



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG

5th Meeting of the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity

Date and time: 8th September 2021, 15.00-16.30 CEST

Participants:

in annex 1

Report of the meeting

Agenda

Subject	Objective
1. Welcoming remarks by EMG Secretariat	for information
2. Election of the co-chairs of the meeting	for agreement
3. Adoption of the agenda	for discussion
4. Towards an EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intergovernmental<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Neil Pratt, SCBD</i> – Update on Post 2020 GBF along with highlights from OEWG3 and preparations for CBD CoP15.○ <i>Lev Neretin, FAO</i> - UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration○ <i>Monika Gail MacDevette, UNEP</i> – Enhancing Synergies between the post 2020 biodiversity and chemical frameworks (TBC)• Inter-agency<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ <i>Sebastian Winkler, EMG Consultant</i> – ToRs and Workplan for EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity	for discussion and agreement
5. Update by EMG members on major developments on biodiversity in their respective agencies and feedback on presentations	for information
6. The Way Forward	for discussion and agreement
7. AOB	for information
8. Closure of the Meeting	for discussion

1/2. Welcome and Election of the chairs

The meeting is opened by Mr. Fadaei, Head of the Environment Management Group (EMG) Secretariat, who reminded participants that the prime focus of this meeting is to finalise the draft [Terms of Reference](#) for the future Issue Management Group (IMG) to be presented for approval at the technical and senior segments of the Senior Officials Meeting on the 30th September and 7th October, respectively. There will also be updates on the Consultative Process at the interagency and governmental levels, and from other agencies in terms of their recent activities. He then asked the participants to confirm the co-chairs of the meeting, Ms. Corli Pretorius from WCMC and Mr. Tim Scott from UNDP. There are no objections to the co-chairs.

3. Adoption of the agenda

Ms. Pretorius thanked all participants for joining the call and presented the agenda which was approved with no amendments. She then passes the floor to Mr. Pratt, CBD Secretariat.

4. Presentation and feedback on revised draft ToR for an IMG on Biodiversity along with draft 2021-2022 Workplan

- **Intergovernmental**
 - **Neil Pratt, SCBD – Update on Post 2020 GBF along with highlights from OEWG3 and preparations for CBD CoP15.**

The third meeting of the open-ended working group (OEWG) on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework occurred between 23rd August and 3rd September. This meeting addressed two major issues: consideration and further development of the framework based on the first draft, and digital sequence information to consider a further advancement of policy under CBD with linkages to the framework as mandated by COP14. It was acknowledged that the final global biodiversity framework must be approved in person to allow for detailed negotiations. With regard to the global biodiversity framework, progress was made regarding agreeing on amendments to language, targets and goals from involved parties and stakeholders.

In terms of next steps and given the circumstances created by CoVID19, COP15 part one will take place virtually between the 11th and 15th October to maintain high-level political momentum towards the post-2020 framework and to adopt an interim budget for the 2022 Convention. An in-person second part of the COP15 will be held from 25th April to 8th May 2022, where subsidiary bodies and the OEWG will inform of the work via a meeting in January 2022.

The co-chair invites comments from the attendees on areas in which the EMG can provide further assurance and support in preparing the ground for finalising and implementing the future global biodiversity framework including consideration to provide EMG input in view of the upcoming SBI & SBSTTA meetings.

- **Lev Neretin, FAO - UN [Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(Presentation\)](#)**

An IMG on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration was submitted as a proposal at the [midterm technical Senior Officials Meeting \(SOM\)](#) of the EMG on 30th June. Subsequent discussions have proposed that this IMG could initially advance its work within the newly established IMG on Biodiversity by explicitly reflecting and proposing this in the proposed IMG on Biodiversity 2022 ToR and workplan.

In 2019, UNEP and FAO were invited by an UNGA resolution to lead the implementation of the Decade, in collaboration with the secretariats of the Rio conventions, other agreements and UN entities. The Decade aimed to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of global ecosystems and focus on restoration. A strategy was released in September 2020, with the Decade being launched on World Environment Day in June 2021. The Decade is rooted in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, particularly focusing on a large-scale marine and terrestrial restoration, among other commitments.

The Decade has three major goals:

1. Enhance global, regional, national and local commitments and actions to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems.
2. Increase our understanding of the multiple benefits of successful ecosystem restoration.
3. Apply this knowledge in our education systems and within all public and private sector decision-making.

