UN environment programme

Convention on Biological Diversity

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION
Third meeting
Venue and dates to be determined
Items 7 of the provisional agenda*

PRELIMINARY LIST OF RELEVANT INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND NETWORKS FACILITATING TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AT THE GLOBAL, REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL LEVELS

Note by the Executive Secretary

1.   In its recommendation 23/6, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice took note of the proposals to strengthen technical and scientific cooperation in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework contained in annex I to the recommendation and requested the Executive Secretary to further develop the proposals, taking into account the submissions made by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, and to submit the updated proposals for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting and the Open-Ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at its third meeting.

2.   The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice also requested the Executive Secretary to, as far as possible and subject to the availability of resources, provide an initial compilation and analysis of information on relevant institutional arrangements, and networks at the global, regional and/or subregional levels relating to different thematic topics, including ongoing work by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and its task forces.

3.   The Executive Secretary is pleased to circulate herewith a draft compilation of such institutional arrangements and networks.

---

* CBD/SBI/3/1.

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
Global			
Technology Mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, the transfer of, or access to, environmentally sound technologies and know-how to enable Parties to implement the provisions of the UNFCCC	The Technology Mechanism consists of two bodies: 1. Technology Executive Committee (TEC): 20 experts meeting several times a year 2. Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN): • CTCN is hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) • CTCN operates under the guidance of, and is accountable to, the Conference of the Parties through an Advisory Board • Members of the Climate Technology Network are approved by the Advisory Board	The TEC is the Technology Mechanism's policy body. Its mandate is to: • Provide an overview of countries' needs and analyse policy and technical issues; • Recommend guidance on policies, programmes, road maps, and action plans; • Recommend actions to promote and address barriers to technology development and transfer; • Facilitate collaboration between stakeholders and promote coherence across activities. The CTCN is the Technology Mechanism's implementation entity. Its mandate is to: • Provide technical assistance at the request of developing countries; • Create access to information and knowledge on climate technologies; • Foster collaboration among climate technology stakeholders. The Centre works with the Climate Technology Network to: • Receive requests submitted by developing countries: • Select service providers through a competitive bidding process and contract them to design and deliver customized solutions; • Costs are covered from a fund replenished through voluntary contributions.
Regional and subregional centres (SCRCs) of the United Nations Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	Render timely and appropriate technical assistance in response to requests from developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to implement the provisions of the Stockholm Convention	The 16 SCRCs are autonomous institutions operating under the authority of the Conference of the Parties The performance of the SCRCs is periodically evaluated through an agreed upon set of criteria	The SCRCs work within their own areas of expertise and comparative advantage and/or collaborate among themselves and with other relevant institutions. They: • Draft work plans taking into consideration the national implementation plans of the Parties in the region. The plans are subject to approval by the Conference of the Parties; • Liaise with the Secretariat of the Convention on relevant issues and provide reports to meetings of the Conference of the Parties; • Implement activities in the area of capacity-building and the promotion of transfer of technology;

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
			• Costs are covered through the financial mechanism of the Convention. • The Regional Centre Small Grant Projects, managed by the Secretariat with bilateral funding, implements low cost projects selected from the workplan of the SCRCs.
Committee on Science and Technology (CST) and the Science-Policy Interface (SPI) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	• Facilitate the collection, analysis and exchange of information; • Promote technical and scientific cooperation involving national, subregional, regional and international institutions; • Promote, finance and/or facilitate the financing of the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of technologies	Technical and scientific cooperation is facilitated through the: 1. Committee on Science and Technology (CST) 2. Science-Policy Interface (SPI) 3. Knowledge Hub	The CST is a subsidiary body of the Conference of the Parties, providing it with information and advice on scientific and technological matters. The SPI translates science into policy-relevant recommendations. It produces peer-reviewed technical reports and scientific assessments, as well as science-policy briefs designed to support policy development. The Knowledge Hub supports knowledge management by organizing scientific and technical information and access to best practices through: • Knowledge Sharing Systems: interactive search tool that provides resources and websites reported by Parties; • Roster of Independent Experts: to facilitate access to information and expertise in relevant fields.
Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)	Synthesize, review, assess and evaluate relevant information and knowledge generated worldwide by governments, academia, scientific organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and indigenous communities	The structure of IPBES is as follows: 1. Plenary: governing body, which meets once per year 2. Bureau: assumes administrative functions 3. Multidisciplinary Expert Panel (MEP): oversees scientific and technical functions 4. Expert groups and task forces: scientists and knowledge-holders carrying out the assessments and other deliverables 5. Secretariat (includes technical support units): supports the Plenary, Bureau and MEP, as well as implementing the Platform's work and administrative functions	The task force on capacity-building aims to build capacities that strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services. The three priority areas are learning materials, uptake of approved assessments, and guidance on establishing (sub-) regional science-policy platforms and networks. The BES-Net initiative is a capacity-building network that facilitates exchanges between science, policy and practice that lead to better decisions. Its three areas of action are: • National Ecosystem Assessments: Global activities notably encompass a capacity-building programme, including webinars, a help desk facility and dedicated forum space, fellowship programmes and exchange visits; national activities are being implemented in four pilot countries; • Networking: web portal promoting interaction by providing a database of scientific, indigenous and local knowledge, and a database of policymakers and practitioners with expertise on different topics;

