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

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

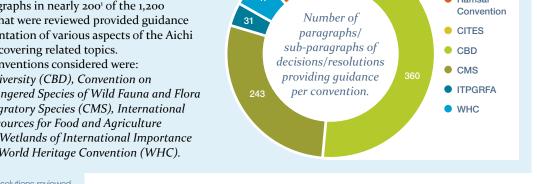
The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, is widely acknowledged as the universal framework for action on biodiversity, and a foundation for sustainable development. Indeed, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of 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 2001 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).



¹ 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.







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

GOAL A

Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society

- Promote specific communication initiatives or biodiversity events (CBD)
- Apply SEA and EIA procedures, when planning the use of renewable energy technologies (CMS)
- Recognise the need for policies that avoid the negative impacts of the use of pesticides in rice production (Ramsar Convention)
- Encourage private companies to apply standards of sustainable business that ensure the integrity and the ecosystem services of wetlands (Ramsar Convention)

GOAL B

Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

- Maintain or improve the ecological character of wetlands, including their ecosystem services, to enhance the resilience of wetlands as far as possible in the face of climate-driven ecological changes (Ramsar Convention)
- Undertake an assessment of the ecological risks, in order to safeguard against any negative effects on local ecosystems and native species, prior to the establishment of captive-breeding operations for exotic species (CITES)
- Take appropriate measures to avoid, minimise and mitigate the potential significant adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity (CBD)
- Implement measures and activities that promote the sustainable use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- Prioritise programmes to monitor and document shark and ray fisheries and those fisheries where sharks and rays are a significant bycatch (CMS)
- Develop spatial planning approaches at the landscape and seascape level, to help to reduce habitat loss and to promote ecosystem restoration (CBD)

GOAL E

Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

- Integrate relevant issues for addressing wetland biodiversity conservation and wise use related to pesticide usage in rice paddy into a number of policy process, including NBSAPs (Ramsar Convention)
- Work with key stakeholder groups to design, implement and monitor effective strategies with regard to the implementation of CITES listings, recognising community and traditional knowledge should be considered (CITES)
- Contribute to, update, verify and maintain relevant national data in regional and global data sets and invite relevant organisations, including funding bodies, to encourage and support long-term monitoring (CBD)
- Create an enabling environment to mobilise private and public-sector investments and to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of international and national financial flows (CBD)

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

D

GOAL D

Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

- Respect the rights of indigenous peoples when nominating, managing and reporting on World Heritage sites in indigenous peoples' territories (WHC)
- Maintain or improve the ecological character of wetlands (including through restoration), including their ecosystem services, to enhance their resilience in the face of climate change (Ramsar Convention)
- Ensure that any legislative, administrative or policy measures taken for the implementation of both ITPGRFA and CBD (or its Nagoya Protocol), are consistent and mutually supportive (ITPGRFA)

GOAL C

To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- Refine and put in place relevant legal tools or management plans concerning the conservation of properties & management of buffer zones (WHC)
- Work with key stakeholder groups to design, implement and monitor effective strategies with regard to the implementation of CITES listings, recognising that community and traditional knowledge should be considered (CITES)
 - Facilitate and support the development of national plant conservation partnerships with the participation of indigenous and local communities and the widest range of stakeholders (CBD)

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).



Guidance is provided by multiple conventions on cooperation on National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) revision and implementation (see pie-chart below).

This is indicative of different conventions reiterating support for using NBSAPs to support the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.

WHC
ITPGRFA
CITES
Ramsar
Convention
CMS
CBD

Enhanced cooperation among national focal points and authorities would help to ensure that such guidance is used. By identifying decisions/resolutions from across the biodiversity-related conventions that provide guidance on reporting related to each Aichi Biodiversity Target, the matrix could inform possible shared modules of *reporting*.

This would support more coherent reporting between biodiversity-related conventions to improve access to relevant data for implementation of the conventions and to reduce any perceived reporting burden on Parties.

WG.

More than
one convention
has decisions/
resolutions related to
raising awareness on,
for example, relationships
between biodiversity and
agriculture, energy and
forestry sectors, sustainable
use of wildlife and combatting
wildlife crime, sustainable tourism

and control of invasive alien species.

An option to enhance synergies and cooperation on this work area is for focal ministries to coordinate to ensure coherent outreach on these topics and others (further examples can be identified from the information contained in the matrix).

Results from this mapping exercise have identified themes where capacity building activities (international and national) could be designed to address the needs and interests of more than one convention.

These themes include: enabling environments for business engagement, sustainable tourism, creation of incentives for biodiversity conservation as well as the elimination of harmful policies.



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



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