

# Mapping Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the need for urgent action to protect the planet from degradation so that it can support the needs of present and future generations and for economic, social and technological progress to occur in harmony with nature.

This aligns closely with the vision of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, 'a world of "Living in harmony with nature" where by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people'.

The mapping of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets is a collaborative effort between the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre and the Ministry of Environment, Finland, to understand the plethora of guiding decisions of the biodiversity-related conventions that support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, and to explore options to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among the various conventions. The final report summarises the content of the decisions under each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and a matrix of decisions and a succinct checklist have been included as annexes to the report. These are available at [http://wcmc.io/MEA-Aichi\\_Target\\_mapping](http://wcmc.io/MEA-Aichi_Target_mapping)

Indicative examples of the type of guidance provided by decisions and resolutions captured in the matrix of decisions are presented overleaf.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, is widely acknowledged as the universal framework for action on biodiversity, and a foundation for sustainable development. Indeed, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda are highly complementary. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans are the frameworks for national implementation of the Strategic Plan and are recognised as implementation frameworks for all biodiversity-related conventions.

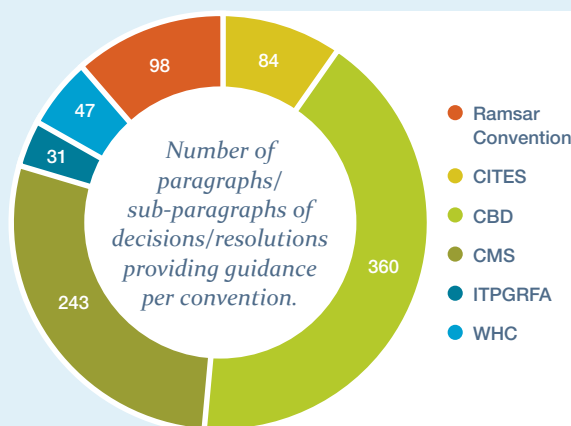
Since the adoption of the Strategic Plan, the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions have adopted more than 1,200 substantive decisions or resolutions. These provide valuable guidance for parties and other governments for achieving various aspects of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, but there is no single, coherent, up-to-date compilation of all of the guidance provided by these decisions and related programmes, plans and support tools, to support those working on the implementation of activities relevant to achieving the Strategic Plan. The study profiled by this leaflet attempts to address this gap.

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## What are the challenges faced by Parties?

### Faced with a plethora of relevant guiding decisions

849 paragraphs or subparagraphs in nearly 200<sup>1</sup> of the 1,200 decisions and resolutions that were reviewed provided guidance applicable for the implementation of various aspects of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, many covering related topics. The biodiversity-related conventions considered were: *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*, *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)*, *Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)*, *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)*, *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)*, and *World Heritage Convention (WHC)*.



<sup>1</sup> The majority of the decisions and resolutions reviewed were from the World Heritage Convention. It should be noted that the 200 decisions and resolutions noted are from all of the six biodiversity-related conventions considered and that the various conventions deemed to provide the principal share of guidance (based on the study's methodology) differ from one Aichi Biodiversity Target to another.