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
			• Trialogues: multi-stakeholder dialogues focusing on specific policy questions at the national and regional levels.
Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF)	Build capacity to implement international sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS), guidelines, and recommendations in order to ensure safe trade in food and agricultural products	STDF is a global partnership established by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). STDF acts through: 1. Policy Committee that: • Sets policy guidelines and provides oversight; • Provides guidance on programmes and work agenda; • Oversees efforts in the coordination of cooperation and the dissemination of good practice; • Provides outreach to donors. 2. Working Group that: • Reviews and approves the work programmes and funding requests; • Oversees operation of the STDF Secretariat. 3. Secretariat (hosted by WTO) that implements the work programme.	Grants provided by STDF include: • Project Preparation Grants: designed to prepare technically sound and sustainable projects. These grants involve the application of capacity evaluation tools, preparation of feasibility studies and/or formulation of project proposals to address specific needs. • Project Grants: STDF is a financing mechanism for projects that improve food safety, animal and plant health capacity to comply with SPS requirements.
United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)	Promote, coordinate and support technical and scientific cooperation among developing countries and within the United Nations system	UNOSSC (hosted by the United Nations Development Programme, UNDP) serves as the Secretariat of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation	UNOSSC provides: • Policy and intergovernmental support: advocating and providing technical advice to Member States and other partners; • Knowledge and advisory services: strengthening knowledge sharing, capacity-building and technical assistance through initiatives including the South-South Galaxy, a platform powered by artificial intelligence, and organizing the annual Global South-South Development Expo (GSSD Expo) to showcase development solutions and initiatives by institutions from the global South;

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
			• Partnership building: providing a space for countries of the South, the United Nations system and other partners to work together, including through the High-level Forum of Directors General for Development Cooperation (DG Forum), which serves as a platform for matching supply with demand and further strengthening partnerships; • Regional services: three Regional Units (Asia-Pacific, Africa and the Arab States, and Europe and CIS) support cooperation by pooling resources and offering advisory, programme, knowledge and operational services; • South-South trust fund management: financially managing and supporting the implementation of the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation (IBSA Fund), the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation (UNFSSC), the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for South-South Cooperation (PGTF), and the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.
United Nations Technology Facilitation Mechanism (TFM)	Facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnerships through the sharing of information, experiences, best practices, and policy advice to support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals	Under the leadership of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the TFM is comprised of the following: 1. The United Nations Inter-Agency Task Team (UN-IATT) on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals;[1] 2. The Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI Forum); 3. An online platform (2030 Connect).	The UN-IATT: • Promotes coordination, coherence and cooperation within the United Nations system on science, technology and innovation; • Prepares the development and operationalization of the STI Forum and the online platform. The STI Forum convenes once a year at the invitation of the President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) around thematic areas for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The TFM online platform (2030 Connect): • Provides a mapping of, and serve as a gateway for, information on science, technology and innovation initiatives, mechanisms and programmes; • Facilitates access to information, knowledge, experience, best practices and lessons learned on science, technology and innovation facilitation, initiatives and policies; • Facilitates the dissemination of open access scientific publications generated worldwide.

---

[1] This is group of expert staff from United Nations entities and 10 experts from civil society, the private sector and the scientific community, supported by a Secretariat.

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
United Nations Technology Innovation Labs (UNTIL)	Review, build, adopt and implement technology solutions to address problems that Member States are facing in specific areas	The Labs are established by the United Nations Office of Information and Communication Technology at the request of host countries. Each of the existing four Labs (Egypt, Finland, India and Malaysia) focuses on different thematic areas central to the needs of their specific geolocation. Advisory Panels provide strategic guidance, in line with specific terms of reference.	Each Lab: • Provides a start-up environment, offering advisory support and guidance through hands-on-workshops, immersion-learning, and incubated projects; • Offers a platform for collaborative problem-solving and exchange of ideas and resources between the United Nations and partners from the private sector, academia and civil society.
UNDP Accelerator Labs	Work with climate change, poverty reduction and governance experts to test new ways of addressing social and environmental challenges	Learning network of 90 Labs covering 114 countries, working on sustainable development challenges. The Accelerator Lab teams consist of individuals embedded at country-level within the global UNDP network.	The Labs focus on building on sustainable development solutions that already exist. They do so by: • Sharing actionable learning on a daily basis, thus benefiting from each other in real-time and creating collective learning effects; • Mapping the ecosystems of actors related to their area of work; • Working with grassroots communities to identify innovators, entrepreneurs and makers who are actively addressing social and environmental challenges for themselves; • Connecting with local innovators who are in search of solutions that will bring insights into delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals; • Testing ideas in conjunction with government, civil society, and business partners, starting small while designing for scale.
WIPO GREEN	Contribute to the accelerated adaptation, adoption and deployment of green technology solutions, in both developing and developed countries, by connecting providers and seekers of environmentally friendly technologies	The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) provides the WIPO GREEN Secretariat and a range of services in cooperation and in collaboration with embers. The WIPO GREEN Advisory Board, comprising Partners and the WIPO Secretariat, guides activities.	WIPO GREEN has two components: 1. A database consisting of a range of IP assets including inventions, technologies, know-how and services and a catalogue of expressed needs. 2. A network serving as a global platform that connects users, fosters partnerships and provides a marketplace for green inventions, technologies, know-how and services.

