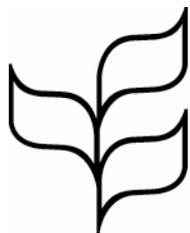




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**WORKSHOP ON SYNERGIES AMONG THE
BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS**

Geneva, Switzerland, 8-11 February 2016

**STUDY ON KEY CAPACITY-BUILDING AND AWARENESS-RAISING NEEDS REGARDING
COOPERATION AMONG MEAS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL**

NOTE BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

1. The Executive Secretary presents herein the advance draft final report of the study conducted on key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among multilateral environment agreements at the national level.
2. The study was undertaken in the context of the implementation of decision XII/6 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. Specifically, it responds to the request to the Executive Secretary to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a study on key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements at the national level as an input for the workshop on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. The study was undertaken on behalf of the Secretariat by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).
3. The study has been enabled through grant funding provided for this purpose by the Government of Switzerland. The Secretariat is grateful to both the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Finland for their generous financial support to the implementation of decision XII/6.

Key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among MEAs at the national level

Final report – February 2016

Acknowledgements

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The study was undertaken on behalf of the Secretariat by the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). It was drafted and edited by Katharina Rogalla von Bieberstein, Mads Christensen and Kaisa Pietila.

The study was enabled through grant funding provided for this purpose by the Government of Switzerland. The Secretariat is grateful to both the Government of Switzerland and the Government of Finland for their generous financial support to the implementation of decision XII/6. The Secretariat would also like to express its gratitude to all contributors, including the respondents to the survey that was undertaken in the context of the study.

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List of acronyms

ABS	Access and Benefit-Sharing
AEWA	African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement
BLG	Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEPA	Communication, Education and Public Awareness
CHART	Caribbean Harmonized Reporting Template
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of the Parties
CSAB	Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EMG	Environment Management Group
GEF	Global Environment Facility
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IPBES	Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MoU/Cs	Joint Memoranda of Understanding/Cooperation
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

NCSA	National Capacity Self-Assessment
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NP	Nagoya Protocol
ORS	Online Reporting System
PoWPA	Programme of Work on Protected Areas
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCLOS	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNEA	UN Environment Assembly
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNEP- WCMC	UNEP – World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WWF	World Wide Fund For Nature (also known as World Wildlife Fund)

Executive summary

This study has been prepared in response to a decision by the 12th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 12), which requested the Executive Secretary to prepare *a study on key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements at the national level*¹. The study will be an input for a workshop in February 2016, which aims to prepare options which could include elements for a possible road map for Parties to enhance synergies and implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at all levels. Hence, the study focuses primarily on the biodiversity-related conventions², but also touches upon the needs regarding cooperation among other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

The study draws on a survey undertaken by the CBD Secretariat at the end of 2015, receiving 184 entries in total, and supporting literature. It analyzes the capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level, existing learning opportunities, tools and mechanism to address those needs, and explores future opportunities to better address those needs in the future.

Key findings

1. While there is some awareness on the benefits derived from enhancing cooperation among those involved in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions in countries, the importance of raising awareness of the potential benefits of enhanced cooperation and collaboration was rated as very high by survey respondents.
2. Many survey respondents considered the awareness-raising needs in biodiversity conservation in more general terms and therefore noted the need to increase the public's awareness of biodiversity conservation and the conventions.
3. There is considerable overlap between the capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs. The overlap can be attributed to awareness-raising being a form of capacity-building, as many capacity-building activities also address awareness-raising.
4. The most frequently identified capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation (as well as means to address those needs) relate to the following key areas:
 - Communication and networking, in particular among the national focal points (NFPs);
 - Cooperation of stakeholders involved in the implementation of the conventions;
 - Knowledge and information sharing on biodiversity, sustainable use and the biodiversity-related conventions (especially on roles and responsibilities in national-level implementation);
 - Stakeholder engagement and partnership building; and
 - Biodiversity mainstreaming.

Needs falling within these categories were identified for the biodiversity-related conventions as well as other MEAs.

¹ CBD COP 12 decision XII/6, paragraph 11(a)

² For the purposes of this study, defined as the seven members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG): the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC); the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA); the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; and the World Heritage Convention (WHC).

5. There are already a number of learning opportunities and tools available to address the capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions. However, there are major shortcomings in addressing the needs and the existing guidance and tools are not expected to effectively address them unless further action is taken.
6. There is no critical need to come up with new tools or mechanisms, but the existing tools and mechanisms ought to be strengthened, including raising awareness on their existence. Key tools and mechanisms that need to be promoted further to strengthen their use include:
 - a. Cooperation mechanisms for NFPs (formal or informal) and potentially other stakeholders involved in the implementation of the conventions; and
 - b. Meetings or workshops on issues related to one or multiple of the biodiversity-related conventions which facilitate exchange of NFPs and other stakeholders.
7. In the short term, it will be particularly important to take advantage of the identified ongoing or planned capacity-building activities at the different levels of governance that would benefit from enhanced cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.
8. The key challenge is identifying which steps should be taken to better address the identified capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs at the different levels of governance.

1 Introduction

1.1 Setting the stage

In response to a deteriorating environment and a rapid loss of the world's biodiversity, countries have negotiated and agreed to be bound by a number of biodiversity-related conventions over the past decades. This has created a significant opportunity for conserving and enhancing sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. These efforts have put in place a comprehensive governance regime addressing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. However, as the number of obligations under international and regional legal instruments has grown, so have concerns about how to implement them effectively and coherently, and that there might be duplication of efforts. In addition, understanding the scope and focus of each is important to ensure that any gaps in efforts are identified and effectively addressed.

During the past decade, governments have thus repeatedly called for enhanced cooperation and synergies as important means to enhance the effectiveness of Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEAs) — including those related to biodiversity. This is reflected in various decisions of the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions, but also in decisions/resolutions of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) governing body and the United Nations (UN) General Assembly that have aimed at reforming the international environmental governance-system in large.³ In particular paragraph 89 of the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) outcome document, *The Future We Want*, encourages the parties of the MEAs to consider further measures to promote policy coherence, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination and cooperation among the MEAs.⁴

1.2 Origin and purpose of this study

Recently, at the 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 12) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), a process was launched for Parties to biodiversity-related conventions to identify options to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them, with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels (COP decision XII/6). This decision on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, “*a study on key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements at the national level*” (paragraph 11).

This study is planned as an input for a workshop called for in the same decision (paragraph 6). The aim of the workshop is “*to prepare options, which could include elements for a possible road map, for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them ... with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels*”. This workshop is being prepared by an informal advisory group established for this purpose. It will take place in February 2016 in Switzerland and will involve representatives of Parties to each of the biodiversity-related conventions.

The study focuses on the biodiversity-related conventions⁵ considering that most of CBD decision XII/6 is about cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions. However,

³ UNEP-WCMC (2012) Promoting Synergies in the biodiversity-related MEAs. Available online:

http://www.unep.org/roe/Portals/139/documents/Batumi/English/BP6_MEA_synergies_summary_WCMC.pdf

⁴ UN (2012) *The Future We Want*. Available online: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E [Accessed: 27 January 2016].

⁵ For the purposes of this study, defined as the seven members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG): the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS); the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); the International Plant

following the structure of a survey executed as part of the study by CBD in late 2015 on the key capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation at the national level (hereafter referred to as CBD Survey 2015), the report also includes a section on the needs regarding cooperation among other MEAs.

Through an analysis of the capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs at the national level and of opportunities on how to address the identified needs, the study aims to contribute to enhancing cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level. The study elaborates on the benefits, challenges and opportunities of addressing such needs, and how to overcome barriers for building capacity and raising awareness. The study also identifies existing tools and guidance supporting enhanced capacity, enabling to look at the applicability of such tools and guidance. Thus, gaps in guidance are identified, and recommendations for addressing the gaps are examined.

Box 1: Key terms

Capacity: the ability of individuals, organisations and networks to perform their roles or function/s effectively, efficiently and in a sustainable manner. This includes the abilities, understandings, awareness, beliefs, attitudes, values, relationships, behaviors, motivations, resources and external conditions that enable individuals, organisations, networks and broader social systems to carry out functions and achieve their objectives over time.⁶

Capacity-building: the process by which individuals and groups, including organisations, institutions and countries, plan, develop, enhance, review and re-organize their systems, resources and knowledge; all reflected in their abilities, individually and collectively, to perform functions, solve problems and achieve objectives.⁷

Awareness-raising: a process which opens opportunities for information exchange in order to improve mutual understanding and to develop competencies and skills necessary to enable changes in social attitude and behavior.⁸

Protection Convention (IPPC); the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA); the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; and the World Heritage Convention (WHC).

⁶ Adapted from 'NORAD (2000) Handbook in Assessment of Institutional Sustainability. Oslo, Norway' and papers by 'Peter Morgan (1998) Capacity and Capacity Development-Some Strategies and 'Peter Morgan (1999) An Update on the Performance Monitoring of Capacity Development Programs, What Are We Learning?

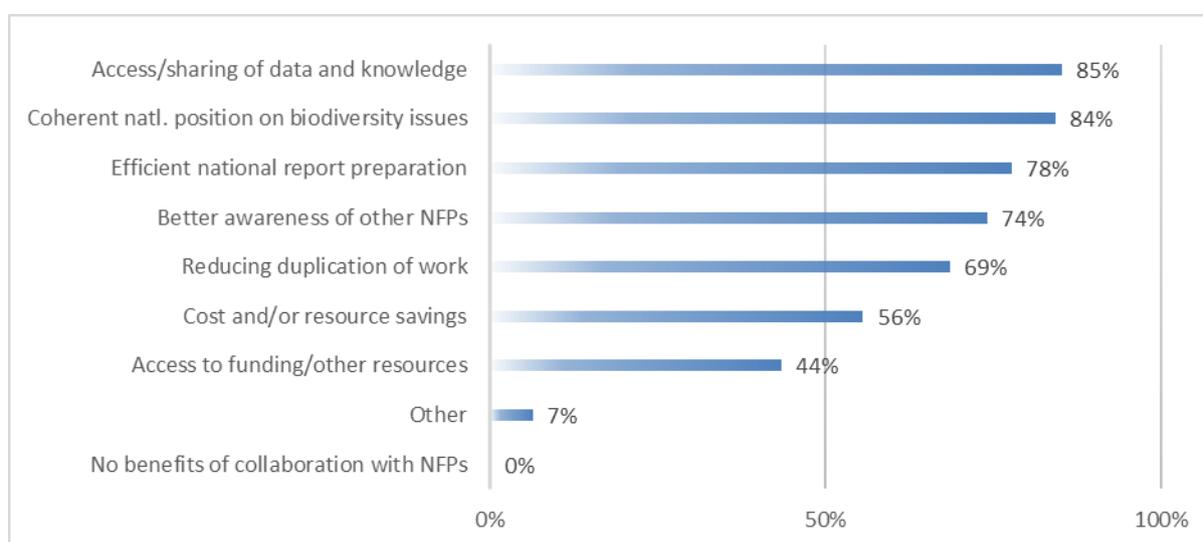
⁷ Based on OECD, glossary of key terms. [Online] Available from: <https://search.oecd.org/development/governance-peace/conflictandfragility/whatdowemeanaglossaryofkeyincafterms.htm> [Accessed 27 January 2016]

⁸ Based on Sayers, Richard, Principles of awareness-raising: Information literacy, a case study. Bangkok: UNESCO Bangkok, 2006

1.3 Benefits of cooperation and synergies

There is a wide range of benefits to be gained by working more strategically and implementing the biodiversity-related conventions in a more coherent manner at the national level.

According to a UNEP Survey 2014 that informed the development of the *Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels*⁹ (hereafter referred to as UNEP Sourcebook), the key benefits of enhancing cooperation and collaboration **among national focal points (NFPs)** of the biodiversity-related conventions is improved access to and sharing of data and knowledge (Graph 1). Another key benefit identified was the opportunity to develop coherent national positions on biodiversity related issues. Additional benefits of cooperation include increased efficiency in the preparation of national reports, cost and resource savings, and reduced duplication of work between NFPs as well as a better awareness of each other's roles.



Graph 1 Main benefits of enhancing cooperation and collaboration among NFPs of the biodiversity-related conventions (UNEP Survey, 2014)¹⁰

As the results of the UNEP Survey 2014 are not only relevant to NFPs, but to all stakeholders involved in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions, it was assumed that a survey on the key benefits of enhancing cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the conventions would provide similar results. This assumption has further been strengthened by the results of the CBD Survey 2015. When asked about the importance of cooperation in implementing the biodiversity-related conventions at national level, respondents identified very similar benefits, whether with respect to NFP cooperation or in general. One respondent for example stated that:

*“Strengthening the cooperation **among NFPs and other key stakeholders** engaged in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions has benefits for all thematic areas. One of the key benefits of enhancing cooperation among NFPs of the biodiversity-related conventions would be **improved access to information and sharing of data and knowledge**. This would allow the inclusion of timely and accurate information in decision-making processes. Additional*

⁹ UNEP (2015) Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya. Available online: <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>

¹⁰ Ibid. al.

*benefits of cooperation would include more **efficient preparation of national reports, cost and resource savings and reduced duplication of work** between NFPs as well as a **better awareness of each other's roles.***

The above statement summarizes the views of many of the respondents to the CBD Survey 2015 on the benefits of cooperation. Specific benefits frequently mentioned were: increased efficiency of limited financial and human resources; improvement of practical implementation of the conventions due to better coordination; reduction of duplication of activities and efforts; sharing of experiences to learn better practices; harmonizing reporting; improved monitoring of the status and trends in biodiversity; and the recognition of common goals and targets, as well as identification of suitable indicators for achieving process toward targets.

The benefits of cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions have also been recognized in several decisions or resolutions of these conventions¹¹. Among these are

CBD decision XII/6 (2014):

*“Encourages Parties to improve cooperation among Biodiversity-related Conventions and other organizations at all levels **to enhance effectiveness and efficiency in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention;**”*

CMS resolution 11.10 (2014):

*“Urges Parties to establish close collaboration at the national level between the focal point of the CMS and the focal points of other relevant conventions **in order for Governments to develop coherent and synergistic approaches across the conventions and increase effectiveness of national efforts,** for example by developing national biodiversity working groups to coordinate the work of focal points of relevant MEAs and other stakeholders inter alia through relevant measures in NBSAPs [National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans], harmonized national reporting and adoption of coherent national positions in respect of each MEA.”*

Ramsar Convention resolution XI.6 (2012):

*“Urges Contracting Parties to take active steps at national level to improve regular liaison and collaboration among... the focal points of related conventions and agreements, including as appropriate through their inclusion in National Ramsar/Wetland Committees, **in order to ensure that national responses to global environmental issues will be as consistent as possible with the objectives and values of the Ramsar Convention;**”*

1.4 Brief overview of existing global and regional initiatives and processes for enhancing cooperation at the national level

Considerable efforts have already been made to foster cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national level and thus to enhance implementation. Rather than providing a comprehensive overview this section will only briefly present some of the global or regional level initiatives and processes for enhancing cooperation at the national level. Providing a comprehensive overview is beyond the scope of this study. Instead this study and in particular the CBD Survey 2015 will complement the picture further, by also providing information on learning opportunities, tools and mechanism to address the identified capacity building and awareness-raising needs.

¹¹ UNEP (2015) Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya; pg. 5. Available online: <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>

The first global-level process that should be mentioned in the context of enhancing cooperation at the national level is the adoption of the **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020** as an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for the entire UN system and other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development. This has created an important momentum to foster cooperation at the national level, most importantly through the development or updating of NBSAPs to implement the Strategic Plan at the national level.¹²

In support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, **capacity building initiatives by conventions and regional and/ or international organizations** to enhance coordination and collaboration among the biodiversity-related conventions for example included a 2013 workshop on “indicators and integration of CITES and CMS objectives organized as part of NBSAP updating”¹³ in Cameroon, a 2012 workshop on “integration of CMS and CITES objectives into NBSAPs” in Zimbabwe¹⁴, as well as a 2014 tandem workshop for NFPs of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol (NP)¹⁵. The latter was organized by the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Capacity Development Initiative in cooperation with the Secretariats of the CBD and the ITPGRFA and aimed to highlight potential issues for consideration with a view to promote the harmonious implementation of the ITPGRFA and the NP. It build on the outcome of an expert workshop that explored issues related to the interface between these two agreements.¹⁶

Other key initiatives to enhance cooperation at the national level, aimed at developing **harmonized reporting templates** for five biodiversity-related conventions. Initiated by the Australian Government in collaboration with the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the template that consisted of a core report of information needed for all five conventions, and supplementary annexes for specific information necessary for each convention, was trialed in 2008-2009 by a number of island states.¹⁷ Following this example, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) also developed a draft reporting template for the biodiversity-related conventions. The Caribbean Harmonized Reporting Template (CHART), was launched as a draft version in 2013.¹⁸ However, both templates have not been formally endorsed by the respective Secretariats yet.

Other initiatives related to reporting, include for example the development of an **online reporting system** (ORS) by UNEP-WCM in partnership with the secretariats of CMS and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA). The ORS has also been customized for use by CITES and the Bern Convention. Even though the ORS at present is used under one convention, it has the potential to facilitate reporting towards multiple conventions and thus to enhance cooperation.

¹² UNEP (2015) Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya; pg. 6. Available online: <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>

¹³ BIP (n.d.) Francophone Africa Capacity Building Workshop on Indicators and Integration of CITES and CMS Objectives as part of NBSAP Updating. Available online: <http://www.bipindicators.net/nationalindicatordevelopment/workshopsprojects/francophoneafricaworkshop> [Accessed 27 January 2016]

¹⁴ Report of the Regional Capacity-building Workshop on Integration of CMS and CITES Objectives into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Available online: http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/harare_november2012_report.pdf. [Accessed 28 January 2016]

¹⁵ ITPGRFA (2013) The International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol: Supporting mutual supportiveness in the implementation of both instruments at the national level. Workshop report. Available online: http://www.abs-initiative.info/uploads/media/ITPGRFA-NP_Rome_Expert_WS_29-31012013_Report_01.pdf.

¹⁶ Ibid. al.

¹⁷ Streamlined reporting to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. Available online: <http://www.environment.gov.au/node/13062>. [Accessed 29 January 2016]

¹⁸The draft template is [Online] Available from: http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community_organs/sustainable_development/mea_documents/meas_docs_feb_13/Harmonised%20Reporting/Proposed_Caribbean_Template_Final.doc. [Accessed 29 January 2016]

Lastly, and in addition to the CBD-led process to which this study contributes, and in response to a mandate provided by the Governing Council of UNEP in 2012, UNEP launched a project entitled “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies”. The two year project, implemented in 2014 and 2015, aimed at improving the efficiency, enhance coordination and cooperation, promote policy coherence and explore the opportunities for further synergies at all levels of the six major biodiversity-related conventions. One of the key outputs of the project with regard to cooperation at the national and regional levels, is the UNEP Sourcebook¹⁹. The Sourcebook, launched in June 2015 at the Ramsar Convention COP 12, provides NFPs of the biodiversity-related conventions and other stakeholders working on these conventions with options to achieve enhanced implementation of the conventions through strengthening cooperation. Another key output, the so-called **Options Paper**, which was the outcome document of two international expert meetings, sets out 28 options for enhancing cooperation in implementing biodiversity-related conventions, with 88 actions identified for various actors. Although focusing on the global level, the Options Paper also includes options addressing Parties to the biodiversity-related conventions and governments in general. It will provide input to discussions and decisions taken by Governments at both United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) 2 and CBD COP 13.

For a detailed list of existing activities and initiatives at various levels across the biodiversity-related conventions, see Annex 10: An overview of existing initiatives for enhancing coordination and collaboration at various levels across the biodiversity related-conventions²⁰, which was prepared as a background paper for the second multi-stakeholder expert meeting on elaboration of options for synergies among biodiversity-related MEAs, hosted by UNEP and the Government of Switzerland in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland in May 2015.

1.5 Methodology

The study draws from existing literature on cooperation, collaboration and the creation of synergies in implementing the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level, and in particular the UNEP Sourcebook²¹, and the aforementioned CBD Survey 2015. In doing so, this study aims to explore the views and experiences of NFPs and other key stakeholders involved in the implementation of MEAs at national level about the key priorities for building capacity and raising awareness to improve implementation.

The **objective of the CBD Survey 2015** (*please see Annex 9 for the questionnaire template*) was to collect data on key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation at the national level, seeking the views and experiences of NFPs, serving all functions of the biodiversity-related conventions, and other relevant actors whose work and experience has a bearing on the implementation of one or more of the conventions. Information was also collected on existing levels of cooperation between individual conventions, between all conventions, as well as the key areas with a potential for enhancing cooperation and collaboration in implementing the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level. The survey was undertaken by focal points of the conventions and other relevant actors in their

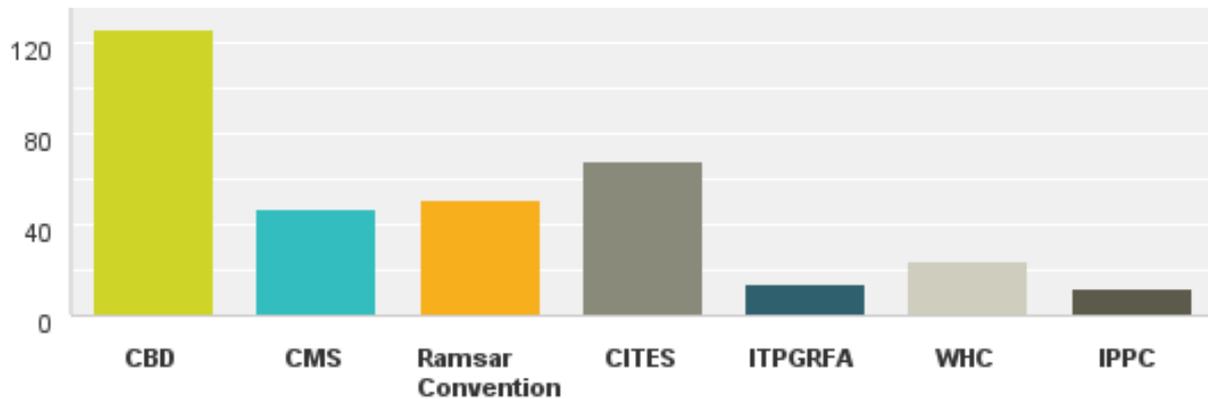
¹⁹ UNEP (2015) Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya. Available online: <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>

²⁰ UNEP (2015) An overview of existing initiatives for enhancing coordination and collaboration at various levels across the biodiversity-related conventions. Background paper for *The second multi-stakeholder expert meeting on elaboration of options for synergies among biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements* held in Geneva, Switzerland, 13-15 May 2015. Available online: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/biodiv/brcws-2016-01/other/brcws-2016-01-unesp-02-en.pdf>

²¹ UNEP (2015) Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya. Available online: <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>

individual capacities; however, consolidated country positions were received from Australia, Belgium, Canada, India and Malta.

