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**Cooperation with international organizations
and bodies established under other conventions**

Progress report on rolling-out the Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Note by the Secretariat

1. The Executive Secretary circulates herewith, for the information of participants in the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a report prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on progress in the roll-out of the Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements.
2. The report contains an overview of selected activities undertaken by UNEP between January 2023 and September 2024, to develop and promote the Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements and follows similar reports provided to the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.¹
3. The report is circulated in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat.

* CBD/COP/16/1.

¹ [CBD/SBI/3/INF/8](#) dated 8 June 2020 and [CBD/COP/15/INF/19](#) dated 4 December 2022.

PROGRESS REPORT ON ROLLING-OUT THE DATA REPORTING TOOL FOR MEAs - DaRT

1. INTRODUCTION AND FUNCTIONALITIES OF DART

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of selected activities undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) between January 2023 and September 2024 to develop and promote the Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements– DaRT and to roll-out the tool to Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The report builds on previous reports submitted to the 3rd Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-3)¹ and Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP-15) and provides key findings and observations on the use of the DaRT as feedback received by parties and how it collaborates with other relevant tools.

2. The DaRT tool is hosted on the United Nations Information Portal on MEAs (InforMEA²) and developed and rolled-out by UNEP in collaboration with the secretariats of the CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions, with financial support from the EU, Switzerland (FOEN), the Global Environment Fund (GEF), and Sweden (SIDA). The tool was developed in 2016 in response to UNEA Resolution 2/17³ on enhancing the work of UNEP in facilitating cooperation, collaboration, and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions.

3. DaRT is a voluntary biodiversity knowledge management tool that supports Parties in improving national synergies, coordination, planning, reporting, review, and knowledge-management across biodiversity-related conventions and SDGs. The platform provides a private workspace that promotes harmonization and standardization of data and reporting. “Data” in the Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) refers to qualitative biodiversity information and knowledge used in national reporting. While the information stored in DaRT is in the form of text, images, links to existing text and indicators, DaRT does not produce quantitative information (numbers, statistics, indicators).

4. DaRT has three main functionalities: knowledge management for collaboration and reporting, alignment of national strategies and guidance for reporting, and implementation of biodiversity-related conventions. DaRT provides a single secure and private workspace where National Focal Points (NFPs), reporting officers, and biodiversity experts, collect, organize, share and reuse biodiversity knowledge for national reporting. The platform also brings together biodiversity-related conventions by providing a framework of interrelated global and regional strategies, goals and targets adopted by biodiversity-related conventions to which National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are mapped. Finally, DaRT provides an online library of biodiversity-related publications called the “Compendia”.

5. DaRT has been recognized in governing body decisions and resolutions of four MEAs: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the Carpathian Convention and the Cartagena Convention⁴.

¹ CBD/SBI/3/INF/8, dated June 8th, 2020, and CBD/COP/15/INF/19, dated December 4th, 2022.

² DaRT: <https://dart.informea.org> and InforMEA: <https://www.informea.org/en>.

³ UNEA Resolution 2/17.

⁴ CBD COP decisions on DaRT [14/25](#), [14/27](#), [15/5](#), [15/6](#), [15/13](#), [15/16](#); CMS [Resolution 11.10](#) (Rev.COP13) and ([Rev.COP14](#)); Ramsar [XIV.6](#); Carpathian [COP6/1](#), [COP7/1](#), [COP7/4](#), [COP7/6](#); Cartagena Convention COP17 DECISION XII.

2. ROLL-OUT: SUPPORTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY WITH THE ALIGNMENT OF NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

6. DaRT roll-out is anchored within the activities of the UNEP Law Division, under the Environmental Treaties Program, “Leveraging transformational change through coherent and synergistic implementation of Environmental Treaties” (2023-2026), referred to as Treaties Phase II, which aims to enhance synergies in the context of the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and the European Commission's Global Public Goods and Challenges (EU-GPGC) "Scaling-Up Action to Realize Synergies for Biodiversity" project (2017-2024).

