



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



1st meeting of the EMG ¹ Consultative Process on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework	Distribution:
29th November 2019 (08:00 -11:00 EST) Venue: CBD Secretariat Conference Room, Joke Waller-Hunter Conference Room, with audio-video attendees	EMG Consultative Process Focal Points

18/12/19

Report of the meeting

Summary of Proceedings

1. The First Meeting of the EMG Consultative Process on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was held on the 29th of November 2019. The meeting was hosted in the margins of the 23rd meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at the CBD Secretariat in Montreal, Canada. Participants attended both in person and via audio-video link. The meeting lasted from approximately 8:15am to 11:20am EST. The list of participants is provided in annex 1. Ms Irene Hoffmann of FAO and Meriem Bouamrane of UNESCO co-chaired the meeting.

Opening remarks

2. Mr Neville Ash, head of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), welcomed the participants and invited Mr Satya Tripathi, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of UNEP New York Office to open the meeting.
3. In his opening remarks, Mr Tripathi highlighted that biodiversity is key to the work and mandate of all UN members and at the heart of climate challenge, making the task of the Consultative Process substantive to many upcoming events and processes in 2020, not just the CBD COP15. He referred to the 25th meeting of the EMG Senior Officials in September of 2019, during which the strategic discussion focused on biodiversity. Several initial ideas and entry points for collaboration for the post-2020 framework were raised by the 25th EMG Senior Officials Meeting and the creation of this Consultative Process was mandated, in response to the request made by the [First Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group](#) on post 2020 biodiversity framework (OEWG).

¹ EMG is a UN inter-agency coordination mechanism on the environment hosted and chaired by UNEP.

4. Mr. Ash highlighted that the UN system work on biodiversity is not beginning from scratch, but that the mainstreaming of biodiversity has been an ongoing concern for 20 years. The lack of engagement across sectors in the implementation of the 2011-2020 CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is a key challenge. He described the unique opportunity to correct that challenge and engage economic and policy sectors in addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss. He also outlined previous EMG work on biodiversity. He identified the two clusters of work for this meeting, namely how the UN system, with partners, can contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and how the UN system can gear itself to respond to implementation of the framework, once adopted. Mr. Ash reiterated that the effectiveness of the framework depends on the ways in which multiple stakeholders, including in the UN system, can support implementation of the framework.
5. As a special invitee, Ms Ana Maria Hernandez Salgar, the IPBES Chair, presented the scientific findings of the Inter-governmental Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) that demonstrate the scale and urgency of the biodiversity challenge. She began by outlining how nature is being degraded at a rate and scale unprecedented in human history. She highlighted the five direct drivers of biodiversity loss, namely land and sea use change, direct exploitation of species and ecosystems, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species. These all affect terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems and species, but to different degrees. She also referred to the root causes, ‘indirect drivers’, of biodiversity loss. These regard social drivers related to demographics and sociocultural, economic and technological, institutional and governance, and conflicts and epidemics. In order to address the direct drivers of biodiversity loss these indirect drivers and the associated social values must be addressed, as they mediate the human activities which create the direct drivers of loss. Most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets will not be met. Ms Hernandez Salgar said that the business as usual model will lead to ‘closure of business’ and that working towards sustainability is necessary. She highlighted various actions identified by IPBES that can be used to promote and enact sustainability. She mentioned the need to engage different societal, economic and policy sectors in order to develop possible models and solutions. Options exist to reverse trends of loss, and decisions about how to proceed need to be made. She referenced the next IPBES Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, expected by June 2020, and invited the engagement of participants in that process, including participation in an online conference for business indicator assessments and nomination of experts to assist with scoping of the assessment in the second half of 2020.

Election of chairs and adoption of the agenda

6. Mr Ash proposed co-chairs for the meeting from FAO, Ms Irene Hoffman, and UNESCO, Ms Meriem Bouamrane.
7. Following the election of the co-chairs the meeting adopted the agenda.

Consideration of the Terms of Reference of the Consultative Process

8. Mr Hossein Fadaei, Head of Office, UN Environment Management Group Secretariat, introduced the Consultative Process Terms of Reference.

