



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG



**First meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group
Issue Management Group on Biodiversity**

9th December 2021 (14:00 -15:00 CET) Online

Distribution:

TO: Members of the
IMG on Biodiversity

CC: EMG Focal Points

Report of the 1st meeting of the EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity

Welcoming remarks by the EMG Secretariat

Following the opening of the meeting by the chair, Mr. Tim Scott, UNDP, Ms. Jannica Pitkanen of the EMG Secretariat made reference to the [Terms of Reference](#) of the Issue Management Group (IMG) (ToR). The ToRs were prepared by the Consultative Process (CP) and endorsed by the EMG Senior Officials in October 2021, allowing the IMG to start its work serving as a mechanism for coordinated follow up on the work of the CP, the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

It will be important to connect the work of this IMG to that of the new Consultative Process on a Pollution-Free Planet, that is expected to prepare a common approach to tackling pollution for the UN system. Furthermore, the work of the IMG on Human Rights and the Environment and the follow up of the fully endorsed UN Sustainability Strategy are also relevant processes to this IMG.

While the focal points for this IMG are expected to be the same as those of the CP, the IMG remains open to new EMG members joining.

Adoption of the Agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted.

Update from the CBD Secretariat

Mr. Neil Pratt of the CBD Secretariat informed that the resumed sessions of SBSTTA 24, SBI 3 and WG2020-3 scheduled to be held from 12-28th January 2022 in Geneva have been postponed due to new COVID restrictions, with March being proposed as an alternative time. An EMG side event was planned to be held in the margins of these sessions with the objective to serve as an opportunity to engage with negotiators under the CBD, following the completion of the CP and the Common Approach.

Key documents have already been published, one of which is a reflection note related to the post-2020 GBF from the co-chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group, looking at the progress made during the online session, from which the in-person meeting will pick up. Other documents relate i.a. to the work on the monitoring framework. The Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) will be taking up work that is important to this IMG's agenda, relating to issues beyond the post-2020 GBF such as the strategy for capacity building, technology transfer, knowledge management and a communications strategy.

This IMG is of essential importance to the global biodiversity agenda and the CBD Secretariat. The CBD Secretariat will be joining the work of the IMG's specific working groups.



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Presentation of Working Groups, including draft Workplan 2022

The chair provided an overview of the draft workplan of the IMG and its three proposed working groups. UNDP, UNEP, and UNESCO have volunteered to co-chair the IMG and its working groups supported by the EMG Secretariat, and FAO in working group 3.

It is expected that the IMG meets formally twice a year, and the working groups more often on an ad-hoc basis. The ToRs are valid until September 2022, and possibly beyond pending feedback from the EMG Senior Officials (SOM28).

IMG members are encouraged to indicate which working group(s) they would like to be a part of by 16th December 2021 (by email to emg@un.org).

1. Awareness raising and knowledge sharing (co-chaired by UNESCO and UNDP)

Ms. Meriem Bouamrane, UNESCO, introduced the suggested objective and activities for the working group on awareness raising and knowledge sharing. The first meeting of the working group is proposed for January 2022. Collaboration in the working groups is important, as the UN Common Approach is about joint delivery and achieving an impact together.

Work is envisioned to be centred at both the national and regional levels, using existing tools to raise awareness. Target audiences, available knowledge products and the roles within the working groups are to be discussed. The workflow will be reviewed, identifying knowledge products that align with the Biodiversity Communication Flotilla.

The Common Approach is organised around 15 objectives. We should take this opportunity to work together in a collective way, sharing knowledge and engaging as one UN family to reach the common objectives and implement the Common Approach.

2. Accountability & global-level reporting (chaired by UNEP)

Ms. Corli Pretorius, UNEP, provided an overview of the working group on accountability and global-level reporting. Its task will be to figure out how to have a light but meaningful framework for reporting on UN collective action and on the collaborative work of this IMG, relying heavily on current reporting and data already being collected. This will allow for the generation of a reporting framework that can show this collective effort to the CEB and other mechanisms such as QCPR reporting, some of it quantitative and some qualitative through case studies.

In terms of timeline, information will first be brought together, followed by establishing a framework and working towards an initial report, determining how it would look, and the level of effort required.

3. UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (co-chaired by FAO and UNEP)

Ms. Natalia Alekseeva, FAO, provided an update on the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Led by UNEP and FAO, the Decade was launched on World Environment Day on 5th June 2021, now with over 90 partner organisations, an action plan and task forces looking at best practices, finance, monitoring, science and youth. The Decade is entering its implementation phase and has the support of the Multi-Partner Trust Fund with the first Executive Board meeting to be held on 16th December 2021. There are now calls for nomination of Flagship Initiatives from Member States and partners, with the hope to see practical examples and well framed ideas on how to make restoration work and be more practical in terms of activities.

The proposed output of this working group is to understand how the UN system supports and responds to the Decade, contributing to and coordinating closely with the Coordination Group and Task Forces of the UN Decade. Through the EMG, it will be interesting to see links between different divisions, offices and frameworks and how to coordinate across different activities. Agencies are welcome to become involved in the Decade.



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The workplan includes identifying what is being done in terms of initiatives, projects and knowledge products; raising awareness about the Decade and engaging members in activities; working on coordination through DCO and connecting with RCs on ecosystem restoration and supporting them through the Decade; and finally linking to reporting, targets and indicators related to other activities and working groups.

Other Matters

For organisational simplicity, it was suggested that the UN Decade, which was previously a sub-activity under the working group on awareness raising and knowledge sharing, be a separate working group.

WHO highlighted the importance of including the terms “healthy” and “just” when discussing a green recovery, especially when looking at a Common Approach that brings together different agencies and different areas of activity. Ms. Pretorius explained that the Common Approach was approved and endorsed by HLCP and the CEB in May 2021, however, it will be possible to make these important connections in different ways, for instance through the Annex of the Common Approach and when knowledge products are developed, guidance notes are brought together, or when formulating joint projects.

UNU-FLORES inquired how lessons learned from the past 10 years will be taken into account in the IMG’s work and whether inequality is addressed in the Common Approach. It was reassured that these aspects will be addressed and included across all facets of the Common Approach implementation and in the working groups.

Speaking on behalf of the IMG on Human Rights and Environment, Ms. Gita Parihar emphasized the connection between the two IMGs, including through their workplans. Firstly, the integration of human rights and environmental issues into the development context will include the production of a narrative on the relationship between human rights, the environment and development. A checklist on integrating human rights into the NBSAPs will be prepared. Secondly, a draft strategy for human rights engagement within the CBD is under preparation. Finally, another area of potential cooperation relates to the production of trainings related to the triple planetary crises including biodiversity. Input by members of the IMG on Biodiversity on these outputs will be welcome. Members of the IMG on Human Rights and the Environment are also happy to engage and collaborate with the IMG on Biodiversity relating to human rights aspects.

Closure of the Meeting

Ms. Pitkanen thanked the co-chairs and participants and noted the following key agreements/follow-up actions:

- IMG members who are interested in taking part in the working groups are requested to nominate focal points by **16th December 2021** to emg@un.org with copy to anna.kaplina@un.org.
- Any entity wishing to be part of the IMG on Biodiversity that was not a member the Consultative Process, is kindly requested to inform the EMG Secretariat with copy to anna.kaplina@un.org.
- The three working groups will meet in January (dates to be communicated) and will be led by UNESCO&UNDP, UNEP and FAO with support from EMG Secretariat. Other entities are welcome to express interest in co-leading any of the working groups.
- The entities are invited to express interest in co-organizing or participate in the EMG side event at CBD Resumed sessions of SBSTTA 24, SBI 3 and WG2020-3 (tentatively in March).

Annex 1. Agenda

1. Welcoming remarks by EMG Secretariat – Jannica Pitkanen
 2. Adoption of the Agenda
 3. Update from CBD – Neil Pratt, CBD
 4. Presentation of Working Groups, including draft Workplan 2022:
 - *Awareness raising and knowledge sharing* - Meriem Bouamrane, UNESCO
 - *Accountability & global-level reporting* - Cornelia Pretorius, UNEP
 - *UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration* - Natalia Alekseeva, FAO
 5. Other Matters
 6. Closure of the Meeting
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Meeting documents:

1. Draft 2021-22 Workplan for the EMG IMG on Biodiversity
2. [ToRs for EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity](#)



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Annex 2. List of Participants