7. To support cooperation and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions and in preparation for the Bern III Conference,⁵ the DaRT team contributed to a cross-mapping of MEA Strategic Plans⁶ with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (“Framework”), led by UNEP-WCMC, UNEP and in collaboration with fourteen MEA secretariats.⁷ The cross-mapping of biodiversity-related conventions, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) goals and targets with the GBF is available in the “Strategies” section of DaRT⁸. It was developed to assist Parties of the CBD in reviewing and updating their national biodiversity objectives in line with the GBF and other MEA strategic plans. The full cross-mapping of the Framework (including chemicals and waste, climate change and pollution MEAs) will be made available in InforMEA.

8. Building on the cross-mapping, DaRT was presented to countries as a tool for aligning National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) with the Framework. The approach by DaRT to support NBSAP alignment is described in Figure 1 below. Under the GEF Global Biodiversity Framework-Early Actions Support Project (GEF-7 GBF EAS⁹), the DaRT team participated in three UNEP Regional NBSAP Inception Workshops¹⁰ to assist 70 countries in accelerating alignment of national targets with the Framework, in collaboration with project partners (CBD Secretariat, UNDP and UNEP-WCMC). In addition, UNEP presented DaRT during the Webinar Series Session #5: "NBSAP alignment: Tools and technical support" on September 18-19, 2023¹¹.

⁵ [Bern III Conference](#).

⁶ Fourteen MEAs on biodiversity, pollution and climate change and ozone depletion.

⁷ Key entry points for cooperation and collaboration among multilateral environmental agreements ([CBD/SBI/4/INF/13](#)).

⁸ DaRT [Strategies](#) section includes the following global strategies: the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (CMS), the second Global Plan of Action for Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the IPPC Strategic Framework, the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024, the UNCCD Strategic Framework, the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

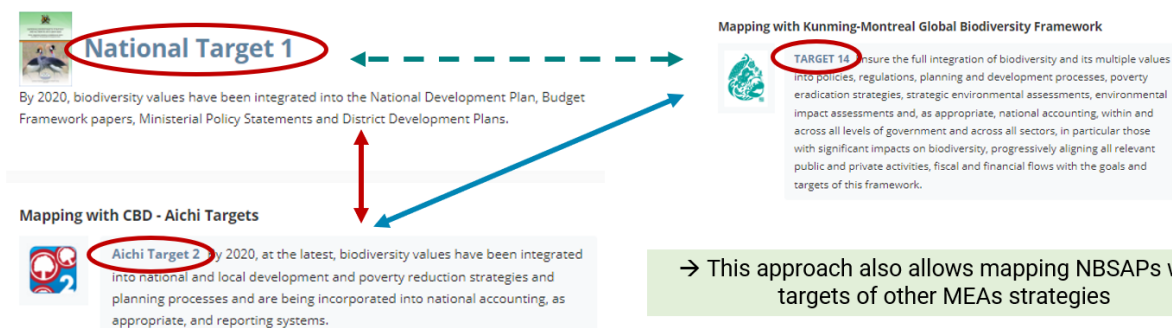
⁹ <https://www.learningfromnature.org/en/groups/gef-early-action-support-project/>

¹⁰ For African English-speaking countries in Nairobi, Kenya from May 2-4, 2023, for Asia Pacific and Eastern European countries, in Istanbul, Turkey on May 23-26, 2023, and for Francophone African countries in Lomé, Togo, July 18-21, 2023.

¹¹ [GEF Early Action Support Webinar Series – Webinar #5: National Target Alignment: Tools and Technical Support](#).

Figure 1: NBSAP alignment based on the Aichi Targets-NBSAP mapping¹² and the CBD Secretariat's Mapping of the Aichi Targets with the Framework¹³

How? Based on the mapping of a Party's NBSAP with the Aichi Targets, the mapping to the KM-GBF can easily be derived.



9. Three national workshops and two regional workshops supported knowledge management for reporting and NBSAP alignment. The GEF-funded national DaRT workshop held in Ghana on August 20-22, 2024, allowed Ghana to verify the alignment of its 2024 targets submitted to the CBD Secretariat, and supported the alignment of Ghana's 23 targets with those of other MEAs. Two national DaRT workshops were organized in China on September 6-8, 2023, in partnership with the Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences (NIES) of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment (MEE) and UNEP-WCMC¹⁴ and in Nigeria on November 20-22, 2024, with the Federal Ministry of Environment of Nigeria with financial support from Switzerland. Additionally, nine countries in Central Africa¹⁵ and seven countries in South Asia¹⁶ were trained on the use of DaRT through two GEF-funded regional DaRT workshops in Cameroon (on April 23-25, 2024) and in Nepal (on September 17-19, 2024). These two workshops were organized in partnership with the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and the South-Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP).