Discussion

9. Key points expressed by participants include:

- The expectation is that the Consultative Process will operate within existing mandates, structures and programmes from Member States. There will not be a need to consult with Member States during this process.
- There is a need to involve all sectors, beyond ‘the usual suspects’. The Consultative Process includes UN entities from every policy sector. Entities should consider how existing mandates, structures and programmes from Member States can be mobilized for framework development and implementation. Sectoral mainstreaming, for sectoral ownership of implementation, is one of the major possible contributions. Sectors will need technical support in ensuring that the framework is reflected in their work. It is critical to show to Member States that they are not alone in implementation.
- Business as usual is not enough. What is called for is transformative change. The challenge is to identify what can be done differently and additionally.
- With IPBES-identified actions to address the drivers of biodiversity loss it is up to the entities to identify how they can contribute.
- The rationale and focus of the ToR are very much focused on SDGs 14 and 15. The rationale and focus should be rephrased to ‘identifying gaps and mainstreaming in all SDGs’ to highlight biodiversity in relation to all SDGs. 14 and 15 could then be specified or it could be left open. The biodiversity community is often solely focused on SDG 14 and 15 and is often not aware of other SDG processes which have relevance.
- It is useful to explore possible synergies between regional CBD COP consultations and inter-governmental meetings held by the regional committees, for example the Environment and Development committee in UNESCAP. The SG is implementing the UN Regional Reform and UNESCAP will submit proposals for issue-based coalitions, one of which is a coalition on the post-2020 framework.
- The Consultative Process should facilitate internal and external biodiversity mainstreaming. Advice was requested on how such mainstreaming could take place at different upcoming events. The need to identify existing integrated solutions to demonstrate cross-sectoral approaches to Member States and other actors was raised. SDG Voluntary National Reports will be profiled at the HLPF and will be dealing with subjects beyond just biodiversity. Countries already preparing their next steps for the SDG National Voluntary Reports could be mobilised as spokesperson countries. Good examples of integration could be showcased.

Agreed follow up actions

10. The EMG Secretariat was requested to recirculate the TOR to members of the Consultative Process for additional comments, to be received by the 15th of December 2019. These inputs will be used to compile a more detailed timeline and specific deadlines for inputs. This should be as comprehensive as possible but there is also an understanding that not every entity will contribute every time, and avoid duplication of reporting and extensive workload. Annex 3, which includes the strategic discussion from the EMG SOM25, can be used to encourage further entity engagement.
11. The ToR will be adapted to include reference to all SDGs, not solely 14 and 15.

Consideration of the Zero Draft Overview Compilation of UN system inputs to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

12. The EMG Secretariat introduced the ‘Zero Draft: preliminary overview of UN system inputs to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework’.² Out of 51 EMG members, 15 provided submissions to the CBD.

Discussion

13. Key points expressed includes:

- Biodiversity to be raised on the regional policy agenda and linked to the climate change agenda for strengthened action in these fora. The CBD has a regional process for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework but there is still space for additional work on the regional policy agenda for the post 2020 framework. The post-2020 framework can be linked with the SDGs and the Paris Agreement. It is not clear whether inclusion of the framework in the SDGs under SDG17, as suggested in the ‘Zero Draft: preliminary overview’, is the right entry point, as the framework should have its own set of targets, knowing that it is challenging to reopen discussions on the 2030 Agenda. There should be further focus at the national, regional and global levels on concepts and approaches that can achieve transformational change with various biodiversity, climate change and 2030 Agenda outcomes. Specific thematic areas could be utilized for this. Enabling activities should be more central in the framework.
- The SDG biodiversity targets end in 2020, not 2030. Adoption of the post-2020 framework at COP15 would therefore require a UNGA resolution to adopt those biodiversity targets and incorporate them into the SDGs in replacement of 2020 targets. There is a risk to initiate an endless debate on review of other SDG targets.
- Different entities have interpreted the invitation to submit views on the post-2020 process differently, ranging from references to Membership agreed mandates and programmes of entities (eg. FAO, Ramsar) to views of Secretariats on technical matters (eg. IUCN).

14. Upon the invitation of the meeting, the Co-Chairs of the OWEG³ and the CBD Acting Executive Secretary provided the following points:

- A two-way communication and collaboration between the EMG process and the OEWG is important. The work of the OEWG thus far was outlined. As part of engaging with UN entities and other MEAs, a second Bern meeting on synergies amongst biodiversity related MEAs is planned to be held in March 2020. The Zero Draft of the post-2020 framework is currently being drafted. The co-chairs would welcome advice on what language would be useful for the UN system in the framework and what kind of decisions would facilitate agencies engagement to support the framework’s implementation.
- Advice was requested on how other meetings (eg. UNGA, World Conservation Congress, etc.) can be used to enhance integration and coordination. Work on implementation and establishment of relevant mechanisms must start now. Discussions about what the UN system can do for implementation are valuable so that the framework can immediately begin to be implemented on November 1st 2020. The Consultative Process should inform the OEWG what is needed in this

² The latest version of this document can be found at <https://unemg.org/our-work/emerging-issues/biodiversity/>.