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Technical Cooperation Programme	Support the safe, secure and peaceful application of nuclear technologies and help member States address key development priorities in areas such as health and nutrition, food and agriculture, water and the environment, and industrial applications	The technical cooperation programme is the mechanism for delivering the Agency's capacity-building services: 1. The Department of Technical Cooperation manages implementation with the cooperation of member States and the technical departments 2. Expert missions and meetings support capacity-building.	The technical cooperation programme facilitates: • Coordinated research projects (bringing together researchers in both developing and industrialized countries to address a problem of common interest); • Technical cooperation projects (focusing on capacity-building, knowledge-sharing, partnership-building, support for networking, and procurement).
International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI)	Contribute to biodiversity conservation through the revitalization and management of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes; increase understanding of and address the causes responsible for the decline of biological and cultural diversity; enhance benefits from sustainable use of biodiversity; and enhance human, institutional, and financial capacities	IPSI is administered by three bodies: 1. The IPSI General Assembly; 2. The IPSI Steering Committee; 3. The IPSI Secretariat. The IPSI Secretariat is hosted by the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). The IPSI Global Conference is the major regular event held under the IPSI partnership. It consists of a meeting of the IPSI Assembly and a Public Forum.	IPSI provides a knowledge-sharing platform for organizations to: • Exchange views and experiences; • Have access to case studies demonstrating the effectiveness of landscape approaches to biodiversity conservation and human well-being, and showing effective and innovative approaches; • Find partners and develop collaborative activities contributing to IPSI's strategic goals. IPSI Assembly: • Made up of representatives of all member organizations; • Has the ultimate authority to vote on all major decisions regarding the IPSI functions. IPSI Steering Committee: • Serves as the executive body acting on behalf of IPSI; • Is responsible for governance and management functions; • Reviews and provides guidance on the implementation of IPSI activities; • Makes decisions on its own initiative and in response to requests from the Assembly; • Reviews and approves membership applications; • Provides recommendations for consideration by the Assembly; • Gives guidance to the IPSI Secretariat; • Helps to catalyse partnership building and resource mobilization for IPSI. IPSI Secretariat: • Supports IPSI and its members in achieving its missions and objectives;

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
			- Is responsible for undertaking the preparation of the IPSI Global Conference and other IPSI related meetings; - Facilitates communication within IPSI and with other stakeholders; - Promotes collaborative activities; - Carries out awareness-raising and public outreach activities; - Assists in partnership building.
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Contribute to the governance and management of natural and/or cultural sites	UNESCO has developed networks and mechanisms for technical and scientific cooperation: 1. The UNESCO UNITWIN (University Twinning and Networking) Programme 2. The UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves	Through the establishment of UNESCO Chairs in participating universities, the UNESCO UNITWIN Programme: - Promotes international inter-university cooperation to enhance institutional capacities through knowledge sharing and collaborative work; - Builds bridges between the academic world, civil society, local communities, research, and policymaking, to strengthen cooperation. The UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves transfers scientific knowledge from the academic world to society and actions implemented in biosphere reserves encouraging sustainable development.
International Science Council (ISC)	- Promote international research on global challenges; - Increase evidence-informed understanding and decision-making; - Promote the continued and equal advancement of scientific rigour, creativity and relevance; - Protect scientific freedom and advocate principles for the responsible practice of science	ISC has a membership of over 140 national scientific bodies and 40 international scientific unions. It acts through: 1. A General Assembly; 2. A Governing Board; 3. Advisory and ad hoc committees; 4. A Secretariat; 5. Three regional offices in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean	ISC activities span a range of issues, including sustainability, poverty, urban health, disaster risk reduction, data, observing systems, and science advice to governments. These include: - Sponsoring or co-sponsoring international scientific initiatives such as Future Earth; - Managing international funding initiatives supporting research; - Working with global policy frameworks, assessments and inter-governmental networks such as IPBES; - Endorsing, co-organizing and participating in scientific events. The regional offices: - Support scientific networks in their regions; - Facilitate the participation of scientists from developing countries in the activities of ISC and its members.
Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)	Advance free and open access to biodiversity data	GBIF is an intergovernmental initiative: Participants are countries and international organizations	GBIF's mandate is to: Provide access to the data resources and products needed by researchers and policymakers;