The CBD Survey 2015 was conducted from November to December in 2015, receiving 184 entries in total. The **response rate** for each of the 18 questions varied from 183 (areas of high potential for enhancing cooperation and collaboration; importance of cooperation) to 71 (other comments). The respondents were asked to indicate to which of the biodiversity-related conventions they are focal points to, or contribute to in another capacity (Graph 2).



Graph 2: To which of the biodiversity-related conventions are you focal points to, or contribute to in another capacity?

Of the 18 questions, the majority were narrative questions (12) with six multiple choice questions, of which four had the option of adding further information in a narrative form. Due to the format of the questions, qualitative analysis was the primary method for the majority of the questions (16). In analyzing the responses, the focus was on recurring concepts and themes brought up by a variety of respondents, however, needs suggested just once were also taken into consideration, in particular if they were regarded as novel and innovative. A detailed compilation of identified capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs identified in the CBD Survey 2015 can be found in Annex 2 and Annex 3 respectively.

In a few cases the authors of the report followed up with individual respondents to the CBD Survey 2015 in order to assess the potential to feature more detailed information on capacity-building and/or awareness-raising needs and/or tools to facilitate addressing those needs from the perspective of the relevant stakeholder in the report. The resulting perspective on how to address capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation in Brazil can be found in section 5.4.



Figure 1 Map of the geographic distribution of respondents (per country)

1.6 Structure of the study

The study is structured around five main chapters, followed by concluding remarks.

Following the structure of the CBD Survey 2015, chapters include information on the following:

Chapter 2:

- Awareness on the benefits of cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions;
- Capacity-building needs regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions; and
- Awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions.

Chapter 3:

- Capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among other MEAs.

Chapter 4:

- Learning opportunities, tools and upcoming opportunities.

Chapter 5 analyzes activities to address the capacity-building and awareness-raising needs identified in the previous chapters, drawing on existing literature on enhancing cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. The chapter also examines opportunities for further cooperation.

Chapter 6 provides concluding remarks to the study, as well as suggested discussion points for workshop.

2 Capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs – A summary of the results of the CBD Survey 2015

This chapter summarizes the results of the CBD Survey 2015, focusing on the responses to the questions on capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs. The first section summarizes and examines the responses with respect to the awareness on the benefits of cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, followed by sections on capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs – all in narrative form. The identified needs from the responses to the CBD Survey 2015 have also been mapped against their respective benefits and challenges in tables, and can be found in Annex 2: Capacity-building needs and Annex 3: Awareness-raising needs.

The distinction between the three levels of capacity-building (individual, organizational, systemic) in the capacity-building needs section is not a strict one; many similar capacity-building needs were identified across the three levels. This accounts in particular in cases where needs have been identified at the individual level, but also require higher level action and implementation.



Figure 2 Overlap in the three levels of needs.

As Figure 2 demonstrates, each of the higher-level needs category regularly encompass the lower-level needs categories, as often the changes required at smaller scale require action from higher level.

Box 2: Needs at the three levels of capacity-building

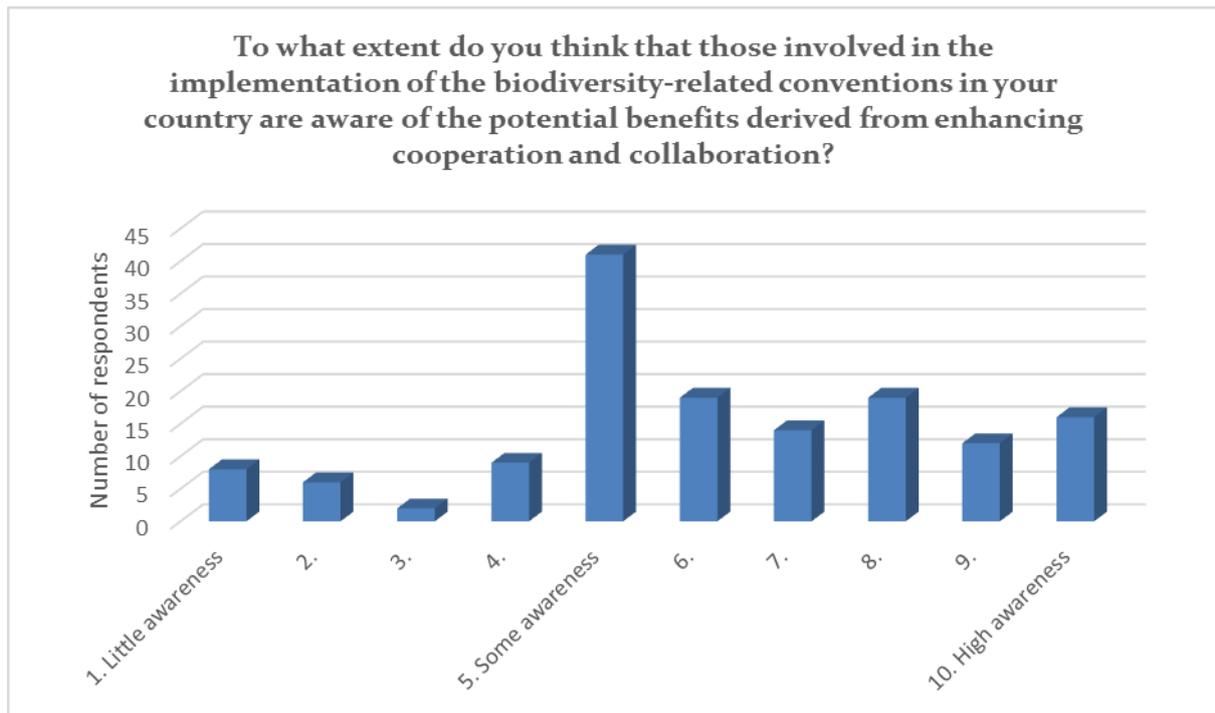
Individual needs: Needs of the individuals (national officials, including NFPs of the conventions or other key stakeholders) working on the implementation of the conventions.

Organizational needs: Needs at the organizational level, referring to the clarity of roles, functions, goals and processes within an organization, as well as the relationship between different levels within the organization or institution.

Systemic needs: Needs within the overall governance structure in a country, including the number of organizations and institutions, their designated roles and responsibilities, their interaction, as well as the level of and mechanisms for interaction of different

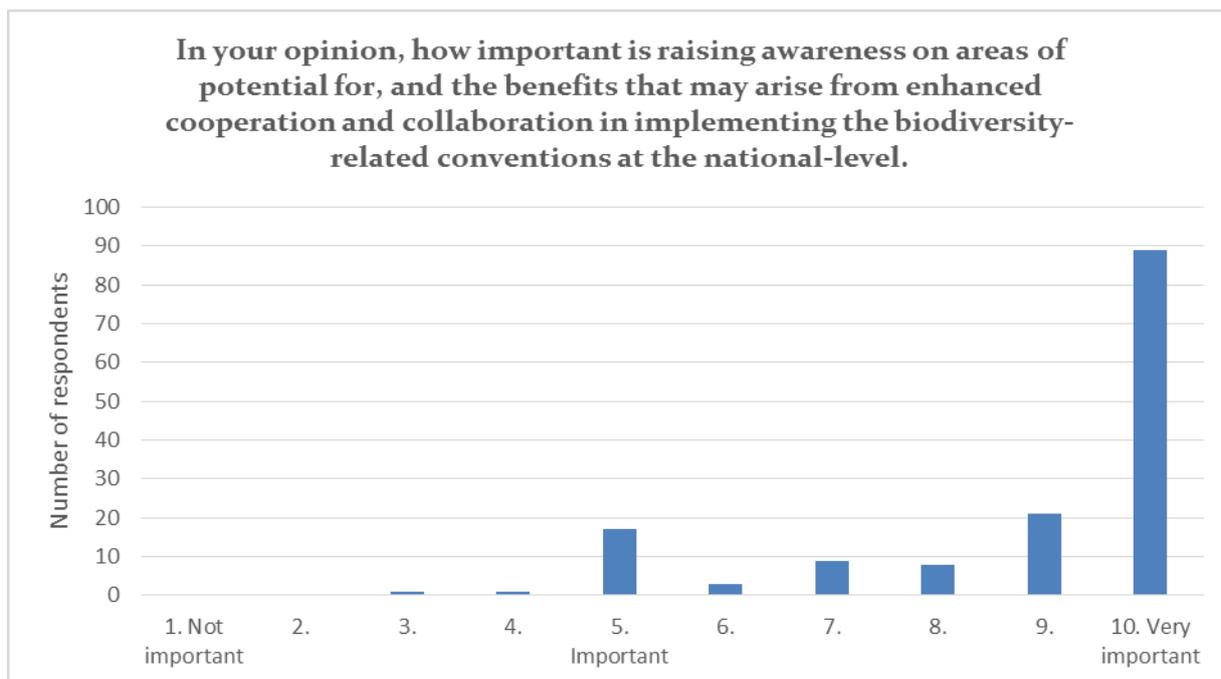
2.1 Awareness on the benefits of cooperation in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions

The respondents to the CBD Survey 2015 were asked to rate the **current level of awareness** of the potential benefits of enhancing cooperation and collaboration, among those involved in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions in their country. Of the total 184 respondents to the survey, 146 replied to this question. On the scale 1 (*Little awareness*), 5 (*Some awareness*) to 10 (*High awareness*), the **average was 6.2**, with 5.5% of the respondents rating the awareness at *Little*, 28% at *Some awareness* and 11% at *High awareness* (Graph 3 below).



Graph 3: Awareness of the potential benefits of cooperation and collaboration among those implementing the biodiversity-related conventions.

When asked to rate the **importance of raising awareness** of the potential benefits of enhanced cooperation and collaboration in implementing the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level, of the 149 respondents 60% rated the importance at 10 (*Very important*) and 11% at 5 (*Important*), whereas there were none who considered raising awareness as not important (Graph 4). As such, the **average rate came to 8.8**.



Graph 4: Importance of raising awareness of the potential benefits of enhanced cooperation and collaboration in implementing the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level.

Graph 3 and 4 suggest that while the current level of awareness on the potential benefits of enhanced cooperation and collaboration in implementing the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level is considered to be decent (average 6.2), there is a shared view that increasing the awareness on the potential benefits is considered very important (average 8.8). These views are echoed in the respondents’ answers to the questions on both capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs, as can be seen in the next two sections.

2.2 Capacity-building needs at national level

Of the total 184 respondents to the CBD Survey 2015, on average $\frac{3}{4}$ responded to the 3 questions on capacity-building needs at the individual, organizational and systemic levels.

Many of the capacity-building needs identified were similar across the different levels, and several respondents referred to their answers to question 6 (*capacity-building needs at the individual level*) under questions 7 and 8 (*capacity-building needs at the organizational and systemic levels, respectively*). This indicates that the line between the different levels of capacity-building needs is not always clear; particularly, as highlighted above, in cases where the needs are at the individual level, but require attention from the organizational and/or systemic levels to enable capacity-building of individuals.

i) At individual level

135 of the total 184 respondents who answered the question on capacity-building needs at the individual level, identified a number of capacity-building needs, ranging from technical needs (e.g. reliable internet connection, computing hardware and software, etc.) to individual skillsets and competencies (networking, communication, research abilities, etc.).

Networking and communication skills were the two most commonly mentioned needs, listed by approximately 25 percent of the respondents. As elaborated by a few respondents, this includes the ability to build partnerships and engage with key stakeholders. The responses

also indicate that building and maintaining partnerships with stakeholders require individuals to have respective capacities and the competence to take on such tasks within their organizations or institutions. **Challenges** identified include a lack of funding, lack of communication and the inability to identify key stakeholders.

According to the CBD Survey 2015, capacity-building needs for **creating and maintaining communication channels and relationships among NFPs** vary considerably at national level. Some respondents considered the need to identify who the NFPs of other biodiversity-related conventions are (including the development of a directory of all NFPs available to all relevant authorities) and how to initiate personal contact (i.e. through social events, group meetings, working groups, etc.) as a key capacity-building need. Others highlighted the need to formalize communication and include it in overall work plans. It should be noted that a number of respondents mapped this capacity-building need against the organizational or systemic level and not the individual level. The **benefits** of enhancing the communication among NFPs identified by respondents include:

- skills transfer and experience sharing;
- building a network of practitioners as a means to enhance the ability of the individual to become generalists rather than specialists to a single convention or topic;
- limiting the impact of turnover within ministries and administrations; and
- identification of overlaps in reporting requirements and coordination of national reporting as a means to reduce duplication of efforts.

Challenges identified include lack of funding to organize networking workshops/seminars, lack of high level support for enhancing cooperation and existing work commitments of NFPs which sometimes involve a time constraint.

Clarification of the roles and objectives of other NFPs as well as the goals of their conventions was another frequently stated capacity-building need identified by several respondents. Also, enhancing general knowledge about the visions and objectives of the different biodiversity-related conventions was identified as a capacity-building need by NFPs and a broader group of key stakeholders. The identified **benefits** of enhancing cross-conventional understanding include a reduction in duplication of work, and a clearer understanding of key stakeholders on the roles, functions and application of the different conventions at national level. **Challenges** identified include the failure of communication mechanisms among stakeholders, lack of clarity on the scope of the international commitments and lack of resources.

Knowledge and information sharing was another frequently mentioned capacity-building need at the individual level. Some respondents specifically identified the need to invite NFPs of the biodiversity-related conventions to joint meetings to share their experiences and knowledge more vertically beyond their hierarchical chain of command. One respondent identified the need to develop simple tools and platforms for sharing information amongst NFPs and other key players as a means to improve the efficiency of implementation in countries where available resources to each convention are limited. A lack of high level support for enhancing cooperation and lack of inter-departmental were identified as **challenges**.

In order to improve cooperation and cross-sectoral results as well as means to reduce potential for duplication of efforts, another frequently mentioned capacity-building need at the

individual level is the **skill and ability to implement the biodiversity-related conventions in an integrative way as part of a wider framework for biodiversity conservation and mainstreaming of biodiversity** considerations across sectors, industries and ministries. As outlined by respondents, this includes the skill to identify areas of commonalities and potential areas of common interest between conventions, as well as the skill to develop a common terminology and understanding of key concepts and issues (i.e. the concept of biodiversity). The **challenges** identified by respondents in addressing this need include the breaking down of the conventional “silos”, and implementing conventions more holistically, as typically associated with lacking inter-departmental and/or inter-agency cooperation, as well as a lack of high-level political support to incentivize this work. A further challenge in addressing this need identified by a respondent is the perception by some that integration within a wider framework for biodiversity conservation will disconnect the individual from their specific area of expertise and objectives.

Several respondents identified the need for **fundraising skills**, referring to both the knowledge of opportunities, as well as on how to access these, and ultimately the capacity to meet the demands of potential donors in terms of completing applications and more generally in approaching/reaching out to them. Besides mobilizing additional resources for the implementation of conventions, an additional **benefit** identified by a respondent is the opportunity to develop joint projects of national importance for achieving the objectives of each convention. **Challenges** identified included lack of NFP guidelines for resources and finance mobilization and weak support from high level and decision-makers, and difficulties in convincing them on the importance of biodiversity and protected areas conservation.

Respondents stated **several additional technical and skills based needs**, including the ability to develop and maintain data/information management systems and clearing house mechanisms (CHM), as a means to centralize the storage of key biodiversity information and improve access. Common **challenges** for developing such mechanisms are typically associated with a lack of funding.

Other capacity-building needs identified by individual respondents include **research skills** to conduct specialized studies necessary to implement the national action plan for biodiversity conservation, skills to work on **the joint identification and development of indicators between conventions**, and **English language skills**.

ii) At organizational/institutional level

Of the total 184 respondents, 118 answered question 7 on organizational capacity-building needs. However, as also mentioned in the introduction to the section, several of these respondents referred to their responses on needs at the individual level.

The most frequently mentioned capacity-building needs at the organizational level relate to **inter/intra institutional cooperation**, and particularly the need for formal cooperation mechanisms.

Formalized coordination/cooperation/communication mechanism through which NFPs and other stakeholders involved in the implementation of conventions can organize their work, share experiences and exchange ideas is one of the most commonly mentioned capacity-building need. Not only the need to establish such a mechanism, but also to strengthen and support existing arrangements was identified as a key priority, including the need for

“enhancing the dynamicity of existing mechanisms to allow for more regular and ad-hoc interaction”. However, coordination mechanisms do not necessarily have to engage NFPs physically, as another respondent identified the need for electronic platforms through which they can share information of key events, decisions/resolutions relevant for other conventions, data and information, and so forth.

Benefits of addressing this capacity-building need include enhancing and strengthening the level of communication among NFPs; enabling them to better coordinate efforts; share experiences and information; develop action plans and coordinate in particular regarding national reporting. A number of **challenges** were also identified by respondents, including lack of institutional support and political will; lack of resources to support existing structures of coordination as well as a lack of awareness on the benefit of cooperation and collaboration/synergy, and lack of initiatives to take the lead for cooperation and collaboration.

Institutional capacity and commitment were also commonly mentioned capacity-building needs identified by several respondents. The needs identified relate to the provision of adequate resources, including human resources, as well as stability in the work force (tackling high staff turnover).

The **benefits** of addressing these types of capacity-building needs were identified as a better understanding of conventions and better informal communication and cooperation. Specifically related to staff turnover, a key benefit identified was a better return on any capacity development investments. **Challenges** identified by respondents include inadequate understanding of institutional roles and of the link of convention's work to national economic development policies and programs, as well as lack of support and funding.

As already highlighted in the previous section on capacity-building needs at the individual level, several respondents identified the need for **stakeholder engagement and partnership building** as a capacity-building need at the organization level. For example, one respondent referred to the need to empower NFPs to build, strengthen and maintain partnerships to contribute to implementation and also to contribute resources either in the form of sharing or through bilateral arrangements. A few other respondents referred to the need to involve civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). **Challenges** identified for collaboration among and engagement of stakeholders identified include an adverse attitude to inclusion of CSOs in biodiversity-related work by government agencies, as well as a lack of human resources/staff, lack of inter-sectoral cooperation and lack of high-level support.

Building partnerships is also related to strengthening the science-policy interface through **networking between scientific institutions and ministries** involved in conservation of biodiversity, which was another capacity-building need identified by one respondent. However, this engagement and interaction between scientific and political institutions require constant and continuing engagement, which was identified as a significant **challenge**.

Reliable and timely data, **information and knowledge on biodiversity** was identified as a challenge by a few respondents, and correspondingly, the need to develop mechanisms for sharing biodiversity data, including the capacity to develop CHM portals as repositories, as well as the need to strengthen existing environmental monitoring systems, were identified as

key capacity-building needs. The main **challenges** identified was a lack of skilled human resources and financial resources.

A couple of respondents also referred to the need for **identifying capacity-building and training needs** at various levels, and one respondent specifically referred to the need to map staff skills, demand and needs. The **challenges** identified include a lack of coordination between departments to execute mapping and a narrow institutional mandate.

iii) At systemic level

A total of 110 respondents answered question 8 on capacity-building needs at the systemic level, and as with the organization level, a number of respondents simply referred to the needs they identified at the individual level.

Integrating the coordination for implementation of MEAs was the most frequently mentioned capacity-building need at the systemic level. Several respondents referred to the broader need for establishing or strengthening the capacity of institutions to implement conventions in an integrated way. One respondent also identified the need for a formal or informal commission of national experts, as a consultative body and as a means to generate a stronger impact of experts to decision-makers. **Benefits** of establishing such cooperation mechanisms identified by the respondents include:

- Clear roles and responsibilities, clear mandates and learning platforms;
- Improved exchange of experience and enhanced informal communication; and
- Bringing on board all NFPs to the Conventions.

Challenges identified by the respondents include:

- Lack of infrastructural and institutional support;
- Lack of formal mechanism for enhanced cooperation;
- Insufficient political support and understanding; and
- Lack of cooperation by the various NFPs.

As with the organizational level, several respondents also identified **inter-institutional/organizational cooperation and communication** as a capacity-building need at the systemic level. Respondents highlighted the need for cross-sectoral cooperation as well as the need for collaboration between NGOs and state institutions. Identified **challenges** in addressing this need include:

- Lack of understanding on importance of interagency cooperation on convention implementation;
- Limited opportunities for consultation and collaboration; and
- High turnover of staff resources.

Relating to cross-sectoral and inter-institutional cooperation, **biodiversity mainstreaming** was identified as another key capacity-building need at the systemic level. One respondent specifically referred to the need to integrate convention related issues into development plans, sector policies, investment plans and national legislation. The **challenges** of doing so were summarized by one respondent as the segregated administrative focus and the different foci of each convention.

Another commonly mentioned capacity-building need is the **legislative framework for biodiversity conservation**. One respondent identified the need to analyze conflicting objectives among laws and regulations, particularly in regards to resource development versus conservation, as a capacity-building need. **Benefits** identified include the opportunity to identify conflicting issues to improve policy, reduce conflicts, and increase the effectiveness of conservation initiatives. **Challenges** identified by one respondent include lack of consideration of the cumulative, direct and indirect impacts of policy, programs and plans, which consequently lead to development goals being in conflict with conservation goals.

Closely related to the legislative framework, a few respondents identified the need for a **national strategy or harmonization of policies regarding MEA implementation**. The **benefits** identified include the ability to properly plan and prioritize amongst competing imperatives between organizations and a clear definition of roles and functions. The **challenges** include resolving competing policy imperatives and conflicts among institutions resulting from different mandates.

Another capacity-building need at the systemic level identified by a respondent is to **avoid duplication of efforts for the purposes of national reporting**, by integrating consultations and procedures for the purposes of reporting on similar subjects across multiple biodiversity-related conventions.

2.3 Awareness-raising needs at national level

Of the 184 respondents, 120 responded to the question on awareness-raising needs to enhance cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level.

Many respondents considered the awareness-raising needs in biodiversity conservation in more general terms, which is reflected by the amount respondents who noted the need to increase the public's awareness of biodiversity conservation and the biodiversity-related conventions. Though the needs of the public are not necessarily directly linked to the needs of those involved in the implementation of the conventions, these needs are recognized in the sections below as this section summarizes the responses to the survey.

The respondents identified awareness-raising needs as well as the means to address those needs. Both kinds of responses have been reflected in the analysis below. The first section focuses on the issues on which awareness needs to be raised, whilst the second section summarizes the needs which could be considered as activities or solutions to raise awareness regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions.

i) Issues requiring awareness-raising

Many respondents referred to a need to improve the knowledge of **the concept of biodiversity** of the staff working on the implementation of the conventions, and more specifically **knowledge on the objectives of each convention** as well as **understanding of the advantages of cooperation** and liaison between the officials working in implementation the conventions and other stakeholders. The **benefits** include enabling staff to appreciate their roles more through better understanding of their own role and the responsibilities of others, and increasing overall willingness to cooperate, as understanding of who does what increases.

