



Coherent implementation of Biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and Regional Cooperation Initiatives

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Biodiversity-related Conventions “The Big 6”



Biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs):

CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar

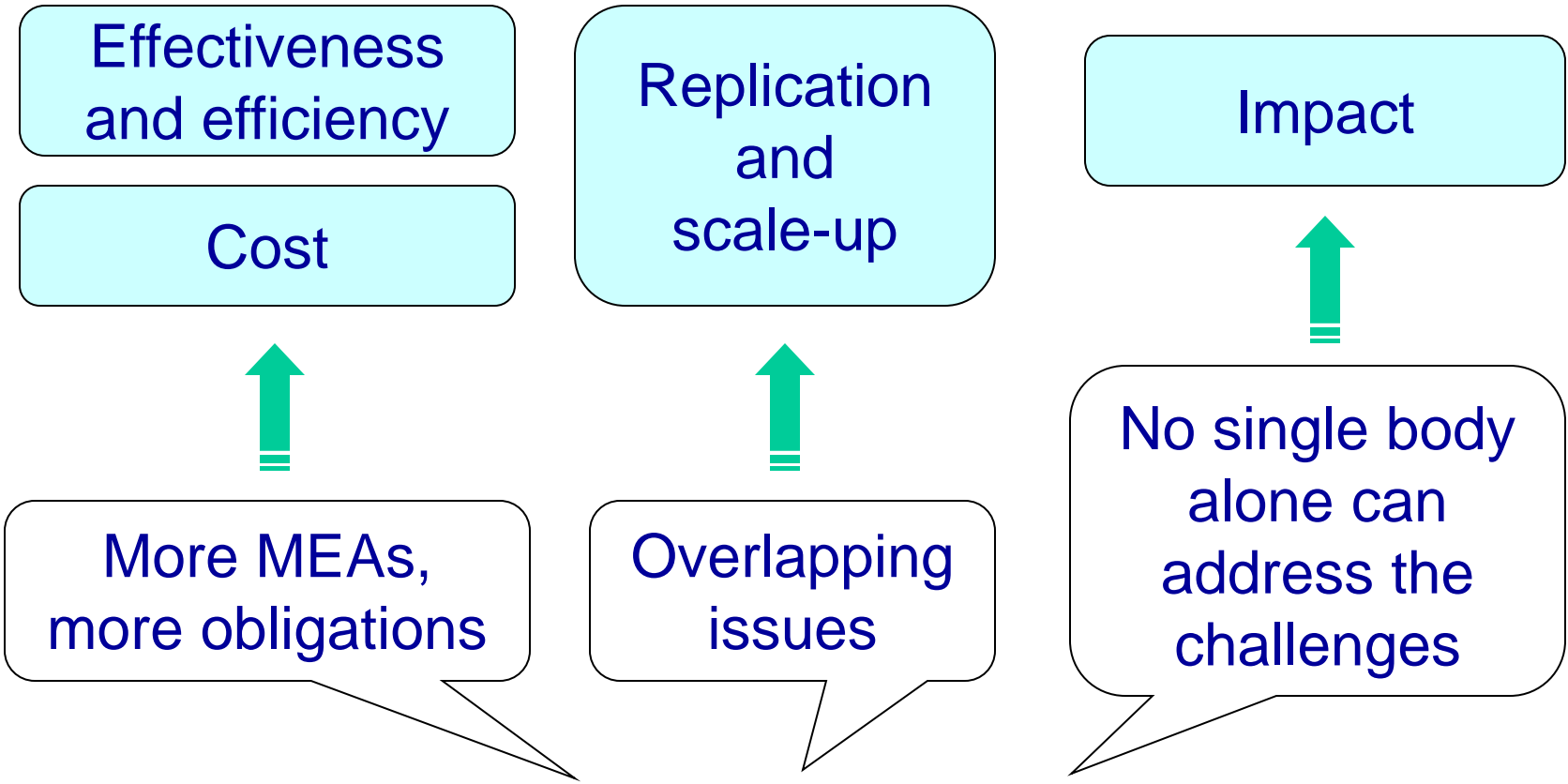
- World Heritage Convention (WHC – UNESCO)
- + • International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA – FAO)



Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) related to Biodiversity

- **Are powerful global instruments for environmental governance, towards achieving policies at the national level**
- **Coordinated mechanisms that unite parties, government agencies, scientific research, NGOs, local communities, private sector and other stakeholders and that are a result of transparent international negotiation processes.**
- **MEAs have thematic focus which helps better understanding and awareness**

Why need to collaborate?