10. As a result of the Ghana workshop, the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) took steps to implement DaRT in order to facilitate the compilation of biodiversity information for reporting¹⁷. In Ghana, the workshop trained National Focal Points in the use of the tool as well as brainstormed on the establishment of a national DaRT group and further capacity building activities. Ghana was the first country that included DaRT training in its workplan under GEF EAS project, as a modality of implementation to be scaled up to a GEF-8 programme.

¹² Official mapping of old NBSAPs with Aichi Targets: <https://www.cbd.int/countries/targets>

¹³ Official mapping of the Framework with the Aichi Targets: <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets/6>

¹⁴ China's national biodiversity leads come together for the first time to explore new reporting tool.

¹⁵ Cameroon, Burundi, Chad, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Republic of Congo and Angola.

¹⁶ Bhutan, China, Nepal, Pakistan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

¹⁷ Ghana to implement Data Reporting Tool for biodiversity reporting.

3. TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT: IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND NATIONAL REPORTING

11. Feedback received by countries fed into DaRT technical developments. Based on feedback from national experts during DaRT workshops, an analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) was developed which guided DaRT technical development in 2023 and 2024 (see Table 1). While DaRT users found DaRT to be simple and easy to use and suitable for enhancing knowledge sharing and information exchange among MEA NFPs and national reporters, they indicated that interoperability with reporting platforms and tools needed to be improved.

Table 1: SWOT analysis

Internal origin	Strengths	Weaknesses
	1. Simple, easy, and accessible tool fostering collaboration among stakeholders	1. Interoperability is not available with all existing platforms
	2. Provides quick access to a lot of useful and easily available data	2. Missing translations for some global strategic plans, and improvement of quality of translations
	3. Consolidates information and data on the implementation of MEAs in one single national workspace	3. Requires a good internet connection (despite the bulk import form allowing to work offline to some extent)
	4. Facilitate knowledge sharing and exchange at different levels (local, provincial, national)	4. Data security and quality assurance concerns
	5. Provides effective information and knowledge management	5. Uploading, tagging and filtering reports is time-consuming
	6. Creates opportunities to enhance content on national biodiversity action	6. Reporting templates for MEAs are not included within the tool
	7. Promotes synergies for national reporting	
	8. Harmonizes and standardizes data and reports for all conventions	
External origin	Opportunities	Threats
	1. Includes a « cockpit » feature allowing Parties to track the state of implementation of strategic plans using a traffic light system for monitoring	1. Lack of recognition of DaRT as a reporting tool. For operationalization, DaRT would benefit from: i. Strong political will, ii. regulatory basis, and iii. a clear institutional set-up, with clear and shared responsibilities.
	2. Harmonizes and ensures interoperability with other existing global databases (e.g. species databases (GBIF ¹⁸) for facilitated tagging of content)	2. Sustainable funding, monitoring, and evaluation of the DaRT must be addressed.
	3. Collaboration to be sought with donors, development partners and other organizations for funding	3. Limited technical capacity of users to fully utilize DaRT; additional training is needed.
	4. Interoperability to be ensured with tools developed at the national and international level	4. Lack of and need for a feedback mechanism and online user support system
	5. Establishes a national DaRT working group, building on existing national mechanism and engage MEA focal points, environmental directorates, development partners, sectoral departments, academic researchers, etc.	5. Limited support for additional file types, such as spatial data (e.g., shape files)
	6. Creates regional DaRT working spaces to enhance regional cooperation	
	7. The development of a backend that automatically captures information from pre-existing reports would reduce the need for time-consuming copy-pasting	

12. DaRT National Workspaces and Country Dashboards were improved. To improve the user experience of DaRT, the DaRT website has been redesigned and some functionalities have been improved, including search and filtering, tagging options, and some indicators relevant to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

13. For the content of the DaRT national workspaces to be reflected in the reporting templates used by the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions, links have been established between DaRT and the Online Reporting System (ORS). As part of the EU-GPGC project on scaling up synergies tools implemented by UNEP,

¹⁸ [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#).