The need to raise awareness and understanding of **the economic value of biodiversity** and to consider it as a lever for sustainable economic development, including in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was also frequently mentioned. It was noted that in doing so, the general public and decision-makers would value biodiversity and its various uses more, which could then translate into improvement of the status of biodiversity conservation and the involvement of a variety of sectors. In that context, some participants identified increased mainstreaming across different sectors and potentially increased budget allocation for the implementation of biodiversity conservation as potential benefits. The identified **challenges** to addressing this awareness-raising need included a lack of figures and measurements demonstrating the benefits of ecosystems and biodiversity in the national economy; the perception that natural capital is too novel a concept to have yet been integrated into national economies, whilst economic systems traditionally externalize the environment. Other **challenges** include high turnover of high level government officials, lack of effective structures at policy-level decreasing continuity, conflicts of interests and lack of willingness to participate.

The respondents also considered it important to make the **users/consumers of biodiversity more aware of the importance and values of the benefits of biodiversity**. This was further linked to a general lack of awareness of the socio-economic benefits of biodiversity, and how the benefits link with the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.

Awareness of strategic plans, goals and targets of the biodiversity-related conventions and their reporting cycles, as well as **knowledge of the plans and programs of other focal points and joint work programmes** were identified as needs. A respondent noted that increased awareness of the conventions' strategic plans can assist decision-making, enabling stakeholders to work outside of biodiversity silos. In particular, it was outlined that better awareness of the strategic plans could prove to be an additional incentive to prioritize cooperation, and increase dialogue between others who work on conventions.

Also, **raising awareness of the responsibilities, obligations and implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions and clear identification of the issues each of the conventions focus on** were considered as needs. The respondents identified that synergizing these in meetings and agreements on shared issues could create further awareness of the benefits of cooperation and synergies among actors. This would have the **benefits** of the application of various conventions' to be more effective and resources to be better optimized. Further benefits were considered to be enhanced law enforcement, shared information and integrated planning on biodiversity conservation. Identified **challenges** in addressing these needs included that officials and institutions responsible for implementation of the conventions may not understand the importance of working together, as well as lack of financial resources and high level support.

One respondent identified **awareness of the personnel needs**, such as technical and human resources, as a need. Addressing this need could result in more personnel with the appropriate training, knowledge and capacity to perform in their roles, whilst finding and hiring the right people were identified as challenges.

ii) Identified means to address awareness-raising needs

Greater interaction between the various committees, working groups, agencies and ministries working on biodiversity, as well as **regular communication and meetings**

between focal points were mentioned often as an awareness-raising need, though these could function as activities to address the above mentioned awareness-raising need on increasing knowledge of the plans and programs of the different conventions and implementing agencies. Another potential means to addressing this awareness-raising need is to develop a **framework for consultation** to increase synergy, which would allow bringing together the various focal points of conventions, or alternatively having a point of contact or head of all focal points, though lack of human resources was considered a challenge.

The need for **cross-sectoral information workshops** bringing together focal points, private sector, grassroots civil society, researchers, policy-makers and media was commonly identified with regards to awareness-raising needs as well. The benefits respondents mentioned included ensuring that all parties are on the same page and the provision of greater involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of the conventions.

Calls were also made for more **consistent communication concerning biodiversity strategies and action plans** (e.g. NBSAPs) across levels reaching individuals and communities to stimulate collective understanding and action. Achieving an impact at the sub-national level through the NBSAP process was considered a challenge. **A shared online system or a platform** with accurate data and information on biodiversity, equipped with analysis tools for decision-makers, stakeholders and civil society was also identified as an awareness-raising need, though perhaps more applicable as a means to address awareness-raising needs, as this would allow support for awareness action, campaigns across levels, whilst holding accurate information. Integration of information was mentioned as a barrier, as currently data is unorganized and spread across various systems. Another relating identified need was a **communications plan across different levels of governance**, with regular and long-term campaigns in the media on biodiversity, besides the annual World Environment Day, World Wildlife Day, etc. If awareness on biodiversity is raised consistently, respondents for example expected a better integration of biodiversity into the everyday language. However, a lack of financial resources and translating technical language to plain language were considered as challenges, as well as the lack of interest from the media. Also, finding media which covers the entire country and all audiences was identified as a barrier.

A couple of respondents had identified the need for a **mechanism or partnerships between community groups, NGOs and focal points** to enhance communication between the levels and actors to enhance community awareness of biodiversity and through that mechanism low-scale conservation. As a result, communities would support biodiversity conservation and there would be a common understanding of the issues affecting biodiversity. Two barriers were identified: lack of funding and competing interests of the different stakeholder groups.

One respondent identified **training of trainers on awareness-raising** as a need so that there would be a specialist team to increase awareness of biodiversity of the general public and stakeholders. This type of activity could also include training on available technology on the means of increasing awareness, e.g. social media. If addressed, reaching wider and more diverse audiences would be easier when using a variety of means of information dissemination. Fragmented media and poor access to media within the country were listed as barriers even if training was provided.

Another respondent considered the need to **include biodiversity in the education curricula**. In doing so, the next generations would gain an understanding of the importance

of biodiversity from a young age, and be better equipped to push for sustainability. Absence of clearly defined education policies on the environment was the main challenge to addressing the need.

2.4 Summary of the capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs

There is considerable overlap between the capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level, identified by the respondents of the CBD Survey 2015.

Frequently identified needs (and in particular means to address identified needs) in both sections relate to the following areas:

- Communication and networking, in particular among NFPs;
- Cooperation of stakeholders involved in the implementation of the conventions;
- Knowledge and information sharing on biodiversity, sustainable use and the biodiversity-related conventions (in particular on roles and responsibilities in national-level implementation);
- Stakeholder engagement and partnership building; and
- Biodiversity mainstreaming.

Regularly mentioned benefits in both sections include:

- Identification of overlaps; reduction of duplication of work;
- Minimizing the impact of high turnover within implementation agencies;
- Clearer understanding of the roles of other NFPs and of the application of other conventions;
- Improved efficiency of implementation;
- Better communication between actors; skills transfer and sharing of experiences;
- Enhanced results from work program of the conventions; and
- Integration of biodiversity into policies and programmes across sectors.

The most common challenges identified under a variety of needs were:

- Lack of funding/limited financial resources;
- Lack of high level/political support;
- Lack of human resources;
- Difficulty of breaking down silos;
- Lack of inter-departmental cooperation and cooperation among NFPs; and
- Lack of formal mechanism for cooperation across institutions/sectors.

The overlaps in the two sections can be attributed to different reasons. First and foremost, awareness-raising can be considered to be a form of capacity-building and many capacity-building activities also address awareness-raising.

Secondly, although definitions for capacity, capacity-building and awareness-raising were provided in the questionnaire, it is possible that respondents had varied understanding of the terminology used.

3 Other Multilateral Environmental Agreements – A summary of the results of the CBD Survey 2015

The CBD Survey 2015 focuses on capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions. However, section 4 of the survey also requested respondents to elaborate on any capacity-building and awareness-raising needs with respect to enhancing cooperation and collaboration with other MEAs at the national level as well as the importance in addressing those needs.

103 out of the 184 respondents replied to the question on capacity-building needs and 97 to the question on awareness-raising needs.

Other MEAs specifically referred to were the Rio Conventions and in particular United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), conventions of the chemical and waste cluster, and regional conventions, including Regional Seas agreements.

3.1 Capacity-building needs

Several respondents pointed out that capacity-building needs with respect to enhancing cooperation and collaboration with MEAs at the national level, are the **same ones as those for the biodiversity-related conventions** and therefore referred to their responses in section 3 of the CBD Survey 2015.

Others reiterated the capacity-building needs they had outlined in section 3, in particular those relating to strengthening of the capacity of focal points in cooperation and networking between NFPs at the individual level and leadership and network development at the organizational level.

Several respondents also identified cooperation in financial resource mobilization; strategic planning; the utilization of NBSAPs as a tool for enhanced cooperation in the implementation of the conventions; the harmonization of policies and legislation relating to the implementation of the program of work of conventions as well as coordination and communication mechanism as a capacity-building need with respect to enhancing cooperation and collaboration with other MEAs.

One respondent stated that:

“Effective flow of information and knowledge; Effective communication and collaboration and stakeholders engagement; Strong institutional arrangement for cooperation among NFPs and all relevant stakeholders engaged in the implementation of the conventions. Linking the institutions and creating a functional framework aimed at implementing the conventions; Effective policies, laws, strategies and programmes; Better synergy between conventions.”

A smaller number of respondents also identified a range of capacity-building needs in the area of information management, monitoring and reporting. These include strengthening institutional capacity on the mobilization of information on biological diversity; management and processing of data for effective flow of information and knowledge; drafting of national reports; methods of data analysis; and enhancing skills on biodiversity management and monitoring.

One respondent specifically highlighted the need to cooperate and collaborate to develop or participate in international initiatives related to integrated reporting tools. The identified benefits are saving time and human resources as well as improving the quality of the reports by avoiding duplication and gaps.

Other capacity-building needs identified include experience-sharing of good practices with regional conventions in coordinated implementation; cooperation on mainstreaming in order to combine the efforts done by different conventions and ICT training of focal points of MEAs.

3.2 Awareness-raising needs

On awareness-raising needs considering enhancing cooperation and collaboration on MEAs at the national level, a number of respondents stated that these were the same as the needs listed in the prior question on capacity-building needs on enhancing cooperation and collaboration with MEAs or stated that these are the same awareness-raising needs as for the biodiversity-related conventions and therefore referred to their responses in section 3 of the CBD Survey 2015.

However, the awareness-raising need identified by the biggest number of respondents is the need to **better communicate the benefits of enhanced cooperation in the implementation of MEAs, and how it relates to activities on the ground**, may it be the general public, including academia, the private sector, the media or potentially other influential stakeholders depending on national circumstances, e.g. religious scholars. As described by one respondent, this would include information on why the conventions are important individually and why integrated implementation is important. Another respondent elaborated that the benefit of such an awareness-raising thrust is *“to have a big impact in terms of audience and changes in behaviour and attitude”*. The suggested means to do so include the strengthening of educational curriculum and the development of national level awareness programmes for different types of media (newspapers, TV, internet, radio).

A number of respondents specifically identified policy/decision-makers and competent authorities at various levels as the target audience for awareness-raising needs on the benefits of enhanced cooperation in the implementation of MEAs as well as on the importance and complexity of fulfilling obligations under the conventions. As highlighted by one respondent, a desired outcome of addressing this need could be the establishment of an information system within the framework of which data on specific thematic areas would be collected and gathered in a uniform methodological manner, leading to uniformity in information flow (data reporting).

Another awareness-raising need identified by respondents is the importance and economic value of biodiversity and thus the linkage between biological resources and economic development policy. An identified benefit of this translations of loss of biological resources in monetary language is that it will facilitate the communication with the Ministry of Finance.

Thematic areas of work highlighted by respondents further include mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors, invasive alien species and land use, soil degradation and forest use and reforestation.

3.3 Summary of the capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs

In summary, the capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs identified in the CBD Survey 2015 regarding cooperation among other MEAs, are almost the same as for the biodiversity-related conventions, even though they have in part been described in a different manner by some respondents. The most obvious differences, of course, are the thematic areas on which to focus any capacity-building and awareness-raising activities. Thematic areas mentioned with regard to other MEAs include e.g. soil and forest degradation and coastal biodiversity.

4 Learning opportunities, tools and upcoming opportunities – A summary of the results of the CBD Survey 2015

The CBD Survey 2015 also included a set of questions to identify and review existing learning opportunities and tools to address capacity-building and awareness-raising needs, as well as gaps, and to identify opportunities for capacity-building and awareness-raising activities on cooperation at different levels. The responses to these questions are summarized in the following in narrative form. For an overview in table-format please see Annex 5: Learning opportunities, Annex 6: Existing tools/guidance/mechanisms, Annex 7: New/additional tools and Annex 8: Ongoing initiatives.

4.1 Learning opportunities

121 out of 184 respondents replied to the question on the availability of learning opportunities in the respondents' country or region to address prior identified capacity-building and awareness-raising needs.

25% of these respondents stated that there are **none, not known or limited/insufficient** learning opportunities or that learning opportunities are at least not directly related to the identified needs with respect to enhancing cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. One respondent stated that: *“Learning opportunities are not sufficient. There are no information resources that provide a holistic picture of similarities and differences between MEAs and areas of potential cooperation.”*

Several other respondents generally referred to **national and regional workshops or meetings** as learning opportunities, even though they are organized for different stakeholders groups (potentially including NFPs), and for different purposes whether for consultation, planning, validation of reports, awareness-raising or special consideration of emerging issues, such as invasive alien species. One respondent specifically highlighted a regional workshop on biodiversity-related MEA report harmonization.

A couple of respondents also highlighted that there are regular opportunities for **exchange with other NFPs**, whether informally or formally, as learning opportunities.

One respondent listed **specific initiatives** that provide learning opportunities to address the identified capacity-building and awareness-raising needs. These include the Ramsar Regional Initiative for the East-Asian Australian Flyway Partnership, which according to the respondent promotes action through a variety of conventions and agreements, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), CMS and CBD, and the Coral Triangle Initiative. The respective respondent elaborated further that a key principle of this initiative is that the goals and activities should be supportive of international and regional commitments already made under multilateral processes, such as CBD and CITES.

Another respondent pointed to the Pacific MEA training portal within the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) as an available learning opportunity to address prior identified capacity-building and awareness-raising needs.

4.2 Existing tools

113 out of 184 respondents replied to the question. Several respondents listed **cooperation mechanisms** such as steering committees involving stakeholders from different conventions or working groups as a tool for enhancing cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. Regarding the usefulness of these cooperation mechanisms,

respondents highlighted for example that they facilitate inclusive discussions of issues and their prioritization as well as the joint preparation of documents. Potential barriers to their use include lack of budgetary resources as well as a high turnover at the senior decision-making level. The existing tools which the respondents identified have been mapped against their respective benefits and challenges in Annex 6.

A number of respondents also identified **periodic meetings, seminar and workshops** on various thematic issues as prime tools and approaches for enhancing cooperation at the national level. Two respondents in this context specifically highlighted **experience-sharing of NFPs** of various conventions at international or regional meetings or workshops. The identified barrier is again the availability of adequate financial resources for NFPs participation in such meetings or workshops.

Another tool listed by a handful of respondents are **Clearing-house mechanisms (CHMs)**. The identified barriers to their use include that they are very expensive to maintain and update and thus once again regularly a lack of resources, particularly if the staff does not have the required technical capacity and external consultants need to be hired.

The **Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, regional biodiversity plans and national biodiversity strategies** were also identified as tools to enhance cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. Identified benefits include that it *“legitimizes conversation and gives good talking points to engage individuals/groups/government in biodiversity conservation”*. A key challenge is that often and even within the government people are not aware of strategies and plans.

With regard to the reporting on NBSAPs, one respondent informed about a tool that will not only facilitate the follow-up of the national strategy, but can also be used to facilitate the reporting to the different conventions towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: **the Biodiversity 2020 Target Cross-Linking Tool** (<http://biodiversity.europa.eu/chm-network/the-2020-target-cross-linking-tool>).

Some respondents also listed **national policies and laws**, both environmental and non-environmental, as tools that can help enhance implementation of the conventions. One of the respondents in that context pointed to the lack of policy and law enforcement as a challenge.

Online tools/databases listed which were considered as useful tools include **Tematea**, a web-based reference tool that structures the action-oriented parts of negotiated text from different relevant agreements (<http://www.tematea.org/>), as well as **InforMEA**, which harvests COP decisions and resolutions, news, events, MEA membership, NFPs, national reports and implementation plans from MEA secretariats and organizes this information around a set of agreed terms (<http://www.informe.org/>). An identified challenge of Tematea is that the tool should be made more visual and that it should include more plain language. Regarding InforMEA, respondents positively highlighted that InforMEA gives basic understanding on MEAs, creating a common understanding of the principles. Challenges include that it can be difficult for users who are not familiar with the technical language, that there is a lack of awareness of InforMEA and that not all MEAs of relevance to biodiversity are included, in particular UNFCCC and United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

With regard to experience, sharing the **UNEP Sourcebook**²² has been identified and another tool mentioned was public awareness material and, in particular, the **CEPA Toolkit** (Communication, Education and Public Awareness). With respect to CEPA, the checklist and case studies as well as the guidance on how to better understand sociological approaches to

²² UNEP (2015) Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya. Available online: <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>

mainstream biodiversity and on how to work with different levels of government and stakeholders have been identified as useful. Identified barriers to its use include the focus on NFPs, as well as the table of contents which does not reflect the level of work of the individual seeking guidance.

Moreover, also the **2010 report by the Environment Management Group (EMG), *Advancing the Biodiversity Agenda - A UN system-wide contribution***²³, was listed by one respondent. The respondent highlighted that the document starts to break down the silos between UNEP environment programs, which include MEAs. Barriers to its use are that it is not well known and also that it is not set up to be considered outside the UN system.

Lastly, also **regional conventions** have been identified as useful tools to propose areas of opportunity to improve synergies.

4.3 Addressing the gaps: a need for additional tools?

113 out of 184 respondents replied to the question. The most prominent tool identified in order to enhance cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions is the organization of **international and regional workshops for NFPs of different conventions**, including joint preparatory COP meetings.

Several respondents also listed **coordination mechanism** (for focal points) and the development of consultation frameworks.

A number of respondents also called for additional **guidance material/documents on enhancing cooperation**.

One respondent specifically suggested that guidance or other information be collaboratively developed by the Secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions which could consider:

- Wiser use of resources across conventions including collaborating on projects or research activities where appropriate;
- Improved methods for information sharing across convention secretariats, i.e. sharing submissions of information from Parties to avoid duplication;
- Matchmaking facilities particularly with increased focus on support and capacity-building of in-kind nature, e.g. sharing knowledge and expertise on a particular topic between Parties.

Another respondent noted that such a guidance document could interpret biodiversity-related conventions and define areas where conventions are working toward the same or similar goals and where there are basic differences between conventions.

In that context and with regard to further fostering experience-sharing on approaches at the national and regional level, one respondent stated that a PowerPoint presentation should be created with the main results of the UNEP Sourcebook²⁴, which should be sent to all NFPs of the biodiversity-related conventions.

Other additional tools or mechanisms identified as useful in order to enhance cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions include

1. An e-course on convention national reporting;

²³ UNEP (2010) Advancing the biodiversity agenda – A UN system-wide contribution. A report by the Environment Management Group. Available online: http://www.preventionweb.net/files/16272_biodiversitycorrectionsfinales1.pdf

²⁴ UNEP (2015) Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya. Available online: <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>

2. The organization of something similar to the Rio Conventions Pavilion at the meeting of the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions, with a focus on the biodiversity-related conventions and cooperation among them – or generally the introduction of other conventions at major meetings of each convention;
3. The creation of regional offices for the biodiversity-related conventions;
4. An online training course on CEPA;
5. The development of a toolkit similar to CEPA based on the document *Advancing the biodiversity agenda – A UN system-wide contribution. A report by the Environment Management Group*²⁵.

4.4 Opportunities for capacity-building and awareness-raising activities on cooperation at different levels

99 respondents replied to the CBD Survey 2015 question on ongoing or planned capacity-building activities at global/regional/national level that would benefit from enhanced cooperation in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions as a focus/key topic.

A number of respondents noted that planned capacity-building activities on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) would benefit from enhanced cooperation in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions, more specifically the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol under the CBD.

Respondents further elaborated that **many capacity development activities "owned" by one of the conventions** would benefit from enhanced cooperation in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions as a focus/key topic. For example, IPPC capacity development activities could include CBD issues in relation to invasive species or generally preparatory workshops for COPs could also include aspects related to other upcoming COPs.

Respondents also pointed out that **IPBES** (Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) has initiated a very comprehensive **capacity-building program** in response to country needs for building capacity in the area of biodiversity assessments and for thematic assessments on global and regional basis. They further elaborated that such programmes need to be planned and implemented by all conventions in their respective thematic areas.

Other planned or ongoing activities identified that would benefit from having cooperation in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions as a focus/key topic include regional CHM workshops; regional seas programmes that could tie in more closely with CMS, the Ramsar Convention and CITES; workshops for capacity enhancements at conservation fora such as the Asia Regional Conservation Forum organized by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in August 2015; CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) and NBASP capacity-building workshops, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) related projects focusing on legislation and national strategies for strengthening the capabilities of personnel dealing with protected areas. One respondent in that context also made reference to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its operational framework.

Lastly, one respondent outlined that using the **SDGs** as a harmonizing framework to link related discussions taking place at the up-coming UNEA, the CITES and CBD COPs as well as the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016 would be a good start.

²⁵ UNEP (2010) *Advancing the biodiversity agenda – A UN system-wide contribution. A report by the Environment Management Group*. Available online: http://www.preventionweb.net/files/16272_biodiversitycorrectionsfinales1.pdf

4.5 Concluding remarks

In summary the CBD Survey 2015 shows that there are already a number of learning opportunities and tools available to address the identified capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions. Respondents also identified a number of ongoing or planned capacity-building activities at the different levels of governance that would benefit from enhanced cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions as a focus/key topic, whether a concrete activity at the national level like the drafting of a strategy for strengthening the capabilities of personnel dealing with protected areas or more abstract any upcoming capacity-building activity organized by one of the conventions. These could include, for example, the upcoming capacity-building workshop for Africa on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 in March 2016, hosted in Uganda.

At the same time, however, 25 percent of respondents stated that there are limited or no learning opportunities in their country or region to address capacity-building and awareness-raising needs.

Respondents also identified a number of additional tools or mechanisms that would be useful in order to enhance cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. The CBD Survey 2015 indicates that there is no critical need to come up with new tools or mechanisms. Rather in many cases the focus should be on the strengthening of existing tools and mechanisms and promoting their use. This includes raising awareness of the existing tools and mechanisms, e.g. through the organization of something similar to the Rio Pavilion in the margins of COPs of the biodiversity-related conventions.

The tools or mechanisms listed by respondents under existing learning opportunities, existing tools/guidance and additional tools or mechanisms are:

1. Cooperation mechanisms for NFPs (whether formal or informal) and potentially other stakeholders involved in the implementation of the conventions; and
2. Meetings or workshops on issues related to one or multiple of the biodiversity-related conventions which facilitate exchange of NFPs and other stakeholders.

The fact that some respondents also listed these existing tools and mechanisms under additional tools or mechanisms indicates a potential to further promote and strengthen their use to address identified capacity and awareness-raising needs. Moreover, with respect to workshops, respondents specifically pointed to the organization of workshops for NFPs of multiple conventions, e.g. joint preparatory COP meetings.

