



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG



3rd Meeting of the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity Date and time: 28 April 2020, 15.00 – 17.00 Venue: GoToMeeting	Distribution: EMG Consultative Process Focal Points EMG Biodiversity Network Agenda
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Report of the Meeting

1. Opening Remarks

Mr. Fadaei, Head of the EMG Secretariat opened the 3rd Meeting of the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity by welcoming more than 60 participants (See Annex 1 for participants list). Since the last meeting of the Consultative Process there have been many developments at inter-agency and inter-governmental level on biodiversity, hence the main purpose of this meeting was to provide updates to the consultative process and the wider EMG biodiversity network while also presenting preliminary thoughts on the plan of work of the consultative process moving forward – in particular, reflecting on the role of EMG in taking forward the UN Common Approach on Biodiversity and Nature based Solutions and the EMG report on Biodiversity through the establishment of an EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity. The above-mentioned updates and presentations as well as the key background documents of the meeting have been uploaded on the EMG website <https://unemg.org/our-work/emerging-issues/biodiversity/>.

Mr. Fadaei thanked the consultative process and its task team along with the authors for delivering on the EMG report entitled “A UN System Commitment for Action to assist Member States delivering on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework”. The report was approved by the EMG Senior Official meeting in autumn 2020 and the public launch is tentatively scheduled for 25 May 2021 (following International Biodiversity Day on 22 May with its theme “We are part of the solution”). The draft programme for the launching event will be shared with participants for input along with the minutes from this meeting.

He introduced the provisional agenda (annex 2) for approval and thanked Tim Scott, UNDP and Meriem Bouamrane, UNESCO who have kindly accepted to co-chair this meeting. Mr. Sebastian Winkler (EMG Consultant) and Matilda Dunn (PhD student from Imperial College London) were introduced who will be supporting the EMG Secretariat to implement the workplan resulting from the EMG Consultative Process.

2. Updates on post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Mr. Scott, UNDP opened the session by introducing the four speakers and noting that the first two speakers will provide an update on the intergovernmental processes, while the later will focus on the ongoing inter-agency collaboration of relevance to the post 2020 global

biodiversity framework. The presentations along with the supporting material can be found at <https://unemg.org/our-work/emerging-issues/biodiversity/>.

- Neil Pratt, SCBD – Update on post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and CBD CoP15
On behalf of the Secretariat of the CBD, Mr. Pratt thanked participants for their input to the EMG Consultative Process and the UN Common Approach on Biodiversity. He noted the dates for the CBD CoP 15 have been confirmed for 11- 24 October 2021 in Kunming and that SBSTA-24 and SBI-3 will take place online from 3 May – 11 June 2021. The meetings will build upon the work of the informal meetings of the two bodies that were held in February and March 2021. The third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework is scheduled for August 2021.

- Tim Christophersen, UNEP - UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)
Mr. Christophersen introduced his colleagues from FAO who are co-leading the Decade with UNEP. The official launch of the UN Decade is on 5 June 2021 (World Environment Day) hosted by Pakistan. EMG members that are UN entities can join the movement as a UN collaborating agency and non-UN entities can join as global partners by contacting restorationdecade@un.org. The UN Decade includes several taskforces which are led by EMG Members, such as the World Bank Group on Finance, IUCN on Science and UNESCO leading a high-level panel on the Human and Nature relationship. The full presentation along with the supporting material can be found <https://unemg.org/our-work/emerging-issues/biodiversity/>.

- Cornelia Pretorius, UNEP – WCMC : UN Common Approach on biodiversity and nature-based solutions
Ms. Pretorius provided an update on the [UN Common Approach on Biodiversity and Nature based Solutions](#), which initiated its work in March 2020 on the request of the UN Secretary General. It builds on the work of the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity and provides the normative framework, in a result-based structure, to organise UN collective action and joint delivery to mainstream biodiversity and nature-based solutions. The UN Common Approach was approved by the High-Level Committee on Programme (HLCP) at its 41st session on 30 March 2021 and it is expected to be endorsed by the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) at its meeting on 4 May 2021. In closing, Ms. Pretorius noted that merging certain elements of the implementation of the UN Common Approach and the EMG Consultative Process will generate efficiencies in developing the substantive guidance for the UN system to integrate biodiversity in the UN's policy and programme planning and delivery over the next decade and in support of the 2030 timelines of the GBF and UN Decades. For instance, EMG may consider establishing an Issue Management Group on Biodiversity which is well-placed to facilitate and enable the harmonized implementation of both processes while collaborating with a variety of inter-agency mechanisms to ensure that biodiversity is further mainstreamed for UN system wide delivery to support to the post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

