

**First meeting of the Issue Management Group
on Biodiversity Working Group 1: Awareness Raising and Knowledge
Sharing**

18th January 2022 (15:00 – 16:00 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 Working Group 1: Awareness raising and knowledge sharing

Summary

Organizational Aspects: In the proposed schedule, IMG meetings are due to occur twice per year, and WG meetings are to be held at least once per quarter. With many relevant and high-profile events upcoming, such as COP15, the WG aims to align its Calendar of Events with these important events. The next call will be scheduled in about a month's time. MS Teams or SharePoint were suggested as platforms to exchange information and materials.

Prioritization of work: Presented WG1 workplan was supported. It was noted that it is now important to understand each agency's priorities in terms of impact areas and medium-term objectives of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity before deciding which is the most appropriate approach to take forward in terms of focus of this WG. With the help of the EMG, we can find a way to prioritise the main objectives and issues that should be prioritised.

In the next phase of the process, a mapping of existing knowledge and experience in the IMG will enhance advocacy and sharing of knowledge products. The IMG on Biodiversity WG 1 will provide access to a wide range of tools and products that relate to the Common Approach.

A webtool to communicate the UN Common Approach: 'United For Nature' webtool was introduced, which will be soon operational for IMG members to share joint initiatives, projects and products. Members were invited to contribute to the development of the tool by sharing with Ms. Pesce and Ms. Kaplina recent stories of success, collaborations and actions for nature.

Additionally, other examples of useful tools and products were shared in the meeting, such as: the UNESCO/CBD Biodiversity Learning Kit; the [UN Biodiversity Lab](#) (UNBL) team is organising a training for UN Staff on the UNBL as a global spatial data and analytics tool to support the implementation of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity; and the UNDP noted it has access to various tools and products on biodiversity finance that could be shared with members of WG1.

Follow-up:

- Next meeting will be organized in February
- WG members are invited to share their priorities in terms of impact areas and medium-term objectives of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity
- A template/mechanism for mapping existing knowledge products will be proposed
- Participants to share recent stories of success, collaborations and actions for nature
- EMG will create a MS Teams for collaboration and sharing to serve IMG on Biodiversity and the three WGs

Meeting report

Welcome remarks by the EMG Secretariat

Ms. Anna Kaplina of the EMG Secretariat opened the meeting and provided an introduction to the 1st meeting of the IMG on Biodiversity WG1 on awareness raising and knowledge sharing, before handing over to Mr. Tim Scott for his presentation.

Presentation of the WP1 of the IMG on biodiversity

Mr. Scott, UNDP, outlined the proposed agenda and recapped the main activities and outputs of WG1. Broadly speaking, these activities include awareness raising and knowledge sharing (co-chaired by UNESCO, UNDP); accountability & global-level reporting (chaired by UNEP with support from UNDP); and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (chaired by FAO). In the schedule, IMG meetings are due to occur twice per year, and WG meetings are to be held at least once per quarter. The Terms of Reference of the IMG on Biodiversity will remain valid until the Senior Officials Meeting in September 2022 and reviewed every second year, thereafter.

Round table of members and expectations

Ms. Meriem Bouamrane of UNESCO asked members of the WG to introduce themselves and provide any updates or expectations they may have from the WG1, and to highlight foreseeable avenues of cooperation between agencies.

Ms. Corli Pretorius, UNEP, outlined that one of the key outcomes of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity is to support collaboration and knowledge sharing through regional mechanisms, such as Issue-based Coalitions, Regional Collaborative Platforms and Regional Forums for Sustainable Development. The WG could catalyse its members' knowledge and expertise in support to these existing mechanisms, including by providing targeted biodiversity information, organising nexus dialogues and collaborating with Regional Social and Economic Commissions on communicating the importance of the upcoming Biodiversity COP). Additionally, Ms. Pretorius provided an example of collaboration and information sharing: the [UN Biodiversity Lab](#) (UNBL) team is organising a training for UN Staff on the UNBL as a global spatial data and analytics tool to support the implementation of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity. The [link](#) to register was shared.