5 Enhancing cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at national level

5.1 Overview of activities to address identified capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs at national level

There is a large number of potential activities at national, regional and global levels to address the capacity-building and awareness-raising needs identified previously. Many of these activities has been reviewed in greater detail in the UNEP Sourcebook²⁶.

Table 1 presents a **list of examples** of activities and mechanisms with the potential to address key capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs. **The list is not exhaustive**. Instead, the intention was to summarize many of the activities and mechanisms identified, by categorizing them and by mapping them against the thematic areas envisioned to be discussed in the upcoming CBD workshop in February 2016.

Table 1 Examples of potential activities for addressing key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs

Thematic areas	Level of activities/mechanisms		
	National	Regional	Global
Information-sharing mechanism	Centralized repository for access to and/or storage of data and information, e.g. CHM		
	Joint information management systems*		
National reporting, online reporting systems and indicators	Identification of opportunities for harmonization and streamlining of national reporting		
	Developing online reporting systems		
		Creation of an architecture to support national decision-making and reporting	
	Joint development of targets and indicators		
National coordination mechanism and supporting	Inter-ministerial committees or working groups on biodiversity		
	Organizational policies, e.g. staff rotation*		
	Mentoring of newcomers, and ideally also by the individual leaving the division or organization, including introduction to		

²⁶ UNEP (2015). Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya. Available online: <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>

mechanisms*	networks (E-mentoring/learning forums)	
	A mechanism/partnership between community groups, NGOs and NFPs and other key stakeholders	
	Regular communication between conservationists on the ground (e.g. park managers) and those with information on relevant decisions and objectives of the conventions; consultation framework	
Regional biodiversity agreements*		
Communication, education and public awareness	Education curricula to include biodiversity	
	Environment conferences*	
	Communications plan across levels of governance with regular and long-term campaigns in the media on biodiversity	
	Champions or lead institutions	
Capacity-building, and technical and scientific cooperation	Experience sharing	
	Training programs on issues related to multiple conventions to specific audiences ²⁷	
	Joint capacity-building programs for NFPs	
	Capacity self-assessments, i.e. NCSAs [National Capacity Self-Assessment] in order to develop a targeted capacity-building strategy	
	Capacity-building strategies	
	Developing a resource pack of training materials for various target groups, e.g. early- and mid-career conservationists, private sector leaders	
	National preparatory COP meetings*	Regional preparatory COP meetings*

²⁷ e.g. customs officers on species identification, HR training on staff skills needs; training of trainers for specific awareness-raising needs

Strategic Plan for biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and NBSAPs	NBSAPs	Regional biodiversity strategies	Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
	Promotion of joint project developments with multiple convention benefit		
Resource mobilization	National sustainable resource mobilization strategy for biodiversity*		

* *Further elaborated on in the UNEP (2015) Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels, Available online from <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>*

In the following two sub-sections the capacity-building and awareness-raising needs identified most commonly by respondents to the CBD Survey 2015 will be mapped against some of the activities summarized in Table 1 above.

A full mapping of the identified needs against the list of activities in the form of a table was not undertaken, as many of the identified needs can be addressed by the same activities, as activities can address a number of needs. In addition, related activities at the different levels of governance address a different set of needs. In conclusion, the development of such a comprehensive needs-activities-mapping table was not perceived to be feasible.

In the last sub-section of this chapter some of these activities will be illustrated through a number of case studies, some of which have been included in the UNEP Sourcebook²⁸ and two which have been developed based on the CBD Survey 2015 and subsequent interaction with respondents.

²⁸ UNEP (2015) Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya. Available online: <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>

5.2 Addressing capacity-building needs at the national level

Two of the capacity-building needs identified most commonly by respondents at the **individual level** were the need to enhance the **Networking skills** and **Communication and cooperation skills** of key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. These are two fundamental skills, which are not only very intimately linked to the personality, competences and general profile of the individual, but are also skills that can ultimately be inhibited by the structure at the organizational/institutional level. Activities with a potential for addressing these needs at the national level are thus very diverse and range from a *mentoring system*, through which the leaver can introduce the starter to key stakeholders and the overall network, to activities such as a *staff rotation policy* or the establishment of a *formal coordination mechanism*. At regional or global level, activities could in particular include *workshops*, bringing together NFPs and potentially other key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions to foster experience-exchange.

Another frequently mentioned capacity-building need identified at the individual level in the CBD Survey 2015 was **Knowledge of objectives and functions of other conventions** as well as **Knowledge and information sharing**. Depending on the target audience, both of these needs could potentially be addressed through similar activities, including developing a *resource pack of training materials for various target groups* or *introducing biodiversity as part of the curricula* in higher learning educational facilities. At a regional level, activities could include *joint capacity-building programs or workshops* or *regional preparatory COP meetings* through which stakeholders can engage with peers from other conventions.

At the **organizational level**, the most commonly mentioned capacity-building needs was **Inter/intra institutional cooperation** and **Cooperation mechanisms/communication platforms**. Several activities could be implemented at national level addressing these needs, including a wide range of formal or informal coordination mechanisms, including *appointing a lead person/champion*, or *a lead institution*, establishing an *electronic/online communication platform* to facilitate the communication and dissemination of information on key events and activities, or establishing *formal or informal working groups or committees on specific issues*. At the regional level, *regional biodiversity agreements* can foster enhanced inter- and intra-institutional cooperation by fostering experience-sharing across borders and potentially raising high-level/political support.

Another frequently mentioned capacity-building need at the organizational level was **Institutional capacity and commitment**, which is very closely related to limited resources and a lack of human resources as well as high staff turnover. One approach to address this could be through a *national resource mobilization strategy for biodiversity*, aiming to make efficient use of all available funds, mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors, as well as the mobilization of additional resources for biodiversity, including through new financing mechanisms or reallocation of funds²⁹. Limiting the impact of staff turnover could be addressed, for example, by implementing a *staff rotation policy*, whereby staff can enhance their capacities as generalists, and thus take over additional tasks and responsibilities if needed, or conducting a *capacity self-assessments*, through which a targeted **capacity-building strategy** can be implemented.

The most frequently mentioned capacity-building need at the **systemic level** was the need for an **Integrated platform or framework for implementation of conventions**. This is a capacity-building need that could be addressed, i.e. by establishing a *formal cross-sectoral*

²⁹ For more information please refer to Case study 53, page 148, in the *Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels*. Available online: <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>

coordination mechanism, or appointing a *lead institution (champion)*, to act as a continuous stable platform, creating institutional memory as well as political momentum. The *NBSAP process* can also foster an integrated framework for biodiversity policies, not only by acting as a guiding axis for national biodiversity policies, integrating the objectives of multiple biodiversity-related conventions, but also as a mechanism for establishing dialogue platforms or other informal and/or formal coordination/collaboration mechanisms, bringing together NFPs and other key stakeholders across sectors.

5.3 Addressing awareness-raising needs at national level

Several awareness-raising needs were identified in the CBD Survey 2015, including **Knowledge of the plans and programs of other NFPs and joint work programs** and **Awareness of strategic plans, goals, obligations and implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions**, which were amongst the most commonly mentioned needs.

These needs could potentially be addressed through *greater interaction between the various actors, including through*;

1. A Consultation framework;
2. Cross-sectoral information workshops bringing together NFPs, the private sector, researchers, policy-makers and media representatives; and
3. Joint capacity-building programs for NFPs.

Whereas the *joint capacity-building programs for NFPs* only target the focal points, *consultation frameworks* and *cross-sectoral information workshops* have the option of involving other stakeholders ranging from the media to the private sector and civil society. Through the means of greater stakeholder involvement, activities aiming towards increasing awareness on the conventions' plans and obligations would not be limited to NFPs, but create a wider understanding of the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. Creating opportunities for NFPs and other stakeholders to interact, whether formally or informally, would enable sharing of experiences, whilst increased knowledge of the plans and programs of other NFPs can lead to realization of opportunities for harmonizing work and further support from other stakeholders.

These kinds of activities are not limited to the national level: if applied to regional and global levels, the NFPs would be encouraged to share experiences with their colleagues in other countries on a more regular basis instead of only having the opportunity to do so at conferences.

Next to awareness-raising needs of NFPs of the biodiversity-related conventions and other stakeholders involved in the implementation of the conventions, the need to make **the general public more aware of the importance and values of biodiversity** came up prominently in the CBD Survey 2015 as well. As one respondent highlighted this would include information on why the conventions are important individually and why integrated implementation is important. This need could be addressed across all levels (national, regional and global), e.g. through a *communications plan* involving regular and long-term campaigns in the media on biodiversity. Longer-term and regular communications on the value and benefits of biodiversity were thought to reach wider audiences and have more impact, leading to increased willingness to protect biodiversity. In particular, this would be the case if the messages on biodiversity were delivered through a variety of communications channels including social media, besides the traditional channels of television and newspapers.

Inclusion of biodiversity in education curricula is another activity which would allow the general public to become aware of the importance of biodiversity from a young age. This activity is applicable at sub-national and national levels.

However, the question is in how far raising awareness on the importance and values of biodiversity of the general public contribute to enhancing cooperation/creating synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.

5.4 Opportunities for cooperation in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions

The UNEP Sourcebook³⁰ showcases – as the title indicates – a wide range of opportunities or options related to different thematic areas on how to enhance cooperation in the implementation of the conventions. These opportunities and options have been identified following a literature review on the subject-matter, the UNEP Survey 2014³¹ as well as discussions and interviews with stakeholders involved in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions in the margins of international and regional meetings related to biodiversity.

A key means of presenting those opportunities is the inclusion of **63 case studies** from different countries and regions across the world, which formed the basis for the identification of the list of response options to identified challenges in fostering cooperation at the end of each thematic section.

The case studies included in the Sourcebook illustrate examples of most of the types of activities identified above in the summary table of activities (Table 1). In the following, four case studies included in the Sourcebook are presented to provide an idea of the wide range of activities presented as well as the wide range of capacity-building and awareness-raising needs that these activities can help to address.

Case study 37³² on “Staff rotation in Japan’s Environment Ministry” showcases an activity implemented by the Government of Japan, which allows the staff of the Environment Ministry to gain a wide range of experience in different areas of the Ministry, including experience related to the implementation of a number of the biodiversity-related conventions. Although a measure not specifically designed to address capacity-building and or awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, this activity addresses capacity-building needs at individual level (creating and maintaining communication channels) and at institutional level (strengthening institutional capacity) as well as awareness-raising needs identified in the CBD Survey 2015 (on the benefits of cooperation). **The staff rotation policy as a national level activity is an institutional policy that cannot only be implemented in national-level institutions, but in institutions at all levels of governance as well as in non-governmental organizations.**

Another example of a different type of activity to address capacity-building and awareness-raising needs identified in the CBD Survey 2015 are **preparatory meetings** to international meetings and conferences related to the biodiversity-related conventions as well as the follow-up mechanisms to those meetings held regularly in South Africa (*case study 16 of the Sourcebook³³*). **This type of activity addresses capacity-building needs such as enhancing**

³⁰ UNEP (2015) Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya. Available online: <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>

³¹ Please see section 1.3 for more information

³² Ibid. al.; pg. 94.

³³ UNEP (2015) Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya. Available online: <http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>; pg. 53.

general knowledge about the visions and objectives of the different biodiversity-related conventions and the means to implement them, and also creates institutional commitment through incorporating follow-up activities to those meetings within the relevant institutions and strategic and business plans, complemented by allocating national budgets for their implementation.

Preparatory COP meetings for different conventions have also been held at the **regional level**. For example, a Pacific Joint Preparatory Meeting to the CBD COP 12, CMS COP 11 and Ramsar Convention COP 12 was held in Nadi, Fiji in August 2014 (*Case study 39 of the Sourcebook*³⁴). The objective of the one week conference was to develop a synergistic roadmap for Pacific engagement at these international conferences to help enhance conservation and protection of Pacific biodiversity. **Such an activity can help countries to prepare for the biodiversity COPs in an integrated manner and thus for example address capacity-building needs at the systemic level such as the development of a national strategy for harmonization of policies regarding MEA implementation.**

Another type of activity showcased in case studies in the Sourcebook are **training and experience-sharing workshops for national focal points**. *Case study 42*³⁵ presents a tandem workshop for national focal points of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol held in June 2014 in Rome, Italy, which built on the outcome of an expert workshop that explored issues related to the interface between these two agreements. The workshop was jointly organized by the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and Biodiversity International in cooperation with the Secretariats of the CBD and the ITPGRFA. **The workshop addressed awareness-raising needs such as raising awareness on the plans and programs of other focal points and joint work programmes and capacity-building needs at the individual level such as clarifying the roles and objectives of other NFPs and the skill and ability to implement multiple biodiversity-related conventions in an integrative way. Such workshops can foster regular coordination and cooperation of national focal points and thus address capacity-building needs at the individual and institutional level.**

Drawing on the case study examples, the identified response options for overcoming the barriers and challenges, as well as input by a range of interview partners throughout the development of the Sourcebook, **key lessons learnt** are outlined at the end of each thematic section in the Sourcebook that could be applied at the national or regional levels to enhance coordination and cooperation. In the section on capacity-building, these include for example the wide communication of the outcomes of meetings of the biodiversity-related conventions and related emerging issues via websites, newsletters etc. with a special focus of relevance for multiple biodiversity-related conventions, as well as the need to ensure the transmission of knowledge so that training benefits reach beyond the direct recipient. Available options include mentoring of new staff (potentially according to the job description), South-South cooperation and exchange, bringing together NFPs at the regional level for experience-sharing and by replicating training received, including from the regional level to the national level.

Tools and guidance related to cooperation has been listed in the resource section at the end of each thematic section in the Sourcebook. However, the potential to further strengthen them to better address capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions has not been assessed. These gaps have now been filled with the present study, including through the following two case studies developed for the purpose of this study and through follow-up with respective CBD survey respondents.

³⁴ Ibid. al.; pg. 96.

³⁵ Ibid. al.; pg. 100.

The case study below illustrates the potential to build upon **information and biodiversity data management systems** in order to strengthen capacities regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions. It describes the **opportunities for the use of newly launched tools and the potential for training** to support enhanced cooperation among the conventions in Brazil.

Case study 1: Addressing capacity-building needs regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions in Brazil – A PERSPECTIVE FROM THE BRAZILIAN ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

It is recognized that data and information on biodiversity in many countries are disaggregated between dispersed institutions and individual knowledge-holders, and therefore that access to validated and timely data on biodiversity can be difficult to attain.

In a country with immense biodiversity, spanning across a wide range of ecosystems, from the temperate grasslands to the south and to the dense Amazon rainforest to the north, this has no less been the case in Brazil. Consequently, the country has launched several information management initiatives, aiming to integrate data on species and ecosystems, and execute more targeted assessments on conservation priorities and threats to inform decision-makers and key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the conventions, as well as the public at large. Most recently, the Biodiversity Portal was launched in November 2015, integrating data and information on biodiversity from the Environment Ministry (MMA) and its agencies. One of the Biodiversity Portal's aims is to link it with data from other federal institutions, as well as other information management systems. Another relevant initiative is the Information System on Brazilian Biodiversity, managed by science and technology ministry that is organizing and integrating scientific data about biodiversity, and is supporting the development of analysis tools, including to MMA, to enhance elaboration and implementation of biodiversity policies. This system works in straight partnership with the Biodiversity Portal.

By enhancing access to data and information on biodiversity, it is anticipated that this system will support key stakeholders and institutions in efforts to mainstream biodiversity across sectors, government departments and ministries, and incorporate biodiversity considerations into national development and poverty reduction strategies.

An idea is to adapt the system by including tools or forms that can facilitate reporting, e.g. to the biodiversity-related conventions. This could be a project of interest to national focal points and thus would need to be developed in collaboration with focal points.

In order to make best use of the information systems, the need to train people in the use of the online system has also been identified as a key capacity-building need. It has been suggested that courses aimed at enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to utilize such information systems, including how to update relevant information and monitor and evaluate actions, should be included in the capacity-building plans of ministries and agencies. These courses would not only compliment the function of the information management systems by enhancing the capacity of the individual to ensure that information is updated, but could also improve the capacity of the individual to produce national reports and discuss policies. It is important to point out that besides the development of these tools, it is necessary to make an effort to ensure that focal points will use it. It can be done by involving them in the development phase, to adapt tools to their necessities, as well as investing resources in implementation, operation and maintenance.

In parallel to the training opportunities identified above, which should target decision-makers and informatics staff, a capacity-building strategy could also be developed focusing

on integrated MEA implementation. The aims of this strategy would be to stimulate interaction between NFPs and other key stakeholders, who are currently spread between two ministries and three implementing agencies. At the same time, this will foster collaboration in the use of the system and tools, optimizing the use of resources. It is anticipated that this can also lead to the development of concrete actions to promote the implementation of multiple conventions.

With regard to the capacity-building strategies outlined above, and to minimize the lack of financial resources, it has thereby been suggested to involve the Educational Department of the Environment Ministry and to develop online and regular mixed courses with the support of two partners of the Ministry: WWF Brazil and São Paulo University.

However, with regard to the training related to MEA implementation, it has also been stressed that before undertaking any capacity-building and awareness-raising actions, it will be necessary to involve all NFPs and other key stakeholders in the integrated strategy on MEA implementation through the creation of a formal MEA network. To start off with, the suggestion is to have a small network of official representatives from federal and state governments, supported by a small number of partners from civil society with advisory/consultative status. With time and the strengthening of the network, civil society should play a larger role and also be involved in decision-making processes. The benefit of starting small would be to avoid problems with the operational terms of a larger group, and to avoid creating too high expectations. Lastly, it is deemed crucial that the MEA network should draw on lessons learned from existing networks in Brazil, including on how to maintain and participate in productive networks, particularly in terms of financial maintenance, communication and influence on public policies' elaboration and implementation. It has therefore been suggested that in the beginning, partners from civil society with expertise in network management as well as MEA implementation should be specifically targeted.

6 Concluding remarks and points for discussion

The study presents identified capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, based on the CBD Survey 2015. Learning opportunities, tools and mechanism to enhance cooperation have also been identified, as well as a number of activities that could address the identified needs. Key issues to be raised and questions to be answered in the continuing discussion on how to enhance cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions include:

1. Several responses on **awareness-raising needs** regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions deal with a need to raise awareness on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in general. What does awareness-raising regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions include as opposed to awareness-raising on biodiversity in general? How do the two needs relate to each other?
2. The CBD Survey 2015 indicates that there is considerable **overlap between the identified capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs**. The question that arises is therefore whether these should still be regarded as separate need groups in upcoming discussions, or not. What are the benefits and challenges of the two approaches?
3. The CBD Survey 2015 indicates that there is **no critical need to develop new tools or mechanisms**, but that in many cases the strengthening of existing tools and mechanism would be useful. This includes raising awareness on existing tools and mechanisms. Building on the results of the CBD Survey 2015, which tools and mechanisms should be strengthened and how?
4. The tools or mechanisms listed by respondents under existing learning opportunities, existing tools/guidance and additional tools or mechanisms are: **1. cooperation mechanisms for NFPs and potentially other stakeholders** involved in the implementation of the conventions; and **2. meetings or workshops on issues related to one or multiple of the biodiversity-related conventions** which facilitate exchange of NFPs and other stakeholders.

The following questions could therefore be addressed:

- Regarding #1: Is sufficient guidance and support available for strengthening cooperation mechanisms of NFPs and potentially other key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the conventions? What tools could be used or strengthened to support this process at national level?
 - Regarding #2: At what governance level (national, regional, global) should workshops for NFPs of multiple biodiversity-related conventions be organized? What should these focus on?
5. Many different activities can be implemented at the different levels of governance, addressing capacity-building and awareness-raising needs, and all these activities regularly address a number of needs. Thus selecting “the right” or most promising activities can be challenging. Potential next steps include:
 - A further evaluation of the ability of the range of identified activities and tools to overcome the identified challenges and barriers, and thus their effectiveness in a specific national or regional context. This could be key in deciding which activities and tools to focus on and to develop further.

- The development of a framework for identifying best options to address key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs at the national level, taking into account the different national and potentially regional circumstances. Such a framework/tool could potentially be linked to the range of activities already implemented by MEAs, offering a type of “Matchmaking Facility”, matching the key needs priorities with the potential activities for addressing these.

To summarize:

6. With regard to the identification of **elements of a possible roadmap** as stipulated in paragraph 6 of CBD decision XII/6, these could potentially include:
 - A prioritization of capacity-building and/or awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions to be addressed at the national level;
 - Identification of the **level of governance** at which specific capacity-building and/or awareness-raising needs should be addressed;
 - the **types of activities** that should be fostered to address the identified needs;
 - the identification of **specific ongoing or planned initiatives/events** that would benefit from having cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions prominently on the agenda; and
 - the identification of existing **tools and mechanisms** to address capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation that should be strengthened and guidance on how they should be strengthened.
7. Does **this study** provide a sufficient representation of the capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation and how to address these needs? If not, what are the gaps? What would be the potential benefits of additional work building upon the present study, and what form would this further work take?

