



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG

INFORMATION NOTE¹

UPDATE ON THE UN EMG CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON BIODIVERSITY, AT THE TIME OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE OEWG ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

15 July 2021

Over the last decade, the Environment Management Group (EMG) has offered support to the biodiversity agenda, including two outcome documents to the first and second Meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on the zero draft of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

This note builds on these earlier EMG contributions by providing an update on the work and the exchange of views in the UN Environment Management Group, including its Consultative Process on Biodiversity² which may be considered for information by the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG).

In the light of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework process and in response to the decision of the Open-Ended Working Group, EMG has been tasked to facilitate a contribution by the UN system to the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Responding to that mandate the EMG Senior Officials established a Consultative Process on Biodiversity in September 2019 to engage the UN system, as agreed in the Terms of Reference of the Consultative Process.

Through the EMG Consultative Process all 51 EMG members provided information on the relevance of biodiversity to their existing mandates, as well as to their current activities and programmes. Two contributions were prepared through EMG and submitted to the Open-Ended Working Groups to inform and support the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

¹ This information document is a living document which provides some inputs by EMG UN member entities including its observers such as IUCN and WWF. The information document therefore is not a negotiated text and intends only to provide some thoughts that might be useful in preparation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and its subsequent implementation.

² The UN Environment Management Group was established through an UNGA Resolution in 1999 as a UN coordination and collaboration mechanism on the environment hosted and chaired by UNEP and composed of 50+ UN entities. Its main goal is to integrate the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into the policies, plans and strategies of United Nations entities. As one of its activities, the EMG works to strengthen the biodiversity agenda in the UN system. More information on the EMG and its membership can be found here: <https://unemg.org/about-emg/emg>. More information on the UN EMG Consultative Process on post 2020 global biodiversity framework can be found here: <https://unemg.org/our-work/emerging-issues/biodiversity/>

The Consultative Process also prepared a comprehensive report entitled *A UN System Commitment for Action to assist Member States to deliver on the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)*, which recommends four overarching action areas in support of the Global Biodiversity Framework: (a) support country abilities to halt biodiversity loss and to sustainably use and enhance biodiversity through policies and programmes; (b) establish strong coalitions for biodiversity; (c) mainstream biodiversity in UN internal operations; and (d) enhance UN-wide coherence and follow-up on biodiversity.

In parallel, responding to a call by the UN Secretary General in March 2020 to mainstream biodiversity work in key areas of the UN System (e.g. food and agriculture, sustainable forest management, ecosystems, biosafety, governance and justice, etc.), engage in cross-agency collaboration (including by entities not traditionally involved in biodiversity work), and enhance UN communications and advocacy the Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) meeting tasked its High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) in May 2020 to develop a common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the UN's policy and programme planning and delivery. Building on the work of the EMG on biodiversity and other inter-agency coordination mechanisms, including drawing on current commitments by agencies, funds and programmes, the CEB approved the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity in May 2021.

In conjunction with the International Day of Biodiversity, the EMG report and the UN Common Approach were officially launched in May 2021 and can be found at <https://unemg.org/launch-of-emg-biodiversity-report-2021/>.

EMG Members welcome the Draft One of the post-2020 GBF released on 12 July 2021. With reference to its earlier contributions, EMG re-iterates the importance of:

1. Ensuring interlinkages and synergy between the post-2020 GBF and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development;
2. Coherence and synergies with other conventions and international agendas should be a priority;
3. Responsibility, accountability, commitment and liability should be increased;
4. Connectivity should have a central focus, potentially as one of a set of top priorities, and;
5. Addressing direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, stakeholder and sectoral engagement

EMG Members will continue their collaboration to support the finalisation of an ambitious post-2020 GBF and stands ready to support Member States in its implementation by establishing a dedicated EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity.

The ToRs for an EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity are currently being finalised in order to facilitate and enable a streamlined approach to implement the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity and the recommendations of the EMG Consultative Process on Biodiversity in support of the post 2020 GBF.