Why do we need to enhance synergies among biodiversity-related MEAs?

“Individually we are one drop, together we are an Ocean”
R. Satoro

- for more effective implementation
- To strengthen the governance, programmatic and administrative support
- MEAs are intricately linked, and thus a coordinated approach is essential for improved coherence
- Compliance: duplications in MEA reporting.
- Optimize resources both financial and human
- Align relevant national policies
- Mainstreaming: Integrate MEA processes



Cooperation and Synergies among Biodiversity-related MEAs

- A better dialogue and cooperation amongst various MEAs secretariats:
- A better Dialogue among parties at the regional level
- A better dialogue with regional organizations: IUCN, LAS, ACSAD, AOAD, ROPME, PERSGA, ICARDA, FAO...etc

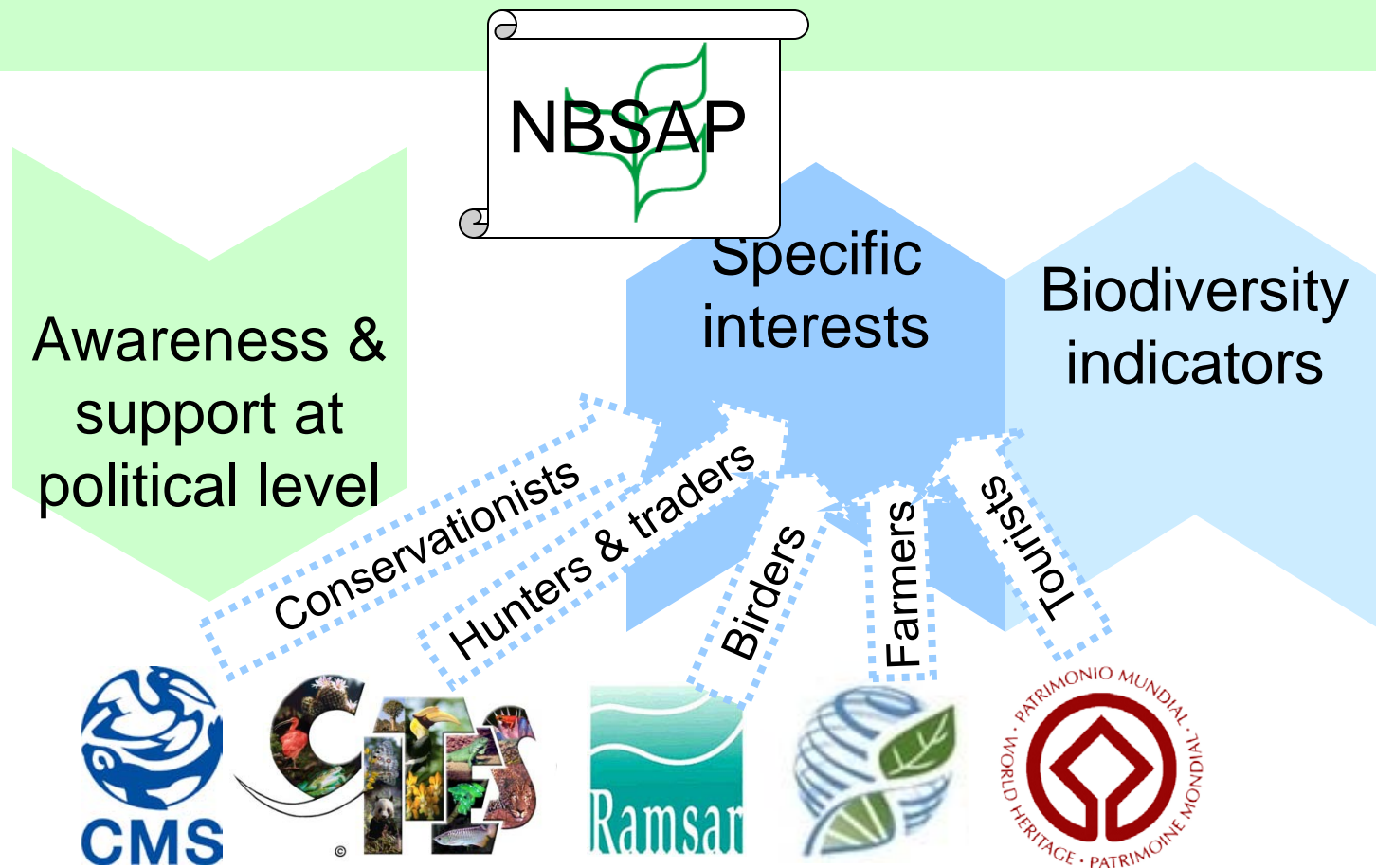
Scopes of biodiversity-related MEAs

- **Species, genetic diversity:** CMS, CITES, ITPGRFA
- **Ecosystem:** CMS, Ramsar, WHC
- **Services:** CITES, ITPGRFA, Ramsar, WHC
- **Sustainable use:** CITES, ITPGRFA, Ramsar
- **Economic incentives:** CITES, ITPGRFA, WHC, Ramsar, Nagoya Protocol



Benefits of integrating biodiversity-related Conventions in NBSAPs

CBD's main mechanism for national implementation
CBD Decision X/2: Countries to set national targets, and translate into National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs)



NBSAPs



- **Outcomes of CBD COP 10 Nagoya, Japan October 2010**
CBD COP 10 decision X/2- Review NBSAPs aligned with new biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-20 by setting national and regional targets within the global flexible framework in accordance with national priorities and capacities, **and adopt NBSAPs as a policy instrument for biodiversity(2015).**
- NBSAPs review offer a unique opportunity for countries in the Arab region to begin thinking of developing joint programmes to deal with biodiversity issues across all biodiversity related MEAs and policy sectors.
- Consider NBSAPs as an umbrella framework for supporting implementation of all MEAs by identifying commonalities and synergistic programmes/actions



NBSAPs can help synergies between biodiversity related conventions...

COP 10, Decision X/II Art.3(f)

Support the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as effective instruments to promote the implementation of the Strategic Plan and mainstreaming of biodiversity at the national level, taking into account synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in a manner consistent with their respective mandates;



Obstacles to NBSAP implementation (from UNU-IAS study)

- Placing biodiversity in a broader development policy context
- Very few NBSAPs include measures to implement the other global biodiversity related conventions
- Vertical and horizontal cooperation
