

First meeting of the Issue Management Group
on Biodiversity Working Group 2: Accountability and global-level
reporting within the UN system

Distribution:
TO: Members of the
IMG on Biodiversity
CC: EMG Focal Points

20th January 2022 (16:00 – 17:00 CET) Online

Report of the 1st meeting of the IMG on Biodiversity Working Group 2: Accountability and global-level reporting within the UN system

Summary

- The aim of the working group is to look at the reporting framework for the Common Approach to Biodiversity. Whilst the implementation of the Common Approach to Biodiversity will be supported by the EMG, the reporting framework will be broader than the EMG as it pertains to engagement with regional mechanisms, including feasible engagement of country teams, and relating to the operational aspects that are within the Common Approach (e.g. facilities management).
- The purpose is not to duplicate existing reporting mechanisms, but to create an efficient system where we can draw on existing reporting mechanisms.
- The reporting framework ultimately needs to be approved by the EMG Senior Officials in October 2022, after being cleared by the EMG technical segment and the IMG on Biodiversity.
- There is no obligation to report to the CEB. The future form of updates to CEB or reporting will be determined once the reporting framework for the Common Approach is conceptualised, implemented and the information is available.
- A number of synergies were identified on reporting, including with the Regional Commissions' annual reports on the progress in implementation of the SDGs; the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR); Sustainable UN Team (Greening the Blue annual reporting).
- **Uninfo.org** is the digital platform of the country teams results framework. Lots of data per key activity or sub-output/intervention is tracked and recorded in the platform at scale, and it could be useful for the Common Approach reporting.
- The intent is to collaborate and have synergies not just between working groups of the IMG on Biodiversity, but beyond that, with EMG members having asked for there to be synergies across other existing IMGs.
- Common Approach will support parties in implementing the GBF, Paris Agreement and other biodiversity related MEAs. This group will look to the MEA secretariats for advice on the best cycle length for providing evidence of how the UN system supports parties in implementation of the post-2020 GBF.

Next steps:

- A MS Teams site to be set up to work collaboratively on the draft reporting framework
- The draft conceptual framing of the reporting framework to be shared via MS Teams by end February 2022
- Ideas on additional indicators for collective action on biodiversity to be discussed during the next Working Group meeting in mid-March 2022
- Better understand how to synergise with existing reporting mechanisms at various level

Meeting report

Presentation of the WG2 of the IMG on Biodiversity – Ms. Cornelia Pretorius (UNEP)

This meeting and working group aims to look at the reporting framework for the Common Approach to Biodiversity. Whilst the implementation of the Common Approach to Biodiversity will be supported by the EMG, the reporting framework will be broader than the EMG as it pertains to engagement with regional mechanisms, including feasible engagement of country teams, and relating to the operational aspects that are within the Common Approach (e.g. facilities management). The purpose is not to duplicate existing reporting mechanisms, but to create an efficient system where we can draw on existing reporting mechanisms.

As a reminder of the structure of the Common Approach, there are three impact areas, with medium-term objectives beneath them. We require guidance and input of members on reporting in terms of focus, i.e. do we want to report against some of the outcome levels or some of the outputs?

Round table of members and expectations

Ms. Federica Pietracci (CEB secretariat)

The CEB mandated reporting to the Economic and Social Council and are currently in the drafting process of this report, with the report being on the previous year's activities, therefore 2021 is taking stock of the great achievement of CEB endorsing the Common Approach. Reporting on the Common Approach needs to be determined. A possibility could be providing a status update following the High-Level Committee on Programmes. Continued conversation between the CEB, EMG and the working group will determine what the needs would be. Regarding the shape of the reporting that this working group is starting to discuss, there is no formal obligation to report to the Board. The form or reporting will be determined once the framework is conceptualised, implemented and the information will be available

Mr. Charles Akol (UNECA)

UNECA organises yearly regional forums on personal development, and as part of these the UN system entities at the regional level prepare reports looking at the progress in implementation of the SDGs. These reports feed into the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, but the forum report also goes to the HLPF and ECA. Furthermore, these reports cover a number of things covered in the Common Approach to biodiversity reporting, such as the impact of what has been achieved, capacity development, resource mobilisation and knowledge exchange/peer learning.