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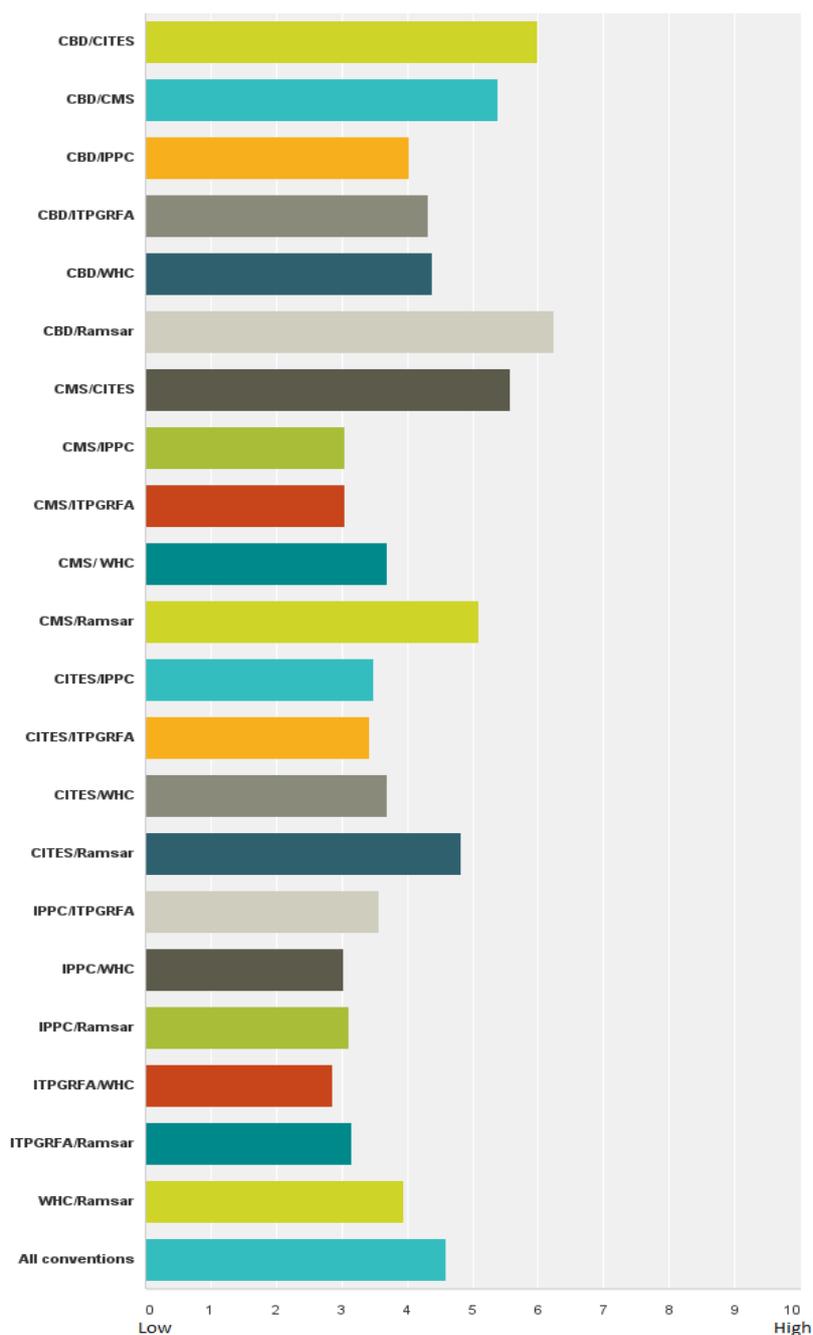
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8 Annexes

Annex 1: Current level of cooperation

The respondents to the CBD Survey 2015 were asked to rate the current level of cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions in their country (e.g. formal or informal coordination mechanisms among national focal points and other key stakeholders, national biodiversity committees, working groups, etc.), which 168 responded out of 184. The construction of the tick-the-box question gave respondents the opportunity to evaluate the current level of cooperation of specific convention pairs as well as of cooperation among all the biodiversity-related conventions. Graph 5 presents the results:



Graph 5: The current level of cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions in your country.

It should however be noted that some respondents answered only with respect to some of the convention pairs, whereas others answered for all the different constellations. Hence, the exact response rate differs from 143 (CBD/CITES) to 63 (IPPC/ITPGRFA and ITPGRFA/WHC). The highest ratings of cooperation are between the CBD/Ramsar Convention (6.3) and CBD/CITES (6.0). CMS/CITES (5.6), CBD/CMS (5.4) and CMS/Ramsar Convention (5.1) also scored higher than 5. On the other hand, convention pairs of ITPGRFA/WHC (2.9), IPPC/WHC (3.0), CMS/IPPC (3.0), and CMS/ITPGRFA (3.1) were at the lowest scoring end.

The reasons for the low scoring pairs can reflect the perception that there are no shared issues between the conventions, which is why cooperation at the national level between the conventions is either not taking place a lot, not known about or even not considered as necessary. On the other hand, the high scoring pairs have established and explored the links over shared issues, as demonstrated by e.g. Memorandas of Understanding/Cooperation (MoU/Cs) and Joint Work Programmes between the respective biodiversity-related conventions (Table 2 in the Annex 10 document). However, it is also possible that the differences in ratings are biased due to the very diverse areas of work of the respondents, as shown in Graph 2 in the Introduction.

Annex 2: Capacity-building needs

Individual level

Category of need	Examples of specific needs identified	Benefits	Challenges
Networking skills (18)	Improve Regional Networking skills of NFPs	Enhance informal and task force communication among NFPs and between NFPs and key Stakeholders.	<i>No mention</i>
	Networking skills for NFPs, committee chairs and members and other key stakeholders.	Improved effectiveness and efficiency of the use of scarce human, technical and other resources to achieve improved implementation of the conventions and program operations.	A lack of policies requiring coordinating and consultation. Lack of high level understanding or support of the need to improve collaboration and consultation.
Knowledge of objectives and functions of other MEAs (17)	A better knowledge of other environmental conventions, its legal framework and its implementation at national level.	Increase synergy and cooperation	Powers and different institutions for agencies in charge of the application.
	Enhancing understanding of the various MEAs, and how they relate to each other and to the role of an individual (NFP or other).	Understanding is an essential first step, without which change is unlikely	Institutions (incentives, working norms etc.) don't encourage developing broad understanding, cooperation
	Role and objectives of the convention, key areas and link with country priorities	Global integration and joint implementation	Ministerial agendas and regional priorities, individual can fail to influence
	Training on the different conventions	Improved capacities to manage.	Lack of funds.
Communication and cooperation skills (15)	Enhancement of cooperation between among NFPs (on both national and international levels) and between NFP and regional experts/stakeholders, within	Building network of experts/stakeholders to improve MEA implementation at national and regional level	lack of fund to organize networking workshops/seminars, lack of high level support for enhancing cooperation

	the country		
	Enhanced interaction between respective NFPs for various Conventions	Better understanding and cross linkages.	Existing work commitments of NFPs sometimes become a time constraint.
	Increase informal contacts	Better common understanding, understanding of linkages between issues, identification of potential synergies.	Often people are very busy and coordination, cooperation takes time. Different competences
	Better communication amongst the focal points.	No duplication of work and better understanding of all efforts.	High rotation of personnel in the public sector.
Knowledge and information sharing (11)	Everybody knows what is going on at international level or within different ministries.	NFPs are able to proactively approach their colleagues to develop joint ideas/solutions and realize synergies.	Different channels of communication from various secretariats; lack of capacities to absorb all the information
	Skills transfer among and between NFPs	Enhance knowledge and skill and informed decision making	High NFP turnover for most conventions
	Simple tools and platforms for sharing information amongst NFPs and other key players.	Greater efficiency in countries where the resources available to service each convention are limited.	Managing competing priorities amongst the different conventions and related responsibilities.
Integrated implementation of conventions (7)	Ability to develop communication messages holistic view of integration and interaction proving successful cases	Improved understanding, interest and position of the different focal points	Consistency in policy making
	Effective planning of implementation of common tasks arising from biodiversity related MEAs.	Less duplication of work, improved cooperation and cross-sectoral results.	Lack of vertical support.
	Synergy skills of NFPs for the implementation of MEAs.	Better implementation of MEAs through synergy among NFPs and between NFPs and	Lack of high level support for enhancing cooperation and lack of inter-departmental and/ or

		other key stakeholders.	inter-agency cooperation.
	NFP need to have an integrated look, not only work by "silos". At this time, the world is more integrated than before. Understanding terminology (sometimes biodiversity is seen just as species for caring, and not for food and feed, health, economy or climate change adaptation, for example) That condition is the most important challenge.	<i>No mention</i>	Lack of high level support for enhancing cooperation and lack of inter-departmental and/ or inter-agency cooperation.
Resource mobilization skills (7)	NFP skills for resource and finance mobilization to better MEA implementation	Involvement of more resources for MEA implementation, better personnel management	lack of NFP guidelines for resources and finance mobilization
	Capacity-building on the mobilization of financial resources	Beyond external financing, the parties will be able to identify and mobilize internal resources for the implementation of certain activities.	Lack flat form formal agreements between and among coordination in national parties.
Technical capacity (3)	(Reliable internet connections, computing hardware, business management systems/standardized databases) to manage information and prepare reports	Improved ability to monitor, asses and report on obligations and implementation activities	Lack of resources
	Develop clearing-house mechanism for NFPs	Enhance and improve information and data storage for open access.	Lack and limited of resource available
Other	Knowledge of English	Ease of understanding between the parties because English is a language used in many conventions.	<i>No mention</i>
	Creating networks of	Platform for knowledge and information	organizational silos and

	different NFPs.	sharing.	interests
	Empowerment of NFPs.	Formal communication among NFPs and between NFPs and other key stakeholders.	Lack of high level support for enhancing cooperation and lack of inter-departmental and/ or inter-agency cooperation.
	NFPs to explore areas of synergies.	Enhance collaboration and synergies leading to mainstreaming and effective implementation.	Does not see the areas or need for synergistic collaboration; not a priority in terms of the individual's work, generally able to fulfil the conventions' requirements or requests without needing to collaborate.
	Strengthening management capacity and partnership development	Improve the implementation of the conventions	Weak support at the political level

Organizational level

Category of need	Examples of specific needs identified	Benefits	Challenges
Inter/intra institutional cooperation (17)	Strengthening the capacities of the institutions that coordinate international biodiversity issues, currently the NFP functions are somewhat scattered, and we need an institution to act as a guiding axis of the National Coordination of the NFP.	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
	Establish appropriate protocols clarifying the levels of cooperation among ministries of agriculture, water, tourism and the one in charge of the environment.	Limit redundancies and maintain consistency in action's field. The technical departments of each ministry.	Need to convince the higher authorities in the sharing of the powers of ministerial departments
	clarification of national and sub-national organizational/institutional roles and cooperation within	effective cooperation within and between the levels	lack/limited of political support

	and between the levels		
	Better communication and clarity of roles between different areas in the same organization.	Better understanding and enhanced participation of key stakeholders.	Limited resources and perceived conflicts among different area goals.
Cooperation mechanisms/communication platforms (16)	Establish permanent channels of communication between the different conventions, information flow and strategic alliances	Better flow of knowledge and establishment of a permanent coordination system	Lack of technological innovation and training in its use. Lack of follow alliances
	Existing consultation frameworks should be more dynamic to enable national correspondents conventions to meet regularly to share experiences and provide guidance in the context of the implementation of their agreement	Improve the visibility of the different conventions nationally	Institutional and financial
	Formalize meetings and developing networks between the different actors	<i>No mention</i>	lack of support to sustain the framework
	Establishment of ad hoc interministerial committees to meet and implement the commitments made by the country.	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
Institutional capacity and commitment (8)	Commitment and provision requisite resources	Enhanced results from work program of convention	Inadequate understanding of institutional roles and of the link of convention's work to national economic development policies and programs.
	Human resources to strengthen NFPs capacity to coordinate.	<i>No mention</i>	Resources.
	Staff turnover or personnel change in institutions	<i>No mention</i>	Communication among institutions is lost.

	Human resource stability and development, mobilization of resource and policy coherence.	better return on any capacity development investments	<i>No mention</i>
	More people working on conventions.	Better understanding of conventions, better informal communication, and better cooperation in achieving goals of conventions.	lack of support and funds
Stakeholder engagement and partnership building (5)	Setting out the obligations and responsibilities of all relevant stakeholders; Effective communication and collaboration and stakeholders' engagement.	Effective flow of information and knowledge, Enhanced institutional and policy-making capacities, increased stakeholder cooperation and participation, avoiding duplications in efforts.	Lack of human resources/staff, Lack of inter-sectoral cooperation, Lack of high-level support.
	The successful implementation of the Conventions require partners. NFPs should be empowered on how to go about building, strengthening and maintaining partnerships to contribute to implementation and also to contribute resources either in the form of sharing or through bilateral arrangements.	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
	Networking between scientific institutions and Ministries involved in conservation of biodiversity through their respective programmes and projects.	Synergies and networking would lead to better outcomes and effective conservation.	Building synergies and effective coordination between Ministries requires constant and continuing engagement.
	Involve civil society organisations	Will actually reach people	Government agencies and attitudes averse to inclusion of CSOs in Biodiversity related

			work.
Information and data management (3)	Developing clearing house mechanism.	Easy information exchange.	Lack of skilled human resources and financial resources.
	Define a mechanism for coordination, collection, processing and management of information	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
	Strengthen environmental monitoring system : Establish and periodically update a National Red List of threatened species of fauna and flora	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
Identification of capacity-building and training needs (2)	Map staff skills, demand and needs.	Properly addressing of capacity-building needs.	Coordination of departments to execute this mapping.
	Identify capacity needs at various levels.	knowledge gaps and training needs identified	existing institutional mandates narrow
Other	Mainstreaming Biodiversity	This will greatly ensure that biodiversity conservation is practiced by other convention and duplication is avoided	There is no institutional arrangement to serve all the convention
	Harmonized budgeting and planning among conventions at national level	synchronized output	lack of support at higher level and varying priorities

Systemic

Category of need	Examples of needs specific needs identified	Benefits	Challenges
Integrated platform or framework for implementation of MEAs (20)	Reinforcing the structural and organizational capacities of the Ministry in Charge of the Environment to establish or create an umbrella organization to coordinate the collaboration and cooperation between	Facilitate the exchange of information and payment of contributions; Ministry monitoring obligation	Weak monitoring of agreements and conventions by the technical Department of the Ministry. Account no record of statutory meetings (CoP and associated

	NFPs of agreements and conventions		Assignment)
	formal or informal National Experts commission, as a consultative body	stronger impact of experts to decision makers	lack of political understanding
	Framework for institutional coordination mechanism in place.	Clear roles and responsibilities, clear mandates and learning platforms.	<i>No mention</i>
	Working groups and National committees for implementation of Conventions (inter-departmental committees).	Improved exchange of experience and enhanced informal communication between inter-departmental cooperation.	The number of personnel reduced and unprofessional from other departments in biodiversity conventions implementation.
	Linking the institutions and creating a functional framework aimed at implementing the conventions, Effective coordination between different administration levels, Collaboration and information flow between socio-political and all other organizational systems	Political framework to foster the implementation of conventions, Responsibilities and roles designated and shared.	Lack of infrastructural and institutional support for adequate cooperation and implementation of conventions, Lack of formal mechanism for enhanced cooperation, insufficient political support.
	Need for an overall coordinating body or secretariat at national level.	The coordinating body will be able to bring on board all NFP to the Conventions.	Lack of cooperation by the various NFP
Inter-institutional/organizational cooperation and communication (16)	cross-agency collaborations by NFPs on key biodiversity and other conventions	Cross-cutting issues are fully considered across conventions and national policies even where conventions have an indirect linkage or need for cooperation (i.e. UNCLOS [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea] and biodiversity issues).	Cross-agency networking needs to be regular and maintained particularly with areas of high turnover of staff resources etc. Networking could be assisted by international organizations also. Particularly where information sharing on submissions,

			papers and other studies would be useful in other conventions in order to avoid research and efforts that have already been undertaken on a topic considered by multiple conventions (i.e. indicators development for the Sustainable Development Goals – utilizing indicators that have already been developed under the CBD).
	Networking of governmental bodies and/or organizations/institutions where NFP is working.	Enhanced cooperation between the governmental bodies, organizations and institutions on MEA related issues.	Lack of understanding on importance of interagency cooperation on MEA implementation.
	Enhanced interaction amongst the several organisations and institutions which have a mandate for biodiversity conservation and related aspects such as land use planning and survey, pollution monitoring; create opportunities for interaction and consultation cross-sectorally amongst various development sectors and the environment/biodiversity sector.	Enhanced cooperation and sharing of efforts towards common goals; Sensitization towards biodiversity and integration into policies and programmes across sectors.	Lack of coordination, limited opportunities for consultation and collaboration.
	Improve relations at various institutional levels, governmental and non-governmental organizations working area.	Joint work for the implementation of conventions for the sustainable conservation of biological diversity.	Support national authorities to inter institutional integration.
	collaboration between NGOs and state institutions	Optimizing the contribution of NGOs	<i>No mention</i>

		and civil society in achieving the objectives of LQA Difficulties conventions-	
	Coordination between relevant governing bodies.	Successful implementation of cross jurisdictional projects.	The current structure can sometimes hinder lateral cooperation between government departments particularly in instances where these departments should be very closely linked because of shared interests.
	enhance and improve the communication mechanism within the organisations and institutions and stakeholders	for effective and efficient implementation of any work activities	sometimes system is inconsistent
Biodiversity mainstreaming (5)	Need for greater coherence in policy development priorities, with a focus on conservation, in order to give sustainability to productive activity, need to develop or strengthen planning in the country, recognizing the skills and competences of the sectors, but while they themselves recognize the need to articulate and achieve complementarity between them. Partnerships and closer to productive sectors.	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
	Integration of the convention related issues into development plans, sector policies, investment plans and national legislations	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
	Mainstreaming biodiversity concerns into sectoral and cross-sectoral policies	taking into account the systemic issue of biodiversity	administrative guardianship conventions are different

Legislative framework (5)	Clarity in the operation of the roles, functions, goals and processes for dealing with cross-cutting issues abiding by the existing legal provisions.	Optimization of institutional resources and achievement of objectives and goals.	Lack of high-level support to improve cooperation and lack of cooperation between departments and / or between agencies.
	Analysis of conflicting objectives among laws and regulations. Especially resource development vs. conservation.	identify conflicting issues to improve policy, reduce conflicts, and increase the effectiveness of conservation initiatives	No consideration of cumulative, direct, indirect and secondary impacts of policy, programs and plans. Consequently, development goals are in conflict with conservation goals.
	Develop specific national legislation on the conservation , biodiversity management and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of biological resources	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
National strategy or harmonization of policies regarding MEA implementation (5)	Overarching strategy to guide priorities across the different conventions.	Ability to properly plan and prioritize amongst competing imperatives between organisations.	Resolving competing policy imperatives.
	Preparation of Strategic Plan for the implementation of the conventions	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
	Harmonization of policies and mandates	clear definition of roles	Different policies and mandates saying different things resulting in conflicts among institutions.
Clarify of functions and mandates (4)	Simplify, sort out and make clear mandates;	will stop falling between too many stools;	Resistance from entrenched bureaucratic and research lobbies. Ministers /politicians unable to understand the imperatives of conservation.

	Clear mandates of the NFPs.	Effective implementation of conventions.	Overlaps in institutional mandates.
	There are some overlapping roles and responsibilities among the government institutions. Lack of government priority on biodiversity conservation and environmental protection.	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
	Online courses to explain about objectives and activities related to MEAs, role of stakeholders and creation and maintenance of networks.	Stakeholders prepared to deal with MEAs reporting and implementation.	Lack of financial resources destined to elaborate and execute these courses.
Other	Increase mechanisms for Public Participation.	More participation of stakeholders and the general public interested on protecting biodiversity.	Update the impact assessment guidelines and make the impact assessment process more participate and transparent, including access to information.
	Avoiding burden on stakeholders in regards to separate consultation and reporting on similar subjects across multiple biodiversity related conventions.	Consultation and reporting is coordinated by the NFPs and even promoted by the Secretariats of relevant conventions to reduce burden and to fully inform stakeholders of key issues even those they have not identified as a potential interest area.	Increased networking and information sharing of key stakeholders. NFPs should organize stakeholder engagement collaboratively.

Annex 3: Awareness-raising needs

Category of need	Examples of needs specific needs identified	Benefits	Challenges
Communications plan across levels reaching individuals and communities (28)	<p>Communications that we are in a Decade on BioDiv with International, National, (in some cases) sub national and local BioDiv Strategies and Action Plans(BSAP)</p>	<p>Stimulate collective understanding and action</p>	<p>Establishing communications channels and encouraging BSAPs that are nested within other levels and are stated as a BSAP effort within the decade</p>
	<p>Promotion of integrated and permanent (or of long term) campaigns on internet or television, besides occasional ones, like "day of biodiversity".</p>	<p>Better cost benefit results, in terms of investment and target audience reached.</p>	<p>Translate technical to informal language and the political effort to occupy official and commercial media</p>
	<p>Using and improve of advance and current technology for developing awareness materials, using all available media to deliver the message, using local language in all promotional materials and establish demonstration materials or field plots as for further educational materials.</p>	<p>Improve knowledge and understanding</p>	<p>lack or limited of funds available</p>
Understanding of the economic value of biodiversity (in particular decision-makers); to consider biodiversity as a lever for sustainable	<p>The valuation of the services provided by the ecosystems and biological diversity, which are fundamental to the social and economic development</p>	<p>More conscientious management of the country's natural resources</p>	<p>International economic pressures leading the use of the natural resources in the country, passing over the national needs and priorities (e.g. sugar cane and palm oil markets).</p>

<p>economic development; to have a coherent national plan that would harmonize biodiversity policies and programmes in the context of the SDGs (18)</p>	<p>The main needs are related to awareness of the goods and services provided by ecosystems and biodiversity , awareness of the value and benefits of conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of ecosystems and finally the awareness of environmental benefits and multiple socio-economic related concerted implementation of conventions related to biological diversity</p>	<p>Membership of the actors in the implementation of conventions and appropriation of conservations principles of biodiversity and sustainable ecosystem management</p>	<p>Several actors with divergent or even antagonistic interests , lack of resource mobilization strategy at the national level to improve the implementation of the conventions</p>
	<p>Raise awareness while showing the economic values of biodiversities</p>	<p>Strong involvement of stakeholders from all sectors</p>	<p>No actual figures on ecosystem biodiversity arising from activities in the national economy</p>
<p>Staff's working knowledge of biodiversity and the related conventions (14)</p>	<p>Awareness of the concept of biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>Understanding the share contributed by each convention to the overall achievement of conservation of biological diversity</p>	<p><i>No mention</i></p>
	<p>Importance of educating officials about the importance of liaison and coordination between the representatives of the various conventions and unify the overall goals and policies and expected outputs</p>	<p>Facilitates informational link operations and the development of a general plan and deliberate targets serve all agreements and reduce the waste of resources and allocations</p>	<p>Challenges: to identify the best ways and solutions coordination between efforts to avoid a shortage of laws and regulations in the state</p>

<p>Awareness of the responsibilities, obligations and implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions; identification of the issues each of the conventions focus on and synergizing these in meetings and agreements on shared issues (10)</p>	<p>Clear identification of the issues among the conventions. Greater socialization of the conventions that the secretariats of the Conventions, socialize synergies in its meetings and agreements, which are shared issues. need to communicate the importance of biodiversity and its mainstreaming in all sectors</p>	<p>The biggest benefit is that the application is more effective, optimize resources</p>	<p>The challenge is the officials or institutions responsible for the implementation do not necessarily understand the importance of interacting and articulating the issues</p>
	<p>Need of understanding and importance of the issues at the national and global levels.</p>	<p>The benefit is to improve decision-making and greater involvement of the parties.</p>	<p>The challenge is the lack of communication mechanisms among stakeholders and transparency in decision-making.</p>
<p>Awareness of strategic plans, goals and targets of the biodiversity-related conventions and their reporting cycles (8)</p>	<p>Awareness needed on strategic plans, goals and targets of biodiversity-related conventions, reporting cycles, potential data sharing and exchange of information</p>	<p>Enhanced cooperation and sharing of efforts towards common goals</p>	<p>Lack of opportunities for awareness building and exchange</p>
	<p>Awareness of the common objectives/overlaps between the MEAs</p>	<p>Increased cooperating</p>	<p>Little appetite amongst relevant organisations/individuals</p>
<p>Awareness of the personnel needs, such as technical and human resources (8)</p>	<p>Inadequate human and technical resources.</p>	<p>The benefits include having adequate people with the right training to carry out programs.</p>	<p>Challenges include finding and hiring qualified persons or attracting and managing volunteers.</p>
<p>The users/consumers awareness of the benefits and values of biodiversity (6)</p>	<p>Public awareness</p>	<p>A well informed public is more likely to cooperate and more likely to collaborate if they know how they can help</p>	<p>Overcoming disinterest and mindsets</p>