- Sebastian Winkler, EMG Consultant - Launching and operationalising the EMG Biodiversity Publication

Mr. Winkler provided a brief overview of key decisions related to the EMG Consultative Process and the UN Common Approach noting and that both processes have concluded their work with key findings and recommendations which allow for coherent implementation in the subsequent Phase. Both processes re-iterate the UN system's commitment and shared recognition of the urgency to address the loss of biodiversity. The deliverables of both these processes highlighted outcomes that can be achieved by the UN system at global, regional and national level – supporting Member States through internal policy alignment, resources mobilization, knowledge exchange and outreach and communications. He presented the draft ToRs for an EMG Issue Management Group to take forward the key recommendations of both processes – while also noting the importance of using existing interagency mechanisms such as UN Sustainability Strategy and Model Approach as it relates to indicators and harmonised reporting; EMG Nexus Dialogue on Gender Plan of Action, Chemicals, and; EMG Issue Management Group on Human Rights and Biodiversity – to ensure further mainstreaming of biodiversity in support of Member States. Building on the earlier presentations he proposed a timeframe up to 2030 and with a mid-term review in 2024. He concluded, by encouraging participants to submit written comments on the draft ToRs by 14 May thus also feeding into the launch of the EMG Report which is scheduled for 25 May 2021. The draft concept for the launching event is being finalised and will be shortly shared with participants for input and engagement. If there is a general agreement the way forward the next step for the process will be to identify a chair and co-chair for the EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity as well as taskforce leads and potential workplans for the four focal areas to be discussed at the next EMG meeting tentatively scheduled for 10 June 2021.

Mr. Scott thanked the speakers for their timely and concise presentations and opened the floor for clarifications. UNEP-WCMC noted the importance of further mainstreaming the recommendations of both processes with relevant ongoing inter-agency mechanisms such as the current work on biodiversity and chemicals under SAICM or on the gender action plan for the post 2020 global biodiversity framework. FAO asked for clarification on the process for further streamlining data and information gathering along with reporting. Ms. Pretorius noted that the intent is to build on ongoing efforts such as UN Sustainability Strategy and the work under the SUN System while also highlighting the need to feed into this process the experiences from FAO and other agencies on mainstreaming biodiversity reporting.

3. Update by EMG members on major developments on biodiversity in their respective agencies and feedback on presentations

Ms. Bouamrane, UNESCO opened this session by inviting participants to provide updates from their agency's biodiversity related activities so as to explore further synergies while also reflecting and providing comments on the suggested way forward.

The World Bank informed participants that they are continuing their work on a series of knowledge products which hinge on economics, finance and strategic positioning in support of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework. He referred to a report on [Unlocking Private Finance](#) launched in Sept 2020 highlights a set of "Big 5" ideas to better integrate biodiversity risk into private sector decisions. The second piece of work is also contributing to the informal Taskforce on Nature Finance (TNF) focusing on nature related financial disclosure by using macroeconomic modeling on the on the financial materiality of the loss of biodiversity and

ecosystem services to be launched in June 2020 to coincide with the G20 Finance Ministers meeting.

UNDP noted that it has numerous inter-agency biodiversity collaborative efforts and building on the World Bank intervention it highlighted two initiatives. First, UNDP will be launching in the coming months in close collaboration with the G20 a taskforce with a two-year programme of work on nature related financial disclosures which has the potential to direct finance flow from nature negative to positive. The second item of possible interest to EMG members is UNDP's collaboration with more than 40 agencies on the Nature for Life Hub. Building on the success around the Sept. 2020 General Assembly it will organise a number of events during the Sept. 2021 UN General Assembly with the aim to raising ambitions of the post 2020 process and accelerating implementation and amplifying the integrated narrative across the Rio Conventions.

