

Summary of the 1st Informal Meeting of the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

26 August 2019, Nairobi

1. The first informal meeting of the UN Environment Management Group (EMG) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework took place in Nairobi in the margins of the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Nairobi, 27-30 August 2019).
2. The objective of the meeting was to share views on how the UN system can effectively contribute to the development and subsequent implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in the context of the EMG, building on, among others, the [Consultation Workshop on Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (Bern, 10-12 June 2019), and the [Nexus Dialogue on Biodiversity and Human Security](#) organized by the EMG in May 2018.
3. Ms. Inger Anderson, the Executive Director of UNEP and Chair of the EMG, welcomed the participants and shared her perspectives and expectations on the Post 2020 Process and underlined the importance of a UN system contribution and engagement in the development and implementation of the Post 2020 Framework.
4. After adoption of the [Agenda](#) , the meeting elected Ms. Susan Gardner, Director of the UNEP Ecosystem Division as the Chair of the meeting. Mr. Neville Ash, Director of UNEP-WCMC assisted the Chair in chairing of the afternoon session. The Chair referred to the [background document of the meeting including a suggested road map](#) for consideration of the participants. The background document and the road map were prepared following the calls by Member States and EMG Senior Officials for EMG to renew its engagement on biodiversity in view of the Post 2020 Biodiversity Agenda.
5. The Chair then invited the CBD to make a presentation on the process of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Strategic Plan.
6. Recognizing the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development and the critical urgency of taking collective action against biodiversity loss, participants introduced the work underway in their respective organizations to contribute to the post-2020 framework process. The subsequent discussion emphasized that the following elements need to be considered to bring biodiversity higher up on the global political agenda, while paving the way for the effective development and implementation of the post-2020 framework:
 - a) Ambitious, measurable targets for the post-2020 framework that are result- based and build on existing targets to reduce reporting burden for countries. Such targets should be simple, measurable and achievable, and would help contribute to raising the awareness of the importance and relevance of biodiversity in the wider political and public consciousness.
 - b) Integrate system shifts and externalities, climate change, pollution, humanitarian and security issues; including sectors that lie outside the ministries of environment which can be part of the solution; primary production sectors of agriculture, forestry and

fisheries, service sectors of energy, tourism, finance and trade as well as social services of education, health and culture.

- c) Awareness raising amongst the public as well as the private sector, through which individuals can become part of solution;
- d) Engaging all relevant stakeholders and promoting shared ownership of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in order to enhance immediate implementation.
- e) Post-2020 framework to take into account the new governance landscapes and organising frameworks offered by the Sustainable Development Goals and the UN Environment Assembly. Emerging economic development frameworks should also be sure to incorporate biodiversity.
- f) Addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss, including through the inclusion of relevant sectors and leveraging the engagement of all sectors, for example through the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)
- g) Promoting “connectivity” and synergies across sectors, and among different clusters of multilateral environmental agreements as well as the three Rio Conventions, namely, CBD, UNCCD and the UNFCCC as well as biodiversity and chemicals cluster of MEAs and processes such as SAICM beyond 2020.
- h) Establish baselines building on the IPBES and FAO Global Assessment Report and Aichi Targets progress reports in order to ensure that targets are informed, and that progress can be measured so that a gap report can be produced to help highlight areas for targeted action.

7. In considering how the UN system can contribute to the Post 2020 Framework building on its past contributions, the meeting heard a presentation by the EMG secretariat. This included the key findings of the UN report [“Advancing the Biodiversity Agenda: A UN system-wide contribution”](#) (2010), the mapping report [“Contributions of the UN Agencies and Conventions to the Aichi Targets”](#) (2012) and the report on the biodiversity-SDG nexus [“Nature Opportunities for Human Security”](#) (2018).

