



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG



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| 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

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Organisation</u> | <u>Designation</u> |
|---------------------------|---|--|
| 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 |

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| | 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, |

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| | | 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 |

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| 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

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| 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