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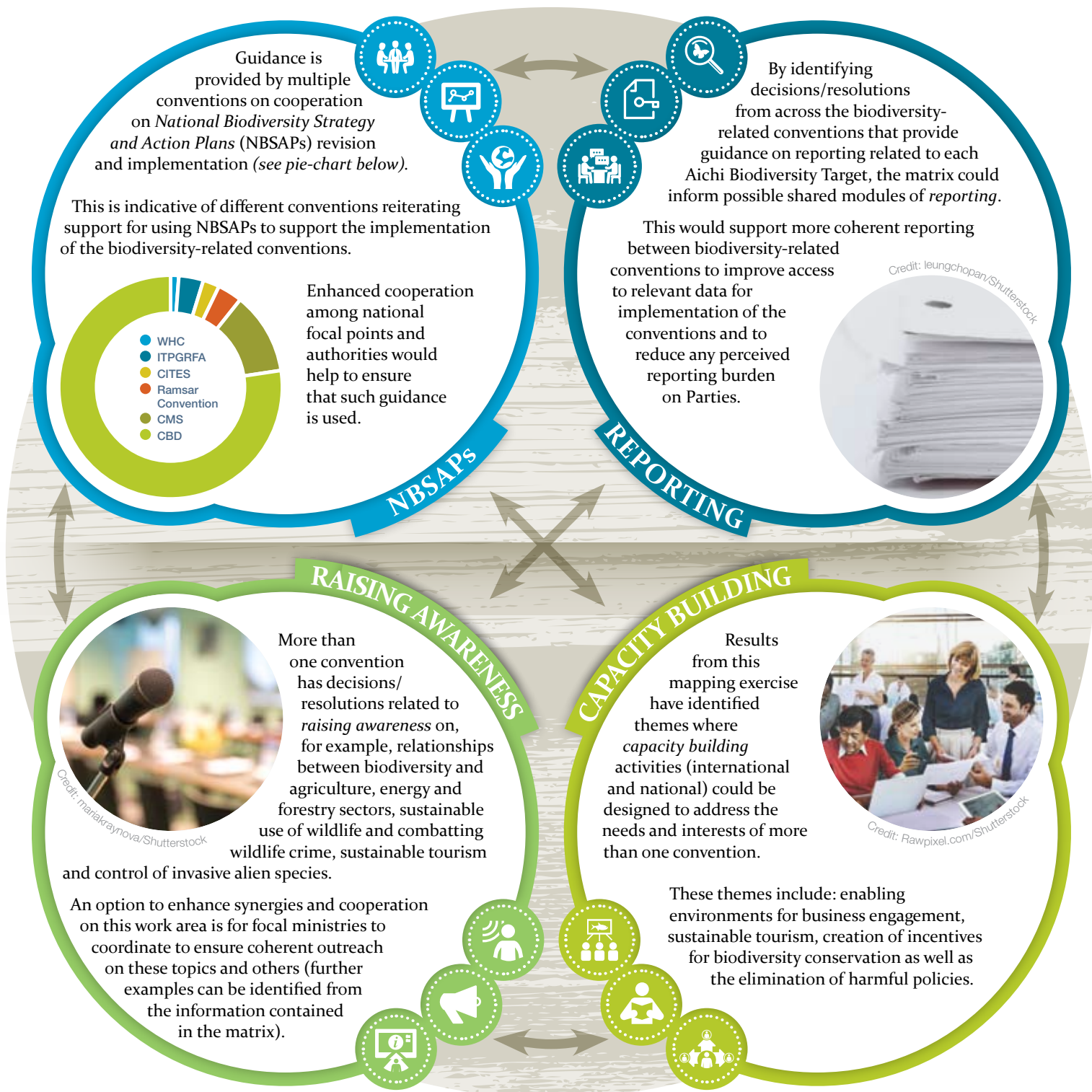
# Indicative examples of the type of guidance provided by decisions and resolutions captured in the matrix of decisions





# Areas for synergies among biodiversity-related conventions

The mapping exercise identified indicative opportunities for alignment, cooperation and collaboration among the conventions, which reiterate options outlined by the UNEP paper **Elaboration of Options for Enhancing Synergies among Biodiversity-Related Conventions** (<http://unep.org/environmentalgovernance/Portals/8/publications/elaborations-options-enhancing-synergies-biodiv-paper.pdf>) and the **UNEP Sourcebook of Opportunities for Enhancing Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at National and Regional Levels** (<http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web>).



# Using the results

## The results of this mapping exercise provide opportunities for:

- Identifying possibilities for cooperation and coordination when planning to enhance synergies and thereby efficiencies among the biodiversity-related conventions;
- Revising National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans to address the relevant decisions of biodiversity-related conventions;
- Facilitating the national implementation of the SDGs, many of which relate directly to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- Highlighting to a national focal point or authority of one biodiversity-related convention which counterparts for other conventions they could be working with on certain topics to avoid any potential duplication of efforts;
- Identifying guidance relevant to similar themes for potential areas of cooperation in national implementation, which could also be supported by collaborative efforts at the regional and global levels.

The outline provided by the mapping exercise of the range of issues covered by decisions relevant to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets could also provide information for the development of a new global strategic framework for biodiversity beyond 2020.

Further work could support this use, including: the preparation of summaries of the results for specific user groups at the national level; making the information captured in the matrix of decisions available online, searchable and updatable; and increasing the scope of the exercise to make it more comprehensive (e.g. including the International Plant Protection Convention).

Other recent outputs, such as the UNEP *Sourcebook of Opportunities for Enhancing Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at National and Regional Levels* and the UNEP paper *Elaboration of Options for Enhancing Synergies among Biodiversity-Related Conventions* can be used in conjunction with the results of the mapping exercise.

The results are available at:

[http://wcmc.io/MEA-Aichi\\_Target\\_mapping](http://wcmc.io/MEA-Aichi_Target_mapping)

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