Ms. Christina Romanelli (WHO)

Regarding reporting, there is the possibility for significant synergy, for instance on the newly established expert working group on biodiversity, climate, one health and nature-based solutions. There is a series of consultations with key external partners, whether it be UN agencies or others, which would provide a significant amount of opportunity for synergy and alignment. There is already close coordination with the one health high level expert working group, providing a key opportunity for reporting. With the outcomes of the different products that are going to arise from the expert working group being taken to the World Health Assembly dealing with member states, it is important to ensure that stakeholders from other sectors are also on-board with biodiversity conservation.

Presentation of UN INFO – Mr. Jesse Paul Forsythe (UNSDG)

UN INFO is the digital platform of the country teams results framework, specifically the indicator framework of the outcome and output level, and the joint work plan. The latter is the compilation of

sub-outputs, being key activities, major interventions, activities, projects or programmes that are being implemented by each individual country team. The data is recorded on the platform, with a code list against the platform which can roll the data up. UN INFO has only one platform, allowing for the ability to scale to a global, regional, cross-border or thematic lens, also giving us streamlined analytics. The latest platform, UN INFO 2.0, is capturing programmatic coordination and operations data of every single UN country team.

Every UNCT has their own workspace from which they can develop/build their results framework on the platform directly. There are roughly 105 joint workplans on the platform, trying to standardise or harmonise how the UN sustainable development group approach programming. The joint workplan gives us the perspective of what is being done, at a level of granularity to show off major projects and programmes. There is an ongoing process to create a comparable level of attainment in the workplan. Furthermore, the UN INFO platform was created at the country team level and then scaled up, so there are a lot of “how to do’s” from UNCTs and RCOs.

This tracks a significant amount of data per key activity or sub-output/intervention which is then recorded in the platform at scale. As this is a database, it is possible to track where the information goes, and because it is a chain, all agencies working under this output or sub-outcome can be tracked by following the chain, attributing certain results to certain entities working on that particular plan level. **Uninfo.org** is the UNSDG data portal giving a basic overview of where we currently stand in the cooperation framework development and our current picture of UNSDG contribution to the SDGs through their financial resources. Specific information about each country team can be found, showing information about the programming coming directly from the workplan, including a geographic breakdown, a breakdown of the cooperation framework, who is working where regarding each SDG, and a progress tracker. Every country team is required to present an annual results report, typically delivered by end of March.

[Presentation of Greening the Blue – Ms. Kira Mullally \(SUN-UNEP\)](#)

The SUN was launched in 2008 to assist the UN system in moving towards climate neutrality and incorporating environmental management. Their initiative focuses on mitigating the environmental footprint resulting from facilities and operations of all 56 UN entities. The annual Greening the Blue report is a major component of SUN’s work where UNEP annually publishes environmental impact data showing the UN system’s environmental footprint and efforts to reduce it. A lot of efforts have been made to align this report with the Phase-I of the UN Sustainability Strategy for 2020-2030. For example, climate is an area that is quite heavily focused on, tracking greenhouse gas emissions of each entity, but more information can be found on the website where each entity has its own space with more detail and a more narrative approach. Biodiversity has been included for the past two years, however, with lacking indicators, best practices have only been showcased, for example how UNESCO has been incorporating biodiversity into their premises and have a vegetable and biodiversity garden at their HQ in Paris. Improvements are planned for the future to align better with the Sustainability Strategy Phase-I, focusing on four meaningful areas when looking at management: procurement, events, facilities and staff awareness. Consultations and collaborations with others such as WCMC, the IMG and the CBD are required in order to start measuring and reporting on biodiversity in the future.

[Discussion on next steps and timeline – Ms. Cornelia Pretorius \(UNEP\)](#)

The reporting framework will ultimately need to be approved by the senior officials at the EMG SOM in September/October, after being cleared by the EMG technical segment and the full IMG on Biodiversity having a view on it. Therefore, a few meetings earlier on in the year will be needed to

work on iterative drafts, developing these and consulting with the working group members to collate the information into a public proposal/concept on the reporting framework for the Common Approach to Biodiversity.