³ The meeting welcomed the OEWG co-chairs, Mr Basil van Havre and Mr Francis Ogwal, and the CBD Acting Executive Secretary, Ms Elizabeth Mrema. The Co-chairs shared an update on the post 2020 process and expectations from the UN system.

regard. Implementation mechanisms should be developed without constraining processes. Innovation has a role to play in overcoming ‘business as usual’.

- Supporting states should be the key focus of all contributions to the post 2020 global biodiversity framework. Resources likely already exist in the system, but the challenge is political will. The Consultative Process can help with this and promotion of incentives. The framework will be for all actors at all levels making supporting to implementation critical. For example, the transformation of food systems has to involve different sectors and all levels of governance. Each UN entity could develop a Biodiversity Action Plan, by the end of 2020, and provide support to Parties to the CBD for the new framework. The process by FAO to develop its biodiversity mainstreaming strategy can serve as an example.
- The CBD Secretariat will support the Consultative Process and the work of the OEWG co-chairs.

15. The following questions and points were made by the participants to the OEWG co-chairs and includes their responses:

- IUCN highlighted the issue of stakeholder engagement by referring to the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille which will engage various stakeholder groups and space could be found for UN agencies to join. IUCN is also working on the methodology for Species Abatement and Restoration Metric (STAR) for companies, governments, individuals, etc. to identify possible contributions to national or global targets. The issue is to what extent the IUCN can push for consistent formulation of targets so that they can be ‘disaggregatable’ and ‘add-upable’? Would it be possible to steer things at this early stage so that target formulation is consistent across national levels and sectors? There have also been calls for indicators to be developed at the same time as targets.
- FAO suggested keeping targets relatively general, preferably aligned with SDGs, possibly with specific sub-targets for sectors.

16. The co-chairs highlighted that OEWG and its co-chairs will reach out to other constituencies. The Consultative Process can help by identifying key players. The framework will be relatively short with companion documents and will be written in a language to be understood by all ministers, not just of the environment sector. The OEWG aims to connect with existing systems rather than duplicating. The framework will not emphasize specific sectors as being the problem but will try to help sectors move towards sustainable paths by reorganizing, not constraining, development. There has been some difficulty in addressing indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, but these are crucial and should not be avoided.

17. IFAD highlighted that economic arguments for conserving biodiversity should be developed to target national governments and could help the work of organizations supporting national governments.

Agreed follow-up actions:

- The co-chairs are in the process of drafting the Zero Draft of the framework, which will be sent for translation on December 19th in order to be circulated on January 13th, 2020. Additional inputs can be made in the next week but will only be able to be included if they are short and concise. This will be a Zero Draft and so there will be further opportunities for discussion, comments and review throughout the process.

- The EMG Secretariat will invite members of the Consultative Process will provide complementary information for the ‘Zero Draft: preliminary overview’, particularly from entities who have not yet contributed. The document will be submitted to the 2nd OEWG upon approval of the Consultative Process. A template for additional inputs will be circulated with this report. A disclaimer will be included to highlight that submissions were made by Secretariats in relation to ongoing work.

Consideration of the draft calendar of EMG members’ upcoming events relevant to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

18. The EMG Secretariat introduced the draft calendar of EMG members’ upcoming events.
19. The CBD Secretariat gave an update on communication efforts on the post-2020 including a meeting with communication focal points of certain agencies the week prior to this meeting. In that regard the idea of a Working Group or sub-group in the EMG Consultative Process on communication issues was proposed. The CBD has put together a draft tactical communications strategy looking at both advocacy and mobilisation for communication in support of the negotiations, including an outward-facing public campaign and an internal campaign to mobilise system actors. The communication strategy will provide a common narrative to support different types of messages relevant to different interests, expertise, and audiences and different focuses. The strategy and communications mechanism will have a soft launch in January. A broader framework for communications to go beyond 2020 is also being developed.

Discussion

Key points under this item include:

20. It might not be always possible for the OEWG co-chairs to come to constituencies’ events .
21. The OEWG co-chairs could be present by video. There are two co-chairs for each thematic issue, creating a whole team of co-chairs who could help.
22. A roster of possible advocates to communicate biodiversity messages powerfully and to engage those other constituents was suggested.
23. The networks of IPBES scientists could be mobilised to help mainstreaming and bringing biodiversity to different constituencies.
 - The ‘Bern 2’ meeting set from the 23rd-27th of March, with pre-meetings of the Rio Conventions Joint Liaison Group and of the Biodiversity Liaison group will be held with focus on synergies amongst biodiversity MEAs.

Agreed follow-up actions

- The EMG Secretariat will recirculate the calendar of events for comments or additional inputs. The calendars will be uploaded on the EMG website for ease of access.
- OHCHR announced its readiness to host a side-event at the Human Rights Council and encouraged participants to provide ideas for its preparation.

