understanding to overcome political economy Vs. ecosystem and biodiversity issues for effective biodiversity policy revision and updates,

➢ Aligning biodiversity, climate and food policies for sustainable land use and land use planning,

➢ Ensuring the development of the ocean economy is environmentally sustainable,

➢ Delivering economic modeling and projections on biodiversity under different scenarios are indicators of NBP/BES.

3.1.2 Different perspectives of M&E performances of NBP

Monitoring and Evaluation of the performance of most organizations understand the key difference between the things what they do activities and the ultimate changes they wish to help bring about the impact that would be occurred due to the change of interventions either negative or positive. But the distinction is not always helpful. In order to achieve desired long-term changes and the level and the extent to which the specific non-business development and conservation multi-sector institutions there may be many steps between an organizations and institutional activities and the desired impact would be addressed (OECD, 2002; 2010). Outputs, outcomes and impact are terms that are used to describe changes at different levels from the delivery of goods and services to long-term, sustainable change in people's lives. Whilst the terminology is in common use, there is great inconsistency in how the terms are interpreted in line with M&E

performance of National platform of biodiversity and biodiversity and ecosystem services (MOFEC, 2008; MOFEC, 2010; OECD, 2010).

Meaning that, output, outcome, impact and result of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) the performance that terms and terminologies that used might the same, but the overall achievements of the performance, results and impacts as "What has been accomplished?", "How well has it been accomplished?", and "What are the results?" and the gaps are strictly different each other in terms of the platform and/or the framework of different contexts and sector specific; in this context M&E performances of Biodiversity and ecosystem services is strictly different in its approach, time, trends, its attributes and the goods and the services what would be monitored and evaluated. In this regard; the outputs could be the seeds distributed and flora and fauna protection and conservation undertaken, the people trained on ecosystem conservation or PES implementation modalities. The outcomes could be that the farmers plant the seeds, the area/or number of flora and fauna conserved, rehabilitated, the seeds grow into crops, ecosystems service sustainably distributed in to the local and national economic account in dollar/ETB, the crops harvested without risk of biodiversity and ecosystem services and goods, and then good of ecosystem eaten or sold. This might contribute to the impact of biodiversity and ecosystem services, which would be a better standard of living in the long-term for farmers and their families. In addition to these; the interventions of the investment along with the ecosystem services provided to the local community livelihoods and revenue/income generated to the Global, Regional and/or National Government. Since the M&E performance on NBP/BES is different in its framework, Approach, coordination, accountability and responsibilities and/mandates given. Perhaps there are trans-boundary biodiversity and ecosystem that needs inclusive biodiversity and ecosystem M&E platforms.

Another term that is commonly used in M&E is results. The result is what would be gained or loss due what interventions performed within ecosystem and biodiversity. Results are defined by OECD DAC as the "output, outcome or impact, such as; intended or unintended, positive and/or negative) of a development intervention". 'Results' is explained and defined differently by different organizations. Some organizations only use it to describe actual achievements; whilst others use it to describe predicted change. This is the fact that M&E performance on biodiversity

and ecosystem service is potentially different, in its national platform whether it is inclusive sector specific or what else.

3.2 Monitor and evaluate the performance gaps of NBP

3.2.1 Potential Confusions of M&E performance gaps nationally

In theory M&E performance inputs, out puts, outcomes, impacts and results of the intervention of the different areas are easy to distinguish, in practice it can be more difficult (MOFED, 2008-2010; INTR, 2015; EFCC, 2019; RED, 2019; UNDP, 2019). There are commonly three areas of overlap where there is M&E performance gaps made to often confusion (INTRC, 2015; MOFEC, 2010). These confusions have been evaluated and understood in the performance gaps of M&E of NBP as if and only if base line of the framework is not well developed. Because these shows that some confusions made in the M&E performance and the gaps of NBP; Nationally there is no common guiding platform and/or framework which would be implemented for these two sector specific areas biodiversity and ecosystem services; the PES strategy, Assessment of Ecosystem goods services (EFCC, 2018; EFCC,2019; UNDP, 2019).