 - Change in designated Focal Points who are also Overburdened with daily governmental procedures responsibilities
 - Better functioning of coordination structures to oversee implementation



Work by biodiversity-related MEAs

COP 10, Decision X/II Art.3(f)

Parties and other Governments at the forthcoming meetings of the **decision-making bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions ...** to consider appropriate contributions to the collaborative implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets;



Work by MEAs on NBSAPs

- **CITES Decision 15.10** “The Standing Committee shall review the adopted post 2010 biodiversity targets and , if necessary, make adjustments to the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013 as appropriate.”
- **CMS and CITES: guidance to their FPs on NBSAPs for effective integration of their programmes in NBSAPs measures**
- **Ramsar COP will incorporate CBD COP-10 outcomes in its deliberations**



C. Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

- **Strategic goal C:** *Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity*
- **Target 11:** *By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.*
- **relevant decisions on protected areas, dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity, inland waters biodiversity, island biodiversity, marine and coastal biodiversity, mountain biodiversity and Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.**



C. Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Target 11:

Examples of activities include: protection of critical areas identified in line with CBD annex I (high biodiversity areas and areas providing critical services); ecosystem approach

Arab Regional actions proposed:

- Parties may, in the marine area, establish, for instance by 2012, a global network of comprehensive, representative and effectively managed national and regional protected area system
- effective management in existence for all protected areas,
- and integrate, for instance by 2015, all protected areas and protected area systems into the wider land- and seascape, and relevant sectors.



Aichi Targets and relevant biodiversity-related MEAs

Synergies identified in new SP Goals

Target	CMS	CITES	Ramsar	ITPGRFA
Strategic goal C: Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity				
Target 11: at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas are conserved	X		X	
Target 12: the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and sustained.	X	X		
Target 13: genetic diversity of cultivated plants and animals is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.				X

PoWPA (target **11**, 1,2,5, 10,12, 14, 15,18)



CBD National Focal Points have a strategic role in leading the process of synergistic implementation of MEAs