Consideration of next steps and road map of the Consultative Process

24. The EMG Secretariat outlined ideas regarding next steps of the Consultative Process based on the suggested road map of the Process contained in the TOR.

Discussion

Summary of the key points expressed includes:

25. CBD added that a slogan and hashtag are being drafted currently. The results of the upcoming side-event on communication, in addition to the revised strategy, can be shared, but any comments on this would be needed quickly as drafting has begun.
26. Identifying champions is an important step that can help uplift capability and guarantee ownership. An Action Agenda, similar to the one adopted by the climate change process, and a High-level Panel are ideas to be further developed. The panel idea could be looked at by the EMG to be more agile in bringing forth the necessary messages and constituencies.
27. The SWFS report preparation should be moved up in the Consultative Process timeline. All post-2020 framework inputs will feed into this report.
28. Leadership roles can be given to agencies hosting events to coordinate collaboration. WHO, OHCHR and UNCTAD have suggested participation by the Consultative Process or some of its members in some of their events.
29. High-level political actors should come to highlight and amplify key messages.
30. ECLAC suggested organizing an ECLAC regional meeting bringing the UN system to work together at the regional level.

Agreed follow-up actions, and summary of other agreed actions

- UN entities are invited to collaborate with SCBD on communication directly.
- Consideration of the SWFS Biodiversity Report will be brought up earlier in the workplan of the Consultative Process. The roadmap (timeline) of the Consultative Process will be updated and shared.
- The development of the SWFS report should be kept light for the UN entities; the EMG Secretariat will compile existing information about entities' work and send the draft to entities for their review and clearance.
- Ownership of sectors throughout the development of the Post-2020 GBF is important. The EMG process can serve to identify UN lead/custodian agencies for the Post-2020 GBF development and its later implementation.
- The date of the next meeting of the Consultative Process in the margins of the second OWEG will be communicated in due course.

- EMG Secretariat was invited to have open email lists to allow entities to communicate among themselves.

Closure of the meeting

31. The meeting was closed, and participants were reminded that comments and additional inputs to the documents discussed are requested by the 13th of January 2020.

Annex 1- Participants list

	Name	Organisation	Status		
1.	Hossein Fadaei	EMG	Member		
2.	Meriem Bouamrane	UNESCO	Member		
3.	Luca Chinotti	WWF	Observer		
4.	Claire Blanchard				
5.	Like Sasaki	UNCTAD	Member		
6.	Cristina Romanelli	WHO	Member		
7.	Marina Maiero				
8.	Neville Ash	UNEP WCMC	Member		
9.	Hilary Allison				
10.	Jerry Harrison				
11.	Marieta Sakalian	UNEP	Member		
12.	Alex Owusu-Biney				
13.	Diane Klaimi				
14.	Irene Hoffmann	FAO	Member		
15.	Kent Nnadozie	FAO/ITPGRFA	Member		
16.	Lika Sasaki	UNCTAD	Member		
17.	Maria Rivera	RAMSAR	Member		
18.	Karen Gaynor	CITES	Member		
19.	David Morgan				
20.	Dr Jane Smart				
21.	Neil Pratt	CBD	Member		
22.	Chantal Robichaud				
23.	Sandra Meehan				
24.	David Ainsworth				
25.	Catalina Santamaria				
26.	Jyoti Mathur-Filipp				
27.	Elizabeth Mrema				
28.	Worku Yifra				
29.	Nico van der Werf				
30.	Erie Tamale				
31.	Oliver Hillel				
32.	Paulo Tagliari				
33.	Vittoria Semplici			CMS	Member
34.	Laura Cerasi				
35.	Stefanos Fotiou	ESCAP	Member		
36.	Therese Arnesen	OHCHR	Member		
37.	Tim Scott	UNDP	Member		
38.	Tina Birmpili	Ozone Secretariat	Member		
39.	Sophia Mylona				
40.	Theofanis Karayannis	IMO	Member		
41.	William Dunbar	UNU-IAS	Member		
42.	Yasukuni Shibata				

	Name	Organisation	Status
43.	Gianni Ruta	World Bank	Member
44.	Marcia Tambutti	UNECLAC/CEPAL	Member
45.	Braulio Dias	Bioversity International/CGIAR	Invited observer
46.	Liza Leclerc	IFAD	Member
47.	Andrea Dekrout	UNHCR/UNEP	Member
48.	Anja Gassner	ICRAF	Invited observer
49.	Philipe Dobie	CGIAR	Invited observer
50.	Ana Maria Hernandez Salgar	IPBES	Member
51.	Simone Schiele		
52.	Wataru Suzuki	ICAO	Member
53.	Basile van Havre	OEWG Co-Chair	Invited observer
54.	Francis Ogwal	OEWG Co-Chair	Invited observer