	Awareness-raising on the importance of biodiversity for the general public/community	People can understand the importance of biodiversity conservation and use its resources sustainably	Lack of scientific skills; Lack technical support; Lack of financial support
A mechanism or partnerships between community groups, NGOs and focal points to enhance communication between the levels and actors (5)	Establishment of a mechanism for cooperation between NGOs and focal points, communication technique training and information, and coaching technique, pedagogy and andragogy	Achieve much of targets and bring to their understanding of the need for cooperation in the conservation of biodiversity.	<i>No mention</i>
Greater interaction between the various committees, working groups, agencies and ministries working on biodiversity (5)	Greater interaction between the various committees related to biological diversity and the like	Increased awareness by members of committees that discuss the implementation of the conventions	Topics include the CBD agendas of committees related to other conventions
	Regular meetings between NFPs	Improved understanding of conventions' provisions and goals, better understanding of common areas of conventions and opportunities for cooperation and collaboration	Lack of high level support
Cross-sectoral information workshops bringing together focal points, private sector, grassroots civil society, researchers, policy-makers and media (5)	Organizing information workshops, awareness, communication of stakeholders (focal points, private sector, grassroots communities, research communities, universities, policy makers, the donors, the media, advocacy etc.)	Adherence of all parties, greater involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of instruments	Lack of financial resources

	Participate in workshops and regional and international training courses in the field of biodiversity and its importance	Awareness of the benefits of biodiversity and the acquisition of personal skills and education to other	The shortfall of funding for these courses, workshops and non-including all countries in these courses
Knowledge of the plans and programmes of other focal points and joint work programmes (4)	Need to know the plans and programs of each of the Convention to all focal points	To improve communication and coordination, then officially defined coordination mechanisms (regular meetings) and include in their work plans	No mention
	Awareness of the importance of teamwork, the importance of conventions and on participatory management of biodiversity	Establishing a more coordinated and joint management	Changing work patterns and institutional organization
A shared online systems or a platform with accurate data and information on biodiversity, equipped with analysis tools for decision-makers, stakeholders and civil society (3)	Provide to decision makers, stakeholders and civil society online webpages/systems with relevant, organized and accurate data and information about biodiversity, as well analysis tools.	Support awareness actions and campaigns, at all levels, with relevant, updated and accurate information.	Integrate spread and disorganized information
Other	Training of trainers for awareness-raising	We have trained specialist team for this purpose	Rare of this kind of training and financial resources also
	Lack of baseline information on current awareness situation	Easy to measure progress and determine further needs	Lack of resources to finance baseline research

	<p>Integrate into school curriculum an education program on the environment.</p>	<p>Appreciate and understand the concept of biodiversity from an early age. Once the factors in the social acceptability of biodiversity are taught, it is easy for the citizen, once grown up to be an actor of its sustainable management</p>	<p>Absence of education policies clearly defined environment. Need to prioritize thematic areas depending on the level of learner</p>
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Annex 4: Other Multilateral Environmental Agreements

The respondent were asked to elaborate on any capacity-building and awareness-raising needs with respect to enhancing cooperation and collaboration with other multilateral environmental agreements at the national level as well as the importance in addressing those needs. Many respondents noted that both the capacity-building and awareness-raising needs with other MEAs were the same as with the biodiversity-related conventions. Due to the tendency of most of the respondents to only list the needs without associating benefits or challenges to them, the tables below present examples of the identified needs.

Capacity-building needs
Individual level
Strengthening the capacity of focal points in cooperation (leadership skills and network development)
Training of focal points in ICT
Drafting of national reports and generally methods of data analysis
Enhancing the skills on biodiversity management and monitoring
Organizational level
Cooperation for financial resource mobilization, e.g. in research and across sectors
Establishment/ strengthening of coordination/ communication mechanisms, including for the Rio Conventions
Strengthening of cooperation with regional conventions, including through experience sharing of good practices in coordinated implementation
Strategic planning (goals and action plans), in particular utilization of NBSAPs as a tool for enhanced cooperation, coordination and synergies
Situation analysis and resource assessments
Harmonization of policies and legislation related to the implementation of the programs of work of the conventions in question
Cooperation and collaboration to develop or participate in international initiatives related to integrated reporting tools
Integrated planning and implementation cross line ministries
Developing action plans on creating synergies in the implementation of MEAs

Identification of appropriate communication tools and technologies to improve collaboration between focal points of the conventions
Combining the efforts done by all conventions in biodiversity mainstreaming
Collaboration with other Rio Conventions and other relevant agreements, organizations and process that are of relevance for biodiversity including the WIPO, WHO, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), IPBES etc.
Strengthening institutional capacity on the mobilization of information on biological diversity
Systemic level
Management and processing of data for effective flow of information and knowledge
Workshops on the integration of other MEAs
Better understanding of the linkages between UNFCCC and the biodiversity-related conventions, specifically regarding REDD+ and climate change adaptation, and between UNCCD and the biodiversity-related conventions, specifically regarding land degradation
Elaborating joint projects

Awareness-raising needs
Development of newsletters to share information on ongoing activities and each MEA focal point needs to increase communication about their respective biodiversity convention
Training on communication tools and training on the use of social networks
Greater communication to the general public/ civil society/ government/ academia/ the private sector on benefits and scope of such cooperation and on key issues to implement the conventions through the development of a communication strategy
Awareness of policy makers/ decision makers at various levels on issues and challenges related to the conventions on biodiversity and local communities
Improved cooperation between Secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and other conventions to share information with Parties on tools, guidance and mechanisms for enhancing collaborative efforts
The NBSAPs should provide the framework for enhanced cooperation, coordination and synergies at the national level
Promote the establishment of a framework law on biodiversity

National, regional and sub-regional awareness-raising strategies that determine key target groups and desired behavior changes, including timetables, activities, resources, evaluation tools and identification of target groups.
Awareness on the importance and economic value of biodiversity; the linkage between biological resources and economic development policy and the translations of loss of biological resources in monetary language
Land and forest use and soil degradation
Strengthen advocacy on the importance of the inclusion of biodiversity in national planning documents and in the process of revision of sectoral legislation and regulations and conduct advocacy at the local level for consideration of biodiversity in land use decisions
Raising awareness on the benefits of the implementation of conventions, and in particular the opportunities for countries in the framework of the implementation of international conventions on environmental matters/ on preservation strategies and / or environmental protection/ on sustainable production and consumption/ on the green economy
Raising awareness on why conventions are important individually as well as why integrated implementation is important and how to tailor implementation needs to individual country circumstances.
Invasive alien species
Better cooperation with the UNFCCC, addressing mitigation as well as adaptation needs

Annex 5: Learning opportunities

National and regional workshops, e.g. consultation or planning, events, validation of national reports, biodiversity-related MEA report harmonization etc.
Organization of special stakeholder meetings on emerging issues, e.g. bees, invasive alien species and previously the 2010 target. Special working groups involving these stakeholders have been established afterwards involving also NFPs of the different relevant conventions
Regular opportunities to informally or formally exchange with other NFPs
MEA committees
An exchange and information center on biological diversity
Ramsar Regional Initiative – East-Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership
Atlas of Living Australia (a node of the Global Biodiversity Information Facility)
The Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF)
The Enhancing Pacific Oceans Governance Project (EPOG)
Pacific MEA training within the Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP)

Annex 6: Existing tools/guidance/mechanisms

Examples of identified guidance/tools/mechanisms	Benefits	Challenges
Cooperation mechanisms (e.g. steering committees involving stakeholders from different conventions in their meetings and joint preparation of reports; on some occasions joint meetings and distribution of documents to members, national committees and working groups)	Inclusive discussion of issues and their prioritization, preparation of documents associated with the topic besides making agreements and commitments contained in the minutes of work	Unwillingness to agree, lack of budgetary resources for the implementation of agreements, lack of budgetary resources for the transfer of staff or technological limitations for non-face meetings, high turnover in senior decision makers level
Clearing House Mechanisms (CHM)	<i>No mention</i>	Normally limited by unawareness of policies which facilitate their adoption and lack of resources; these are expensive to maintain and update. Particularly if the staff does not have an I.T. member and must hire a web-master
Periodic meetings, seminars and workshops on various thematic issues are the prime tools and approaches for enhancing cooperation at the national level	<i>No mention</i>	Availability of adequate financial resources for their organization is a barrier
Experience sharing, in particular South-South (e.g. International meetings between NFPs of various conventions; regional trainings for NFPs on biodiversity conventions; stading trips for NFPs and specialists on biodiversity in other countries, which have good practices on biodiversity conventions implementation; elaboration of practical guides on synergy of biodiversity conventions)	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
Regional conventions, e.g. Inter-American Convention for the protection and conservation of sea turtles	Useful to propose areas of opportunity to improve synergies	Lack of resources and government targets specifically aimed at improving synergy

National policy, both environmental and non-environmental, can help enhance implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. For example, through integrating other policies for issues such as health, education and agriculture with biodiversity conservation.	<i>No mention</i>	Lack of policies, laws and regulations enforcement
Networks ("Networks are important tools in stakeholder identification and engagement as well as for maintaining communication between focal points.")	Useful in communication of efforts across conventions and identification of ways to minimize duplication of efforts and create synergies through collective efforts	<i>No mention</i>
National datasets that are easily accessible and user friendly such as the Atlas of Living Australia which collates national, sub-national and other environmental data	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
Memorandum of Understanding between agencies	Useful because it's an agreement between the heads of departments or heads of ministries	<i>No mention</i>
Preparation and official formalization of protocols and guidelines for coordination and joint action	Targeting use of budgetary resources, performances based on competence and legal powers of the cooperating programming actions and activities	High turnover in senior decision makers level
Common communication plans for the conventions	Provides a platform for consistent communication with external and internal stakeholders	<i>No mention</i>
Public awareness material	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
Development of NBSAPs	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
CBD Strategic Plans and regional plans	Legitimizes conversation and gives a good talking point to engage individuals/groups/government in engaging in biodiversity conservation	Lack of awareness on global, national and sub-national plans

UNEP Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
Tematea	<i>No mention</i>	Not very visual and more simple language could be used
CEPA toolkit	Generally a good resource for anyone working on biodiversity-related matters: Information on how to better understand sociological approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity; case studies are useful; good information on how to work within different levels of government and stakeholders etc.	The name of the toolkit (NFP focus) doesn't indicate that the teachings and approaches are relevant to anyone working on biodiversity-related matters; the table of contents should reflect the different levels of governance (international, national, sub-national, local) - this would help those looking for succinct information of relevance to their level of work and thus to better understand the approach for CEPA
InforMEA	Gives basic understanding on MEAs, creating a common understanding of legal principles	Can be difficult if not familiar with language; lack of awareness of InforMEA and its use; more conventions/ agreements with implications for biodiversity should be included in the InforMEA platform (in particular UNFCCC and UNCCD)
Advancing the Biodiversity Agenda - A UN system-wide contribution. A report by the Environment Management Group (UNEP, 2010. ISBN 978-92-807-3115-6	Starts to break down the silos between UNEP environment programmes (some MEAS are included in the work); integrates and makes suggestions for multiple directions and actions; high potential to be operationalized in a specific setting	Not well known as a document; not set up to be considered outside the UN system; SDGs are not yet considered

Ecosystem Services Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment	To analyze gaps and conflicts among laws, policies and programs to guide development and to meet social economic and conservation needs (also considering cumulative effects)	Lack of capacity for implementation
Rapid Diagnostic Mainstreaming tool	<i>No mention</i>	Normally limited by unawareness of policies which facilitate their adoption and lack of resources
Verified Conservation Areas (VCA) Approach, http://v-c-a.org - Links Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11, 15 and 20 to promote conservation and restoration beyond traditional protected areas and in so doing contributes to CBD, the Ramsar Convention, WHC, CMS and CITES	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
IPBES	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
TEEB	<i>No mention</i>	<i>No mention</i>
Development of a tool for the follow-up of the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS) 2020	Facilitates the follow-up of the NBS and can also be used to facilitate the reporting to the different conventions towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets	<i>No mention</i>

Annex 7: New/additional tools

International and regional workshops for NFPs of different MEAs, including joint preparatory meetings for COPs, or national conferences
Coordination mechanisms (for NFPs) and/or consultation frameworks
Experience-sharing
Creation of regional networks
E-course on MEA national reporting
Introduction of other conventions at major meetings (e.g. COP) of each convention
Making use of COP's to make a difference and foster exchange of knowledge and best practices in a systematic way. Having face to face events similar to the Rio Pavilion, but for the biodiversity related conventions and better use of social media
Power point presentation with the main results of the <i>Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity- related conventions at national and regional levels</i> , to be distributed widely among NFPs of the biodiversity-related conventions
Guidance or other information collaboratively developed by the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions
An annual celebration of communication and socialization on synergies between the biodiversity-related conventions
Develop regional projects on common issues among the conventions
Guidelines on how to develop a national /regional coordination information system/website for MEAs
A best-practice guidance document on enhancing cooperation can be a useful tool/mechanism
A guidance document which interprets biodiversity-related conventions and describes areas where conventions are following the same or similar goals as well as what the differences between conventions are
A review of the programme of work for the biodiversity-related convention
No further tools or guidelines are necessary
Establishment of regional offices for the conventions
Designate one MEA focal point to be in charge of creating synergies
Online training course for CEPA

Make "Advancing the biodiversity agenda" into a tool similar to CEPA

Replicating the Pacific MEA trainings within countries

Developing special workspaces for NFPs for web based ongoing communications of course taking into account technology challenges of some developing countries

Development of education guidelines and programs

Interest-based mediation and consensus decision making

Annex 8: Ongoing initiatives

Capacity-building on access and benefit-sharing (ABS)
Many capacity development activities "owned" by one of the MEAs would benefit. For example, IPPC capacity development activities could include CBD issues in relation to invasive species.
National strategy for strengthening the capabilities of personnel dealing with protected areas
Ramsar Regional Initiatives (RRI): potential to develop an Oceania RRI which could support implementation of a number of conventions (Ramsar, CBD, CMS, IPCC)
The Coral Triangle Initiative for Coral Reefs, Fisheries and Food Security (CTI-CFF)
The IPBES capacity-building programme for building capacity in the area of biodiversity assessments and for thematic assessments
Regularly held workshops of Conventions
Online courses developed and promoted with a range of governmental and non-governmental partners
Regional preparatory workshops for CMS COPs
Workshops for capacity enhancements at conservation fora such as the Asia Regional Conservation Forum organized by IUCN in November 2015
PoWPA and NBSAP capacity-building workshops
The National Reporting System developed by UNEP
Regional Seas project could tie in closely with CMS, the Ramsar Convention and CITES
Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) related project focusing on legislation could benefit from having cooperation in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions as a focus
Regional CHM workshop
All Convention inter-session meetings and Conferences of the Parties (COPs)
Using the SDGs as a harmonizing framework to link related discussions taking place at the up-coming UNEA, the CITES and CBD COPs as well as the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016
African Union (AU) project on MEAs

Questionnaire on key capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among MEAs at the national level

In **CBD decision XII/6** on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, subject to the availability of resources, “*a study on key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements at the national level*” (paragraph 11).

This study is planned as an **input for a workshop** called for in the same decision (paragraph 6). The aim of the workshop is “*to prepare options, which could include elements for a possible road map, for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them ... with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels*”. This workshop is being planned by an informal advisory group established for the purpose, is expected to take place in February 2016 in Switzerland and will involve representatives of Parties to each of the biodiversity-related conventions.

The **objective of this questionnaire** is to inform the study on key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among MEAs at the national level, which will provide an input to the workshop. It aims to further explore the views and experiences of **national focal points, serving all functions of the biodiversity-related conventions**, on key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation at the national level. The survey is seeking the views and experience of as many functionaries as possible, whose work and experience has a bearing on the implementation of one or more of the conventions. The survey thus addresses focal points of the conventions in their individual capacities and does not seek for consolidated country positions.

The study and this questionnaire focus on the so-called **biodiversity-related conventions**: the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the World Heritage Convention (WHC).

The **identity of the respondents** and their individual affiliation will be kept strictly confidential. However, it would be extremely useful if respondents could provide their contact details on the next page. This information will be used for statistical purposes when analyzing the responses to the questionnaire. It will also provide the project team with an opportunity to follow up on, and further explore, key issues identified by respondents, potentially as a basis for the formulation of illustrative case studies.

Lastly, it should be pointed out that in April 2014, a **UNEP survey** was conducted to explore the benefits and challenges of enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions. This survey as well as the resulting study on capacity-building and awareness-raising needs build upon the results of the UNEP project and are thus complementary.

The deadline for submitting this survey is 4 December 2015.

Thank you for taking you time to fill out the survey.

For further information please contact Kaisa Pietila Kaisa.Pietila@unep-wcmc.org and Katharina Rogalla von Bieberstein Katharina.Bieberstein@unep-wcmc.org.

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Section V. Final Comments

I. General / Background

1. Please list your name, position, Ministry/Department, country and contact details*

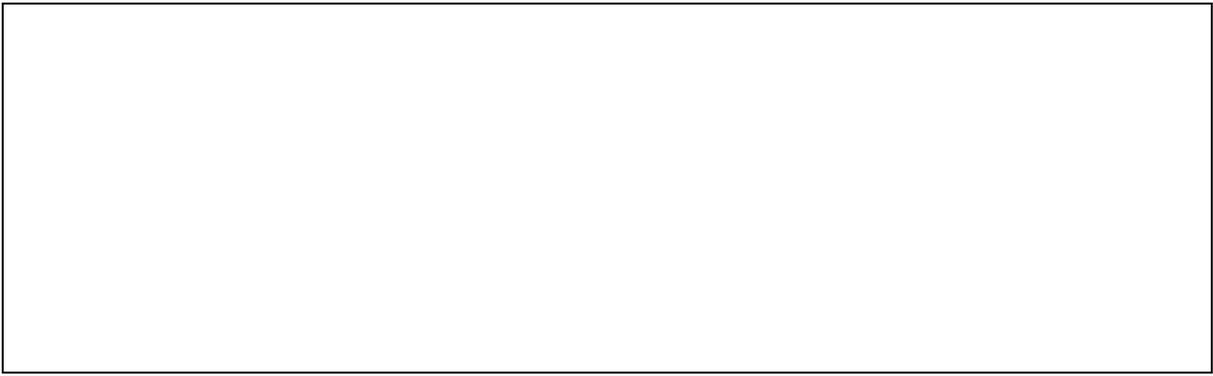
Full Name	
Job title/position	
Department	
Ministry/Organization	
Country	
Email*	
Telephone number*	

*Please do not list your contact details if you do not wish to be contacted in relation to this questionnaire.

2. For which of the seven global biodiversity-related conventions do you serve as a focal point/authority or contribute to in another capacity? Please tick all the relevant boxes.

Convention	National focal point/ Authority/other
Convention on Biological Diversity	
Convention on Migratory Species	
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands	
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture	
World Heritage Convention	
International Plant Protection Convention	

Please specify the function(s) you are exercising in support of the conventions identified above (for example, under the Convention on Biological Diversity: CBD Primary NFP, SBSTTA NFP etc.; under the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals: Scientific Council Member, Working Group Member, etc., etc.).



II. Setting the scene: Cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions

Cooperation can be defined as: working together towards a common aim or objective. This study focuses on cooperation between authorities that are responsible for the implementation of measures related to the various biodiversity-related conventions. Such cooperation can include measures that are optional, as well as measures that may be mandatory at national level. An objective would be to enhance the effectiveness of implementation and the responsible entities, towards the ultimate objective of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

3. How important do you think is cooperation in implementing the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level?

Not important at all			Somewhat important				Very important		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

Please elaborate further (i.e. what are the benefits of cooperation? What are the challenges? What is the aim and what can be achieved through enhanced cooperation?)

4. What is the current level of cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions in your country (e.g. formal or informal coordination mechanisms among national focal points, responsible offices and other key stakeholders, national biodiversity committees, working groups, etc.)?

Conventions	Little cooperation			Occasional cooperation				Close Cooperation		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
CBD/CITES										
CBD/CMS										
CBD/IPPC										

CBD/ITPGRFA										
CBD/WHC										
CBD/Ramsar										
CMS/CITES										
CMS/IPPC										
CMS/ITPGRFA										
CMS/WHC										
CMS/Ramsar										
CITES/IPPC										
CITES/ITPGRFA										
CITES/WHC										
CITES/Ramsar										
IPPC/ITPGRFA										
IPPC/WHC										
IPPC/Ramsar										
ITPGRFA/WHC										
ITPGRFA/Ramsar										
WHC/Ramsar										
All conventions										

Please elaborate further (e.g. Are cooperation arrangements formal or informal? Do coordination meetings occur on a regular basis or ad-hoc (i.e. joint preparation for COPs, etc.)?). Please feel free to also elaborate on cooperation between more than two conventions.

5. In what areas do you see a high potential for enhancing cooperation and collaboration in implementing the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level? (Please tick all that apply and/or add additional areas)

National level development policy planning and processes	
Institutional arrangements	
Information and knowledge management	
National reporting	
Monitoring and indicators	
Communication and public awareness	
Using knowledge in decision making (science-policy interface)	
Capacity-building for implementation of the conventions	
Resource mobilization and utilization	
Policy development	
Mainstreaming biodiversity issues into sectors and cross-sectoral policies	

Other areas (Please specify)

III. Capacity-building and awareness-raising needs to enhance cooperation

This survey is concerned with identifying needs for capacity-building and awareness-raising in order to enhance cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions.

In the first two sub-sections a) and b) on capacity-building needs and awareness-raising needs, it is aimed to identify what needs to happen in order to enhance cooperation in implementing the biodiversity-related conventions in the areas identified in on the last slide (question 5): Which capacities need to be built or strengthened and where, and on which issues does awareness need to be raised or increased? Sub-section c) then aims to identify and review existing tools to address capacity-building and awareness-raising needs, as well as gaps, and to identify opportunities for capacity-building and awareness-raising activities on cooperation at different levels.

For the purposes of this questionnaire, the key terms are defined as follows:

Capacity: the ability of individuals, organisations and networks to perform their roles or function/s effectively, efficiently and in a sustainable manner. This includes the abilities, understandings, awareness, beliefs, attitudes, values, relationships, behaviors, motivations, resources and external conditions that enable individuals, organisations, networks and broader social systems to carry out functions and achieve their objectives over time.

Capacity-building: the process by which individuals and groups, including organisations, institutions and countries, plan, develop, enhance, review and re-organize their systems, resources and knowledge; all reflected in their abilities, individually and collectively, to perform functions, solve problems and achieve objectives.

