UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP EMG

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

IFAD

EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity
UN Common Approach to Biodiversity: Webinar Series

Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agrifood Systems
Webinar

Date: 4th June 2024
Time: 15:00 – 16:30 CEST
Format: Virtual (MS Teams)
Language: English

Concept Note

Background

The EMG Issue Management Group (IMG) on Biodiversity was established in 2021 to prepare the ground for UN-system collaboration on implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) through the "UN Common Approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the United Nations policy and programme planning and delivery" (Common Approach).

Through the Common Approach, the UN system commits to mainstream biodiversity and catalyse collective action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and ultimately living in harmony with nature. By leveraging the convening power and expertise from across the UN system, the Common Approach will contribute to support the implementation of the KMGBF and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

At its third meeting, on 6 February 2024, Working Group 1 of the IMG on Biodiversity, on awareness-raising and knowledge sharing, agreed to move forward with a series of webinars to further disseminate knowledge products and lessons learned regarding the implementation of the Common Approach.

Many initiatives already exist across the UN system that support Parties in implementing the KMGBF and mainstream biodiversity across agrifood sectors. The IMG's work can help realize synergies and maximize co-benefits between actions that address biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and pollution, and can even potentially help reduce the burden of reporting across multilateral environmental agreements.

This webinar series incorporates a learning component and offer UN entities the opportunity to share their experiences in integrating biodiversity into their programmes and frameworks. Additionally, the webinars will showcase efforts made by the UN system towards achieving the goals and targets of the KMGBF. The themes of this webinar series align with the Impact Areas outlined in the Common Approach, including health,

human rights, human settlements, disaster reduction and climate change adaptation, economic recovery and transition, food systems, innovation and technology, and governance nexus.

This webinar will focus on actions and initiatives aimed at mainstreaming biodiversity across agrifood sectors.

Mainstreaming biodiversity across agrifood sectors

Biodiversity is fundamental for the processes that support life on Earth. Humans depend on biodiversity and ecosystem services such as air and water quality, climate regulation, pollination, food, raw materials, and disease control[i]. Moreover, biodiversity and ecosystem services are essential for sustainable agriculture, forestry, aquaculture and fisheries[ii], and nature is essential for economic prosperity, as it underpins over half of the global GDP[iii].

However, biodiversity is declining faster than at any time during human history. Biodiversity loss is considered one of the triple planetary crises, alongside climate change and pollution, with consequences that include the destruction of natural habitat, deterioration of key ecosystem services, species extinction, and ecosystem restructuring[iv v]. The triple planetary crises urgently need to be resolved if humanity is to have a viable future on this planet[vi].

Biodiversity in agriculture and food systems is considered a key element in building resilience for rural families and their livelihoods, and a foundational pillar for life-sustaining ecosystem services leading to multiple benefits. However, biodiversity loss is affecting small-scale producers worldwide, jeopardizing their livelihoods and local rural production and consumption[vii].

Achieving food security and nutrition for all depends on biodiversity, which highlights the need for urgent action to address biodiversity losses as a result of agrifood systems and mainstreaming biodiversity across agrifood sectors.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) have developed corporate strategies to mainstream biodiversity in agrifood systems and across agricultural sectors. In 2019, FAO adopted its S*trategy on Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agriculture Sectors*, aimed at reducing the negative impacts of agriculture on biodiversity and promote sustainable agricultural practices and the conservation, enhancement, preservation and restoration of biodiversity[viii]. In 2021, IFAD adopted its first *Biodiversity Strategy 2022-2025* with the objective of facilitating the protection, sustainable use and promotion of biodiversity in its operations[ix].

Objectives

The objectives of this webinar are to:

1. Present the importance of sustainable use of biodiversity across agrifood sectors and their role to achieve the KMGBF and related targets;
2. Identify opportunities to guarantee the full participation of all actors across agrifood sectors in the implementation of the KMGBF;
3. Promote awareness and implementation of the Common Approach in the UN system, as well as exchange and disseminate best practices and lessons learned from the implementation of concrete actions that consider biodiversity across agrifood sectors; and
4. Set the tone and expectations for future sessions in this webinar series.

Target audience

Global, regional and national level dissemination to UN entities, including their HQs, and with a special focus on UN Resident Coordinators (RCs) and UN Country Teams (UNCTs).

Additionally, technical specialists, researchers, and practitioners involved in mainstreaming biodiversity across agrifood sectors.

The webinar will be held in English.

Draft Programme

Duration	Presentation	Speaker
5’	Welcome and opening remarks	**Hossein Fadaei** – Head of Secretariat, UN Environment Management Group
10’	Setting the Scene: NBSAP Accelerator Partnership and the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity across agrifood sectors and its consideration in NBSAPs	**James Lomax** – Food Systems and Agriculture Programme Manager, UNEP **Katherine Madden** - Global Coordinator, NBSAP Accelerator Partnership
10’	FAO experience mainstreaming biodiversity in agrifood sectors in support of the KMGBF	**Frédéric Castell** - Senior Natural Resources Officer, FAO
10’	IFAD experience supporting the implementation of the KMGBF and mainstreaming biodiversity in agrifood sectors across its portfolio of investments	**Marie-Aude Even** - Global Senior Biodiversity Specialist, IFAD
10’	UNCT Case Study: Indonesia	**Robert Steele** - UNEP Indonesia Integrated Biodiversity Strategy Advisor
20’	Interactive Dialogue	All participants
5’	Summary of Outcomes	Moderator: **Marcos Gibson** - Environmental and Climate Change Coordinator, Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences
5’	Closing Remarks	**Hossein Fadaei** – Head of Secretariat, UN Environment Management Group

An interactive survey will be implemented during the event.

Total Duration: 1hr 30mins

Moderator: Marcos Gibson – Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO)

Contact

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[i] https://www.cbd.int/gbf/introduction
[ii] https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/89a1f95d-5fcc-4d73-b74d-683466752fa4/content
[iii] https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/biodiversity#:~:text=Biological%20diversity%20%E2%80%94%20or%20biodiversity%20%E2%80%94%20is,evolution%2C%20increasingly%20influenced%20by%20humans
[iv] https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/
[v] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-report-the-economics-of-biodiversity-the-dasgupta-review

[vi] https://unfccc.int/news/what-is-the-triple-planetary-crisis
[vii] https://www.ifad.org/documents/38711624/45005260/biodiversity_strategy_e.pdf/f6882166-043f-e944-574e-a6299e70f579?t=1646128033211
[viii] https://www.fao.org/biodiversity/our-work/strategy-and-action-plan/en
[ix] https://www.ifad.org/documents/38711624/45005260/biodiversity_strategy_e.pdf/f6882166-043f-e944-574e-a6299e70f579?t=1646128033211