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
		• Participant nodes are responsible for coordinating in-country activities with data-holding institutions • Funded by governments and served by a Secretariat.	• Establish and support effective national information facilities; • Cooperate with other biodiversity informatics activities to enhance information infrastructure; • Assess and prioritize gaps and variations within GBIF data to improve data quality. GBIF provides capacity enhancement activities, including: • Production of documentation and learning resources; • Delivery of courses (on-site workshops or e-learning platform hosted by GBIF Spain); • Support programme to address specific needs by facilitating collaboration among participants and providing co-funding; • Mentoring programme performed by volunteers; • Biodiversity open data ambassadors; • Regional knowledge networks and a global community of practice.
Consortium of Scientific Partners on Biodiversity (CSP)	Leverage the expertise and experience of leading national technical and scientific institutions to carry out education and training activities to build scientific, technical and policy skills in the area of biodiversity	The CSP is a network of 24 institutions with a wide range of profiles and purposes. It is presided by two co-chairs and supported by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).	As a consortium, CSP members: • Organize and deliver trainings in specific areas in the margins of major CBD meetings; • Organize and champion the science-policy forum for biodiversity held in the margins of meetings of the Conference of the Parties. Individually, CSP members: • Develop and implement cooperation projects designed to build capacities and collect, compile, and organize biodiversity-relevant information for decision-making.
Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI)	Provide capacity-building in all fields of taxonomy to assist in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity	GTI national focal points, the GTI Coordination Mechanism and partner taxonomic institutions constitute the major advisory bodies. GTI activities are coordinated through the Secretariat of the Convention.	The GTI constituency undertakes capacity-building activities in response to decisions of the Conference of the Parties; these have included: • Providing capacity-building strategies and action plans; • Providing GTI-DNA tech training (2015-2020) to fill capacity gaps in application of DNA technologies for species identification in developing countries; • Organizing ad hoc forums to enhance international collaboration in taxonomy to support the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
			• Providing opportunities of workshops and technical training in collaboration with partners; • Providing guidance on outcome-oriented deliverables and facilitate project formulation at the national and regional levels through the provision of expert review. • Facilitating development of codes of conduct in relation to taxonomic research; • Communicating with experts to support national needs in taxonomy by connecting international experts and organizations.
International Barcode of Life (iBOL)	Discover and distinguish species using sequence variation in short gene regions (DNA barcodes)	iBOL is a research alliance of over 100 institutions from 31 developed and developing countries. The work of iBOL is overseen by a: 1. Board of Directors headed by an Executive Secretary; 2. Science Committee.	iBOL's research programmes include: • BARCODE 500K (completed): Helped establish the sequencing facilities, analytical protocols, informatics platforms, and international collaboration needed to build DNA barcode reference libraries, and the Barcode of Life Data Systems (BOLD), an open access barcode reference library. • BIOSCAN: Launched in 2019, it seeks to scan life and codify species interactions while expanding the reference library.
Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN)	To foster collaboration among repositories of genomic samples in order to ensure quality standards, improve best practices, secure interoperability, and harmonize exchange of material	GGBN includes 92 members from 32 countries. The work of GGBN is overseen by: 1. An Executive Committee; 2. A Secretariat, hosted by the Smithsonian Institution (USA); 3. A Technical Management Office, hosted by the Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem (Germany); 4. Five Task Forces.	GGBN's mandate is to: • Develop and manage the GGBN Data Portal, through which standardized data about genomic samples can be shared; • Expand the network's geographic and taxonomic coverage; • Use the information from the Data Portal to highlight taxonomic and geographic strengths and weaknesses in individual member collections and across the network, and gather information on best practices for collection and data management; • Develop ethical standards regarding access to biological samples, their use, and the sharing of the resulting research and/or benefits.
International Nucleotide Sequence Database Collaboration (INSDC)	Collect and disseminate databases containing DNA and RNA sequences	Initiative operating between the DNA Data Bank of Japan (DDBJ), the European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI) and the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI, United States).	New and updated data on nucleotide sequences contributed by research teams to each of the three databases are synchronized on a daily basis through continuous interaction between the staff at each the collaborating organizations.

