

Suggestions for facilitating collaboration between the Conventions



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COP10



CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)

The starting point....



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- Principle: it would be a good thing for the scientific bodies to collaborate.
- Reality: it takes effort to get the collaboration going.
- Question 1: how might we make it easier to collaborate ?
- Question 2: on what tasks/programmes might we be collaborating ?



Ramsar's collaborative experiences

1. Map the current activities of other Conventions.
2. Retrospectively harmonize
3. Map onto the common MA framework.
4. Joint reporting by Parties
5. Proactively collaborate on a specific project/task/issue.
6. Proactively collaborate on a broad issue or area of work.
7. Summary & some suggestions

Option 1: the Grand Plan””

- Map the current activities of other Conventions to see where the overlaps and correspondences are.
 - Simple concept, but complex to execute.
 - Could not provide a “grand plan” at task level, but might be able to show correspondences at thematic level.
 - Difficult to easily find out what tasks were ongoing or planned for the near future in all the Conventions.
 - Useful to take just our own Ramsar STRP task list and check other work programmes against that.

Option 2: Opportunistic retrospection...

- Retrospectively harmonize a specific piece of guidance or scientific product (EIA/SEA guidance)
 - Fairly simple.
 - Could be replicated easily.
 - Would probably benefit the Parties to have one harmonized product relating to a specific issue, even if heavily annotated.
 - Need to be able to easily locate all relevant materials from other Conventions on the issue, including supporting scientific documentation.

Option 3: the MA framework as a leveler

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- Map existing guidance and scientific products onto the common MA framework.
 - Might be fairly simple in principle.
 - Secondary analysis and commentary could require substantial effort.
 - Useful for Parties since we could (maybe) show how different Convention guidances can be used to generate integrated MA response strategies.
 - Might highlight correspondences in the existing suite of materials that are not easily found by a single-issue search.

Option 4: harmonized reporting



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- Joint reporting of implementation in areas of common concern/interest
 - Takes a lot of work to set this up, but it pays off for the Parties.
 - Needs careful analysis to cross-match indicators and targets.
 - Takes time to implement, due to COP cycles being out of synch.

Option 5: working together on a single task



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- Proactively collaborate on a specific project/task/issue already identified as a priority by one or more Conventions.
 - Simple concept, works well if communication is clear and relationships are good.
 - Could easily be replicated.
 - Some tasks are designed with shared outcomes.
 - Some tasks could have a shared foundation task of common interest (e.g. a broad sectoral review), followed by further Convention-specific development.

Option 6: add value by adding perspectives



- Proactively collaborate on a broad issue or area of work identified as a priority by one or more Conventions
 - Simple concept.
 - Takes planning and lots of prior communication.
 - Needs mechanisms (i.e. meetings and money) to facilitate the collaboration.
 - Outcome would be more integrated and multi-faceted (like ecosystems really are).

Summary

1. Make it easy to find and read each other's work programmes to task level.
2. Make it easy to find existing scientific products.
3. Maintain good working relationships and direct communications between scientific bodies.
4. Before starting in an area of work, do a thorough search of what the other Conventions are doing or have done in relation to this area.
5. Use our CSAB meetings better to identify priority issues or tasks of common interest.
6. **Facilitate the proactive design of joint projects/programmes, e.g.**
 - Guidance on ecosystem restoration
 - Specific climate change-related questions.
 - Hunting and harvesting
 - Tourism and ecotourism
 - Urbanization.
 - Invasive species.