

4th Meeting of the EMG IMG on Biodiversity Date and time: 25 April 2023, 16.00 - 17.00 CEST Venue: TEAMS	Distribution: TO: Members of the IMG on Biodiversity CC: EMG Focal Points
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DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

1. Introductory remarks

Mr. Hossein Fadaei of the EMG Secretariat opened the meeting and welcomed participants. He outlined that the purpose of the meeting is to report on progress since the 28th meeting of the EMG Senior Officials (SOM28) in October 2022 and the CBD COP 15 in December 2022, and to understand the way forward towards SOM29. The meeting provides an opportunity to hear updates on the newly adopted Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and on the Common Approach to Biodiversity. The agenda was approved.

2. Update by the CBD Secretariat on current efforts on the implementation of the GBF

Mr. Fadaei invited Mr. Neil Pratt of the CBD Secretariat to provide an update on progress made since the COP and the adoption of the GBF, including on expectations on the UN system and the Common Approach in this regard.

Mr. Pratt reminded participants that the GBF was adopted together with a number of supportive mechanisms such as the monitoring framework of the GBF and mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, a resource mobilization strategy and a strategic framework for capacity building and development. A decision on cooperation invites governing bodies of other organizations and conventions to endorse the framework. There is a need for support from the UN system broadly. A number of other conventions and organizations are already in the process of aligning their strategies and plans to be supportive of the GBF. Leading up to COP16 in October 2024, intersessional work includes the work of an advisory committee on resource mobilization, an ad hoc technical expert group on indicators, and an informal advisory group on technical and scientific cooperation among others. A network of regional support centres was established to support technical and scientific cooperation among countries. An open-ended working group on digital sequence information will provide recommendations to the COP on the nature and operationalization of the multilateral benefit sharing mechanism. Work is currently ongoing in response to the invitation from the COP to establish a global Biodiversity fund under the GEF. A proposal will be considered by the GEF Council meeting in June.

In response to a question about the status of work on environmental accounting, CBD replied that there is a specific reference to the value of aligning national capital accounts with environmental economic accounting in decision 15-5. Indicators related to Goal B, targets 9 and 13 are relevant in this context. Parties are reluctant to have monetary valuation of natural capital as part of the framework, leading to an emphasis on physical evaluation as opposed to monetary evaluation.

IAEA inquired if there is a plan to collect information on progress on the GBF prior to October 2024 from the different UN entities.

Conclusion

Participants supported CBD's suggestion to organize a separate, more in-depth briefing on the operationalization of the GBF and its implementation. In addition to this, deep dive calls can be organized on specific outputs of the GBF, to understand how the UN system can contribute to those.

3. Updates on the IMG working groups

On behalf of the EMG Secretariat, Mr. Eduardo Escobedo shared highlights of the work in the three working groups in 2022.

- 1) With regard to knowledge sharing, a UN Pavilion and a Heads of Agency dialogue was organized during the CBD COP in December to show commitment to the Global Biodiversity Framework through the implementation of the UN Common Approach on Biodiversity. An inventory of knowledge products was created, currently with 20 contributions, which will be further developed in 2023. Further work in this area can include deep dives on specific aspects of the GBF and internal biodiversity management in the UN, briefings to EMG members as well as coordinated inputs, for instance on target 20 of the GBF.

UNDP added that discussions have been held with DCO about how knowledge on biodiversity can be brought to UN resident coordinators and their offices and UN Country Teams as part of a synthesized consolidated EMG supported package of resources on addressing the triple planetary crisis.

UNDP and UNESCO reminded participants of the inventory of biodiversity knowledge products and encouraged them to include new contributions : [Inventory table](#).

- 2) A monitoring and reporting framework was developed for the Common Approach to Biodiversity. The framework includes a selected number of measurable indicators, aligned with existing reporting mechanisms to avoid duplication and also overburdening agencies. A final draft of the framework was shared with the EMG SOM in October 2022. The framework is yet to be formalized and approved. Work in 2023 will focus on the establishment of a baseline that can be used for the first midterm report at the end of 2024 and the final report at the end of the reporting cycle. Some baselines are already established for existing indicators such as those under the QCPR.
- 3) UN Decade of Ecosystems Restoration

FAO informed that the number of partners in the Decade has grown significantly over the past months and now includes 18 UN entities.

Global network is growing, the number of partner increase a lot over the last couple of months and jump from 151 partners in in October last year to 216 partners in April and it includes 18 UN agencies and organization. An update on the work of the Task Forces on Best Practices; Finance; Monitoring; and Youth was provided.

IFAD requested the circulation of the ToRs of the working groups.

4. Updates by UN entities on their efforts to implement the GBF and the Common Approach

Agencies shared updates on their activities related to the GBF. These updates are summarized in Annex 1.

5. Consideration of the draft monitoring and reporting framework for final review and approval

Ms Corli Pretorius of UNEP-WCMC highlighted that values from the 2022 QCPR shows i.a. that 9 UN entities do not consider that the Common Approach to Biodiversity is applicable to them. Only 14% of the cooperation frameworks reference national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Figures on the adoption of environmental and social safeguards show regression. The monitoring framework can provide an evidence base that informs the way we design outreach and engagement strategies with UN entities to address these weaknesses.

An IMG meeting focused on a final review of the monitoring framework will be organized with the view to table it at the EMG midterm meeting in May.

6. Any other matters

No other matters were discussed.

7. Closure of the meeting

The meeting was closed at 5pm CEST.



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP



List of participants

1	Ahbinav Prakash	CBD
2	Ana Patricia Batalhone	ITC
3	Andrew Rudd	UN Habitat
4	Balakrishna Pisupati	UNEP
5	Ben Schachter	OHCHR
6	Frederic Castell	FAO
7	Chad Tudenggongbu	UNFCCC
8	Chantal Robichaud	CBD
9	Charles Akol	UNECA
10	Corli Pretorius	WCMC
11	Elena Santer	UNECE
12	Erie Tamale	CBD
13	Eva Gurria	UNDP
14	Marie-Aude Even	IFAD
15	Federica Pietracci	CEB
16	Frederik Haag	IMO
17	Inonge Guillemin	UNU
18	Hossein Fadaei	EMG
19	Jannica Pitkanen	EMG
20	Javkhlan Bayarmagnai	EMG
21	Jillian Campbell	CBD
22	Kieran Noonan Mooney	CBD
23	Kristin Meyer	UNDRR
24	Helene Le Brun	UNESCO
25	Lijie Caj	CBD
26	Lika Sasaki	UNCTAD
27	Lisa Janishevski	CBD
28	Marieta Sakalian	UNEP
29	Niel Pratt	CBD
30	Neville Ash	WCMC
31	Nicolaas Van der Werf	CBD
32	Nives Costa	UNOPS



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ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG

33	Nora Adam	UNU
34	Poorti Sapatnekar	DCO
35	Pushpam Kumar	UNEP
36	Rie Tsutsumi	UNEP- SUN
37	Pushpam Kumar	UNEP
38	Niels Schulz	UNIDO
39	Shoba SIVASANKAR	IAEA
40	Sara Daniel	
41	Sinead Brophy	UNODC
42	Sofía Gutiérrez	UNWTO
43	T Tudenggongbu	UNFCCC
44	Tim Scott	UNDP
45	Xin Feng	DESA
46	Eduardo Escobedo	EMG
47	Olga Gavryliuk	World Bank
48	Sasha Alexander	UNCCD