- **Liaise with NFPs of other MEAs to**
 - identify commonalities,
 - **form linkages,**
 - strengthen synergies,
 - **Build partnerships,**
 - **avoid duplication**
 - **and promote effective use of information/resources**
- **Ex: Identify possible linkages with specific programmes/cross-cutting issues (e.g., Ramsar, inland waters coastal biodiversity, or CITES trade implications with endangered species)**



Synergy Support Mechanisms: International Level

- Biodiversity Liaison Group: *modus operandi*
- EMG Report: *Advancing the biodiversity agenda (2010)*
- Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-Related Conventions (CSAB)
- Aichi Target Task Force: specific support for Strategic Plan & Aichi Targets

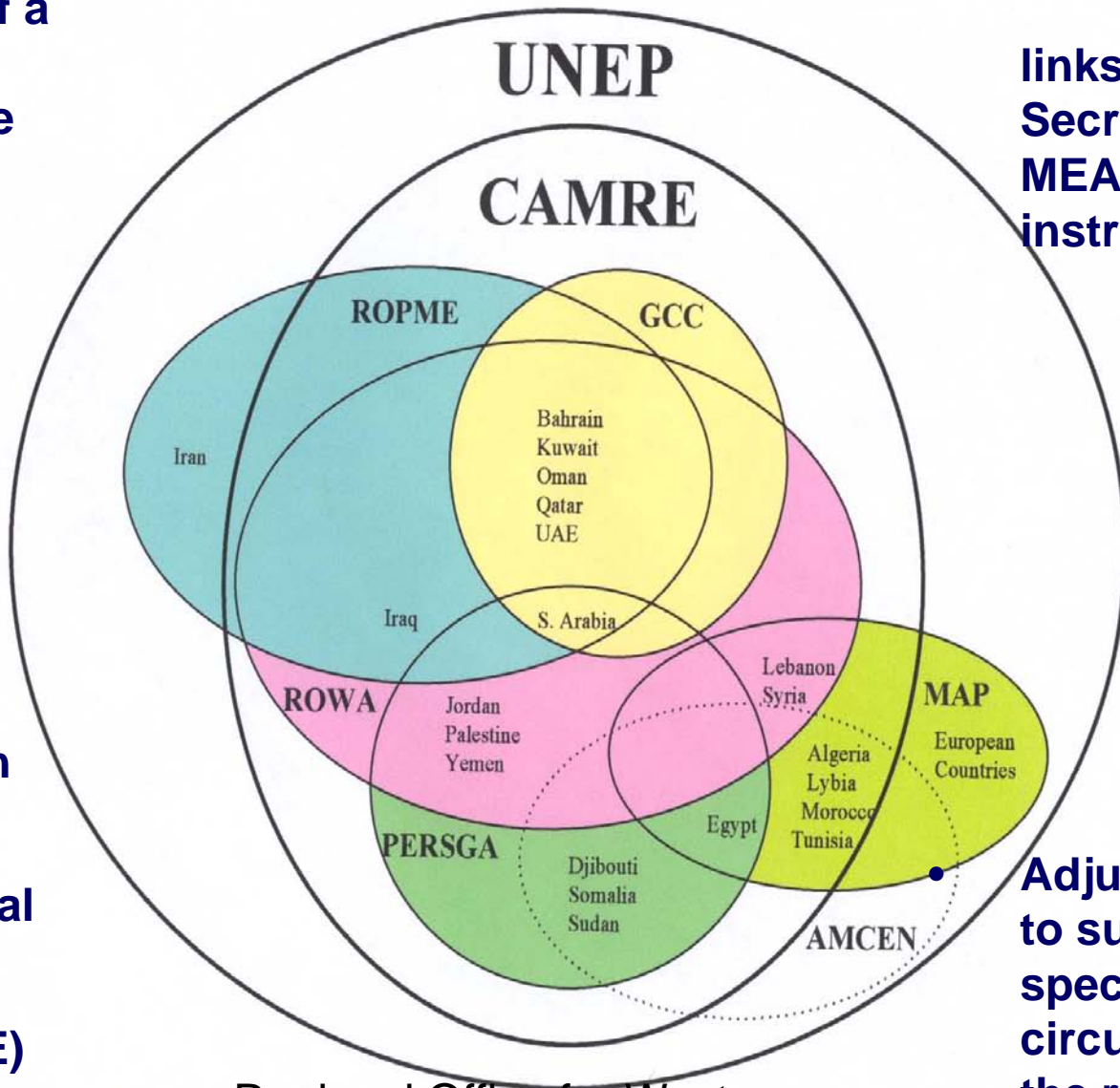


Synergy Support Mechanisms: Efforts made by UNEP

- ACP-MEAs project
- UNEP-WCMC Indicators work
- Regional MEA Focal Point's services through MEAs Implementation Support Branch (UNEP-DELIC):
 - Linking MEAs with relevant targets
 - Looking at overlaps among MEAs in specific ecosystems/species
 - ➔ **“Flagship” species/ecosystems or “hotspots” in the region, wealth of data/information**
 - Information and knowledge management