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
		An International Advisory Committee produces guidelines regarding definitions, content and syntax.	
Global Invasive Alien Species Information Partnership (GIASI Partnership)	Maximize the capacity of Parties and partners to access, exchange, analyse, and apply the information and informatics tools needed to prevent, control and eradicate invasive alien species in a timely and reliable manner	The Partnership operates through a "Partnership Network" comprised of invasive alien species information users and providers. Its governance structure comprises: 1. A Steering Committee; 2. A Partnership Coordinator; 3. Working Groups/Task Teams comprised of Party representatives and experts.	Support provided by the Partnership consists of: • Advisory service on matters relevant to invasive alien species information systems, data, and analytical tools; • Management of a web-based Information Gateway for access to and exchange of information on invasive alien species; • Activities to facilitate the development of new and better information systems and analytical tools to address relevant issues; • Targeted grants and in-kind services, such as technical meetings; to build the capacity of invasive alien species information systems and analytical tools.
Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BCGI)	Mobilize botanic gardens and engage partners in securing plant diversity for the well-being of people and the planet	BCGI brings together 800 botanic gardens in 118 countries. It operates through: 1. BGCI global headquarters in Richmond (United Kingdom); 2. Offices in China, Kenya, the Russian Federation, and USA; 3. Board of Directors and BCGI-US Board; 4. International Advisory Council.	BCGI supports and empowers its members and the wider conservation community by providing: • Leadership and advocacy; • Support to projects in plant conservation policy, practice and education; • Coordination of efforts and capacity-building in plant conservation in botanic gardens and broader society; • Funding.
NBSAP Forum	Support the revision and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs)	Hosted by the Secretariat of the CBD, UNDP, and UNEP	The NBSAP Forum consists of a web portal that includes the following support functions: • A resource library; • A best practice facility where members can share techniques and solutions to NBSAP development and implementation challenges; • An e-learning platform providing free learning opportunities; • An online forum where members can provide advice and share experiences; • A technical help desk facility to support NBSAP practitioners; • A peer review facility.

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
Global ABS Community	Provide an enabling environment to identify, collect, generate, share and uptake experiences and knowledge from the implementation of ABS and the Nagoya Protocol at the national levels based on a global cooperation framework	The Global ABS Community is part of a UNDP-GEF project on access to genetic resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits (ABS). United Nations Volunteers is in charge of implementing the Global ABS Community.	The virtual platform is oriented to provide support in the form of: - Access to knowledge products (guidelines, manuals); - Community discussion forums; - e-Learning through courses, live transmissions and webinars; - The Global ABS Legal Clinics; - Global ABS Business Facility.
UNEP Regional Seas Programme	Implements UNEP's marine-related policies addressing the degradation of oceans and coastal areas by engaging countries in comprehensive and specific actions	The Regional Seas Programme is a global programme managed from UNEP's Regional Seas Branch in Nairobi. It encompasses 18 individual Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, of which seven are also hosted by UNEP. They work through Secretariats or Regional Coordinating Units and Regional Activity Centres.	The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans focus on four thematic areas and do so by: - Supporting member States with developing integrated ocean policy and improve national legislation to enhance consistency across sectors; - Identifying and raising the visibility of specific issues through research and science-policy interactions; - Enhancing the production and exchange of data, information management, monitoring and assessment through development of guidelines, baselines, indicators, and monitoring programmes; - Mandating global partnerships and interregional cooperation, including with the participation of NGOs and private sector; - Assessing the impacts of climate change in marine and coastal areas to propose adaptation strategies; - Creating or supporting climate research, policy networks and interregional knowledge exchange; supporting mainstreaming into policies and institutional frameworks; and facilitating access to instruments for climate financing.
Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)	Assist islands in addressing challenges related to the conservation and sustainable use of the natural resources in islands	GLISPA's work is guided by: - A Board; - A Council meeting biennially; - A Coordination Team.	GLIPSA provides a global platform that enables islands to: - Mobilize high-level political will for island commitments and action that address global challenges; - Build and strengthen partnerships to promote technical and scientific cooperation and develop solutions to common problems; - Strategize to bring global attention to and support for island solutions and initiatives through major international meetings.

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
Global Commons Alliance	To scale science-based action to protect people and planet	The Alliance is a partnership of over 50 philanthropy, science, business and advocacy organizations, and has four components: 1. Earth Commission: team of scientists and five working groups. The secretariat is hosted by Future Earth in collaboration with Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research and International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis; 2. Science-Based Targets Network (SBTN): network of international NGOs. 3. Earth HQ: media platform, network and creative agency. 4. Systems Change Lab: centralized tracking platform.	Each component has a specific mandate: • The Earth Commission synthesizes research to define the conditions for a healthy planet and help set science-based targets. • SBTN translates science into guidance for companies and cities so they can set science-based targets. • Earth HQ builds networks and partnerships with media to promote innovative ways to talk about environmental issues. • The Systems Change Lab will monitor transformations across systems, showcase case studies of systems change, and work with new coalitions and champions to address transformations at greatest risk.
Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE)	Prevent extinctions by identifying and safeguarding key sites where species are in imminent danger of disappearing	Joint initiative of over 90 biodiversity conservation organizations around the world. Its work is implemented by: 1. Global Steering Committee comprised of 10 members. 2. Secretariat hosted by the American Bird Conservancy in the USA	AZE and its members have identified 853 key sites and work to safeguard them through: • Policy implementation by working with governments, multinational agreements, and international financial institutions; • Research efforts by identifying sites and determining protected area coverage; • Site conservation by supporting the establishment of protected areas, private protected areas, or other area-based conservation measures.
World Federation for Culture Collections (WFCC)	Promote and support the establishment of culture collections and related services (authentication, maintenance, and distribution)	WFCC is a multidisciplinary commission of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) and a federation within the International Union of Microbiological Societies (IUMS). Its work is implemented by: 1. A 16-member Executive Board. 2. Two advisory panels. 3. A series of committees.	WFCC: • Manages the World Data Center for Microorganism; • Provides liaison and set up an information network between the collections and their users; • Organizes workshops and conferences, publications, and newsletters.

