

UN Common Approach to Biodiversity

Monitoring and Reporting Framework

Draft

Background and objectives

1. In May 2021, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed the [UN Common Approach to Biodiversity](#) (hereafter 'Common Approach), an UN-system commitment to mainstream biodiversity in policies, programmes and operations and to create opportunities for collective action for nature.
2. The Common Approach foresees that the Environment Management Group (EMG) "identifies a limited number of measurable targets and related indicators on the basis of existing reporting mechanisms and compiles a midterm and final report on the implementation of the Common Approach at the global level"¹.
3. Furthermore, the Common Approach calls on existing UN system reporting mechanisms to increasingly take into consideration biodiversity-related targets and indicators.
4. An EMG Issue Management Group (IMG) on Biodiversity was created to coordinate the implementation of the Common Approach at global and regional level.

Approach: reporting on impact, output, operations

5. The monitoring and reporting framework on the implementation of the Common Approach consists of three tiers: impact, output and operations.
6. The first tier – impact, monitors and reports on:
 - a) The UN's support to the implementation of biodiversity related SDGs - and MEA targets, as well as for human-rights based targets related to biodiversity (as per the table below).

¹CEB/2021/1/Add.1, UN Common Approach to Biodiversity: <https://unsceb.org/un-common-approach-biodiversity>

7. The second tier – output, concerns progress towards UN system coherence and collective action on biodiversity. The Common Approach proposes 4 outputs to deliver coherent and collective UN action for biodiversity:
 - b) Internal policy alignment and coherence
 - c) Align current resources and mobilize additional joint financing
 - d) Exchange knowledge needed to identify, prioritize, scale up and accelerate action
 - e) Coordinate outreach and communications efforts
8. The final tier concerns operations and the extent to which the UN system entities are 'walking the talk'.

The approach to measuring and reporting on internal management functions progress on biodiversity will be developed in the framework of the [Greening the Blue](#) initiative. This may include the following areas:

- f) Screen relevant locations for proximity to biodiversity and conserved areas
 - g) Assess location-specific biodiversity impact and dependencies including human rights impacts
 - h) Implement measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity using a human rights-based approach.
9. Key data sources for monitoring and reporting include UNCT annual reports on UN INFO (for a); the QCPR survey (for a and b); and the annual Sustainable UN / Greening the Blue (GtB) reporting (for f, g, and h). The UN INFO, QCPR and GtB reporting are all reflecting activity over a calendar year. Information sources for c, d and e remain to be defined.

Sustainable Development Goal	Biodiversity- related target(s) ²
1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	1.4; 1.5
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 2.4; 2.5
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	3.9
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	4.7
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	5.1; 5.5
6. Ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	7.1; 7.2

² Based on CBD Technical Note “Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”: <https://www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-technical-note-en.pdf>

8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	8.4; 8.9
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	9.1; 9.4
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries	10.1; 10.2
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	11.3; 11.4; 11.5; 11.6; 11.7
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	12.2; 12.8
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	13.1; 13.2
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	14.1; 14.2; 14.3; 14.4; 14.5; 14.6; 14.7
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.6; 15.7; 15.8; 15.9
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	16.3; 16.4; 16.7
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	17.3; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9; 17.14; 17.18

	d	Exchange knowledge needed to identify, prioritize, scale up and accelerate action	8	Number of joint consultations and/or trainings/ training packages delivered at the global, regional and UNCT level that includes biodiversity					Information source TBD
			9	Number of joint knowledge products including diagnostics, case studies, evaluations, and policy guidance and recommendations					Information source TBD
	e	Coordinate outreach and communications	10	Number of joint campaigns at all levels integrating biodiversity					Information source TBD
Operations	f	Screen relevant locations for proximity to biodiversity and conserved areas	11	Number of UN locations (of any type) which have completed a biodiversity screening of their location within the past 5 years					UN Sustainability Management reporting / Greening the Blue
	g	Assess location-specific biodiversity impact and dependencies	12	Number of entities which have assessed both: 'quantity' and 'severity' of the environmental aspects related to biodiversity and factors of risks, opportunities, and compliance obligations are qualitatively assessed for biodiversity					UN Sustainability Management reporting / Greening the Blue
	h	Implement measures to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity	13	Number and kind of measures UN entities have undertaken in each of the following four management areas: Facilities; Catering/Events; Procurement; and Staff Awareness/Engagement					UN Sustainability Management reporting / Greening the Blue