



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



1st informal meeting of the EMG on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

**Date and time: 26th August 2019 (10:00 -16:00 EAT)
Venue: UNEP HQ, Gigiri (Conference Room to be confirmed)**

Distribution:

**EMG Focal Points and
EMG Network on
Biodiversity**

UN system-wide contribution to the Biodiversity Agenda Supporting the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Summary:

7 August 2019

This note is prepared by the Environment Management Group (EMG)¹ Secretariat as a background document on the role and contribution of the EMG on biodiversity in the last decade. The note also suggests some thoughts on possible contribution by the EMG through a renewed EMG process on biodiversity to the Post 2020 Strategic Framework. The note is aimed to help an informal discussion of the EMG members and relevant IGOs and NGOs in the margins of the First Open Ended Working Group of the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework.

A. Background

Over the last decade, the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG)² has offered support to the biodiversity agenda, including contributions to the shaping of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its follow-up.

I. Preparatory Process of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2009-2010)

In response to calls by the presidency of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Executive Secretary of the CBD, in 2009, the EMG Senior Officials established an Issue Management Group (IMG) on Biodiversity to contribute to the post-2010 biodiversity framework. As a result of two years of inter-agency consultations, the EMG prepared the UN system-wide report “Advancing the Biodiversity Agenda, A UN System –Wide Contribution”. The report was launched in October 2010 at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Nagoya, Japan. Prepared with inputs from 27 UN entities, the report addresses how biodiversity relates to different

¹ The Environment Management Group is a UN Inter-agency coordination mechanism hosted and chaired by UNEP.

² www.unemg.org

policy sectors in the UN system and how those sectors can contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and its ecosystem services.³

In the report, Executive Heads of UN entities acknowledged in a joint statement that biodiversity considerations need to be mainstreamed into sectoral policies and strategies. COP 10 welcomed the report and called on the EMG to contribute to the international decade on biodiversity 2011-2021. It also invited the EMG to identify measures for effective and efficient implementation of the Strategic Plan across the UN system and to provide a report on its work to the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting.

II. Follow up of the Strategic Plan (2011-2014)

In response to the decisions of COP10⁴, EMG members agreed to map out their current activities and initiatives as a basis for an effective UN system-wide contribution to the Strategic Plan. [A mapping report](#) was prepared by the IMG on the relevance of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to the work of the IMG members. The Mapping Report was agreed to be considered as a living document. It was the initial step of an endeavour to assist governments and regional organisations to better benefit from the various existing and potential contributions of the UN entities and related Conventions in implementing the Strategic Plan.

Furthermore, the IMG prepared a note on biodiversity integration in the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), with the purpose to support the inclusion of biodiversity in policies and in regional and national-level projects.

IV. 23rd meeting of the EMG Senior Officials (2017)

At its 23rd meeting, informed by a briefing from the Executive Secretary of the CBD, the Senior Officials of the EMG discussed biodiversity as a strategic global issue and the possibility of [renewed attention under the EMG](#), and requested the organization of a Nexus Dialogue on biodiversity.

III. Follow up of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (2018)

In reviewing integration and follow up of the environmental aspects of the SDGs in UN entities' strategies and programs, the EMG organized a Nexus Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in the context of Human Security and Well-being in May 2018. The outcome report of the Dialogue, ["Nature Opportunities for Human Security"](#), highlights the importance of biodiversity in supporting human security and wellbeing and the need to explore successful narratives and examine the main challenges of mainstreaming biodiversity in various sectors. The Dialogue considered how UN entities and other partners could enhance collaboration as well as individual efforts to support progress towards the

³ The report underlined that new opportunities for mainstreaming are emerging and cooperation between institutions with biodiversity mandates and across sectors is increasingly pursued.

⁴ Decisions X2,X5,X8,X20.

For example, decision X/8 on UN Decade on Biodiversity, invited the Environment Management Group to "facilitate cooperation and information exchange among its members in support of the Convention and its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020."

biodiversity targets as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Recommendations from this Dialogue outlined in the above-mentioned report, were presented to the 2018 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York.

V. 24th meeting of the EMG Senior Officials (2018)

Following global calls and concerns about the growing loss of biodiversity and the inadequate implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, the 24th meeting of EMG Senior Officials reconsidered the issue of biodiversity and called for an acceleration of the implementation of the Strategic Plan and support for the Post-2020 Strategic Framework.

With reference to a [background document](#) prepared for the meeting, the Executive Secretary of the CBD briefed the Senior Officials on the status of implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the status of work under the Convention towards preparation of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. She called on UN entities to help make the case for biodiversity, to illustrate our dependence on biodiversity for life- and business-support systems, and to make biodiversity a global movement. UN entities were invited to provide input to the preparation of the post-2020 framework, sharing views on key elements and advice from the point of view of different areas of work. Furthermore, system-wide cooperation was stressed for strengthening coherence in biodiversity messaging to different audiences. A call was made to organize One-UN events in connection with Conferences of the Parties and related meetings, in which the UN system can demonstrate its capability to work closely together.

