

Integrating Biodiversity and Disaster Risk Reduction

UN Common Approach to Biodiversity Webinar Series

Date: 02 October 2025

Time: 15:00-16:30 CEST

Language: English with simultaneous interpretation to Spanish

Platform: Zoom

Organizers: [United Nations Environment Management Group](#) (EMG) Secretariat, in collaboration with the [United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) (UNDRR).

Registration: [Here](#)

Concept Note

Webinar Objectives

- Highlight and increase awareness on the linkages between the disaster risk reduction (DRR), biodiversity and climate change agendas.
- Introduce the updated guidance on *Strengthening disaster risk reduction in national biodiversity strategies and action plans*.
- Highlight practical examples of DRR, biodiversity and climate change adaptation integration through country case studies and presentations.
- Promote awareness and implementation of the Common Approach in the UN system, as well as exchange and disseminate best practices and lessons learned from the implementation of concrete actions that consider biodiversity and disaster risk reduction.
- Facilitate dialogue on challenges, opportunities, and entry points for further integration.

Background: Biodiversity

Biodiversity is fundamental for the processes that support all life on earth. Humans depend on biodiversity for all ecosystem services including air and water quality, climate regulation, pollination, disease control, food, raw materials, medicines, and cultural activities. Additionally, biodiversity is essential for economic prosperity, as it underpins over half of global GDP.

Humanity is altering the planet and its biodiversity to an unparalleled degree; biodiversity is declining faster than at any time during human history. Consequently, biodiversity loss is considered one of the triple planetary crises, alongside climate change and pollution. Several ramifications stemming from these interlinking crises include the destruction of natural habitat, deterioration of key ecosystem services, species extinction, ecosystem restructuring, and extreme climatic events such as storms and wildfires. The triple planetary crises urgently need to be resolved if humanity is to have a viable future on this planet.

In 2022, at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) (CBD), Member States adopted a landmark agreement which signified a collective commitment to confront the escalating crisis of biodiversity loss. The [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF) sets out twenty-three ambitious targets and four overarching goals seeking to halt the degradation of ecosystems and promote the protection and sustainable use of the world's living resources. Its role is to guide urgent and transformative international cooperation on achieving the [2050 vision of 'living in harmony with nature'](#). In adopting the GBF, all Parties committed to setting national targets to implement the framework and catalyze action within their governments, subnational and local authorities, and societies.

In addition, the United Nations (UN) system has established its own commitments through the adoption of the ["Common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the United Nations policy and programme planning and delivery"](#) (Common Approach). Through the Common Approach, the UN system recognizes the urgency of acting and commits to mainstreaming biodiversity, and nature-based solutions, and to catalyzing collective action to address the drivers of biodiversity loss, restore ecosystems and ultimately living in harmony with nature. By leveraging the convening power and expertise from across the UN system, the Common Approach will contribute to and support the implementation of the GBF and the realization of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity, in alignment with the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) and the [Paris Agreement](#) on climate change.

The Common Approach is focused on creating opportunities for collective action and joint delivery of initiatives at the global, regional and country levels, while pursuing alignment within the respective entities. Within the Common Approach, disaster risk is highlighted as one of the predominant interrelated consequences of environmental degradation. Disaster risk reduction (DRR) is referenced within the Common Approach under Objective 4: "Nature is conserved and restored, while nature-based solutions for disaster risk reduction and climate action are accelerated".

Background: Disaster Risk Reduction and Biodiversity

The triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is increasing disaster and environmental risks^{1,2}. There is growing recognition that healthy and resilient ecosystems are key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 (Sendai Framework) and the Paris Agreement. The shared goals and challenges of the Rio Conventions and the Sendai Framework underscore the need for strong cooperation in applying them, and for an all-of-society and whole-of-government approach to guide implementation of their strategies³.

Fostering the integration of biodiversity and disaster risk reduction (DRR), as well as climate change adaptation at regional and national levels is critical for addressing the complex risks posed by disasters, climate change, and ecosystem degradation. UNDRR's Comprehensive Risk Management⁴ initiative seeks to integrate risk-centered approaches and climate information to develop and implement integrated DRR and climate change adaptation plans. The approach is being extended to bring together DRR, climate, biodiversity and environment focal points to discuss synergies across the existing national planning instruments.

