



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG



Terms of Reference for the EMG Consultative Process on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Background

Biodiversity refers to the variety and variability of life on earth, at the level of species, genetic, and ecosystem diversity. This diversity has been increasingly recognized for its integral role in supporting human wellbeing and providing and enabling ecosystem services.¹

In 2010, in Nagoya, Japan, the international community agreed on a global biodiversity agenda, adopting [The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#) and its twenty Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This provided a framework for priority actions on conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

In the 10 years since the CBD COP in Nagoya, the UN System has been involved in and contributed to the biodiversity agenda including through the Environment Management Group. The EMG supported the preparation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan by preparing the [EMG Biodiversity Report](#). [The EMG also prepared a Mapping report of UN Agencies vis-à-vis the Aichi Targets, identifying activities that UN entities were undertaking to support deliver of the Strategic Plan](#). The Aichi Targets were also later integrated into several Sustainable Development Goals, such as food security, health, access to clean water and sustainable energy for all, as well as in the Goals for Life on Land and Life Below Water.

While progress has been made by countries in implementing some aspects of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, most of the targets have not been realized and biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides are declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history. The recent IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES, 2019) stresses that the health of ecosystems “on which we and all other species depend is deteriorating more rapidly than ever...eroding...economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life worldwide.”

¹ Global Biodiversity Outlook 4, Convention on Biological Diversity, 2014, and IPBES Global Assessment report, 2019.

The international community, under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), will review lessons learned from the successes and failures in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and adopt a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework in October 2020 in Kunming, China. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework will be accompanied by an inspirational and motivating 2030 mission as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision “Living in harmony with nature” (CBD COP decision 14/34. See [decision X/2 for 2050 Vision](#)).

The United Nations entities and other relevant international organisations have been called upon by Member States to contribute to the preparation of the Framework. These calls include inter alia the CBD COP [decision 14/34](#) and [the conclusions of the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#), which invited the EMG to facilitate the contribution of the United Nations system to the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

In response to this call, and following [an informal meeting of the EMG in the margins of the first meeting of the Open-ended Working Group in August 2019](#), the 25th EMG Senior Officials Meeting in September 2019, agreed to establish an interagency Consultative Process with the purpose to prepare a system-wide contribution to the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and requested the EMG Secretariat to facilitate the Consultative Process and to support its work.

Rationale and focus

Based on the outcome of the informal meeting, and building on the [past work of the EMG on the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#) the Consultative Process is intended to produce a system-wide contribution to the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by:

1. Prepare a compilation of EMG Members’ submissions to the post-2020 process, within their current mandates and programmes;
2. Provide coordinated input from the UN system to the Open-ended Working Group and other meetings with relevance to the post 2020 global framework on biodiversity, by;
 - a. Identifying lessons learned by UN entities from implementation of current biodiversity-related goals and targets, and providing recommendations based on these experiences to inform the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
 - b. Providing specific contributions to enable the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be relevant to all SDGs, and to provide coordinated UN support to countries for the implementation of the GBF;
3. Prepare an analysis on the role and contributions by the UN system to the implementation of the global biodiversity framework, including an analysis of how these efforts fit within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
 - a. Defining and agreeing on clear and measurable commitments, as appropriate, from EMG members to support delivery of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for example from 2021-2030, regarding support for implementation and ownership of targets, goals, and/or indicators, and;

4. Present The Consultative Process contributions, inter alia, to the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group, the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the UN Biodiversity Summit in connection with the General Assembly and the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

As part of the EMG's mandate to review the alignment of UN entities' strategies with the environmental aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals the SWFS, the EMG Senior Officials agreed that the above elements will be presented in a report under the [System-Wide Framework of Strategies for the Environment \(SWFS\)](#).²

Responsibilities, functions and tentative outline of the Consultative Process

The core activities of the Consultative Process include:

- a) Prepare an overview compilation of EMG Members' submissions to the post-2020 process, for submission to OEWG 2;
- b) Prepare and maintain a consolidated calendar of events of UN entities with relevance to the post-2020 Consultative Process to enhance coordination of efforts in promoting the post 2020 framework and engaging constituencies with it;
- c) Facilitate the provision of specific/thematic coordinated inputs from the UN system to the Open-ended Working Group and other meetings with relevance to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- d) Undertake awareness raising activities to raise the profile of and commitment to the global biodiversity framework and present the Consultative Process contributions at various events of all policy sectors, in addition to specific activities in the margins of the Open-ended Working Group, the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the UNGA Biodiversity Summit and the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;
- e) Prepare an analysis on the role and contributions by the UN system to the implementation of the global biodiversity framework, including an analysis of how these efforts fit within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in order to effectively show Parties that the UN will be able to provide immediate and coordinated support for implementation at sectoral and national levels;

² As part of the EMG's mandate to review the alignment of UN entities' strategies with the environmental aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals the SWFS, the EMG Senior Officials agreed to dedicate the second edition of the EMG SWFS Report to biodiversity. The SWFS report on Biodiversity 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.