FAO noted that its Council is meeting concurrently to approve a [2030 strategy and action plan](#) on mainstreaming biodiversity across agricultural sectors which subsequently will be presented to FAOs governing and technical bodies

UNEP noted that in addition to the collaborative efforts on the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Common Approach, such as:

- Organising numerous regional consultations in collaboration with regional organizations and UN country teams for supporting countries' preparatory process/inputs to the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework process.
- Working through UNEP-WCMC with various UN entities (incl. CBD Secretariat, FAO, UNStats etc) and the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership; with the Secretariats of the 18 regional seas conventions and action plans under the UNEP coordination; and through the Informal Network "Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture" to ensure the very best information on available indicators is available to support greater transparency in monitoring progress towards future goals and targets at national and international levels. This work resulted in an [information document](#) to the upcoming CBD SBSTTA.
- UNEP continues to facilitate the process on MEAs synergies on post -2020 global biodiversity framework. The Bern II consultation workshop on biodiversity related conventions was organized in February 2021. The meeting consolidated contributions by biodiversity related conventions, chemicals and waste conventions and Rio conventions on the various elements of the GBF. The report from the meeting suggesting - (1) inclusion of specific elements from the various MEAs in the post-2020 framework goals' targets and indicators, and; (2) proposals on how the MEAs can further operationalize the post-2020 framework through their governing mechanisms - has been submitted as informal document to the upcoming SBSTTA and SBI.
- Finalised the Strategic partnership plan for collaboration with FAO under the extended MoU between UNEP and FAO which includes specific activities on:
 - coordinated governance and technical support to countries for implementation of biodiversity mainstreaming in national development plans and revised NBSAPs/ National Reporting to the CBD/Protocols.
 - support to national biodiversity monitoring and reporting of progress in the implementation of the global biodiversity framework once adopted.

- Working with UN Women and the CBD Secretariat through UNEP-WCMC to explore practical ways for addressing gender-biodiversity data gaps in support of the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework while building synergies with the SDGs and relevant conventions to achieve both gender equality and global biodiversity objectives. This work resulted in key recommendations for integrating a gender perspective into the post-2020 framework, and an [issues brief](#);
- Collaboration with UNESCO exploring the opportunities to bring together the work on Protected Planet (with the latest report to be published by UNEP in May) with the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Man and Biosphere reserves.

OHCHR highlighted its collaboration with UNEP on a set of recently launched key messages on human rights and biodiversity which are available [here](#). The Office is also developing analysis and guidance on integrating human rights in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and developing a project on human rights and conservation finance. OHCHR is coordinating an EMG Issue Management Group on Human Rights and the Environment which will need to liaise further with the EMG biodiversity group to ensure greater coherence on interagency coordination.

UNESCO noted that it is finalising with Member States the next Strategic Plan which will be adopted in October 2021 with Biodiversity being among the 8 priority areas. This will be official. The strategy has a three-pillar approach which covers not only restoring the ecosystem but also restore, regenerate the relationship between people and nature as well as amplifying the voices of the youth.

ILO continues to work on ecosystem restoration and recover as well as working internally to expand the common understanding of how labour initiatives can have an impact on the ecosystem and how labour-based approaches can contribute to Nature based Solutions through [Green Works](#). It recently launched a publication entitled [NATURE HIRES](#).

IFAD is working on two forthcoming knowledge products related to biodiversity. The first is an update of IFAD's flagship publication on biodiversity and the second is a publication on Nature based Solutions and how these are being applied in IFAD's program on adaptation for smallholder agriculture. IFAD is also finalising its own Biodiversity Strategy to be approved by its Board this December.

ECLAC is developing dialogues specifically for regional negotiators to enhance biodiversity commitments it has produced several case studies on mainstreaming biodiversity in different sectors along with a first outlook report for [Oceans and Seas](#).

UNODC's is contributing that crime prevention and criminal justice are integrated into the post-2020 GBF including developing indicators to report on World Wildlife Crime.