3.2.2 Nationally M&E performance gaps of NBP

According to the current institutional structure and arrangement of the National FDRE sectors of the Government (EPA, 1997; CRGE, 2011; EFCC, 2019-2022; MOFEC, 2010). Ethiopian Biodiversity and ecosystem services are pioneer to the most and major M&E performance gaps of NPB; there are:

1. Institutional arrangement gaps on coordination and mandates overlap (MOWE, MOA, FDRE, EPA,) at all level.
2. Lack of Land use policy, tenure issues and land use planning,
3. Land use and land cover change data, to be developed in NPB
4. Payment for ecosystem service frameworks, (PES) proclamations and implementation modalities,
5. Duplication efforts of Basin Authorities and development Institutions,

6. Gaps on Definition of wetland and water bodies not aligned in terms of (International and National agreement of definition and conventions,

7. Strong limitation on the ESIA and management plan not yet updated,

8. Lack of inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation Guidelines in the areas of sector specific biodiversity and ecosystem services,

9. Lacked of alignment among Investment framework on types of ecosystems such as; wetlands, aquatic resources, range lands, vegetation and agro-ecosystems,

10. Problem of resources allocation and incentives for sustainable utilization of ecosystem and biodiversity conservation,

11. Gaps on management plan development in areas of ecosystem restoration, rehabilitation, afforestation and risk avoidance of natural fire

12. ownership (free rider dominance) specially ecosystems of wetland, grazing land, protected areas, vegetation and natural forests

13. Deforestation and urbanization and including informal settlement and investment

14. Lack of technology and innovation, research out reaches (ecosystem and biodiversity-based adaptation M&E)

15. Lack of Capacity building on ecosystem service evaluation and natural accounting and community awareness

16. Lack of public-private engagement investment strategies of ecosystems and biodiversity's

17. Less political commitment and decision-making implementation modalities given to of PES and biodiversity conservation.

3.3 The opportunities to enable the platform to meet its mission and facilitate commitment by stakeholders

3.3.1 Opportunities to enable the National Biodiversity Platform

Ethiopia has many diversified biodiversity and ecosystems. These diversified ecosystem types and the biodiversity of fauna and flora found in the lowest altitude of the Danakil depression 120 M. below sea level to the highest altitude of the Ras Dashen Mountain 4450 m.a.s.l (Ethiopia Elevation Map, 2023). In addition to these there are also different agro-ecologies and a vegetation type tends

to be rich country fauna and flora species throughout the country. These are an important opportunity and the efforts to establish a mechanism and to enable the National biodiversity platform or NPBES (National Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services). National Biodiversity Platform may enhance sustainable use of Ethiopian biodiversity and natural ecosystems as governments, the scientific community, stakeholders, development partners, practitioners and the local communities are getting ready for the implementation of NPB. Furthermore; this paper provides *firstly*, a brief status and its context for the NPB opportunities; *secondly*, what the platform meets its missions and *thirdly* how the NBP made conducive environment for the stakeholders participation and engagement for the effective Monitoring and evaluation performance of Biodiversity and Ecosystem services and harmonize proper structures to coordinate scientific and research based efforts Nationally, internationally, and locally in order to produce and develop for the implementation of M&E practical performance gaps, opportunities and made enabling environments for stakeholders needed for NPB. The main opportunities that enable to develop NBP/BES, reduce the gaps of M&E performance of the NPB; are well incorporated and identified. Some of the opportunities include the following.

1. **National priorities, Policies and Strategies**

Ethiopian is one of the 193 UN member states that adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is a plan of action for people, the planet Earth and prosperity with 17 Goals and 169 Targets (with about 244 indicators) to be achieved in the time frame of 2015-2030 (United Nations, 2017). Based on the principles of leaving no one behind, the interconnectedness of all SDGs, and the need for multi-stakeholder partnerships, five of the SDGs (SDG 15 Life on Land; SDG 14 Life below water, SDG 13 Climate Action, SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and production, and SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation) are concerned with practices that promote the preservation of natural resources of the planet Earth (United Nations, 2017). Recently, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted during the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15). Among the Framework's key elements are 4 goals for 2050 and 23 targets for 2030 (CBD, 2023). One of the targets set for 2030 include ensuring and enabling effective conservation and management of at least 30 per cent of

terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services (CBD, 2023).