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
Regional			
[ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB)](#)	Facilitate cooperation and coordination among the ASEAN member States and with relevant organizations on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from its use	The ACB acts through: 1. Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC): Scientists nominated by member States 2. ASEAN Biodiversity Fund	The SAC addresses specific concerns by fostering a multidisciplinary approach through technical and scientific cooperation. It does so by: • Providing technical assistance on project development, monitoring, and evaluation; • Expanding research and development on biodiversity conservation; • Providing scientific and technical expertise on the content and presentation of biodiversity data and knowledge products; • Serving as peer reviewers of ACB publications; • Supporting the technical requirements of the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) Programme. • Providing Global Taxonomy Initiative activities in the region
[ALTER-Net](#)	Integrate research capability to assess changes in biodiversity, analyse the effect of those changes on ecosystem services and inform the public and policy makers about this at a European scale	ALTER-Net is a network of European research organizations, bringing together natural and social science researchers from 18 European countries	ALTER-Net activities include: • Supporting high-impact research on pressing topical issues facing science and society through the management of the EKLIPSE mechanism, • Supporting international partner research and exchange, enabling international consortium building and internal sharing of funding opportunities through its Call Exchange clearing house mechanism; • Supporting research infrastructure, including the LTER-Europe network of Long-Term Ecosystem Research sites (LTER), Long-Term Socio-Ecological Research platforms (LTSER) and LifeWatch; • Hosting a summer school providing training for young researchers in interdisciplinary approaches; • Organizing biennial conferences.
[BiodivERsA](#)	Build a platform to identify the most pressing strategic issues for biodiversity, and support and promote excellence in biodiversity research that is relevant to biodiversity policy and management, at a European transnational scale	BiodivERsA operates via: 1. A Coordination team; 2. A General Assembly; 3. An Executive Board; 4. An Advisory Board; 5. Network of national and regional funding organizations (39 agencies,	BiodivERsA seeks to develop a mechanism to promote strategic cooperation in biodiversity research and related disciplines in Europe, and to provide policymakers and other stakeholders with knowledge, tools and solutions to biodiversity and ecosystems-related issues. It does so by: • Undertaking research mapping through the analysis of research strategies on biodiversity and ecosystem services;

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
		ministries and local authorities from 25 countries) They are supported by: 1. A Chief Executive Officer; 2. Secretariat officer(s); 3. An Officer dedicated to science-society/policy interfacing.	• Developing of a strategic roadmap with a multi-year vision to support pan-European research; • Developing a database providing access to information on current and past European funding programmes and associated projects to analyse funding trends, gaps, and needs; • Launching pan-European calls for research proposals, and funding medium-sized research projects; • Developing tools to help researchers identify and involve stakeholders in their research projects; • Enhancing the dissemination of results and knowledge to stakeholders and policymakers through the development of policy briefs or analyses.
Oppla	Improve and simplify knowledge-sharing to better manage natural capital and ecosystem services.	Oppla has a membership of over 60 universities, research institutes, agencies and enterprises as part of a joint activity between the European Commission-funded projects OPERAs and OpenNESS.	Oppla is an open platform with free membership, acting as the EU repository of nature-based solutions, and provides the following services: • Ask Oppla: Crowd-sourced enquiry service, where members of the community help to answer each other's questions; • Oppla Marketplace: Knowledge supermarket to obtain and promote guidance, software, data and other resources; • Oppla Community: System for networking with members.
Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities (CETAF)	Promote scientific research and access to European collections; enable the formation of partnerships to exploit European funding opportunities; and be a voice for taxonomy and systematic biology in Europe	The CETAF network comprises 37 members representing 63 taxonomic institutions from 22 countries. It operates through: 1. A General Assembly; 2. An Executive Committee; 3. A General Secretariat; 4. Working Commissions; 5. Subcommittees as advisory groups for a specific purpose; 6. Special interest groups.	CETAF initiatives include: • European Journal of Taxonomy (EJT); • Distributed European School of Taxonomy (DEST); • Biodiversity Heritage Library – Europe (BHL-Europe). CETAF activities include: • Innovation and consolidation for large scale digitisation of natural heritage (ICEDIG); • European Biodiversity Observation Network (EU BON); • Talent in Biodiversity (BIOTALENT); • Synthesis of Systematic Resources (SYNTHESYS); • BioCASE.
European Culture Collections' Organization (ECCO)	• Support the interests of European collections of microorganisms; • Support private and public culture collection users;	ECCO comprises 61 members from 22 European countries. It operates through: 1. A General Assembly; 2. An Executive Board;	ECCO seeks to: • Establish liaison between persons and organizations involved with culture collections; • Establish means of communication among culture collections, users, and organizations;