Mr. Erie Tamale, CBD, emphasised his support of the knowledge management aspect of this work.

Mr. Neil Pratt, CBD, emphasised that this IMG will be foundational in operationalizing the UN Common Approach, as an essential mechanism for supporting the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity framework once it's adopted.

Ms. Lika Sasaki, UNCTAD, works on the initiative addressing nexus between trade and biodiversity, one component of which focuses on knowledge sharing between partners and UN agencies, and, therefore, these products, tools, and case studies can be shared with the WG.

Ms. Maria Cardenas Fischer, of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, noted the importance of raising awareness on how promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste can contribute to the preservation of biodiversity.

Ms. Sinead Brophy, of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the global programme for combating wildlife and forest crime, aims to support the IMG from a crime prevention perspective.

Ms. Svetlana Chobanova and Ms. Gergana Kiskinova, emphasised the World Trade Organisation interest in exchanging experience on the intersection of trade and biodiversity, and highlighted that a new paper is to be released later this year on contracting biodiversity.

Ms. Eva Gurria, UNDP, noted that UNDP has various tools and products on biodiversity finance that could be shared, and brought to attention of the participants UN Biodiversity Lab and a Learning for Nature Platform that has over 37,000 users.

Mr. Patrick John O'Farrell from UNU-FLORES focuses on resource nexus issues, in particular, water, biodiversity, energy, food, expects the IMG to establish important synergies and highlight tensions between different organizations and lessons learned.

Mr. Theofanis Karayannis representing the International Maritime Organisation hopes to contribute the IMO's experience in capacity building activities, and expects the group to deliver resources to constituencies and member states.

Ms. Ana Patricia Batalhone from the International Trade Centre, a joint agency of the UN and WTO, is specialised in supporting SMEs to implement green business practices by emphasizing circularity, climate resilience, and nature-based solutions, with expectations that this WG can raise awareness and enable knowledge sharing of different initiatives and to build partnerships and collaborations with the different members of the group.

Ms. Bouamrane suggested that one main aspect of this WG is to contribute towards the Common Approach, to build synergies, and to facilitate solutions to existing problems. This will enable us all to have access to a wide range of tools and products that relate to the common approach. In the next phase it would be beneficial to perform a mapping of existing knowledge and experience in the IMG to enhance advocacy and knowledge products. The EMG Secretariat can help support the mapping of existing knowledge products. Moreover, it will be useful to note the target audience of the product, what success it had, and its impact.

Ms. Gurria asked for further clarification on the methodology for sharing knowledge, including tools and products, to enable the group to co-create and share ideas effectively between agencies. Ms. Bouamrane agreed and highlighted an example from the UNESCO/CBD Biodiversity Learning Kit, as an example of a product that can be shared.

Methods of work and proposed activities of the WG

Ms. Bouamrane emphasised that this WG is designed to be useful to members, and with many relevant and high-profile events upcoming, such as COP15, the WG aims to align its Calendar of Events with these large events to amplify the impact of shared knowledge products.

Mr. Scott mentioned that in terms of target audience, the UN system will be a core target audience for this WG. For example, UN Resident Coordinators Officers and UN Country teams are not receiving a lot of material, and, so, this WG can do a lot to promote products and tools to UN country teams and coordinators. Ms. Bouamrane agreed and suggested we add target audience in the mapping activities and highlighted that the target audience should reach those who are not as well informed on biodiversity issues.

Mr. O'Farrell suggested that it might be useful to firstly develop a test case around a common issue across agencies to find synergies and areas of cooperation to fill knowledge gaps. This might be a useful place to start before compiling an inventory of knowledge products as this could be time intensive.

Mr. Tamale asked for clarification over who would have access to the knowledge products that we are compiling, for example, agencies, member states?

The CBD Secretariat noted that it is also developing a knowledge management component of the post-2020 global framework on how knowledge products can help support key players in the post-2020 framework. The IMG and the WG should look to methods for integrating these various knowledge management platforms that are managed by different entities.