Among the 90+ partners to the UN Decade there are over ten UN partners. This may warrant to initiate a joint effort within EMG, while also focusing on the socio-economic dimension of ecosystem restoration which could become a key focus area of EMG engagement. Hence, the proposed EMG task force aims to raise awareness and ensure a coordinated response between UN members and the EMG, also seeking synergies between the Decade and the IMG on Biodiversity in particular noting target 2 of the draft post 2020 global biodiversity framework which explicitly addresses restoration.

The co-chair thanks FAO for the presentation and notes that resetting our relationship with nature and progressing towards a more sustainable pathway (such as ensuring the sustainability of food systems and many economic activities, resilience and climate adaptation) also depends on restoration.

OHCHR agrees on the importance of ecosystem restoration for human rights and of rights for ecosystem restoration. IAEA suggests that there are opportunities to promote ecosystem restoration within the UN Decade, e.g., Blue Carbon could be promoted both as a nature-based solution to climate change and under mangrove ecosystem restoration. ILO has been working on the relationship between ecosystem restoration/NbS and Jobs with IUCN. This could also be linked to the Decade due to IUCN leading the Science Task Force of the Decade, with ILO possibly soon becoming another UN partner of the Decade, thus further enhancing synergies with EMG and avoiding duplication.

- **Monika Gail MacDevette, UNEP – Enhancing Synergies between the post 2020 biodiversity and chemical frameworks (TBC)**

A proposal for an IMG on Enhancing Synergies between the post-2020 Biodiversity and Chemical Frameworks was also submitted to the Midterm Technical SOM meeting of the EMG in June. Chemicals and Waste is not synonymous with the proposed IMG on pollution. Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are interconnected and complementary to each other, often underpinned by unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

A whole UN approach is needed to accelerate shifts towards biodiversity, with the International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM5) identifying eight areas that are key to the success of the beyond-2020 chemicals and waste process: climate change, biodiversity, consumption & production, health, world of work, agriculture & food, human rights and cross-cutting themes (strengthening science-policy interface, enhancing national coordination and promoting stakeholder involvement). Nature also plays a part in the solution to pollution, therefore the benefits from nature-based solutions should be explored within this IMG, when established.

The co-chair enquires about the status of further aligning the post 2020 biodiversity and the beyond 2020 chemicals frameworks. UNEP notes the effort of aligning and advancing on a common narrative and the ongoing discussions around possible the indicators that are being explored. In the chat, UNEP provides a [link](#) to a technical report available on the interlinkages between chemicals and waste, and biodiversity.

On moving the agenda forward, the EMG SOM meeting on 7 Oct 2021 will focus on addressing pollution and it is proposed to thereafter host a Nexus Dialogue to further advance and explore the interlinkages between biodiversity and pollution. In the interim it is proposed that the newly established IMG on Biodiversity may consider establishing a taskforce to further support this process.

- **Inter-agency**
 - ***Sebastian Winkler, EMG Consultant – ToRs and Workplan for EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity (Presentation)***

Mr. Winkler thanks participants for their feedback on the draft [Terms of Reference](#) (ToR) and [Workplan](#) for the IMG on Biodiversity. As proposed at the last meeting the process will initially be co-chaired by UNDP, UNEP and UNESCO until SOM28 in Oct 2022 so as to ensure continuity with the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity which has been led by UNEP and UNDP. The IMG on Biodiversity will continue the work of the Consultative Process on Biodiversity while also giving greater emphasis in implementing the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity with its 15 medium-term objectives and 12 outcomes on global and regional implementation to support national efforts.

As presented by the previous speakers it is suggested to integrate the Decade on [Ecosystem Restoration](#) and [synergising the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework with the Post-2020 Chemicals and Waste Framework](#) within the proposed new ToR for an IMG on Biodiversity.

Regarding the workplan, this requires additional work from EMG members in signing up to the taskforces and further defining concrete activities. To allow this work to happen it is proposed that the first IMG meeting on Biodiversity will be held on 30th November on the assumption that the ToRs are approved by SOM27 at their meeting on 7 Oct. This first IMG meeting will review the progress made in relation to finalising the workplan while also discussing possible joint EMG input to CBD SBI and SBSTTA. Agencies are once again encouraged to designate focal points to the 4 taskforces proposed in the workplan, namely – Biodiversity Guidance and Awareness Raising; Enhancing collaboration on biodiversity and pollution agendas; UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; Accountability and global reporting.