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
	• Support the improvement of scientific and technical standards related to culture collection activities, in collaboration with WFCC	3. Common interest groups	• Collaborate with networks of data services; • Provide for the perpetuation of important collections of microorganisms and services; • Promote the establishment of new special reference collections and services in Europe; • Organize conferences and symposia; • Encourage the study and publication of procedures; • Promote the training of personnel; • Attempt the solution of problems concerning distribution of cultures of microorganisms.
Asian Consortium for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Microbial Resources	Promote collaborations among governments and public organizations for the purposes of enhancing conservation and sustainable use of microbial resources in Asia	The ACM comprises 28 organizations from 12 Asian countries. It runs through: 1. A Secretariat hosted by the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation of Japan; 2. Five Task Forces to discuss specific items	The activities of the ACM include: • Collaborate among biological resource centres; • Promote research and development of microbial resources and application for industrial purposes; • Enhance awareness of the ACM's activities; • Develop human resources; • Exchange perspectives and information; • Arrange scientific meetings.
Bern Convention	Conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats by: • Promoting national conservation policies; • Considering the impact of planning and development on the environment; • Promoting education and information on conservation; • Coordinating research.	The institutions of the Bern Convention are as follows: 1. A Standing Committee, which includes all Contracting Parties as well as observer States and organizations; 2. The Secretariat of the Convention; 3. Nine Groups of Experts, made up of Parties representatives.	The Groups of Experts: • Review the implementation of the Convention; • Help develop species action plans, codes of conducts, standards, and guidelines presented to the Standing Committee at its annual meetings for adoption.
CEEweb for Biodiversity	Enhance biodiversity and sustainable development in the Central and Eastern European region by forming joint strategies and programmes; promoting the enforcement of international conventions; and raise public awareness	CEEweb is a network of 53 NGOs. It is governed through the following: 1. An Annual Meeting consisting of the members; 2. A Board comprised of a President, Vice-President, and seven additional members; 3. A Secretary General at the head of the central office;	Activities carried out by CEEweb include: • Research in relevant fields, and gathering of scientific results, data, case studies and practices to summarize and make them accessible to the public; • Promotion of scientific knowledge from international organizations and own network; promotion of relevant topics through regional and European media; • Contribution to the conservation of common natural assets through the formation of joint strategies and programmes;

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
		4. A Supervisory Committee; 5. Working Groups.	• Lobbying activity, campaigning and consultancy; • Environmental education; • Information and expertise exchange; networking between organizations and other stakeholders; channelling information on biodiversity to members and other stakeholders; knowledge exchange between experts during key meetings; • Capacity-building, including during the annual CEEweb Academy.
Regional Gateway for Technology Transfer and Climate Change Action for Latin America and the Caribbean (REGATTA)	Strengthen capacity and knowledge sharing of climate change technologies and experiences for adaptation and mitigation in Latin America and the Caribbean	The five-person team composing the REGATTA Secretariat is hosted by the UNEP Regional Office in Latin America and the Caribbean	REGATTA: • Supports the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation in National Development Plans, strengthening the dialogue for the National Adaptation Plan process; • Maintains a user-friendly database that collects the key institutions working on climate change mitigation and adaptation in the region; • Compiles climate change information, gathers experiences, disseminates cutting-edge knowledge, and builds connections among relevant sectors and subregions through communities of practice, webinars and workshops; • Provides technical support for the development of regional strategies; • Contributes to the implementation of the CTCN in the region, through the organization of joint seminars and the provision of technical support to the development of proposals.
		Subregional/thematic	
Carpathian Convention	Protect the natural and cultural heritage of the region and support its sustainable development	The Carpathian Convention includes the following bodies: 1. The Conference of the Parties 2. The Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee (CCIC) 3. Eight thematic Working Groups, including the WG on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity (Biodiversity)	The Convention provides: • A transnational framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy integration; • An open forum for participation by stakeholders and the public; • A platform for developing and implementing transnational strategies, programmes and projects for environmental protection and sustainable development. The WG on Biodiversity is in charge of:

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
			• Developing a Strategic Action Plan for the Implementation of the Protocol on Biodiversity; • Cooperating with initiatives of interest, including Centralparks and ConnectGREEN; • Developing the strategy and work plan of the Carpathian Network of Protected Areas and the Carpathian Wetlands Initiative; • Providing guidance on specific biodiversity-related issues.
International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)	Encourage the adoption of best practice in sustainable management of coral reefs and associated ecosystems; build capacity; and raise awareness on the plight of coral reefs around the world	ICRI is a partnership of close to 90 members, including governments, intergovernmental organizations, organizations representing academia, civil society, practitioners, foundations and activists	ICRI: • Provides a platform for discussion, knowledge sharing, exchange of technologies, consensus-building on questions relating to coral reef policy, management and conservation, and development of partnerships and cooperation; • Supports initiatives such as the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), which helps strengthen the role of the regions in coordinating the collection and reporting of data, developing procedures for establishing standards, and developing key indicators.
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	Coordinate the policies, programmes and activities of 26 governments and administrations of the Pacific region on the protection and sustainable use of the region's environment	SPREP is the Secretariat of the Noumea Convention, the Waigani Convention and the Apia Convention. Its organs are: 1. The SPREP Meeting; 2. The Secretariat, located in Samoa, including a Project Coordination Unit.	SPREP: • Provides technical and advisory support to members in designing and implementing NBSAPs and equivalents; • Supports its members with high-impact projects across the Pacific region; • Develops strategies, action plans, and guidelines; • Organizes campaigns and conferences on relevant themes.
ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability	Create systemic change and support cities to become resilient, resource-efficient, biodiverse and low-carbon, and to develop inclusive, green approaches to urbanization	ICLEI is a global network of more than 1,750 local and regional governments in 124 countries. The ICLEI Cities Biodiversity Center, located in South Africa, has a dedicated team of biodiversity experts and offers supportive services to local governments.	ICLEI's activities are guided by five interconnected pathways. Members and teams of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships, and capacity-building. The nature-based development pathway seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity and urban ecosystems. The services offered by the Cities Biodiversity Center include: • Capacity development and up-skilling; • Technical advice; • Advocacy support and profiling of achievements; • Networking forums and conference organization.

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
			The Local Action for Biodiversity (LAB) programme: • Takes new local governments through a five-step process to improve and enhance biodiversity management, building lessons learned from other local governments; • Develops a local government network for biodiversity action.
Sub-Global Assessment Network (SGAN)	Build capacity for individuals and organizations to undertake and use ecosystem assessments at different scales	SGAN is a community of about 500 practitioners, researchers and policymakers, representing over 70 sub-global assessments. It is led by: 1. A Secretariat hosted by the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre; 2. An Advisory Committee providing oversight and guidance.	The activities of the network include: • Training workshops; • Promotion of lessons learned and best practices; • Access to different tools; • Forum to discuss different topics including both technical and governance/process issues.
Amphibian Survival Alliance (ASA)	Promote and coordinate the implementation of conservation actions for amphibians	ASA is a global alliance of 67 institutional partners. Its work is implemented by: 1. A Global Council 2. A Secretariat hosted by Synchronicity Earth in the United Kingdom	ASA provides a range of support to its partners, including: • Access to the partnership and targeted expertise; • Help with fundraising through sharing information; • Assistance with communication through ASA's channels; • Partnership coordination to implement the Amphibian Conservation Action Plan (ACAP) and progress evaluations; • Regular progress reports detailing accomplishments and challenges from across the partnership; • Access to scientific guidance to inform conservation planning and action.
CGIAR (formerly the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research)	Reduce poverty and hunger, improve human health and nutrition, and enhance ecosystem resilience through high-quality international agricultural research, partnership and leadership	Global partnership of international organizations managed by: 1. The System Council (governing body); 2. The CGIAR System Organization made up of: • The CGIAR System Board; • The System Management Office; • An Executive Management Team; • A CGIAR Trust Fund.	Research is carried out at the CGIAR Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers, composed of 15 centres collaborating with partners from research institutes, civil society, academia, development organizations, and the private sector.

Name of entity	Mandate and thematic focus	Institutional arrangements	Activities and modus operandi
Bioversity International	Deliver research-based solutions that harness agricultural biodiversity and transform food systems as a whole	Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) created an Alliance, which is part of CGIAR. It is overseen by: 1. Headquarters headed by a Director General; 2. Regional hubs and national offices of over 1,300 staff members; 3. Alliance Board of Trustees, including CGIAR system trustees.	The Alliance works with partners, as well as with the public and private sectors, to generate evidence and mainstream innovations in large-scale programmes. It does so by: • Working with genebank facilities; • Offering programmes on climate change adaptation and mitigation; • Documenting the use of local species and varieties, and supporting efforts to reduce loss of diversity; • Promoting dietary diversity by generating evidence for the nutritional value of such an approach; • Translating complex data into accessible, user-friendly information to support decision-making; • Co-developing innovations, strengthening capacities, and enhancing social inclusion; • Offering breeding programmes to develop and deliver superior varieties.
Green Growth Knowledge Platform (GGKP)	Catalyse a green economy transition by facilitating collaboration in knowledge generation, knowledge management, and knowledge sharing among leading policy, industry, and finance institutions and experts	Global network of experts and organizations led by: 1. A Senior Advisory Group; 2. A Steering Committee comprised of senior representatives from the Global Green Growth Institute, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UNEP, UNIDO, and the World Bank; 3. A Secretariat managing the initiative's operational activities.	The GGKP: • Supports collaborative knowledge generation, management, and sharing through the establishment of three platforms (the Green Growth Knowledge Platform, the Green Industry Platform, and the Green Finance Platform); • Has established nine expert working groups on fiscal instruments, trade and competitiveness, metrics and indicators, technology and innovation, inclusiveness, behavioural insights, sustainable infrastructure, natural capital, and green growth and the law.

_____