UNEP-WCMC upgraded ORS, the reporting system used by secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions such as the CMS family of conventions, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, ITPGRFA, and ensured that the new updated version of ORS was linked to DaRT. This new technical development will, for example, allow queries from the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands reporting template to be launched in the DaRT Ghana national workspace. The information collected and stored by Ghana in the DaRT workspace can be used for the national report to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, which can then be reused for reports to other conventions.

14. Using DaRT to support reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The DaRT team is in discussion with the CBD Secretariat on how best to use DaRT to prepare the 7th and 8th national reports to the CBD and to link DaRT to the Online Reporting Tool (ORT), the reporting system used by the CBD. Guidance is being prepared to facilitate the process of interoperability between the two tools. As requested by the Secretariat, the DaRT team has been establishing DaRT national workspaces for all Parties to the CBD. National Focal Points to the CBD are encouraged to contact the DaRT team to access their national DaRT workspace.

4. COOPERATION WITH OTHER TOOLS

15. Cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Under the GEF-7 EAS project, UNDP and UNEP collaborated to provide technical assistance to 169 countries. UNDP has developed the NBSAP Target Similarity Assessment Tool¹⁹, which uses GPT.3.5 Artificial Intelligence to map and identify similarities between national strategies and the framework, complementing the DaRT tool. While the NBSAP Target Similarity Assessment Tool focuses on alignment between NBSAP and the Framework, DaRT provides mapping of national strategies in relation to other biodiversity MEAs. The DaRT team collaborated with the UNDP team to present the NBSAP Target Similarity Assessment Tool at the DaRT workshops in Ghana and Nepal workshops.

16. Support for the CBD Gender Plan of Action 2023-2030²⁰. The Gender Plan of Action (GPA) has been included in the Strategies section of DaRT and the work of Women4Biodiversity in partnership with UNEP-WCMC to support countries in the implementing of the GPA has been presented during DaRT workshops. UNEP-WCMC has developed a draft methodology to calculate the component indicator to measure progress towards the implementation of Target 23 “Ensure gender equality and a gender-responsive approach for biodiversity action”²¹.

17. Collaboration with UNEP-WCMC Target Tracker. The DaRT team collaborated with the Target Tracker’s team for a SBSTTA-25 side-event on tools to monitor the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. At the request of Parties to CBD, UNEP-WCMC developed the Target Tracker²² which visualizes progress toward the goals and targets of the Framework, at national and global levels. The DaRT team is looking forward to further strengthening this collaboration and having indicators from the Target Trackers feed into DaRT workspaces.

5. PROMOTING AWARENESS ON DART

18. Awareness raising to facilitate the use of DaRT was undertaken as follows:

- DaRT booths organized at CMS COP-14 (12-17 February 2024) and UNEA-6 (26 February – 1 March 2024),
- DaRT helpdesks organized during CBD SBSTTA-25 (16-20 October 2023), SBSTTA-26 (13-18 May 2024), and SBI-4 (21-29 May 2024),
- Three DaRT side events organized at CBD SBSTTA-25 (October 16, 2024)²³, CMS-COP14 (February 15, 2024)²⁴, and CBD SBSTTA-26 (May 14, 2024)²⁵.

¹⁹ [NBSAP Target Similarity Assessment Tool](#)

²⁰ GPA: <https://dart.informea.org/taxonomy/term/8972>

²¹ Call by the CBD Secretariat ([link](#)) and by UNEP-WCMC ([link](#)).

²² <https://target-tracker.org/en>

²³ “Target Tracker platform and the potential role of tools to monitor the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”

²⁴ “Facilitating synergies in implementing MEAs to deliver results on the ground”:

https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/uploads/Updated_Side_Events_FullProgramme_2Feb2024_rev%281%29.pdf

²⁵ “Scientific tools and guidance developed by MEAs that can support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”:
<https://www.cbd.int/side-events/5423>