



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG

24th Senior Officials Meeting
Monday 24th September 2018

Briefing Note:

UPDATE ON THE BIODIVERSITY PROCESSES AND CONTRIBUTION BY EMG

1. Work conducted under the auspices of EMG since the 23rd Senior Officials Meeting

The twenty-third Senior Officials Meeting of the EMG considered the importance of renewing system-wide collaboration on biodiversity and ways and means for doing so. The Senior Officials decided to revitalize the EMG's work on biodiversity by:

- i. Organizing an EMG Nexus Dialogue on Biodiversity in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2018 to identify areas for an EMG contribution, and;
- ii. Based on the outcome of the Dialogue, requesting the EMG Secretariat in consultation with interested EMG Members, to prepare terms of reference for a possible UN system contribution to the post-2020 biodiversity framework and implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The following relevant activities were undertaken by the EMG in 2018:

EMG Nexus Dialogue on Biodiversity: The EMG Nexus Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in the Context of Human Security and Wellbeing was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2 to 3 May 2018. The agenda of the Dialogue and its report, entitled "[Nature Opportunities for Human Security](#)", are published on the EMG website.

Consultative Process on a UN System-Wide Framework of Strategies (SWFS) on the Environment: Through consultation among the EMG members during the intersessional period, it was decided that the 2018 SWFS thematic report section would focus on a cross cutting theme of biodiversity. The resultant review will provide information about ongoing efforts by the UN system to protect biodiversity, challenges and opportunities for further engagement with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Further information on each of these activities is provided in the EMG Progress Report.

2. Implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets – Current status

At its second meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity reviewed further progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets¹. An assessment of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and national reports show that efforts have been made to translate the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into national commitments, and national actions have been taken to reach the Aichi Targets. However, these commitments and efforts will need to be significantly scaled up if the Aichi Targets are to be met and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 more generally is to be successfully implemented. The information from this assessment is broadly consistent with the information presented in the fourth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*², which concluded that, while progress is being made towards the achievement of all targets, progress is not currently sufficient to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and that additional action is required to keep the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 on course.

3. Preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework – Current status and the envisaged next steps in this process

In preparation for the consideration of this matter by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fourteenth meeting, to be held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from 17 to 29 November 2018, the process for development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework has been addressed by the Convention's Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice and its Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

At its twenty-first meeting, held in December 2017, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice considered scenarios for the 2050 Vision for biodiversity³ and links between the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.^{4, 5} In its recommendation XXI/1⁶, the Subsidiary Body provided advice concerning the use of scenarios and related assessments in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The Subsidiary Body also considered a plan for the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*⁷, which will serve as a basis for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework⁸. In its recommendation XXI/5⁹, the Subsidiary Body agreed a draft decision for the Conference of the Parties, requesting the preparation of the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, on the basis of this plan.

At its second meeting, held in July 2018, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation considered a proposed preparatory process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.¹⁰

¹ [CBD/SBI/2/2](#): Progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Note by the Executive Secretary.

² *Global Biodiversity Outlook 4* available at: <https://www.cbd.int/gbo4/>, including [Summary and Conclusions](#).

³ The 2050 Vision, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in [decision X/2](#) as part of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, is “Living in harmony with nature” where “By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”.

⁴ [CBD/SBSTTA/21/2](#): Scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity. Note by the Executive Secretary.

⁵ [CBD/SBSTTA/21/2/Add.1](#): Biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals. Note by the Executive Secretary.

⁶ [CBD/SBSTTA/REC/XXI/1](#): Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice. Scenarios for the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.

⁷ [CBD/SBSTTA/21/6](#): Fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*: Considerations for its preparation. Note by the Executive Secretary.

⁸ [Decision XIII/29](#)

⁹ [CBD/SBSTTA/REC/XXI/5](#): Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific Technical and Technological Advice. Fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*: considerations for its preparation.

¹⁰ [CBD/SBI/2/17](#), sect. V: Proposals for a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Note by the Executive Secretary.

In its recommendation 2/19¹¹, the Subsidiary Body agreed a draft decision for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, concerning the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In addition to the form of the process and an indicative chronology of key activities, the Subsidiary Body recommended, among other things, that the COP urge Parties and invite other Governments, indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant international organizations, civil society organizations, women's and youth organizations, private and financial sectors and other stakeholders, to actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to foster strong ownership of the framework to be agreed and strong support for its immediate implementation. It also recommended that the COP urge Parties and invite others, including relevant international organizations, to establish processes at the national, subnational and local levels, to facilitate dialogues on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to make the results of these dialogues available through appropriate means. In addition, it recommended the COP to invite Parties and others, including all relevant organizations, when organizing meetings and consultations relevant to biodiversity, to consider dedicated sessions or space to facilitate discussions on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

In the same recommendation, the Subsidiary Body requested the Executive Secretary to invite, for submission by 15 August 2018, further views from Parties and others, including relevant international organizations, on the preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. It also requested the Executive Secretary to update, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, the proposed preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,¹² and the indicative chronology of key activities.¹³ It further requested the Executive Secretary to invite, for submission by 15 December 2018, initial views from Parties and others, including international organizations, on the aspects of the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including (a) the scientific underpinning of the scale and scope of actions necessary to make progress towards the 2050 Vision; and (b) a possible structure for the post-2020 biodiversity framework.