In the chat, Minamata states that the Minamata Convention on Mercury Secretariat worked with the BRS Secretariat on a Joint Study to look at our conventions and their specific links to the overall emerging biodiversity framework, publishing "Key Insights" on Biodiversity Day with the fuller report circulating to respective COPs. FAO asks whether the new SICAM indicators could help the pollution indicators under post 2020 global biodiversity framework, with UNEP confirming the two groups have been discussing common elements on targets and indicators. Minamata confirms that the BRS has made some input to this section of the framework, based both on what may be emerging in SAICM indicators and what is already set for chemicals and waste under the four chemical conventions, i.e. Minamata on mercury, Stockholm on POPs, and also Basel (on hazardous waste) and Rotterdam (prior informed consent regime on chemicals).

Further In the chat, UNECA suggests on workstream #1, regarding access to biodiversity-related knowledge products, in addition to UNSDG, Regional Collaborative Platforms, and Thematic

coordination mechanisms, which could include/specifically mention Regional Forums on Sustainable Development which are convened by the Regional Commissions, jointly with the UN system in 5 UN Regions. These Forums review progress and provide platforms for peer learning on the implementation of SDGs.

The UNDP co-chair, Tim Scott opens the floor for comments on the three presentations. The CBD Secretariat commends the ToR, as it will be a very strong platform for supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF). The GBF will be adopted in May 2022, and the new IMG is timely in continuing to support to this process, while also providing strengths for linkages with the UN Decade, and the Chemicals and Waste Framework. The co-chair agrees and indicates the need to also link with other relevant IMGs, such as on Green Recovery, which also present opportunities for synergies in further advancing the biodiversity agenda.

RAMSAR has two comments: in a revision of the ToR, other biodiversity-related conventions and not only the Rio should be referenced. Regarding reporting, there needs to be further explanation on the expectations for agencies to report, while avoiding duplication of reporting frameworks. RAMSAR also supports the creation of a separate task force for the UN Decade, with CITES Secretariat also supporting these comments in the chat.

FAO also notes that the language should not be specific to only Rio conventions and biodiversity, but rather refer to all agencies within the UN thus reflecting the diversity and composition of EMG. Regarding reporting, FAO fears an overreporting burden on global and regional levels. FAO also questions how agencies should work together at a national level to aid countries with implementing outputs from the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The UNDP co-chair agrees with the language clarification comment and acknowledges the concerns on the overburden of reporting, with UNWTO also sharing their concerns in the chat.

UNEP supports the revised ToR and its alignment with the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity while also favouring the establishment of a UN Decade taskforce, along with further exploring linkages to pollution and chemicals agendas. UNEP also suggests the need to form taskforces in order to further define the proposed workplan activities along with a realist budget. She also notes the need to streamline reporting and avoid any additional reporting burden on agencies.

The EMG Biodiversity Consultant agrees reporting must be further discussed and encourages agencies to designate focal points to the four taskforces in order to clearly define activities and budgets. He indicates that the process allows for flexibility providing an iterative approach with the opportunity to revise the ToRs once the global biodiversity framework is adopted in May 2022. He concludes by thanking participants for the input which he will integrate into the ToRs. He invites agencies to submit any additional written comments by 14 September.

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

UNDP supports the work on the ToR and workplan and provides three updates on their work:

1. Regarding finance, there has been progress in collective efforts to shift finance from nature negative to positive. UNDP supports the [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures](#) (TNFD) with UNEP, CBD and London Stock Exchange co-chairs. Financial institutions and corporations will be announced as members later in September 2021, with the first meeting

on October 6th. By 2023, it is expected that a reporting framework will be developed on risks, dependency and impact, with many financial institutions already subscribing. A [report](#) on G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group was also published in August 2021.

2. UNDP, FAO and UNEP have been developing an [agricultural subsidy report](#) which is launching on the 14th September titled “A Multibillion Dollar Opportunity: Repurposing Agricultural Support”.
3. The [Nature for Life Hub](#) was a virtual event in 2020 and it is planned to have four days of events in 2021 split from September 22nd to October 6th. Many UN agencies are participating and thus also further supporting the post-2020 GBF and its implementation.