N	NAME	ORGANISATION	DESIGNATION
1.	Andrew Rudd	UN-Habitat	Human Settlements Officer, Urban Environment
2.	Anna Kaplina	EMG Secretariat	Programme Management Officer
3.	Carl Giardina	EMG Secretariat	Intern
4.	Chantal Robichaud	CBD Secretariat	Associate programme management officer
5.	Cornelia Pretorius	UNEP-WCMC	Deputy Director
6.	Cristina Romanelli	WHO	Programme Officer, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Health
7.	David Ainsworth	CBD Secretariat	Information Officer
8.	David Morgan	CITES	Chief of Governing Bodies and Meeting Services
9.	Dipayan Bhattacharyya	WFP	Senior Programme Advisor
10.	Eva Venegas	UNEP	
11.	Fatema Johara	EMG Secretariat	Staff Assistant
12.	Federica Pesce	UNEP-WCMC	Associate Expert - 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
13.	Federica Pietracci	CEB Secretariat	Senior Programme Management Officer
14.	Florence Descroix- Comanducci	IAEA	Director of the IAEA Environment Laboratories
15.	Frederic Castell	FAO	Technical Adviser
16.	Gergana Kiskinova	WTO	Economic Affairs Officer
17.	Gita Parihar	EMG Secretariat	Consultant
18.	Irene Maria Hoffmann	FAO	Secretary, Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
19.	Isaac Kofi Bimpong	FAO-IAEA	Technical Officer
20.	Iulia Duca	IOM	Programme Support Officer – Migration, Environment and Climate Change
21.	Jannica Pitkanen	EMG Secretariat	Programme Management Officer
22.	Jen Stephens	UNICEF	Disaster Risk & Climate Change Specialist
23.	Jerry Harrison	UNEP-WCMC	Principal Technical Specialist, Conventions and Policy Support
24.	Kent Nnadozie	FAO	Secretary, FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
25.	Lisa Farroway	World Bank	Program Manager, Global Wildlife Program
26.	Maikel R. Lieuw-Kie-Song	ILO	Senior Employment Intensive Specialist
27.	Marco Keiner	UNECE	Director of the Environment Division
28.	Maria Cardenas Fischer	BRS Secretariat	Head of Unit & Senior Policy Advisor



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29.	Marieta Sakalian	UNEP	Senior Programme Management Officer, Coordinator Healthy and Productive Ecosystems
30.	Marina Maiero	WHO	Technical Officer, Health and Climate Change Team, Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health
31.	Marlene Grundstrom	UNDRR	Programme Management Officer, Partnerships & UN Inter-Agency Cooperation
32.	Matilda E. Dunn	Imperial College London	PhD Student, Centre for Environmental Policy
33.	Meriem Bouamrane	UNESCO	Chief of Section on research and policy on biodiversity
34.	Monica Visalam Iyer	OHCHR	Human Rights Officer
35.	Monika Gail MacDevette	UNEP	Chief, Chemicals and Health Branch, Economy Division
36.	Natalia Alekseeva	FAO	Workstream Leader, Innovations for Sustainability
37.	Neil Pratt	CBD Secretariat	CBD Senior Environmental Affairs Officer
38.	Neville Ash	UNEP-WCMC	Director of the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre
39.	Niels Schulz	UNIDO	Industrial Development Officer
40.	Nives Costa	UNOPS	Sustainable procurement consultant
41.	Patrick John O'Farrell	UNU-FLORES	Adjunct Researcher – Biodiversity in the Resource Nexus
42.	Robin Michelle Zuercher	ITU	Programme Officer, Strategy & Planning Division
43.	Sam Jeremy	EMG Secretariat	Intern
44.	Sinead Brophy	UNODC	Programme Consultant
45.	Sofia Gutierrez	UNWTO	Deputy Director, Sustainable Development of Tourism
46.	Soo-Young Hwang	UNEP	Legal Officer
47.	Svetlana Chobanova	WTO	Legal Officer, Trade and Environment Division
48.	Tahsin Islam	UNEP	Associate Expert
49.	Theofanis Karayannis	IMO	Head, Marine Biosafety
50.	Tim Scott	UNDP	Policy Advisor, Environment
51.	Tsung Ping chung	UNIDO	Chief of the Office of Strategic Planning and Coordination
52.	Verona Collantes	UN Women	Intergovernmental Specialist
53.	Vittoria Semplici	UNCCD	Consultant for the Science Technology and Innovation (STI) Unit
54.	Volha Kuzmianok	UNODC	Programme Officer on Environmental crime