2. **National, Regional and International negotiation and initiatives**

To achieve the SDGs and making Africa affluent, free of poverty, and overall realizing all the aspirations set in Agenda 2063 - "The Africa We Want" (the vision of African Union), African countries need to manage their natural resources sustainably including conservation of biodiversity and integrated management of ecosystems. Ethiopia has been implementing successive development plans and the country has aligned its national development agenda with the Africa Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

3. **Rich and Diversified nations and nationalities people and access of young human man power**

Ethiopia has a total population of 107.334 million as of July 2023 of which 24.825 million lives in urban areas and the remaining 82.51 million (76.87%) of the population lives in rural areas with agriculture as the main livelihood. Ethiopia's population is projected to increase to 122.32 million by 2030 and to 136.79 million by 2037 and the rural population will account for 73.09% and 69.01% of the total population for the projection years respectively (CSA, 2007).

4. **Varied Agro-ecological zone of the country and land use land cover (low land to high land)**

According to a recent land cover study conducted on Natural Capital Accounting and Investment Prioritization Tool for Ethiopia, in the year 2022 shrubland, cropland, and forests account for 39.1%, 24.9%, and 13.9% of the total land area of the country respectively. The remaining land area of the country is covered with Grasslands (7.4%), woodlands (1.7%), waterbodies (1%), wetlands (0.3%), built-up areas (0.3%), and other land including bare soils (11.5%).

5. **Large number of livestock population linked with natural ecosystems**

Ethiopia's livestock population is expected to be increasing rate and in the 2019/20 fiscal year was 187.14 million of which cattle accounted for 37.56%, sheep accounted for 22.93%, goats accounted for 28.03%, equines (horses, mules, and donkeys) accounted for 7.12%, and camels

account for 4.35% of the total livestock population. Oromia, Somale, and Amhara regional states account for 26.6%, 21.6% and 21.1% of the total livestock population of the country in the fiscal year 2019/20 followed by SNNP (11.7%), Afar (9.1%), Tigray (6.9%), Sidama (1.7%), Benishangul-Gumuz (0.6%), Gambella (0.26%), Dire Dawa (0.25%), and Harari (0.1%). The country had 57 million poultry and 6.97 million beehives with bee colonies in the same year (CSA, 2020).

6. Sources of rich recognized biomass and diversified vegetation,

Naturally, diversified and varied ecosystem types of landscape provide services for the community's livelihood dependence. The country contains five recognized biomes; such as; Sudanian, Congo-Guinean, Sahel arid zone, Somali-Maasai, and the Afrotropical and montane. These can be further subdivided into ten natural ecosystems (Afroalpine and sub-alpine, Dry evergreen montane forest and grassland, Moist evergreen montane forest, Moist evergreen lowland forest, Congo-Guinean Forest, Acacia woodland and thickets, Acacia-Commiphora woodland, Combretum-Terminalia woodland/savannah, Lakes, wetlands & river systems, and Arid ecosystems of the Ethiopian vegetation type climate topography and plant diversity (Asefa, M., Cao, M., He, Y. etal. 2020). Currently these 10 natural ecosystems categorized in to five major ecosystem clusters include; Mountain ecosystem, forest and woodland ecosystem, aquatic and wetland ecosystem, Range land ecosystem and Agro-ecosystem Ethiopian National ecosystem Assessment report for policy makers (EBI,2022).

7. Ethiopia is biologically rich in various species

Nationally, Ethiopia has with more than 600 vascular plant species of which 12% are endemic mainly due to geographical isolation and unique climatic conditions (Asefa et al., 2020[1]). From these, 862 species of birds, 279 species of mammals, 201 species of reptiles and 71 species of amphibian (GEF, 2006).