8. Following that, each organization provided preliminary views regarding possible elements that may contribute to the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Presentations were heard from UNDP, FAO, WB, UNCTAD, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, OHCHR, IUCN, WWF, CBD, CMS and BRS. Some of the issues/challenges raised include:

- a) The silo work of UN agencies on biodiversity;
- b) So far, only the SDGs have been considered as a global framework accepted across all UN agencies. The GBF needs to follow an equally inclusive process to avoid that it remains seen as only relevant to the ministries of environment.
- c) Diversity Disparities of agencies’ contributions to the targets including those under SDG14, 2 and 15;
- d) The opportunity for a common narrative on biodiversity among UN agencies, as biodiversity has not yet been effectively mainstreamed
- e) Bringing ministries of finance and planning to the GBF consultation, and raise awareness of tools such as natural capital accounting for engaging such ministries;
- f) The need to improve knowledge of the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services to other societal sectors, and better understanding and measurement of the impact of industries as drivers of biodiversity loss. This should accompany a whole-of-society approach to the GBF.

- g) Need to engage at the highest political levels in countries
- h) Ensuring accountability for biodiversity and the environment, including drawing on experiences and existing mechanisms from human rights treaty bodies and other mechanisms already in place across the UN system
- i) Capitalize on the important opportunity related to changes/revisions in SDG targets and indicators post 2020, recognizing that many of the SDG targets and indicators were drawn from the current 2010-2020 Biodiversity Strategic Plan.
- j) Engaging with UN Women to ensure gender dimensions are fully embedded in the GBF
- k) A UN Biodiversity, analogous to UN Ocean or UN Water was suggested as a possible mechanism to ensure follow up and coherent contribution of the UN system?
- l) The importance of involving the agencies' Governing Bodies to ensure that agencies' contributions have been approved by their Governing Body
- m) Improving the inclusion of biodiversity in the urban agenda
- n) Harmonizing biodiversity-related national reporting and exploring how existing reporting mechanisms such as the SDGs can be a part of the longer-term accountability mechanisms of the Post-2020 GBF.
- o) Take into account the expectations and value of agencies expressing views on priorities and elements of the Post 2020 framework, so that they become implementable and relevant to their existing commitments and agendas
- p) Explore how capacity-building for the SDGs can be supported and integrated into the Post-2020 framework
- q) The importance of actors beyond the UN system contributing to the development and implementation of the post-2020 GBF be successful
- r) The UNEA and UNGA could be used to provide a broader element of governance to the framework, through formal adoptions of an official recognition of the Framework.

9. The ensuing discussion about the EMG contributions to the post-2020 framework process highlighted the following points:

- a) There is a need to continue efforts to mainstream biodiversity and raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and the Post-2020 Framework and its relevance to UN agency mandates, objectives and sectoral policies.
- b) It would be useful for each agency to have a clear workplan for the implementation of the post-2020 GBF in the broader context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, drawing lessons, where relevant from Member States. More work needs to be done to identify the different types of policy contributions each development cooperation policy sector can make to contribute to the transformative change required by the biodiversity agenda
- c) Effective UN system contributions to the biodiversity agenda would need a clear set of priorities, collective vision and engagement from the highest levels, including by the Secretary-General, that could culminate, among others, in a Biodiversity Summit at the level of Heads of State/Government in September 2020;
- d) Catalysing cross-sectoral integration, in which for example, sustainable trade could be given prominence in the post-2020 biodiversity framework, which would in turn enable

the 15th UNCTAD quadrennial conference (Bridgetown, October 2020) to refer to the biodiversity framework in the draft ministerial declaration;