The proposed next steps:

1. Share ideas on conceptual framing of the reporting framework
2. Better understand how to synergise with existing reporting mechanisms at various level
3. Share ideas on additional indicators for collective action on biodiversity (a table was developed during the process of drafting the Common Approach reporting on some of the outputs)
4. Nominate presenters on innovative reports, dissemination and visualisation.

Annex 1: Meeting agenda

| Item | Organisation |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Welcome words from EMG | Ms. Anna Kaplina (EMG Secretariat) |
| Presentation of the WP2 of the IMG on Biodiversity | Ms. Cornelia Pretorius (UNEP) |
| Round table of members and expectations | All |
| Presentation of UN INFO | Mr. Jesse Forsythe (UNSDG) |
| Presentation of Greening the Blue | Ms. Kira Mullally (SUN Facility) |
| Discussion on next steps and timeline | Ms. Cornelia Pretorius (UNEP-WCMC) |
| Closing | Ms. Cornelia Pretorius (UNEP-WCMC) |

Annex 2: List of participants

| Number | Name | Organisation | Designation |
|--------|-------------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1 | Alexis Case | UN DESA | Intern |
| 2 | Andrew Rudd | UN-Habitat | Urban Environment Officer |
| 3 | Anna Kaplina | EMG Secretariat | Programme Management Officer |
| 4 | Carl Giardina | EMG Secretariat | Intern |
| 5 | Charles Akol | UNECA | Environment Affairs Officer |
| 6 | Claudia ten Have | Minamata Convention | Senior Policy and Coordination Officer |
| 7 | Cornelia Pretorius | UNEP | Deputy Director |
| 8 | Cristina Romanelli | WHO | Programme Officer |
| 9 | David Morgan | CITES | Chief of Science Unit |
| 10 | Dipayan Bhattacharyya | WFP | Senior Programme Advisor |
| 11 | Eun Hee Lee | UNESCO | |
| 12 | Eva Gurria | UNDP | Policy Specialist |
| 13 | Federica Pesce | UNEP-WCMC | Associate Expert |
| 14 | Federica Pietracci | CEB Secretariat | Senior Programme Management Officer |
| 15 | Hélène Le Brun | UNESCO | Consultant on Biodiversity |
| 16 | Jesse Paul Forsythe | UNSDG | Product Manager |
| 17 | Jillian Campbell | CBD Secretariat | Head of Monitoring, Review and Reporting |
| 18 | Kira Mullally | UNEP | Sustainable UN Team |
| 19 | Laura Cerasi | CMS | Programme Management Officer |
| 20 | Lijie Cai | CBD Secretariat | Programme Officer |
| 21 | Lika Sasaki | UNCTAD | Programme Management Officer |
| 22 | Lorena Jaramillo Castro | UNCTAD | |
| 23 | Maikel Lieuw-Kie-Song | ILO | Senior Employment Intensive Specialist |
| 24 | Marc Metian | IAEA | Research Scientist |
| 25 | Marieta Sakalian | UNEP | Senior Programme Management Officer |
| 26 | Monika MacDevette | UNEP | Chief, Chemicals & Health |
| 27 | Neil Pratt | CBD Secretariat | Senior Environmental Affairs Officer |
| 28 | Niels Schulz | UNIDO | International Environmental Expert Consultant |

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|----|----------------------|----------|------------------------------|
| 29 | Sinead Brophy | UNODC | Programme Consultant |
| 30 | Sofia Gutierrez | UNWTO | Deputy Director |
| 31 | Theofanis Karayannis | IMO | Head, Marine Biosafety |
| 32 | Tim Scott | UNDP | Policy Advisor, Environment |
| 33 | Verona Collantes | UN Women | Intergovernmental Specialist |
| 34 | Yiran He | OCHA | Humanitarian Affairs Officer |