Ms. Pesce highlighted that a preliminary mapping of existing initiatives and potential actions was already conducted the previous year as part of the development of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity, prioritising activities will be key ([Biodiversity Common Approach \(unsceb.org\)](#)). Ms. Bouamrane suggested that the next step is now to understand each agency's priorities before deciding which is the best approach to take forward into the next phase. With the help of the EMG, we can find a way to prioritise the main objectives and issues that we should prioritise.

[Presentation of "United for Nature" – a webtool to communicate the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity](#)

Ms. Pesce presented the wireframe of a webtool that is currently being developed by UNEP to facilitate advocacy and communication around the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity. The tool, whose proposed name is 'United For Nature', will aim at showcasing the 3 Impact Areas and 15 medium-term objectives of the Common Approach in order to encourage collective actions by all UN entities and beyond. The tool will interactively display stories of success, resources and change agents, based on the content and the structure of the Common Approach Annex "[50+ ways to integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions a UN system commitment to collective action for people and planet](#)". It will be a useful platform for IMG members to share joint initiatives, projects and products. To this end, members were invited to contribute to the development of the tool by sharing with Ms. Pesce and Ms. Kaplina recent stories of success, collaborations and actions for nature.

[Next steps and timeline](#)

Ms. Gurria suggested setting up a template or a format through which colleagues can start sharing materials.

Ms. Pesce suggested using MS Teams or SharePoint to exchange information and material.

[Any other business](#)

No additional comments were added to the agenda.

[Closing](#)

Mr. Scott suggested that the timing of the next call should be in about a month's time, depending on how long it takes colleagues to fill out the template. Mr. Scott highlighted that the meeting minutes and the proposed template will be shared after this call, and thanked members for their continued work and efforts in this process.

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

Item	Organisation
Welcome words from EMG	EMG Secretariat
Presentation of the WP1 of the IMG on biodiversity	UNDP
Round table of members and expectations	UNEP
Methods of work and proposed activities of the WG	UNEP
Presentation of the UNEP-WCMC Common Approach advocacy tool	UNEP
Next steps and timeline	UNEP and UNDP
AOB	UNDP
Closing	UNDP

Annex 2: List of participants

N.	Name	Organisation	Designation
1.	Ana Patricia Batalhone	ITC	Sustainability and Corporate Social Responsibility Expert
2.	Anna Kaplina	EMG Secretariat	Programme Management Officer
3.	Carl Giardina	EMG Secretariat	Intern
4.	Frederic Castell	FAO	Senior Technical Advisor
5.	Svetlana Chobanova	WTO	Legal Officer
6.	Cornelia Pretorius	UNEP	Senior Programme Management Officer
7.	Erie Tamale	CBD Secretariat	Head of the Capacity Building and Knowledge Management Unit
8.	Eva Gurria	UNDP	Policy Specialist, NBS Coordinator
9.	Federica Pesce	UNEP-WCMC	Associate Expert
10.	Frederic Vogel	UNEP	Knowledge Management Officer
11.	Gergana Kiskinova	WTO	Economic Affairs Officer
12.	Hélène Le Brun	UNESCO	Consultant
13.	Laura Cerasi	UNEP	Programme Management Officer
14.	Lika Sasaki	UNCTAD	Programme Management Officer
15.	Maria Cardenas Fischer	UNEP	Senior Programme Management Officer
16.	Meriem Bouamrane	UNESCO	Chief of Section on Research and Policy on Biodiversity
17.	Neil Pratt	CBD Secretariat	CBD Senior Environmental Affairs Officer
18.	Patrick John O'Farrell	UNU-FLORES	Adjunct Researcher, Biodiversity in the Resource Nexus
19.	Sam Jeremy	EMG Secretariat	Intern
20.	Sinead Brophy	UNODC	Programme Consultant
21.	Tamara Richards	UNCTAD	Biodiversity Consultant
22.	Theofanis Karayannis	IMO	Head, Marine Biosafety
23.	Tim Scott	UNDP	Policy Advisor, Environment