- e) Mainstreaming biodiversity in the agendas of the governing bodies of different UN agencies would enable moving away from the institutional inertia that has limited the cross-sectoral approaches essential for achievement of the Aichi targets.
 - f) Consider thematic consultations and joint programmes on biodiversity and other issues such as human rights and economic development, and utilize the opportunities offered by other forums to bring experiences from across the UN system on biodiversity to bear on individual agency processes.
 - g) Agencies each have a “piece of the puzzle” and could further consider the Aichi targets, and the IPBES and other global assessment findings in relation to drivers of biodiversity loss, and determine which UN agency might take prominent roles on appropriate action, based on their mandates. Tangible next steps for a diverse contribution of the UN system into the Post-2020: a roadmap for EMG to bring all the pieces together.
 - h) Biodiversity could be further incorporated into the voluntary national SDG reports and Member States could further share their expectations for the UN system and the Post-2020 framework.
10. The EMG can support the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework including by providing:
- a) Technical advisory inputs from the UN system to OEWG and other relevant meetings of the CBD (including SBSTTA and SBI) focused on thematic issues where the UN system has particular expertise to provide, for example in relation to drivers of biodiversity loss, mainstreaming of biodiversity and accountability mechanisms.
 - b) A more comprehensive contribution on the role and contribution of the UN system to the subsequent implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. The EMG report on System Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment (SWFS) which is focused on biodiversity can be launched in the margins of the Secretary-General’s Biodiversity Summit in September 2020 to serve as a basis for this, including an analysis of how these efforts fit within the frames of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
 - c) A high-level event in the margins of the CBD COP15, highlighting the UN response through contributions and commitments as appropriate.

Way Forward and next steps

11. The meeting suggested the following road map:

I. September 2019- February 2020

- A series of technical input papers prepared by?? for input to the second OEWG meeting in February, and meetings of CBD subsidiary bodies (SBSTTA and SBI) in May;

II. February – July 2020

- Additional technical input provided for the third meeting of the Open-end Working Group taking place in July
- A contribution on biodiversity to High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in June-July
- Coherent UN engagement at a pavilion the IUCN World Conservation Congress in June of 2020

III. September 2019 - October 2020

- Preparing a longer- term plan for UN system support and contribution for the implementation of the Post 2020 Framework including through a UN GA event during the GA summit on Biodiversity, September 2020
- A UN system event during the CBD COP 15

12. It was proposed that the forthcoming EMG Senior Officials Meeting in September 2019 (New York) establish a *Consultative Process on Biodiversity* to coordinate these contributions, utilizing the forthcoming EMG report on “System-wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment which will be focused on biodiversity”.

13. The report of this informal meeting will be shared with the Senior Officials as information document.

14. As a starting point to contribute to the Post 2020 Process, the EMG can compile individual agencies’ contributions and inputs that they have prepared for post 2020 process, including a compilation of agencies calendar of relevant meetings and process which can consider or be informed of the post 2020 process and the post 2020 Framework.

15. It was agreed that reporting by UN agencies should be kept as light as possible, with drafts prepared by EMG Secretariat.

Annex 1

List of participants

EMG Members		
1.	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS)	Maria Cristina Cardenas
2.	Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	David Cooper, Jyoti Mathur-Filipp, Neil Pratt
3.	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)	Amy Fraenkel
4.	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)	Irene Hoffmann
5.	FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	Olivier Rukundo
6.	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)	
7.	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)	Benjamin Schachter
8.	UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)	Frederic Perron-Welch, Lorena Jaramillo
9.	UN Development Programme (UNDP)	Anne Juepner
10.	UN Environment Programme (UNEP)	Inger Andersen, Susan Gardner, Neville Ash, Tita Korvenoja, Diane Klaimi, Hyun Sung, Marlene Nilsson, Nandita Surendran
11.	Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP)	Sun Cho
12.	UN-Habitat	Isabel Wetzel, Helen Elizabeth Yu
13.	World Bank	Giovanni Ruta
14.	EMG Secretariat	Hossein Fadaei
Observers		
15.	BirdLife International	Noelle Kumpel
16.	Forum for Law, Environment, Development and Governance (FLEDGE)	Balakrishna Pisupati
17.	Future earth	Eva
18.	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	George
19.	World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)	Guido Broekhoven, Luca Chinotti