Awareness-raising: as part of a permanent and interactive communication flow, awareness-raising is a process which opens opportunities for information exchange in order to improve mutual understanding and to develop competencies and skills necessary to enable changes in social attitude and behavior.

a. Capacity-building needs

What are the main capacity-building needs for enhancing cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions? What are the expected benefits of addressing those needs and what are potential challenges in doing so?

6. **At the individual level?** (e.g. NFPs of the conventions or other key stakeholders working on the implementation of the conventions.) **Please number each point, elaborating on the needs, expected benefits and challenges.**

Example answer: 1. Need: Networking skills of NFPs. Benefit: Enhanced informal communication among NFPs and between NFPs and other key stakeholders. Challenge: Lack of high level support for enhancing cooperation and lack of inter-departmental and/or inter-agency cooperation.

7. **At the organizational/ institutional level?** (Clarity of roles, functions, goals and processes in an organization as well as the relationship between different levels within the same organization or institution). **Please number each point, elaborating on the needs, expected benefits and challenges.**

8. **At the systemic level?** (overall governance structure in a country, including the number of organisations and institutions, their designated roles and responsibilities, their interaction, as well as the level of and mechanisms for interaction of different stakeholders groups). **Please number each point, elaborating on the needs, expected benefits and challenges.**

9. Which of the capacity-building needs identified above should be prioritized in any capacity-building activities on cooperation in your country or region and why?

b. Awareness-raising needs

10. To what extent do you think that those involved in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions in your country are aware of the potential benefits derived from enhancing cooperation and collaboration?

Little awareness			Some awareness				High awareness		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

11. In your opinion, how important is raising awareness on areas of potential for, and the benefits that may arise from enhanced cooperation and collaboration in implementing the biodiversity-related conventions at the national-level.

Not important			Important				Very important		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

12. What are the main awareness-raising needs, in your country, for enhancing cooperation and collaboration in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions? What are the expected benefits of addressing those needs and what are potential challenges in doing so? Please number each point, elaborating on the needs, expected benefits and challenges.

c. Tools, methods and opportunities

13. Are there learning opportunities available in your country or region to address the potential capacity-building and awareness-raising needs, identified in questions 6-8 and 10?

14. What tools/guidance are you aware of with respect to enhancing cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at national level? Please list the principal tools/guidance below and describe how these have been useful as well as any potential barriers in using them.

15. What additional tools or mechanisms could be useful in order to enhance cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions?

16. Can you think of any ongoing or planned capacity-building activities at global/regional/national level that would benefit from having cooperation in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions as a focus/key topic?

IV. Other Multilateral Environmental Agreements

This survey focuses on the seven global biodiversity-related conventions. Please elaborate on any capacity-building and awareness-raising needs with respect to enhancing cooperation and collaboration with other multilateral environmental agreements at the national level as well as the importance in addressing those needs.

17. Capacity-building needs

18. Awareness-raising needs

V. Final comments

19. Any other comments

Thank you very much for taking your time to fill out this questionnaire!



Annex 10: An overview of existing initiatives for enhancing coordination and collaboration at various levels across the biodiversity related-conventions

"The second multi-stakeholder expert meeting on elaboration of options for synergies among biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements"

Geneva, Switzerland, 13-15 May 2015

Background Information: An overview of existing initiatives for enhancing coordination and collaboration at various levels across the biodiversity-related conventions

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Introduction

Synergies and the need for enhanced collaboration and coordination across Biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) is not a new concept, and it has been emphasized in policy and academic discussions since the early 2000s (*for key terms such as cooperation, coordination, collaboration, and synergies see oo*). These discussions originate from the mounting concern over the potential for fragmentation, conflict and the burden on state capacity to implement numerous environmental obligations simultaneously. As a result, there have been calls by MEA governing bodies as well as the UNEP governing body to explore possible synergies between MEAs, with the specific aim of making their implementation more coherent, efficient and effective.

Under the UNEP project *Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies* a first multi-stakeholder expert meeting on elaboration of options for synergies among Biodiversity-related MEAs was held in Interlaken, Switzerland, in August 2014. The objective of the meeting was to explore and develop options for enhanced collaboration and coordination at the global level across the biodiversity-related conventions. Based on the outcome of this expert meeting, a draft options paper was produced, detailing opportunities to enhance coordination and collaboration, clustered under 7 themes (*National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Aichi Targets; Reporting, monitoring and indicators; IPBES and strengthening the Science-Policy Interface; Information management and awareness raising; Capacity building; Funding and resource efficiency; and Institutional Collaboration*). Following this meeting, the outcomes were circulated for review and comment to (NFPs) and authorities of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Convention Secretariat and the paper has now been revised based on comments received.

This document has been prepared as a means to recognise and review existing initiatives and mechanisms for coordination and collaboration between the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the second expert meeting. Rather than providing a comprehensive review, this paper is aimed at providing information pertinent to the draft options to be discussed at the meeting, in order to draw on lessons learnt and avoid overlap.

This paper is structured around initiatives relating to the 7 themes, listed above.

KEY TERMS RELATED TO COOPERATION

- Coordination: the organization of the different elements of a complex body or activity so as to enable them to work together effectively and without duplication (within an organization or among organizations/ different actors)
- Collaboration: working with someone to produce a discrete output
- Cooperation: working together towards a common aim or objective
- Synergies: linking processes in a way that increases the effects of the sum of the joint activities beyond the sum of individual activities, and thus making efforts more effective and efficient

On-going processes to explore and enhance synergies

In further developing the options for enhanced collaboration and coordination developed through the UNEP project, it is important to recognise the existence of a number of key parallel initiatives, which are also exploring means to address synergies, relating to the cluster of 7 themes in the options paper. The second expert meeting will discuss in more detail how the development of the options paper can inform and be informed by these initiatives.

UNEP MEA Task Team³⁶ [this is broader than biodiversity synergies and only the programmatic cooperation aspect seems relevant to this UNEP project]

- **Initiated by:** The Executive Director of UNEP
- **Timescale:** February 2014 – May 2016 (*UNEA-2*)
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** Two working groups have been established to facilitate the work of the task team. One working group intent to examine the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the UNEP administered MEAs, and address how these could be improved, including on support to parties (i.e. technical assistance), tools for information sharing (i.e. UNEP live and InforMEA), awareness raising, etc. Relating to strengthened programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the convention secretariats, the other working group of the task force intends to identify priority areas for such programmatic cooperation based on directions from the relevant governing bodies and general and specific mandates including identifying thematic and functional areas for potentially greater synergies.
- **Expected outputs:** The full report of the task team (based on final reports from the two working groups) will be submitted to the UNEP Executive Director in May/June 2015. This will provide input to the Executive Director report (as mandated by UNEA Resolution 1/12) covering the relationship between UNEP and MEAs for consideration at the second session of the UNEA in May 2016.

UN System Wide Strategy on the Environment [this is much broader than biodiversity synergies – it should take into account the SPB and AT and not duplicate/overlap with them]

- **Initiated by:** Environment Management Group (EMG), chaired by UNEP
- **Timescale:** December 2014 - September 2016 (*Strategy to be considered and endorsed by the 71st session of the UNGA*)
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The UN system-wide strategy on the environment is intended to ensure the coherence of relevant policies and the effective coordination of the diverse services, activities and programmes provided by the UN system in the field of the environment, in light of the mandate given to UNEP in the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. It is thus intended to strengthen the coordination and collaborative partnerships among UN system organizations in the field of the environment. The UN system-wide strategy, as a framework of such collaborative partnerships, will:
 - a) Set out a UN system-wide medium- and long-term vision in the field of the environment;
 - b) Identify common and/or complementary policies and approaches concerning emerging and important environmental issues of global concern;
 - c) Establish processes to coordinate the planning and execution of UN system activities supporting the implementation of internationally agreed environmental objectives and goals; and

³⁶ UNEA Resolution 1/12 - Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements

d) Suggest a mechanism for assessing the effectiveness of the UN system wide activities undertaken in the context of the Strategy

- **Expected output(s):** The final strategy will be submitted to the secretariat of the UNEA, where after it will be considered and approved at the UNEA-2, before its endorsement at the 71st session of the UNGA
- **More information:** The strategy is still under development, however the draft TOR is available at: unemg.org/images/emgdocs/UN_sws/191214_ToR_SWS_for_EMG_comments.pdf

CBD informal advisory group on preparing options to enhance synergies and improve efficiency amongst various Biodiversity-related Conventions

- **Initiated by:** Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as mandated by CBD COP decision XII/6
- **Timescale:** 2014 – April 2016 (*first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)*)
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** a regionally balanced informal advisory group, composed of two members per region, selected by the Bureau of the CBD COP on the basis of nominations by Parties, to prepare, in consultation with the Secretariat, prior to the first meeting of SBI, a workshop with the task to prepare options which could include elements for a possible road map, for Parties of the various Biodiversity-related Conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them, without prejudice to the specific objectives and recognizing the respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources of these conventions, with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels; and invites the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) to participate in the informal advisory group³⁷. The workshop was welcomed in the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Resolution 11.10, paragraph 15, which requested the Executive Secretary and the Standing Committee to facilitate the selection of the representatives to participate in the workshop.
- **Expected outputs:** Options which could include elements for a possible road map, for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them.

Existing initiatives

A wide range of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration between the Biodiversity-related Conventions already exists, ranging from **thematic cooperation**, (e.g. the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Management of Wildlife), **Joint Memoranda of Understanding/Cooperation (MoU/Cs) and work plans/ programmes** between MEAs to **generic mechanisms and bodies**, including the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB).

The activities and mechanisms presented in this section are listed according to their relevance to the 7 focal areas of the options paper, namely NBSAPs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Aichi Targets; Reporting, monitoring and indicators; IPBES and strengthening the Science-Policy Interface; Information management and awareness raising; Capacity building; Funding and resource efficiency; and Institutional Collaboration. Due to the broad mandate of the BLG, references are made to it

³⁷ CBD COP decision XII/6, paragraph 6: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-06-en.pdf>

under most of the focal areas, though the details on the Group, and means to strengthen the Group itself are elaborated under "Institutional Co-operation".

In addition to those relating to the focal areas of the existing options paper, two additional categories of existing initiatives are presented- one addressing programmatic/thematic collaboration and the other Joint work plans/ programmes and MoC's, as mentioned above.

NBSAPs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Related activities of the BLG (for more detail on the BLG see "Institutional Collaboration")

At the first high level retreat of BLG members in 2010 it was agreed by all of the convention secretariats to cooperate in the implementation of the Plan. It was agreed that this will include the revision and updating of NBSAPs, which should cover the full range of activities needed to implement all the Biodiversity-related Conventions. At the last meeting of the BLG in August 2014 the BLG members reviewed the implementation of joint activities during the 2013–2014 biennium to support the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and considered other collaborative activities in different areas, e.g. on collaborative participations at events and communication and public awareness.

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force

- **Initiated by:** CBD
- **From (Year):** 2011
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force was established as part of a Memorandum of Cooperation on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, between the CBD and 27 of the largest international agencies, organizations and environmental conventions, including the secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), CMS, the International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force is comprised of the heads or deputy heads of the signatory organizations and its purpose is to promote information exchange and, where appropriate, to coordinate the activities of the respective institutions to achieve the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. By the agreed modalities of cooperation, the Task Force will build upon and complement the work being carried out by the EMG of the UN through its IMG on biodiversity and by the BLG on issues related to the implementation of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets³⁸.
- **Opportunities:** At the ninth ordinary meeting of the BLG (August 2014), members were informed that the mandate for the work being carried out by the EMG of the UN through its Issue Management Group (IMG) would soon be winding down, and it was proposed that the Task Force should build upon and complement the work of the IMG in the future, as an effective vehicle for closer cooperation on the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Furthermore the Task Force provides a significant opportunity for mainstreaming biodiversity.

NBSAP Forum

- **Initiated by:** The CBD, UNEP and UNDP
- **From (Year):** 2012

³⁸ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/health/cop-11-17-en.pdf>

- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The NBSAP Forum is a global partnership and community aiming to support NBSAP revisions. The purpose of the NBSAP Forum web portal is to support countries in finding the information they need to develop and implement effective NBSAPs. The portal helps to develop a community of practice across a wide range of stakeholders, from national NBSAP practitioners who need access to timely information regarding best practices, guidance and resources, to individuals and organizations who wish to share their information, knowledge, support and resources. The NBSAP Forum portal provides a number of support functions, including an online forum where members can ask advice and share experiences with fellow practitioners and technical experts, organised by country, theme or region.
- **Opportunities:** As NBSAPs have been recognised as a vehicle for articulating commitments under a number of the Biodiversity-related MEAs, the Forum portal provides a place for all interested parties to gather and share experiences and seek best practices on any number of topics, including how to achieve enhanced synergies between MEAs.
- **More information:** nbsapforum.net/

Reporting, monitoring and indicators

Activities and discussions of the BLG

These include:

- **Post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs.** The CBD Secretariat has represented the views of BLG members in this process. At the last meeting of the BLG in August 2014, members agreed to continue to coordinate and share information both during and after the adoption of the SDGs, and that the CBD Secretariat would solicit inputs from members for the development of indicators to monitor the progress against the agreed SDGs and associated targets.
- **Harmonization of reporting/ joint reporting initiative.** In 2009 BLG oversaw the production of a paper on pre-conditions for harmonization of national reporting, prepared by UNEP-WCMC for distribution by the convention secretariats³⁹. At the last meeting in August 2014, participants agreed to explore opportunities for interoperability and interconnection based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

The On-line Reporting System (ORS)

- **Initiated by:** CMS and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) [an earlier version was initiated between MEAs and UNEP-WCMC in 2008]
- **From (Year):** 2011
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The ORS was developed by UNEP-WCMC in partnership with the secretariats of CMS and AEWA, and was first used for the submission of AEWA national reports to the fifth Meeting of the Parties (MOP5) in 2012. It is designed as a first step towards improving the reporting process within MEAs by streamlining the reporting process, creating efficiencies, improving reporting rates and ultimately leading to better assessment and management of natural capital. It is a sophisticated, web-based tool for questionnaire creation and management that aims to streamline the process of reporting to Multilateral Environmental Agreements by Parties.
- **Uptake:** Using the ORS, AEWA achieved the highest national report response rate in the Agreement's history. The ORS has subsequently been used by other Agreements in the CMS Family, such as the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North

³⁹ [Online] Available from <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/preconditions-harmonization-unesp-wcmc-en.pdf>. [Accessed: 26 February 2015]

East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), and for the 2014 CMS national reports to COP11. The ORS has also been customized for use by CITES and the Bern Convention and application of the system for future reporting cycles is in preparation. Projects related to the ORS are currently being discussed by the IKM Initiative and CITES and CMS/AEWA are collaborating on further development of the ORS through the Initiative. Positive feedback on the ORS, and on online reporting in general, has been received from several countries, for example within the 2014 national reports to CMS.

- **Opportunities:** The uptake of the ORS across the Biodiversity-related Conventions also has the potential to bring opportunities for increased harmonisation of national reporting templates and information-sharing, which would help to reduce the reporting burden on Parties needing to submit reports to multiple conventions. Relating to this, one of the key actions highlighted by experts on national reporting and the development of national reporting systems⁴⁰, was the importance of increasing both the efficiency and effectiveness of reporting processes, including recognition of the importance of increasing access to reported data and information was also highlighted at the meeting.
- **Next Steps:** Challenges and areas for further improvement have been identified by users, such as the dependency on internet connectivity and addition of an analytical component to automate analysis of responses. Improving online reporting tools, by e.g. introduce offline capabilities, integrated with Office suite, analytical module, pre-filling from previous reporting cycles, to address these challenges was among the key short term actions, identified by experts at the before mentioned expert meeting on Enhancing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of MEA.

The Biodiversity Indicator Partnership (BIP)

- **Initiated by:** CBD
- **From (Year):** 2006
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The BIP is the global initiative to promote and coordinate development and delivery of biodiversity indicators in support of the CBD, other MEAs, IPBES, national and regional governments and a range of other sectors. The Partnership brings together over forty organizations working internationally on indicator development to provide the most comprehensive information on biodiversity trends.
- **Opportunities:** Indicators have become an important tool for providing a scientific basis to measure progress in convention implementation and joint indicator processes can foster streamlining and/or harmonisation of national reporting.
- **More information:** bipnational.net/

The European Environment Agency (EEA) – Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) Working group on “Sharing information on implementation and reporting on progress between global, regional and national levels”

- **Initiated by:** The European Environment Agency (EEA)
- **From (Year):** 2013
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The working group was set up to explore options for “Sharing information on implementation of national strategies and reporting on progress towards biodiversity targets between global, regional and national levels”. The working group particularly aims to avoid duplicate reporting at the global and EU levels, by encouraging the re-use of country information for assessing progress towards the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the CBD and the Aichi Targets. National biodiversity policies may also set out national

⁴⁰ (December 15-16 2014) Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of MEA Implementation: Interoperability between Reporting Systems for Biodiversity Data, Co-hosted by the CITES Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC under the auspices of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative

requirements for monitoring and internal reporting on progress. The working group decided that the most appropriate way to harmonize these three layers of reporting would be to look at targets.

- **Outputs and next steps:** As a response to the recommendation to look at targets, a trial of a Biodiversity 2020 Target Cross-Linking Tool, in short TCT, has been developed. This tool will allow countries to see the inter-linkages between the Aichi Targets, the EU Biodiversity Strategy and any national strategy, in terms of the thematic content of implementation and the reporting requirements. An online demonstration version was developed by Belgium, with support from EEA, and contains data from the Belgian Biodiversity Strategy 2006-2016 and the 3rd National Report to the CBD. An official version of the Belgian use of the tool has been available since May 2014, based on the revised Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and information from the fifth National Report to the CBD. Further development of the tool will take into account the national, EU and global indicators for each target. This might be done in collaboration with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP).

Pilot projects to develop harmonised reporting templates

FNR RIO project

- **Initiated by:** UNEP and The Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- **From (Year):** 2010-2012
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** “*Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to Facilitate National Reporting to the Rio Conventions*” (The FNR Rio project) was established to explore options for increasing integration at the national level in reporting to the Rio Conventions, focussed on supporting the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The project was initiated with the overall aim of piloting nationally-driven integrated processes and approaches to reporting to the three Rio Conventions. More specifically, the objectives of the project were: to develop integrated approaches to data collection/analysis and information management of relevance to the three Rio Conventions; to increase synergies in the process of reporting to the three conventions without compromising COP decisions in this regard; and to contribute to improved overall planning and decision-making processes at the country level related to the implementation of these conventions.
- **Outputs, challenges and lessons learnt:** A joint reporting format built on existing reporting requirements, with a Joint section on sustainable land management was trialed in four pilot countries, noting benefits including the possibility of centralising coordination; enhancing cooperation between focal points; and reducing duplication. Challenges include coordination difficulties, repetitiveness of some of the questions, lack of guidance to the responses required in the reporting format and insufficient time to complete the report. The project identified further options for streamlining, either by arranging questions by key subject areas or in relation to strategic planning and development. Key options for improving alignment of reporting formats and processes based on the lessons learnt from the pilot projects included; Ensuring that common elements in reports are addressed in the same way; Agreeing on which convention requests reports on which issues; Moving towards joint thematic reporting; Developing a shared glossary and use of common definitions and; Alignment of indicator-based reporting.

Consolidated reporting template for Pacific Island countries to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements

- **Developed by:** The Australian Government's Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA), in consultation with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Pacific Island countries
- **From (Year):** 2008
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Australian Government, in collaboration SPREP, initiated a project to develop a comprehensive reporting format for five of the six Biodiversity-related Conventions: CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar Convention and the WHC. The consolidated reporting template is designed to facilitate reporting by reducing duplication and by making the process simpler and less resource-intensive. This will decrease the amount of time Pacific Island countries spend on national reporting yet still enable them to communicate their progress and achievements in implementing the MEAs. Instead of preparing multiple reports, countries would develop only one national report per reporting period. The template consists of a core report of information needed for all five conventions, and supplementary annexes for specific information necessary for each convention.
- **Uptake:** The template was trialled in 2008-2009 by the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, and received positive responses from country Parties and MEA secretariats. It helped to demonstrate that streamlining the reporting process can eliminate duplication of effort and provide countries with useful information with which to track progress towards the implementation of national, regional and global action plans. However it has not been approved for use, so remains an example to use in discussions
- **More information:** environment.gov.au/node/13062

Workshop on harmonized reporting in the ASEAN region

- **Organised by:** The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, supported by experts from UNEP-WCMC and other institutions
- **From (Year):** 2009
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The main aim of the ASEAN workshop on harmonization of reporting to biodiversity-related conventions, was to build the reporting capacity of ASEAN countries and strengthen the collaboration between focal points at the national level. The meeting resulted in an action plan for harmonization of reporting to the biodiversity-related conventions in the ASEAN region.

Harmonized reporting template for Caribbean countries

- **Developed by:** The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat
- **From (Year):** 2013
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** This Caribbean harmonised reporting template (CHART) was prepared by the CARICOMs Secretariat through a consultancy as part of the project for Capacity Building related to MEAs in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (known as the ACP-MEAs project). The CARICOM Secretariat has used the Australian Government/SPREP template (*as described above*), as the basis for their harmonised reporting template for Caribbean countries. The CHART was designed to be used as a tool for Caribbean countries to report to CBD, CITES, Ramsar Convention and the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol).
- **Uptake:** Thus far, the CHART is a working draft that has not been endorsed by the convention secretariats, and thus remains as an example used in discussions.

- **More information, see the draft template:**
http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community_organ/sustainable_development/mea_documents/meas_docs_feb_13/Harmonised%20Reporting/Proposed_Caribbean_Template_Final.doc

IPBES and strengthening the Science-Policy Interface

Related activities of the BLG

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 to develop requests to IPBES. The CBD Secretariat coordinated a joint submission to the second meeting of IPBES. At the last meeting in 2014, the BLG agreed that the IPBES Secretariat should be invited to the next meeting of the BLG and to have a dedicated agenda item on IPBES cooperation, focusing especially on scientific and technological cooperation, and the agreed IPBES thematic assessment on sustainable use.

The Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB)

- **Initiated by:** CBD, as part of decision VIII/16, calling for enhanced cooperation between scientific and technical bodies in addition to secretariats
- **From (Year):** 2007
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** At the global level, CSAB fosters collaboration by meeting to discuss cooperation regarding shared scientific issues and their translation into policy. Its core membership is composed of the chairs of the scientific advisory bodies to the CBD, CITES, CMS, the Ramsar Convention, the WHC and the ITPGRFA. Areas of collaboration have included exploring opportunities related to IPBES, collaborative (thematic) activities related to ecosystem restoration and to sustainable use, and work to harmonize nomenclature (CITES/CMS). The group also aims to carry out some horizon scanning and the joint identification of emerging issues of concern. Strategic priorities have mainly constituted examining areas of cooperation and translating scientific considerations into clear policies, alongside identifying emerging issues with reference to problems and priorities within the individual scientific for a of the participating regimes⁴¹.