To support these efforts, UNDRR has developed a [guidance document focused on strengthening the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR\) into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans \(NBSAPs\)](#), as well as incorporating biodiversity considerations into DRR frameworks. This publication offers practical recommendations for governments to enhance DRR within the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs). Its recommendations are designed to inspire ambitious national actions, guiding countries to update and implement NBSAPs with a focus on prevention, resilience, and long-term sustainability. During the course of 2025, UNDRR has engaged with government stakeholders to improve the guidance and adapt it further to the needs of government officials, including through in-country workshops. Based on this feedback, an improved and revised guidance document will be published in October 2025, together with a set of five good-practice studies.

This webinar aims to highlight the critical linkages between disaster risk reduction, biodiversity and climate change adaptation, introduce the guidance document, engage government focal points on DRR and biodiversity

¹ [Policy brief: Nature for Resilience | UNDRR](#)

² www.undrr.org/crm

³ [Ecosystem-Based Approaches for Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate, Land and Biodiversity Goals | UNU-CRIS](#)

⁴ www.undrr.org/crm

and key national and regional stakeholders for DRR, biodiversity, and climate change, facilitate discussions on regional perspectives, challenges, and opportunities. It will also reflect on the implementation of global frameworks, including the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
5'	Welcome	Ms. Sandra Amlang , Head of the Interagency Cooperation Unit, UNDRR, (<i>Moderator</i>) Mr. Hossein Fadaei , Head of EMG Secretariat
5'	Opening remarks	Mr. Kamal Kishore , Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of UNDRR
10'	Introduction to the linkages between DRR, biodiversity and climate change, including the key elements of the guidance on integrating DRR and biodiversity	Mr. Tristan Tyrrell , Programme Management Officer, Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat and Mr. Norwin Schafferer , Programme Management Officer, UNDRR
5'	Audience online poll <i>"From your perspective, what is the key contribution of nature to our resilience?"</i>	Ms. Sandra Amlang , Head of the Interagency Cooperation Unit, UNDRR, (<i>Moderator</i>)
10'	National experience: Colombia	Ms. Maria Meza , Vice Director, Colombia National Unit for Disaster Risk Reduction, Colombia
10'	National experience: Trinidad and Tobago	Ms. Lena Dempewolf , Biodiversity Specialist Ministry of Planning, Economic Affairs and Development, Trinidad and Tobago and Ms. Curmira Gulston , Hazard mitigation Specialist, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM), Trinidad and Tobago
10'	Remarks by the UN Resident Coordinator for Trinidad and Tobago	Ms. Joanna Kazana , UN Resident Coordinator, Trinidad and Tobago
10'	National experience: Uganda	Mr. Patrick Elolu , National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), Uganda
15'	Q&A	Speakers address some of the questions posed in the Q&A, raised by the moderator.
5'	Summary of key outcomes of the discussion	Ms. Sandra Amlang , Head of the Interagency Cooperation Unit, UNDRR, (<i>Moderator</i>)
5'	Closing remarks	Mr. Hossein Fadaei , Head of EMG Secretariat

Webinar duration: 1 hour 30 min

Moderator

Ms. Sandra Amlang, Head of the Interagency Cooperation Unit, Inter-governmental processes, Interagency cooperation and Partnerships Branch, UNDRR

Target Audience

Stakeholders engaged in biodiversity conservation, disaster risk management, DRR, and climate change adaptation, including UN entities (at HQ, regional and national levels, including UNRCOs and UNCTs), NGOs, academia, and development partners.

Representatives from national environmental and disaster management ministries/agencies, including focal points for biodiversity/NBSAPs, DRR and climate change adaptation.

Additionally, technical specialists, researchers, practitioners involved and interested in disaster risk reduction and biodiversity linkages.

Contact

EMG Secretariat: emg@un.org

Key documents

UNDRR, 2024, [Strengthening disaster risk reduction in national biodiversity strategies and action plans: Recommendations and guidance for governments \(Consultative Version\)](#)

UNDRR, 2021, [Words into Action: Nature-based Solutions for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

UNDRR, 2024, [Policy brief: Nature for Resilience](#)

UNU-EHS, 2024, [Policy Brief: Ecosystem-based approaches for integrating disaster risk reduction, climate, land and biodiversity goals](#)

UNDRR, 2024, [Nature-based solutions for comprehensive disaster and climate risk management: Toolkit for integrated planning and implementation](#)