- f) Define an approach for a follow up, coordination and implementation of the framework by the UN system, including the support for other actors' implementation (potentially by identifying UN entities for custodianship of a biodiversity goal(s), target(s) and/or indicator(s), and identifying possible fora that can help drive implementation), and;
- g) Provide a forum for exchange of relevant information between UN entities during the post-2020 process.

The deliverables mentioned above will be produced by the EMG Secretariat based on inputs provided by Consultative Process members. In fulfilling the above-mentioned tasks, the Consultative Process will follow the below road map to prepare and present its contribution:

Date	Event	Location	Purpose
November 2019	First meeting held in the margins of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-23)	Montreal, Canada	<p>Consideration of the Terms of Reference for the Consultative Process.</p> <p>Consideration of a compilation of UN-system and EMG-member contributions to the Post-2020 process thus far, with a view to identifying possibilities and modalities to collaborate on future submissions to the process.</p> <p>Consideration of calendar of relevant events for coordination and collaboration on the post 2020 process.</p> <p>Identification of possible inputs to the second and third meetings of the OWEG</p>
January 13	Deadline for additional inputs to the 'Zero Draft: preliminary overview' document	N/A	Upon approval of the Consultative Process this document will be submitted to OEWG 2
February 15	Circulation of documents, including the updated 'Zero Draft: preliminary overview', in advance of the Second Meeting of the Consultative Process	N/A	
February TBC	Second meeting of the Consultative Process held in the margins of the second meeting of the	Kunming, China	Consideration of updates by UN entities on their efforts to promote the post 2020 Framework

	Open-ended Working Group		<p>Additional inputs by the UN system entities on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework</p> <p>Awareness raising efforts and a response to possible expectations from the OEWG.</p> <p>Preparation for the Human Rights Council, WHO Health Assembly, IUCN World Conservation Congress and the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development</p>
March 5th	(Tentative) Deadline for submission of inputs to the SWFS Biodiversity Report	N/A	
March 20 th	(Tentative) Deadline for the EMG Secretariat to produce a Zero Draft SWFS Biodiversity Report outline for circulation amongst CP members	N/A	This Zero Draft outline will be based on discussions during the 2 nd Consultative Process meeting
End of March (TBC)	First drafting workshop of the SWFS Biodiversity Report, for those willing and able to participate	Bern or Geneva (TBC)	Based on discussions held during the 2 nd Consultative Process Meeting and the Zero Draft outline produced by the EMG Secretariat
April 30 th	(Tentative) Deadline for the EMG Secretariat to produce a First Draft of the SWFS Biodiversity Report	N/A	This First Draft will be based on the first workshop and will be developed well in advance of the 3 rd meeting of the Consultative Process
May TBC	3 rd meeting of the Consultative Process in between SBSTTA-24 and SBI-3	Montreal, Canada	<p>Consideration of inputs to the 3rd OEWG.</p> <p>Preparations for a contribution to the UN GA Biodiversity Summit in September including the SWFS report on Biodiversity</p>
June TBC	Second drafting workshop for the SWFS Biodiversity Report, for those willing and able to participate	TBC	
July 2020	Fourth meeting of the Consultative Process in the margins of the 3 rd OEWG (27-31 July)	Bogota, Colombia	<p>Presentation of the agreed UN system contribution on the structure and content of the Strategic Framework</p> <p>Preparation for the UNGA Biodiversity Summit</p> <p>Finalisation of SWFS report</p> <p>Preparations for CBD COP15.</p>

September 2020- UNGA 75 (15-30 Sep.)	EMG 26 th Senior Officials Meeting in the margins of the UNGA (15-30 Sep.) UNGA Biodiversity Summit	New York, USA	Occasion for the launch of the SWFS Biodiversity report.
October 2020	Heads of UN entities and MEAs meeting in the margins of CBD COP15	Kunming, China	Presentation of the UN system contribution, political commitment and a follow up approach to the Strategic Framework.
December 2020	Fifth meeting of the Consultative Process		Discussion on a shared view on the follow up and implementation of the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework including an approach for UN system coordination on biodiversity.