Information management and awareness raising

MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (MEA IKM)

- **Initiated by: MEAs and coordinated by** UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP/DELIC, co-chaired by the CITES Secretariat and UNEP/DELIC)
- **From (Year):** 2009
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The overall aim of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative is to contribute to more effective MEA implementation by improving coherence in the area of data and knowledge sharing within and across clusters of MEAs and UN Organisations which host MEAs, including UNEP, UNESCO and FAO. It aims to facilitate discussions amongst the MEAs on issues related to environmental governance by demonstrating the effectiveness of collaborative activities and harmonized approaches and processes in the field of information and knowledge management. To this end, the Steering Committee of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management initiative was established. It is co-chaired by the CITES Secretariat and UNEP/DELIC and consists of one representative from each participating MEA and is open to observers involved in information and knowledge management. The Steering Committee is tasked to examine issues of common interest in the area of data and information management and to provide recommendations on possible collaborative activities to the undersigned heads of MEAs. The

⁴¹ **Information from:** International Environmental Law: Contemporary Concerns and Challenges : Papers Presented at the First Contemporary Challenges of International Environmental Law Conference, Ljubljana, June 28-29, 2012

Steering Committee will designate working groups and task forces to implement agreed upon strategies and collaborative activities amongst several or all participating MEAs as required⁴².

- **Activities**

- a) **InforMEA**

- Is the first project established by the **MEA IKM Initiative**. InforMEA harvests COP decisions and resolutions, news, events, MEA membership, national focal points, national reports and implementation plans and other information under the custodianship of MEA secretariats and organizes this information around a set of agreed terms.

- For more information visit:** informea.org/

- b) **Opportunities:** MEA IKM plays a key role in supporting and establishing initiatives on harmonised and interoperable information systems, and at the recent Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of MEA Implementation⁴³, MEA IKM was identified as a key player to support a range of actions and recommendations, including; *to implement an API for data sharing on each online reporting system; provide an online catalogue listing all existing online reporting systems with their open access status and features to facilitate knowledge sharing across Conventions and avoid “reinventing the wheel” and; Assess areas of commonality across MEA reports.*

- **More information:** cbd.int/mea/ikm/default.shtml

UNEP Live

- **Initiated by:** UNEP
- **From (Year):** 2014
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** UNEP Live is an online knowledge management platform that provides a user-friendly capability to search for national regional and global data and knowledge to support assessments of the state and trends of the environment. UNEP Live provides access to reports, data, maps (including near real-time data), and links to UNEP knowledge assets such as the PIMS database, InforMEA etc. UNEP Live has a thriving Community of Practice portal that enables experts to share ideas, data and knowledge. UNEP Live also enables users to create maps by dragging and dropping geo-referenced data onto base maps.

A new, additional functionality of UNEP Live, includes a **Reporting Obligations Database** that lists global (MEA) reporting obligations for countries. This list contains templates for reporting as well as reporting deadlines.

The ROD is also connected to the National Reporting System, a tool developed by UNEP to facilitate national, regional and global level reporting from a country.

- **More information:** <http://uneplive.unep.org/>

The Rio Conventions Pavilion (RCP) (Only of relevance for the RIO Conventions)

- **Initiated by:** The three Rio Conventions (CBD, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)) and GEF
- **From (Year):** 2010
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Rio Conventions Pavilion is a collaborative outreach activity of the Secretariats of the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD), the GEF, and 25 other international, national and local partners. It aims to promote and strengthen synergies between the Rio Conventions at implementation levels by providing a coordinated

⁴² MEA IKM TOR, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/external/mea/meaikm-sc-01/meaikm-sc-01-a3-tor-en.pdf>

⁴³ (December 15-16 2014) Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of MEA Implementation: Interoperability between Reporting Systems for Biodiversity Data, Co-hosted by the CITES Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC under the auspices of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative

platform for awareness-raising and information-sharing about the linkages in science, policy and practice between biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification/land degradation. It is designed to promote and build synergy in implementation by providing a forum for dialogue, awareness-raising, information-sharing and capacity-building on policy and practices in the framework of the Rio conventions.

- **More information:** riopavilion.org/

TEMATEA

- **Initiated by:** UNEP
- **From (Year):** 2005
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** TEMATEA structures the multitude of commitments and obligations from regional and global biodiversity-related agreements in a logical, issue-based framework. This framework is built around issue-based modules which provide activity-oriented information on national commitments by identifying and grouping implementation requirements from different agreements on a selected issue. This facilitates the understanding by national experts of their national obligations and commitments in relation to a specific issue and lowers the threshold for experts to understand how commitments from other conventions and across sectors relate to their own.
- **More information:** tematea.org/

Capacity building

In 2004, as a response to requests from governments and to Decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 of the Governing Council of UNEP, a strategic plan for the provision of technology support and capacity-building to developing countries as well as to countries with economies in transition was developed. The Bali Strategic Plan builds upon UNEP's earlier efforts in these areas, and establishes a framework for assisting States in realizing, based on their priority needs, the practical measures necessary for effective implementation, compliance, and enforcement of MEAs. Since the adoption of the plan, several COP decisions have supported studies and initiatives, aimed at capacity development to support cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements at national level, to ensure efficient and effective implementation. As a recent example from the last CBD COP 12, Decision XII/6, the Executive Secretary was requested;

(a) To prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a study on key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements at the national level as an input for the workshop;

(b) To transmit the report of the workshop to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration at its first meeting and subsequently to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its thirteenth meeting;

Governing body decisions in MEAs such as CITES address various aspects of capacity building and these decisions lead to implementing activities at national, regional and global levels.

The following three initiatives provides examples of how MEA secretariats have collaborated on the preparation of regional workshops, as a means to develop capacity at national level to increase cooperation and collaboration between MEA NFPs, as well as expert workshops, as a means to identify opportunities for synergies at the interface between conventions.

The following three initiatives provides examples on how MEA secretariats have collaborated on the preparation of regional workshops, as a means to develop capacity at national level to increase

cooperation and collaboration between MEA NFPs, as well as expert workshops, as a means to identify opportunities for synergies at the interface between conventions.

Workshop on “indicators and integration of CITES and CMS objectives as part of NBSAP updating” for Francophone Africa

- **Initiated by:** UNEP and the BIP
- **From (Year):** 2013
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** This capacity building workshop for eight countries of francophone Africa was held from the 25th to the 28th June 2013 in Douala, Cameroon. Its overall objective was to strengthen capacity for the development of indicators and for the identification of synergies between the three different MEAs, as part of the NBSAP updating process. The workshop brought together a total of 36 delegates from Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Niger, Senegal and Togo. Four participants were invited from each country, including one participant involved with CMS, one involved with CITES and two who work directly on their country’s NBSAP. Participants included representatives from government ministries, national environmental agencies, NGOs and research centres. Representatives from international bodies also participated to contribute their expertise in information sources, monitoring systems, synergies and NBSAPs.
- **Outcome:** The workshop conclusions included the importance for information exchange mechanisms between NFPs as well as the necessity of high level political support. Also, even though dialogue between NFPs takes place in most countries, this informal exchange has been insufficient to ensure coordinated action and enhanced implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

Regional capacity-building workshop on integration of CMS and CITES objectives into NBSAPs

- **Initiated by:** UNEP, in collaboration with the CBD and CMS Secretariats
- **From (Year):** 2012
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** This workshop brought together 46 national focal points of CBD, CMS and CITES to discuss how to integrate the objectives of biodiversity related conventions into the updating of the NBSAPs. Through a series of panel discussions, group exercises and case studies to encourage information and experience sharing, the representatives, gained insight into the issues of integration of other biodiversity MEAs objectives into NBSAPs
- **Outcome:** The workshop helped participants understand the issues of integrating other Biodiversity-related Conventions objectives into NBSAPs, and participants expressed their interest in replicating this workshop in their respective countries. Participants also planned to develop common best practice guidelines with tangible targets to improve policy, legal and administrative coordination of biodiversity-related MEAs in the NBSAP process. The important role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) in supporting the biodiversity agenda was also repeatedly stressed as a factor that raises the issue of synergies among biodiversity related MEAs to a higher political level

Tandem workshop for NFPs of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol (NP)

- **Initiated by:** ABS Capacity Development Initiative In collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD and the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA
- **From (Year):** 2013
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The expert workshop explored the interfaces between the ITPGRFA and the NP and aimed to shed light on the potential issues for consideration with a

view to promoting the harmonious implementation of the ITPGRFA and the NP. In addition to that, it endeavoured to identify basic parameters for national measures to achieve mutual supportiveness in the implementation of the two instruments.

- **Uptake:** The workshop stimulated fruitful discussions between different actors involved in the implementation of the ITPGRFA and the NP and succeeded in gaining commitments to future collaboration, including a tandem workshop for National Focal Points of the ITPGRFA (IT NFPs) and the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP ABS NFPs) on the mutually supportive implementation of both instruments (*Subsequently held in June 2014*).

Funding and resource efficiency

The opportunities under GEF-6

- **Initiated by:** The GEF and CBD, together with other biodiversity-related conventions
- **From (Year):** 2014
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:**

a) **Biodiversity focal area Strategy.**

The GEF-6 Biodiversity Strategy encompasses **four Biodiversity Objectives and ten programmes**. NFPs of the other Biodiversity-related Conventions can find opportunities within the Biodiversity Strategy, for example, programme 3 under the second objective aims to prevent the extinction of known threatened species. This reflects Aichi Biodiversity Target 12 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as well as CITES objectives and activities. Parties that are eligible to seek GEF finance could use this to finance their efforts to tackle wildlife crime and protect threatened species.

- **Opportunities:** Although the GEF is the financial mechanism for the CBD only (among the Biodiversity-related Conventions), the GEF can support projects that provide benefits under multiple conventions. The Biodiversity Strategy under GEF-6 includes a specific paragraph on synergies, which can provide a basis for collaboration with other Biodiversity-related Conventions, especially in NBSAP revision and implementation processes. This emphasises that there is ample opportunity for proposals to include a range of eligible activities, identified in NBSAPs, which advance the shared objectives of the conventions. This potential is strengthened by recent supportive decisions by CBD and CMS COPs.
- **More information:** thegef.org/gef/GEF6-Programming-Directions

Related activities of the BLG

- **Facilitation of access to financial resources from GEF for conventions other than CBD.** BLG members agreed that a joint approach by the Biodiversity-related Conventions could facilitate access to the GEF resources. In 2013 the BLG therefore met with GEF officers to address the relationship between the BLG Conventions and the GEF. In a subsequent letter to the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF, BLG members welcomed the direction of the GEF-6 programme, as a means to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. They agreed that GEF-6 presents opportunities for programmatic synergies, especially at the national level. Most recently, at the last meeting of the BLG in August 2014, the BLG considered the relationship between its members and GEF, under the auspices of GEF's Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy. The BLG emphasised synergies in the implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions under the direction of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and agreed to

identify common issues/countries/regions where joint activities/projects could be undertaken.

Institutional Collaboration

The BLG

- **Initiated by:** CBD
- **Members:** CBD, CMS, CITES, ITPGRFA, the Ramsar Convention, WHC and IPPC
- **From (Year):** 2004
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** Established in order to enhance coherence and cooperation between the major Biodiversity-related Conventions, as a platform to exchange information and to enhance implementation at the national level of the objectives of each respective convention whilst also promoting synergies at the national level. The BLG aims at maximising 'effectiveness and efficiency and avoiding duplication of effort in joint activities of BLG members'. The BLG consists of the heads of the secretariats of the conventions, and they meet at least annually to explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination, and to exchange information. The mandate for the liaison group came as a result CBD COP 7 in 2004, and is specified in decision VII/26 (paragraphs 1 and 2)⁴⁴.
- **Opportunities:** In establishing the informal advisory group on synergies (see Section 1.) CBD COP 12 invited the BLG to participate in this group. This should provide a means to strengthen the involvement of Parties in the work of the BLG.
- **Related Initiative(s) led by the BLG:**
 - **Enhancing coordination, coherence and national-level synergies.** In 2014 the BLG consulted on the CBD COP 11 request to the CBD Executive Secretary to propose options for *the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national-level synergies*. The following areas of possible coordination were identified: legislative needs and rule of law, support for the legislative needs for implementation more broadly, including through developing additional guides or manuals on how to develop and implement biodiversity-related legislation; NBSAP revision, in which BLG members are already collaborating; communication strategy related to the UN decade on Biodiversity; UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) guidelines; IPBES process; SDGs process; and cooperation on specific Aichi Targets.
- **The BLGs modus operandi, available at:** cbd.int/cooperation/doc/blg-modus-operandi-en.pdf

The Environment Management Group (EMG)

- **Initiated by:** UN General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/53/242 of August 1999)
- **From (Year):** 1999
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** UN system-wide coordination body on environment and human settlements, chaired by UNEP and with a secretariat provided by UNEP. The EMG identifies issues on the international environmental agenda that warrant cooperation, and finds ways of engaging its collective capacity in coherent management responses to those issues. It established an Issue Management Group on biodiversity, which has since completed its work.
- **Activities:** Its work has included co-ordination of a UN-system wide response to the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It has also issued a number of reports on options to enhance MEA synergies.

⁴⁴ All BLG reports can be accessed on the CBD website, Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, <http://www.cbd.int/blg/>.

As a means to identify measures for effective and efficient implementation of the Strategic Plan across the UN System, by understanding how each agency can help to advance it, the EMG also led a mapping exercise on the contributions of the UN agencies and conventions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

- **More information:** unemg.org/http://www.informe.org/

Joint Liaison Group (JLG) (only of relevance for the RIO Conventions)

- **Initiated by:** The three Rio Conventions
- **From (Year):** 2001
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** Established as an informal forum for exchanging information, exploring opportunities for synergistic activities and increasing coordination, including the possibility of a joint work plan. The JLG comprises the officers of the Conventions' scientific subsidiary bodies, the Executive Secretaries, and members of the secretariats
- **More information:** cbd.int/cooperation/liaison.shtml

Other programmatic collaborations

The following list provides a non-comprehensive overview of other programmatic collaboration initiatives. It should be noted however that a wide range of initiatives, not included in this list exists, and thus the following provides a mere snapshot of activities.

Improving the integrated management system of protected areas with overlapping multiple international designations

- **Initiated by:** IUCN
- **From (Year):** 2012
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** This project is a partnership between IUCN and the Jeju Self-Governing Province of South Korea, implemented together with UNESCO and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. The project aims to realise opportunities for synergies and identify solutions for management problems that can occur at sites with multiple designations, and to prepare a best practice guidance document. Jeju Province is one of the project pilot areas as it includes overlapping international protected areas related to UNESCO (World Heritage, Global Geopark and Biosphere Reserve) and wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention, as well as various protections under domestic law. The best practice guidance on integrated management of protected areas with overlapping international designations will be developed through three project stages running from 2013-2016. The first stage will collate information on the issues and best practices for the integrated management of these protected areas, including updating the global geographic information on overlapping sites. The second stage will document case studies of protected areas with overlapping international designations. The third stage will finalise the best practice guidance document through seminars, and will establish a network of site managers and NFPs.

The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation

- **Initiated by:** CBD
- **From (Year):** 2004
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation brings together a wide range of international, regional and national organizations in order to contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) worldwide. The Partnership is working to support national implementation and the GSPC,

and to provide tools and resources on how each country can plan and act to meet the targets. The GSPC was included by CBD as part of the flexible coordination mechanism of the GSPC and plays a significant role in helping to monitor and promote GSPC implementation.

- **More information:** <http://www.plants2020.net/gppc/>

The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

- **Initiated by:** The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is an innovative interagency partnership on forests comprising 14 international organizations, institutions and secretariats, including CBD, UNEP and FAO
- **From (Year):** 2001
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** As part of the International Arrangement of Forests, the CPF's overarching objective is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. The CPF was created to: support the work of the UNFF and its member states; and enhance cooperation and coordination among CPF member organizations. The agencies share their experiences and build on them to produce new benefits for their respective constituencies. They collaborate to streamline and align their work and to find ways of improving forest management and conservation and the production and trade of forest products. The members are also forming increasingly close and valuable strategic partnerships with one another, benefiting from shared expertise and pooled resources.
- **More information:** <http://www.cpfweb.org/>

Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species

- **Initiated by:** CBD
- **From (Year):** 2010
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The general purpose of the Liaison Group is to facilitate cooperation among relevant organizations to support measures to prevent the introduction and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species. In the period up to 2020 the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and in particular Aichi Target 9, will provide the main focus of the work of this group. Specifically, the Liaison Group will aim:
 - a) To address the gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species;
 - b) To promote inter-sectoral cooperation and capacity development activities for the prevention, control and mitigation of invasive alien species;
 - c) To raise awareness across the multiple sectors on the impacts of invasive alien species and on the best practices for addressing the issue;
 - d) To promote cooperation at all levels, and specifically at the national level, through each organization's national and regional focal points or the equivalents;
 - e) To promote cooperation in the gathering, access and use of relevant and reliable information.
- **More information:** cbd.int/invasive/lg/

Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds.

- **Initiated by:** CMS, in close cooperation with AEWA
- **From (Year):** 2005
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Task Force aims to bring together the best scientific advice on the conservation impact of the spread of avian influenza, assessing the role of migratory birds as vectors of the virus. It is also intended to issue advice on the root causes of the epidemic as well as on technically sound measures to combat it and to develop early

warning systems. The Task Force draws on the expertise of conservation scientists, hunters, veterinarians, epidemiologists, virologists, land managers and other experts comprising of 14 members and observers, including UN bodies, wildlife treaties and specialist intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

- **More information:** cms.int/en/workinggroup/scientific-task-force-avian-influenza-and-wild-birds

Ramsar Culture Network (RCN)

- **Initiated by:** Ramsar Convention
- **From (Year):** 2014
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** Bring together and create synergy among organisations and individuals that can contribute to an approach to the conservation and wise use of wetlands, which integrates cultural and natural aspects, and thereby achieves greater effectiveness in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention. The expected results of the RCN include;

- Strengthened international policy
Global and regional policymaking reflects where necessary the best current knowledge and thinking on culture and wetlands, including ways of taking account of cultural values in decision-making, and ways of increasing understanding of the cultural ecosystem services of wetlands;
- Better documented values
Cultural values associated with wetlands are more completely identified, understood and documented at national and site level;
- More widely shared and applied good practices
Good practices, experiences and lessons learned in wetland planning and management that integrates cultural aspects are investigated, shared, promoted and applied more widely and successfully, resulting in better outcomes for wetlands and for people;
- Enhanced partnerships
Strategic collaborations and partnerships are enhanced, broadening stakeholder engagement and producing efficient synergies of action; and
- Effective coordination
The programme and relevant associated activities are efficiently coordinated, resourced in ways which do not dilute any other Ramsar programmes, and the results are promoted to wide audiences, building further support for the long term

- **More information:** www.ramsarculture.org/RCN/RCN_Home.html

Joint work plans/ programmes and MoCs

The biodiversity-related conventions have established a range of bilateral or multilateral **Memoranda of Understanding/ Cooperation** as well as joint work plans or programmes with other conventions, some of which are outlined in the table below.

	CBD				
CMS	MoC 1996 JWP 2012-2014	CMS			
CITES	MoC 1996, amended 2000/2001 to	MoU 2002 JWP 2015-2020	CITES		

	include JWP				
Ramsar	MoC 2011 JWP 2011-2020	MoU 1997 MoC 2012 JWP 2012-2014	N/A	Ramsar	
WHC	JWP 2010-20	UNESCO and CMS MoU 2002	N/A	MoU 1999 MAB Joint Programme of Work 2002	WHC
ITPGRFA	MoC 2010 FAO/CBD JWP 2011-2020	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 2 Memorandums of Cooperation (MoC), Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) and Joint Work Programmes (JWP)

The following initiatives provide a snapshot of some of such MoCs and joint work plans or programmes between conventions, however it should be noted that there are many other ongoing efforts and initiatives between MEAs, and the list is not comprehensive. .

CBD and Ramsar Convention 5th Joint Work Plan (JWP) 2011 – 2020

- **Initiated by:** CBD and the Ramsar Convention
- **From (Year):** 2011
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The goal of this Joint Work Plan is the conservation, sustainable and wise use of biodiversity especially in wetlands, helping to assure the full achievement of the Vision, Mission and Goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and it's Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Mission and Strategies of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
- **More information:** ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/moc/CBD-Ramsar5thJWP_2011-2020.pdf

Joint programme between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and CBD

- **Initiated by:** CBD and the UNESCO
- **From (Year):** 2011
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** With the CBD acting as global focal point for biodiversity and UNESCO acting as global focal point for cultural diversity, strengthen the linkages between biological and cultural diversity initiatives, and enhance synergies between interlinked provisions of conventions and programmes dealing with biological and cultural diversity at relevant scales.
- **More information:** unesco.org/mab/doc/iyb/JointProgramme.pdf

CMS CITES Joint Work Programme 2015–2020

- **Initiated by:** CITES and CMS
- **From (Year):** 2005
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The CMS/CITES Joint Work Programme 2015–2020 comprises a non-exhaustive list of joint activities. They are organized around four main themes: (A) Harmonization of species-specific information; (B) Joint activities addressing

shared species and issues of common interest; (C) Implementation and fundraising; (D) Outreach and capacity building.

- **More information:** <http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/common/disc/sec/CITES-CMS-wp-en.pdf>

MoC between the secretariats of the CBD and the ITPGRFA

- **Initiated by:** CITES and CMS
- **From (Year):** 2010
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The objective of the MoC between the CBD and ITPGRFA is to enhance cooperation between the conventions in areas of mutual interest within the respective mandates. This includes cooperation on capacity building activities dealing with access and benefit-sharing as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture as well as to mutually support undertaking and promoting activities relevant to their respective mandates, i.e. workshops, seminars as well as coordination of technical assistance, including for implementation of access and benefit-sharing regimes.
- **Uptake:** Among a range of activities, following the MoC, a series of jointly organised capacity-building workshop on access and benefit-sharing have been held, as a means to contribute to the identification of the capacity-building needs and priorities of Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol and to build on the experience and lessons learned from the implementation of the ITPGRFA.
- **More information:** http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/Signed_MoU_CBD_ITPGRFA_2010.pdf

MoC between the secretariats of the CMS and the Ramsar Convention

- **Initiated by:** CMS and the Ramsar Convention
- **From (Year):** 2012
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** In recognition of the significance of migratory species of wild animals in wetland ecosystems, with associated benefits to people, and the dependence of a significant proportion of these species on conservation and wise use of these wetlands, this MoC builds on the similarities of the objectives between the two conventions. The aim of the MoC is strengthen the implementation of the two conventions by enhancing corporation, coordination, synergy and joint working between them, including on: policy compatibility, institutional cooperation, exchange of information and expertise, work plans and conservation activities and review and reporting on implementation.