UNEP IN THE REGIONS: Convening & Catalysing Role including for POWPA

FIGURE (1): Potential Interaction Between UNEP And Regional Organizations



Advantage of a regional presence

links between Secretariats of MEAs and legal instruments

POW EG & EMP

Partners with regional governmental forums

Adjusts activities to suit the specific circumstances of the regions.

(e.g. CAMRE)

Regional Office for West Asia



Arab Working Group on the Revision of Biodiversity & Desertification MEAs- LAS/CAMRE

- An effective regional mechanism **Mini-COP of COPs**
- Review 10 MEAs including Ramsar C. and promote implementation, prepares for COPs, raises regional issues and harmonizes the country needs
- Arab states, regional organizations and MEA secretariats
- Regional cooperation to maximize use of regional store-houses of knowledge



What can you do to start with?

Cooperation/synergy can be **formal or informal** – easier to start from the latter:

- Identify which MEAs your country is Party to
- Liaise with NFPs of other MEAs (CBD Decision X/5 para.3) to gather existing data/information
- Discuss areas of collaboration along the Aichi Targets and in making inputs for NBSAP revision
- **Next NBSAP regional workshop: Oman August 2012 (B/B Nagoya protocol capacity building)**



Parallel supporting initiatives for PoWPA & NBSAPs



Indicators work



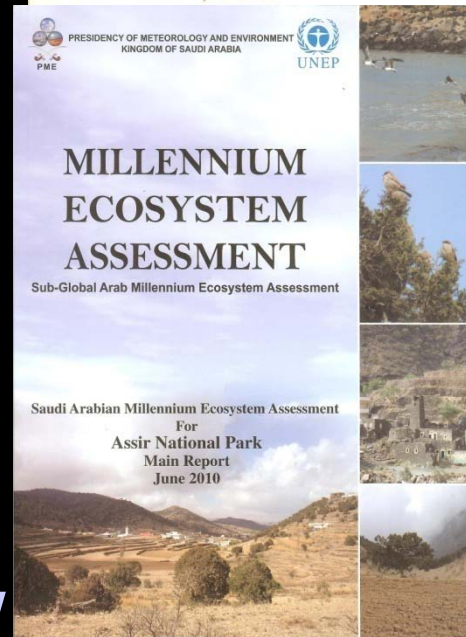
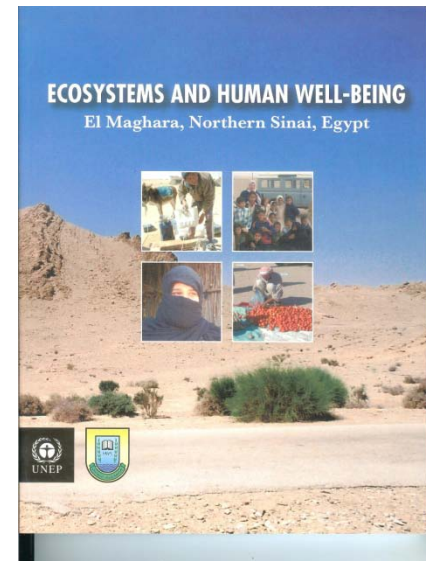
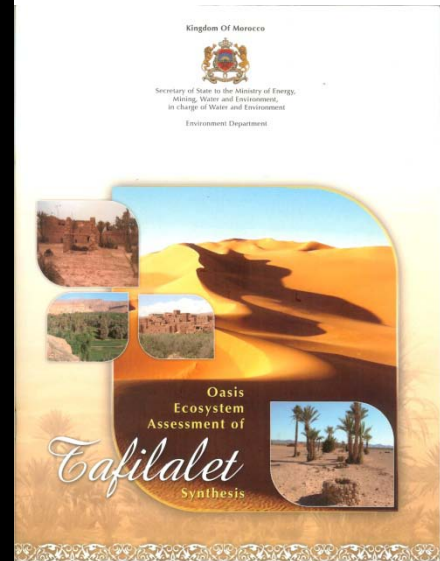
- Workshop to be held in **2012**
- Government agencies, NGOs, academia
- Information needs and use of indicators as part of updating NBSAPs with the new Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-2020
- Website: <http://www.bipindicators.net/>