8. Understandable Rural-urban economic relationship and/or linkage

Understanding the rural–urban linkages is key for rural-urban economic relationships, national economic resilience, environmental sustainability, governance and citizen participation, poverty alleviation, and overall national economic and social wellbeing. Rural–urban linkages in any geographic space involve the flow of people (goods and services from the ecosystem that provide) to the community and national GDP account, information, and money between urban and rural areas can be addressed.

4. METHODOLOGY:
4.1. Target Population

At times, when a survey may not be able to cover the entire target population because of time, expenses or other feasibility issues, it is the first step to define the sample size. In this survey, the target population is the entire members of the National Biodiversity Platform NBP/BES which consists 106 institutions, from government, nongovernment, private sectors as well as professional societies. The list of the target population is attached as annex (Annex 1).

4.2. Sample Size Determination

During this research, qualitative, quantitative, and content analyses were employed to gather all necessary documents and information regarding monitor and evaluate the performance gaps of NBP/BES platform, exploit opportunities to enable the platform to meet its mission and facilitate commitment by stakeholders. For this study around 50% of the NBP institutions were addressed through an interview either through face-to-face interview and communication through email addresses.

4.3. Survey questioners

The key stakeholders level survey data was collected which incorporate information, among others, knowledge of stakeholders' bout the NBP, whether or not they have a prior inform about the exitance of NBP or similar platforms, whether or not they are a member of the platform, whether they want to be a member if they were not a member before, whether they were taking part in the platform and other similar questions. In addition, questions which suggest appropriate approaches for monitoring the effective functioning of NBP were also include.

5. RESULTS/ MAJOR FINDINGS
5.1. The status of awareness of key stakeholders on NBP

The survey was conducted to collect primary data from key stakeholders of the NBP of the country. Among the selected key stakeholders 71.3% properly responded for the questioner. The result has showed that 71 % of the key stakeholders (KS) or member of the stakeholders know/ have prior information about National Biodiversity Platform (NBP) or any other Biodiversity related platforms (Fig. 1).
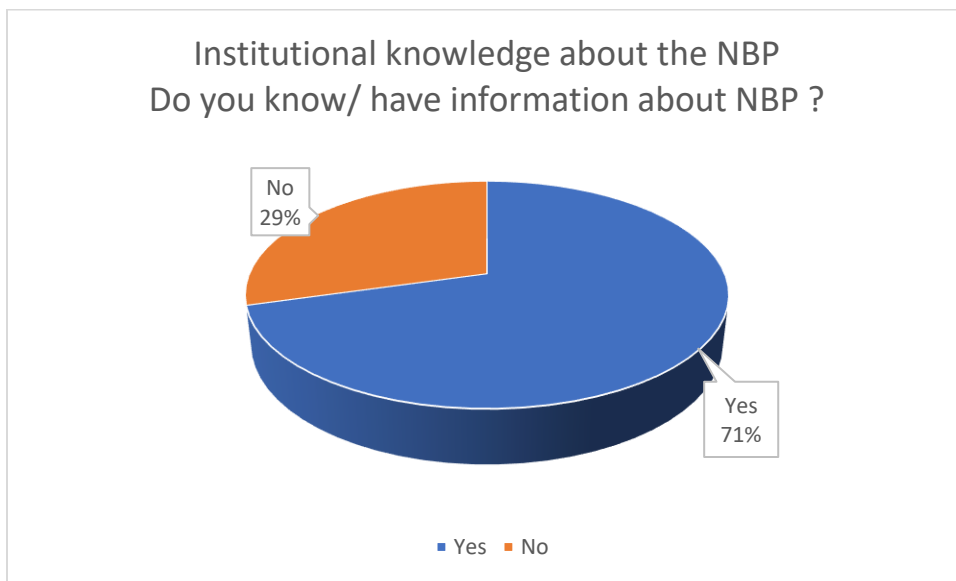
Figure1.