ECLAC has organized multi-stakeholder dialogues with high-level experts of civil society, academic, financial and business sectors supporting the GBF. Two reports were also sent to the OEWG3 of the CBD. ECLAC is also organizing a dialogue to support the elimination of harmful subsidies to fisheries, with negotiations taking place in the WTO, and is developing a comprehensive biodiversity strategy for the short, medium and long term as contribution to existing work.

UNESCO has just participated in the IUCN World Congress where post-2020 was discussed with youth and business, along with our dependency on biodiversity and the many links to climate change.

UNEP is having ongoing discussions regarding the GBF, offering support to parties and agencies. A proposal is also being developed on responses to future pandemics, along with UNDP and others. UNEP is also establishing a multi-partner trust fund around One Health and invites others to join these efforts.

OHCHR notes that the Human Rights and the Environment IMG is also engaged and supportive of the Post-2020 GBF. The Human Rights Council should also be passing a resolution at the global level recognizing the human right to a healthy environment which should provide further opportunities for research on the interlocking issues of biodiversity, pollution and climate change.

6. The Way Forward

- The final ToR and Workplan will be submitted to SOM27 on 15 September for the meetings on 30th September and 7th October.
- A Nexus dialogue will explore the linkages between the Post-2020 Biodiversity and Chemicals/Waste Frameworks in October.
- The IMG will have its first meeting tentatively scheduled for 30 November with the expectations that in the interim agencies will have designated focal points to the four taskforces and report back on the concrete activities identified under each of the taskforce.

7/8. AOB/Closure of the meeting

The co-chair thanks participants for their input and hands the floor to Mr. Fadaei for any closing remarks. Mr. Fadaei thanks agencies for their comments, particularly on reporting burdens. He notes that the Biodiversity Network will be continually updated, with other key member states and UN entities. Participants are invited to contribute their existing resources and initiatives to the workplan to avoid the reinvestment of resources and duplication of efforts.

Annex 1: Participants of the meeting on 8/9/2021

Name	Organisation	Designation
Mr. Andrew Rudd	UNHABITAT	Programme Management Officer, Human Settlements
Ms. Anna Kaplina	EMG Secretariat	Programme Management Officer
Ms. Ariane Joab-Cornu	IMF	Senior Liaison Officer to the United Nations
Mr. Carl Giardina	EMG Secretariat	Intern
Mr. Chad Tudenggongbu	UNFCCC	Associate Programme Officer
Ms. Chantal Robichaud	SCBD	Programme Management Associate and Officer
Mr. Charles Akol	ECA	Environmental Affairs Officer
Ms. Claudia ten Have	UNEP	Senior Coordination Officer
Ms. Corli Pretorius	UNEP-WCMC	Deputy Director
Ms. Cornelia Pretorius	UNEP	Senior Programme Management Officer
Mr. Daniel Ramos	WTO	Legal Officer
Mr. David Morgan	CITES	Chief of Governing Bodies and Meeting Services
Ms. Diane Klaimi	UNEP	Programme Management Officer - MEAs Support and Cooperation
Mr. Dipayan Bhattacharyya	UN WFP	Senior Programme Advisor
Ms. Elena Mendoza Barajas	UNU	Sustainability Coordinator
Mr. Emanuele Brancati	ILO	Climate Change Adaptation and Green Works Officer
Ms. Fatema Johara	EMG Secretariat	Staff Assistant
Ms. Federica Pesce	UNEP-WCMC	Junior Professional Officer
Ms. Federica Pietracci	CEB Secretariat	Programme Officer, HLCP