FAO ITPGRF (International Treaty for Planned Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture) are working with several EMG Members on developing a capacity development strategy to support the implementation of the International Treaty to be adopted formally in May 2022.

The Chair thanked EMG Members for their updates and encouraged further collaboration, while also inviting members to send their updates to the EMG Secretariat.

4. The Way Forward and Closure of the Meeting

The EMG Secretariat thanked participants and concluded by noting the following:

- The details of the EMG Biodiversity Publication Launch scheduled for 25 May 2021 will be shared for input early next week with the minutes.
- The next meeting of this group is tentatively scheduled for June 2021.
- Members were encouraged to share their comments on the draft [ToRs for an EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity](#) by the 14 May and agencies should consider by next meeting which of the taskforce they would like to join or lead.
- Members should kindly provide contact details of any new EMG focal points and participants.

Both Co-chairs closed the meeting by thanking participants, speakers and the EMG Secretariat for the preparation of the meeting.

ANNEX 1: Participants List

Name	Organisation	Designation
Mr. Alex Owusu-Biney	UNEP	Portfolio Manager, Biosafety
Mr. Andrew Rudd	UN-HABITAT	Human Settlement Officer, Urban Environment
Mr. Balakrishna Pispati	UNEP	Head of Biodiversity, Land and Governance Programme
Chandra Manalu	UNEP	Programme Management Officer
Ms. Chantal Robichaud	SCBD	Programme Management Associate and Officer
Mr. Charles Michael Akol	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa	Environmental Affairs Officer
Ms. Corli Pretorius	UNEP	Deputy Director
Mr. David Morgan	CITES Secretariat	Chief, Scientific Services
Ms. Diane Klaimi	UNEP	Programme Management Officer -MEAs Support and Cooperation
Mr. Dipayan Bhattacharyya	World Food Programme	Senior Programme Advisor
Mr. Emanuele Brancati	International Labour Organisation	Climate Change Adaptation and Green Works Officer
Ms. Fede Pesce	UNEP-WCMC	Junior Professional Officer
Ms. Fei Jiao	World Intellectual Property Organization - WIPO	Programme Officer, Traditional Knowledge Division
Mr. Francisco López	FAO International Treaty on Plants and Genetic	Secretary

	Resource for Food and Agriculture	
Ms. Frederica Pietracci	UN Chief Executive Board	Programme Officer, HLCP
Gergana Kiskinova	WTO	Economic Affairs Officer
Mr. Giovanni Ruta	World Bank Group	Senior Environmental Economist
Mr. Hossein Fadaei	EMG	Secretary
Ms. Irene Hoffmann	FAO	Secretary of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Mr. Jean-Philippe Schwab	UNEP	Associate Expert – Latin America and the Caribbean, Japan
Mr Jorge L. Ventocilla	European Commission, Joint Research Centre	Science-Policy Information Manager
Ms. Katrin Ehlert	WMO - World Meteorological Organisation	Agricultural Meteorology, Associate Expert
Kazuhiko Seriu	UNEP	UNEP Law Division
Robert Lamb	Observer	Ex-EMG staff
Ms. Lara Geadah	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	Research
Ms. Laura Cerasi	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species	Economic Affairs Assistant
Mr. Lev Neretin	FAO	Team Leader, Safeguards, Climate Risks and Bioeconomy
Ms. Lika Sasaki	UNCTAD	Programme Management Officer
Ms. Lisa Farroway	UNDP	Regional Ecosystems Technical Advisor
Mr. Luca Chinotti	WWF International	Senior Specialist, Multilateral Affairs
Mr. Lucien Chabason	Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations	Senior Advisor
Ms. Makiko Yanagiya	UNU - United Nations University	Programme Coordinator
Ms. Marcia Tambutti	ECLAC - Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	Biodiversity Expert
Ms. Maria Cristina Cardenas	Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariat	Head of Unit and Senior Policy Advisor
Ms. Maria Rivera	Ramsar Convention	Senior Advisor
Ms. Marieta Sakalian	UNEP	Senior Programme Management Officer,