VI. CBD COP 14 – adoption of process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

At its fourteenth meeting, held in November 2018, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD adopted a decision setting out a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ([decision 14/34](#)). The COP invited all stakeholders, among others United Nations organizations and programmes, other multilateral environmental agreements, intergovernmental organizations, and non-governmental organizations, 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 (decision XIV/34, para 6). The importance of their engagement is reflected in the overarching principles, organization of work, consultation process, documentation, and information sources established for the preparatory process (decision XIV/34, Annex).

V. EMG System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment

As part of the EMG's mandate to review the alignment of UN entities' strategies with the environmental aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals under its [System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment \(SWFS\)](#), the EMG Senior Officials agreed to dedicate the second edition of the EMG SWFS Report to biodiversity. The report intends to collate and analyse the individual and collaborative initiatives implemented by the EMG members in support of the implementation of SDGs 14 and 15 and the Aichi Targets. The report will explore strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities within these actions in relation to attaining the 2030 Agenda. A zero draft report is being prepared for the consideration of the EMG members.

VI. Bern Consultation Workshop on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (2019)

In June 2019, in view of the EMG's engagement on biodiversity, the EMG Secretariat was invited to a consultation workshop of biodiversity-related conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, convened by the CBD in Bern.

During the meeting, recalling the EMG's contribution to the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, several references and calls were made by several Member States, UN agencies, and MEA secretariats for the EMG to renew the engagement of the UN system entities in the context of the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. It was mentioned that the EMG could be convened so as to motivate UN agency inputs to the process of developing the new strategic framework, including suggested targets, indicators and data sources. In the long-run, increased UN system-wide co-ownership will also strengthen the implementation of the framework.

The essence of the envisaged Framework is a global, coordinated and coherent response at national and global levels to biodiversity loss, based on scientific assessments, including the recent IPBES Global Assessment report. In this light, a coordinated and coherent response by the UN system is highly relevant. In a separate meeting of the CBD with UN entities and IGOs held after the workshop on 13 June, the above needs and request was echoed, inviting the EMG to consider this issue during its SOM in September 2019 and for the EMG Secretariat to consider convening a preliminary and informal meeting of UN agencies in the margins of OEWG-1 in Nairobi in August.

B. A suggested roadmap for the way forward

Against this background and following close consultation with the CBD Secretariat and under the overall support of the United Nations Environment Programme, EMG members are invited to consider the below roadmap for an EMG consultative process that can be established at the upcoming EMG Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) in September 2019. It is suggested to take advantage of the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in August in Nairobi, for UNEP to convene the EMG on the sidelines of the OEWG so as to have an informal discussion on possible inputs and deliverables of the EMG to the Post 2020 process, and to update the roadmap as appropriate thereafter.

An EMG process on the post-2020 Framework could build on the draft EMG report on "System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment" (SWFS), which focuses on reviewing the UN system contributions to the implementation of SDGs 14 and 15 and the related Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

August 2019

An informal expert meeting of UN entity members of the EMG is convened by EMG Secretariat in the margins of the first OEWG, to consider a UN system contribution to the Post-2020 Framework, and other possible system-wide inputs to raise awareness about the biodiversity agenda and support biodiversity mainstreaming. The outcome of the meeting will be to inform and advise on possible elements of the post-2020 targets and to deliberate on the contributions that each of the UN agencies can bring to the issue of biodiversity conservation in general and to the new targets in particular. These deliberations will then be the subject of the 25th meeting of the EMG Senior Officials in September 2019.

September 2019

Senior Officials of the EMG have a strategic discussion on biodiversity to set a common agenda and agree on a set of deliverables to the post-2020 process, including establishing an EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity to provide inputs to the post-2020 framework and to provide that UN agencies and related IGO EMG observers will internalize and mainstream the post-2020 targets in their operations.

February 2020

The first meeting of the Consultative Process is held in the margins of the second meeting of the OEWG to discuss the preparation of inputs by the UN system agencies to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as well as to review UN agency commitments to the Post-2020 Framework. The draft SWFS report is considered with the aim to finalise it and decide on the occasion and time to launch it at an appropriate time to be determined, but well prior to COP15.

April 2020

Second meeting of the Consultative Process is held.

July 2020

The third meeting of the Consultative Process is held in the margins of the third meeting of the OEWG to continue consideration of inputs to the Post 2020 Framework, as well as to discuss arrangements and an agenda for a meeting of Heads of Agencies in the margins of CBD COP15.

September 2020

The EMG SOM issues a joint high-level message on the UN's commitment to the implementation of the Post -2020 Framework in connection with the Biodiversity Summit to be held under the auspices of the UN General Assembly prior to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

October 2020

A meeting of heads of UN agencies and MEAs is organized in the margins of CBD COP 15 to present the UN systems' contribution, political commitment and a follow up approach to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

December 2020

The fourth meeting of the Consultative Process is held to follow up on the implementation of the new Global Biodiversity Framework, including a discussion on the sharing of roles as custodians of the agreed indicators and a monitoring and review approach to the implementation of the indicators.