4. Possible EMG contribution to the biodiversity agenda and ongoing processes, 2019 - 2020

Members of EMG are, therefore, encouraged to provide their views on the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by 15 December 2018, and to contribute to the process for its development between December 2018 and October 2020, including by: facilitating dialogues, providing attention to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in their own meetings of relevance, and contributing to / participating in the regional and global consultation workshops in 2019 and 2020. The indicative chronology of key activities, as submitted for consideration by the COP, is provided in Annex I to this document.

The EMG is well positioned to help expand the stakeholder-base, facilitating the engagement of non-traditional actors in biodiversity mainstreaming. Building on the conclusions of the Nexus Dialogue on Biodiversity and information to be gathered in the 2018 SWFS report, the Environment Management Group can facilitate a UN system contribution to the post-2020 biodiversity framework and implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including the following tasks:

- *Development of post-2020 global biodiversity framework*: Compilation of key advice/messages from UN entities to the CBD in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, for example through arranging thematic calls on specific topics under the new framework. Implementation period: December 2018 to February 2020.
- *Lessons learned and arising recommendations*: Coordination of a review of lessons learned and arising recommendations on system-wide cooperation in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity

¹¹ [CBD/SBI/REC/2/19](#): Recommendation adopted by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. Proposals for a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

¹² [CBD/SBI/2/17](#), sect. V.

¹³ [CBD/SBI/2/17](#), annex I.

2011-2020, and options for strengthening this post-2020. Implementation period: October 2018 to September 2019.

- *UN system-wide plan of engagement to support implementation of post-2020 global biodiversity framework*: Based on each of the above, preparation of a system-wide framework for coordination and collaboration to support implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Implementation period: October 2019 to October 2020.
- *Communications*: Facilitating joint trainings/briefings to build capacity among in-house communication specialists and strengthen coherence in biodiversity messaging from the UN system. Implementation period: October 2018 to September 2019.
- *Mainstreaming*: Development of communicative and convincing sector specific messages to agencies' senior management on the relevance of biodiversity to the mandates of different UN entities, and the importance of integrating biodiversity into different sector policies. Implementation period: October 2018 to September 2019.
- *Preparation of One UN events* during the CBD COP 14 and COP 15 providing a strategic, coherent and collective view and perspectives of the UN agencies on enhancing the Biodiversity Agenda. Implementation period: October 2018 to October 2020.

The draft terms of reference for a Consultative Process with responsibility for the above action(s) will be developed by the EMG Secretariat in consultation with CBD Secretariat and relevant members of EMG.

Annex I

Indicative chronology of key activities in development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework¹⁴

<i>Date</i>	<i>Activity</i>
9 - 13 July 2018	SBI-2 considers the proposed preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, provides a recommendation to COP-14, CP COP-MOP 9, and NP COP-MOP 3 and requests the Executive Secretary to begin implementing relevant elements.
28-31 August 2018	Sixth meeting of the Liaison Group on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation on the integration of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation beyond 2020 with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
10 – 22 November 2018	COP-14, COP-MOP 9 and COP-MOP 2 consider the proposed preparatory process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and COP-MOP 3 to conduct the assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Nagoya Protocol
December 2018 - May 2019	Parties and observers submit views on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
December 2018 - May 2019	Regional Consultation workshops and online discussion forums, focused on the post-2020 process
June 2019	Discussion paper issued on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
July-September 2019	Parties and observers submit views on the discussion paper on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
September – October 2019	Global consultation workshop(s) with focus on the Cartagena Protocol and Nagoya Protocol
September – October 2019	Global consultation workshop focused on the evidence from the natural, economic and social sciences and traditional knowledge systems related to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
October 2019	Revised discussion paper issued on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
October-December 2019	Parties and observers submit views on the revised discussion paper on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
November 2019	SBSTTA-23 reviews the draft of GBO-5 and the IPBES global assessment and other relevant information and prepares a recommendation on the implication of these and other completed thematic assessments of IPBES for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
November 2019	WG8J-11 examines the potential role of traditional knowledge, customary sustainable use and the contribution of the collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
January-March 2020	Draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework made available for peer review
January-February 2020	Global consultation workshop focused on issues related to policy and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
March 2020	Draft updated post-2020 global biodiversity framework made available for peer review
April-May 2020	Input from the Liaison Group on Capacity Building under the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and from the Compliance Committee to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
May 2020	GBO-5 published on the basis on the 6 th national reports, updated NBSAPS the IPBES Assessments and information from the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
May-June 2020	SBSTTA-24 considers the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework with a view to providing technical and scientific advice on targets to SBI-3
May-June 2020	SBI-3 considers the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including related means to support and review implementation, with a view to developing a recommendation for COP-15, CP COP-MOP 10, and NP COP-MOP 4
September 2020	Leaders' summit meeting on the margins of the opening of the UN General Assembly to give political direction and momentum to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
October 2020	COP-15, COPMOP10 and COPMOP4 consider the final draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with a view to adoption

¹⁴ As presented in [CBD/SBI/2/17](#), annex I.