Even though the majority of the key stakeholders know or have information about the NBP, on the contrary, the majority replied that their institution is not a member of the NBP (fig. 2). This shows that, though an institution or a key stakeholder is a member of the NBP, most of them didn't institutionalize or didn't mainstream into their organization or there is an information gap between the focal point and other members of the same organization.

5.2.Performance gaps and specific needs

Concerning the mechanisms and approaches to be employed for mobilizing resources and filing gaps the following were listed by the key stakeholders:

- ➢ Conducting a comprehensive assessment of the available resources and capacities of the partners and beneficiaries, as well as identifying potential sources of funding and support and develop resource mobilization strategy.
- ➢ Developing a detailed work plan and budget that will outline the activities, outputs, indicators, timelines and responsibilities of each partner.
- ➢ Contribution from genetic resources utilization and payment for ecosystem services (PES).
- ➢ Government support from revenue collected through payment for ecosystem services arrangements
- ➢ Private sector engagement in the platform
- ➢ Joint expert discussion for exploitation of opportunities, scaling-up BES-NET model through raising additional resources

- Fully engagement of bilateral and multilateral donors on the needs of NBP and planning action as well as bankable project proposal appraisal and communicating to donors.
- Strengthen the capacity of stakeholders, mapping of major donners and preparation of a joint proposals with key stakeholders and submit to major doners.
- Enhanced voluntary service and increase the social capital of the NBP in terms of diverse disciplines
- High degree of networking and taping the existing opportunities for ecotourism works.
- Strengthen public private partnership to trace domestic resources

Regarding the effective monitoring and functioning of the NBP the key stakeholders also suggested the need, effective and appropriate implementation of the following:

- Parodic planning and review meeting and field visit to specific sites
- Taking lessons from REED+ learning network and other similar networks and share ideas about platform
- There is a need to develop a clear monitoring plan with clear indicators
- It is also good to start from baseline assessment and need to develop monitoring plan and conduct monitoring in some critical sites.
- There is a need to build a national data base and information system, which facilitate and ease the monitoring and evaluation of the effective functioning of the NBP. Develop online NBP monitoring tools and collect opinions and feedbacks from the platform members and increase knowledge sharing, Knowledge management system is very crucial for monitoring and properly functioning of the NBP.

➤ Establishing a team of experts from different sectors, liaising and producing reports with appropriate communications with key stakeholders.

➤ Sign memorandum of understanding (MoU) with stakeholders which specify roles and responsibilities, define indicators on participatory methods at different levels depending on the nature of the issues, organize periodic thematic discussion forums, annual conference and prepare a monitoring plan for its effectiveness.

6. CONCLUSION

The general goal of a National Biodiversity Platform (NBP) is to bring together key knowledge holders and decision-makers in collaborative relationships that lead to the better consideration of biodiversity and ecosystem services to society and human well-being in decision-making towards sustainable development. In order to realize such objective, first and for most the stakeholders themselves should have a clear knowledge and understanding of the platform itself, the objective of its establishment and internalizing or institutionalizing the shared tasks of the platform and actively engaged in implementation of its major activities. Just participating in a meeting and being simply a member as most of the key stakeholders replied will not bring any change for biodiversity conservation in general and implementation platform objectives in particular. Therefore, establishing active, motivated subcommittees and task forces; preparing a clear strategic plan, preparing adequate budget; make in place a monitoring and evaluation scheme with a clear accountability of each participating stakeholder is very crucial.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS:

➢ In order to make the NBP effective, it is very important to clearly mention in the operational guideline or any other relevant document the role of each stakeholder category such as Policy/decision makers, Academic and research institutions, Private sectors, Communities and Civil societies.

➢ Prepare a clear strategic plan and detail plan of action with the active participation of the NBP members which shows clear accountably, sign MoU with platform members and prepare a clear monitoring and evaluation scheme.

➢ Assess ways and means (such as PES, use of revenue generated from the resources) and prepare a bilateral or multilateral fund appraisal, demonstrating thorough strategic planning and execution.

- Devise efficient mechanisms in the use of resources and adjust budgets and work plans accordingly;

- Proactively anticipate, identify and manage existing and emerging short-term and long-term challenges;

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