		Coordinator Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
Ms. Marina von Weissenberg	Finnish Ministry of the Environment	Ministerial Adviser
Ms. Matilda Dunn	Imperial College London	PhD Student
Ms. Meriem Bouamrane	UNESCO	Programme Specialist
Ms. Mette Wilkie	FAO	Director, Forestry Policy and Resources Division
Michael Williams	EMG	Communication Consultant
Ms. Midori Paxton	UNDP	Head of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Ms. Mito Tsukamoto	ILO - International Labour Organisation	Branch Chief, Deveopment and Investments
Mr. Neil Pratt	SCBD	Senior Environmental Affairs Officer
Mr. Neville Ash	UNEP-WCMC	Director
Mr. Niels Schulz	UNIDO	Environmental Consultant
Ms. Nina Arden	EMG	Sr. Nexus Dialogue Consultant
Ms. Nives Costa	UN Office for Project Services	Sustainable procurement consultant
Ms. Nora Adam	UNU- United Nations University	Partnerships and Liaison Officer
Mr. Norbert Bärlocher	Federal Office for the Environment, Switzerland	Head of Section, Rio Conventions
Mr. Olivier Rukundo	FAO International Treaty on Plants and Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture	Secretariat
Mr. Otto Simonett	Zoï Environment Network	Director
Mr. Peter Button	The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants	Vice Secretary-General
Mr. Philip Dobie	World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF)	Senior Fellow
Ms. Reem Nejdawi	UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	Project Coordinator, Climate change and Natural Resources Sustainability Cluster
Ms. Renee Ankarfjard	IFAD - International Fund for Agricultural Development	Senior Technical Specialist
Mr. Sasha Alexander Juanteguy	CCD - Convention to Combat Desertification	Policy Officer
Mr. Benjamin Schachter	Office if the UN High Commission for Human Rights	Human Rights Officer
Mr. Sebastian Winkler	EMG	Consultant

Ms. Sinead Brophy	UN Office on Drugs and Crime	Programme Consultant
Ms. Sofía Gutiérrez	UN World Tourism Organisation	Deputy Director, Sustainable Development and Tourism
Ms. Solène Le Doze	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	Environmental Affairs Officer
Ms. Sophia Mylona	UNEP	Senior Environmental Affairs Officer
Ms. Suneetha M Subramanian	United Nations University	Research Fellow, Biodiplomacy Initiative
Ms. Susan Gardner	UNEP	Director, Ecosystem Division
Mr. Teo Karayannis	IMO - International Maritime Organization	Head, Marine Biosafety
Ms. Therese Arnesen	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights	Human Rights Officer
Mr. Tim Christophersen	UNEP	Head, Nature for Climate Branch
Mr. Tim Scott	UNDP	Policy Advisor, Environment, Natural Capital and the Environment
Mr. Yibin Xiang	SCBD	Programme Officer

ANNEX 2: Agenda of 3rd Meeting of the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity

3rd Meeting of the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity Date and time: 28 April 2020, 15.00 – 17.00 Venue: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/639171021	Distribution: EMG Consultative Process Focal Points EMG Biodiversity Network Agenda
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Agenda

1. Welcoming remarks by EMG Secretariat
2. Election of co-chairs for the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Updates on post-2020 global biodiversity framework
 - Intergovernmental
 - *Neil Pratt, SCBD* - Post 2020 GBF along with preparations for CBD CoP15 in Kunming on 11-24 Oct 2021.
 - *Tim Christophersen, UNEP* - UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration

- Inter-agency
 - *Cornelia Pretorius, UNEP* - UN Common Approach on biodiversity and nature-based solutions
 - *Sebastian Winkler, EMG Consultant* - Launching and operationalising the EMG Biodiversity Publication
 - 5. Update by EMG members on major developments on biodiversity in their respective agencies and feedback on presentations
 - 6. The Way Forward
 - 7. Other Matters
 - 8. Closure of the Meeting
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Meeting documents:

1. Draft ToRs for EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity
2. The EMG report: Supporting the Global Biodiversity Agenda: A United Nations System Commitment for Action to assist Member States delivering on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework – prepared by EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity
3. A common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the UN’s policy and programme planning and delivery prepared by HLCP Biodiversity Task Team