Ms. Fei Jiao	WIPO	Programme Officer
Ms. Florence Descroix-Comanducci	Accobams	Executive Secretary
Mr. Francisco Lopez		
Mr. Federic castell	FAO	
Mr. Gergana Kiskinova	WTO	Economic Affairs Officer
Ms. Gita Parihar	EMG Secretariat	Consultant
Mr. Guido Broekhoven	WWF	Head, Policy Research and Development
Ms. Helene van Rossum	UN SDU	Associate Environment and Sustainable Development Officer
Mr. Hossein Fadaei	EMG Secretariat	Head of Secretariat
Ms. Irene Maria Hoffmann	FAO	Secretary of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
Mr. Jacob Halcomb	UNEP	Sustainable UN Team
Mr. Jan Cherlet	EMG/WFP	Consultant
Mr. Jean-Philippe Schwab	UNEP	Associate Expert
Ms. Jen Stephens	UNICEF	Disaster Risk and Climate Change Specialist
Mr. Jorge Luis Ventocilla Jaramillo	Consultant	
Mr. Jose Dallo	UNEP	Senior Environmental and Sustainable Development Officer
Ms. Katrin Ehlert	WMO	Agricultural Meteorology, Associate Expert
Ms. Lara Geadah	ESCWA	Project Coordinator
Ms. Laura Cerasi	CMS	Economic Affairs Assistant
Mr. Lev Neretin	FAO	Team Leader, Environment
Ms. Lika Sasaki	UNCTAD	Programme Management Officer
Ms. Liliana Annovzzi-Jakab	UNECE	Economic Affairs Officer

Ms. Lisa Farroway	UNDP	Regional Ecosystems Technical Advisor
Ms. Lorena Jaramillo Castro	UNCTAD	Economic Affairs Officer
Mr. Madhushree Chatterjee	DESA	Chief of Natural Resources and Interlinkages Branch
Mr. Maikel Lieuw-Kie-Song	ILO	Senior Employment Intensive Specialist
Ms. Marcia Isabel Tambutti Allende	ECLAC	Senior Research Assistant, Social Affairs
Ms. Maria Cardenas Fischer	UNEP	Senior Programme Management Officer
Ms. Maria Rivera	RAMSAR	Senior Advisor
Ms. Marie Clerc	EMG Secretariat	Intern
Ms. Marieta Sakalian	UNEP	Senior Programme Management Officer, Coordinator Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
Ms. Matilda Dunn	Imperial College London	PhD Student
Ms. Meriem Bouamrane	UNESCO	Chief of Section Research and Policy
Mr. Michael Williams	EMG Secretariat	Communications Consultant
Ms. Midori Paxton	UNDP	Head of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Ms. Monica Visalam Iyer	OHCHR	Human Rights Officer
Ms. Monika Gail MacDevette	UNEP	Chief of the Chemicals and Health Branch at the Economy Division
Mr. Neil Pratt	SCBD	Senior Environmental Affairs Officer
Mr. Neville Ash	UNEP-WCMC	Director
Mr. Niels Schulz	UNIDO	Environmental Consultant
Ms. Nina Arden	EMG Secretariat	Sr. Nexus Dialogue Consultant
Ms. Nives Costa	UNOPS	Sustainable procurement consultant
Ms. Nora Adam	UNU	Partnerships and Liaison Officer
Mr. Olana Bezuayehu	WFP	Programme Officer
Mr. Olivier Rukundo	FAO	International Treaty on Plants and Genetic Resource for Food and Agriculture Secretary

Ms. Olga Gavryliuk	The World Bank	Environmental and Natural Resources Policy Specialist
Mr. Peter Button	UPOV	Vice Secretary-General
Mr. Rami Sabella	ESCWA	Economic Affairs Officer
Ms. Renée Ankarfjärd	IFAD	Senior Technical Specialist
Mr. Sam Jeremy	EMG Secretariat	Intern
Mr. Samuel Sinclair	EMG Secretariat	Intern
Ms. Sarah Ines Sophia Taravella	UNDRR	Intern
Mr. Sasha Alexander Juanteguy	UNCCD	Policy Officer
Mr. Sebastian Winkler	EMG Secretariat	Consultant
Mr. Sinead Brophy	UNODC	Consultant
Mr. Philippe Wealer	LIDL	Head of Sustainability
Ms. Sofía Gutiérrez	UNWTO	Deputy Director, Sustainable Development and Tourism
Mr. Tahsin Islam	UNEP	Associate Expert
Mr. Teo Karayannis	IMO	Head, Marine Biosafety
Mr. Theofanis Karayannis	Brain Research Institute	Co-director
Mr. Thierry Tremblay	DOS	Programme Officer Environmental and Waste Management
Mr. Tim Scott	UNDP	Policy Advisor, Environment, Natural Capital and the Environment
Mr. Tsung-Ping Chung	UNIDO	Chief of Strategic Planning and Coordination
Ms. Xin Feng	DESA	Secretariat
Mr. Yibin Xiang	UNEP	Management and Programme Analyst