Sub-global Assessment (SGA) Network

- Led by **UNEP-WCMC**
 - **Objective:** create a common platform for practitioners involved in ecosystem assessment at regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national levels
- examples:**

1. Ecosystem and human Well being, ElMaghara, Northern Senai, Egypt
 2. Saudi Arabian Millennium Ecosystem Assessment for Assir National park
 3. Oasis Ecosystem Assessment, Tafilalet, Morocco
- Many don't have economic valuation associated

<http://ecosystemassessments.net/>



Collaboration through IPBES

- **Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

- interface between the scientific community and policy makers that aims to build capacity for and strengthen the use of science in policy making
- Knowledge generation; assessments; policy-relevant tools and methodologies; catalyze capacity-building

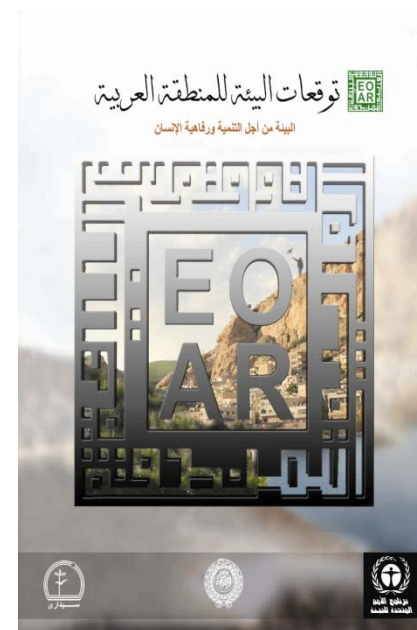
- **Ramsar (along with CBD & CITES) has passed decisions or resolutions positioning toward IPBES**



Protected Areas in the Arab region

- KSA 17 PA, 17,000sqm
- Egypt 27 PA, 15% total area
- Algeria 24% total area
- Less 6% Oman, Jordan, Sudan

Nevertheless in the entire Arab
Region less 5% international registered
Currently some countries seek 15%
target





UNEP-PERSGA Project: Institutional Arrangements for the Governance of Shared Natural Resources and Transboundary Environmental Issues Transboundary Institutional Mechanism(TIM)

- To facilitate regional and sub regional institutional arrangements to address common interests in shared natural resources and transboundary ecosystems.**
- Building political will and commitment which are fundamental preconditions for successful cooperation in managing transboundary ecosystems**
- The geographical focus is Seas, River Basins , Lakes as well as shared terrestrial ecosystem**



Components of PERSGA/UNEP project

- Support dialogue between government where no transboundary institutional mechanism exists for a threatened shared ecosystems.
- Strengthen capacity of existing institutional mechanism of shared ecosystems.
- Development of new institutional mechanism in region where an effective dialogue is already existing.



Objective of PERSGA activity

- Integrate international environmental obligations in the environmental governance of the Red Sea and Gulf of Eden.
- Revive the work of protected areas/biodiversity and living marine resources groups.
- Design and implement activities to strengthen the governance of Red Sea and Gulf of Eden marine resources



What is the progress made in MEA implementation in West Asia since 2009?

1. Iraq Joined CBD as 193rd party and first NBSAP project
2. Ramsar One site designation (UAE), only No new accessions! Interest from Kuwait and Oman
3. CMS: Dugong MOU: Yemen, Bahrain, UAE
Saker Falcon Task force
1. CITES, Lebanon and Bahrain ratification in progress
Access to EU Small grants for capacity building
1. Numerous capacity building workshops including synergies: Ramsar and CITES at NBSAP workshop & TEEB
2. CMS and Ramsar at the Arab working group for BD & desertifications MEAs
3. Jordan ratified the Nagoya protocol
4. NBSAPs UNEP umbrella programme (Bahrain as SIDS)
5. Lifeweb: 2 proposals for ME submitted for Iraq, Syria and Jordan
6. ITPGRFA: UNEP will be playing a leading role in the Benefit Sharing Fund



- Thank You