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RESULT OF THE UNEP PROJECT ON "IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AND COOPERATION AMONG BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS AND EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER SYNERGIES": SOURCEBOOK OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING COOPERATION AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

Note by the Executive Secretary

In paragraph 8 of decision XII/6, the Conference of the Parties invited the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to transmit to the Conference of the Parties of each of the biodiversity-related conventions the results of its project on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies.

The project has delivered two principal outputs: the *Sourcebook of Opportunities for Enhancing Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at National and Regional Levels*[1] and a paper entitled "Elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions."[2]

The Executive Secretary is circulating herewith, for the information of participants in the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the *Sourcebook of Opportunities for Enhancing Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at National and Regional Levels*.

The document is being circulated in the form and language in which it was submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

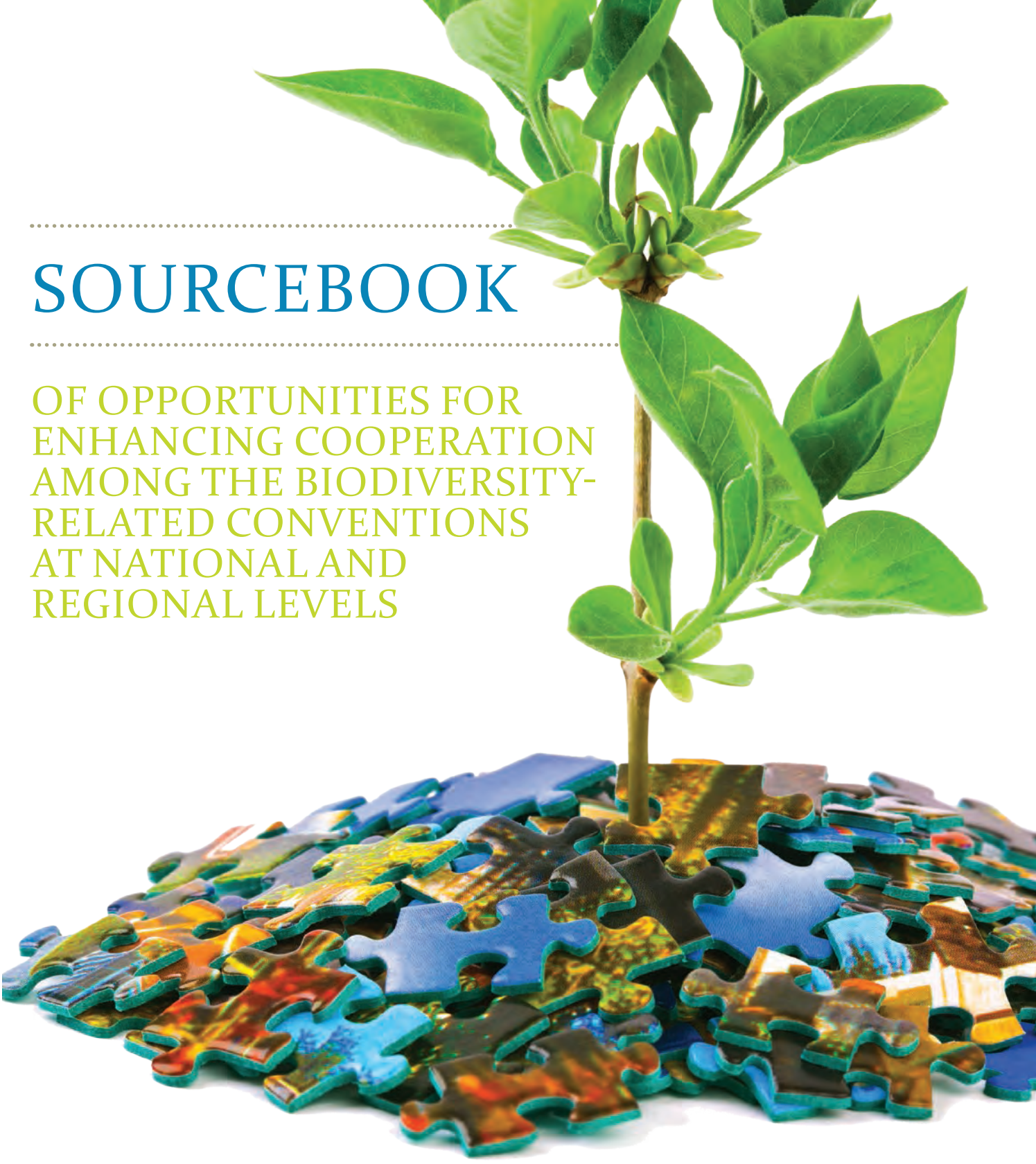
* UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/1/Rev.1.

[1] UNEP, Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels (Nairobi, UNEP, 2015). Available online at: wcmc.io/Sourcebook.

[2] The paper on elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions is presented under UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/37.

SOURCEBOOK

OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING COOPERATION AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS



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Director of Publication: Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Project Manager/Coordinators: Margaret M. Oduk (UNEP/DELC) and Jeremy Harrison (UNEP/WCMC)

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United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552
Nairobi, 00100, Kenya
Tel: (+254) 20 7621234
Fax: (+254) 20 7623927
E-mail: uneppub@unep.org
Web: www.unep.org

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Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels

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The Sourcebook was drafted and edited by Katharina Rogalla von Bieberstein, Mads Christensen, Jamie Gibson, Annie Hazel Cooper, Achilles Byaruhanga, Neiva Rosa, Robert Lamb and Thomas Koetz, with additional support from Claire Brown, Philip Bubb, Patricia Cremona, Katherine Despot Belmonte, Sarah Ivory, Julia Kelly, Diane Klaimi, Abisha Mapendembe, Robert Munroe, Sarah Smith, Makiko Yashiro and Kamar Yousuf.

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The United Nations Environment Programme acknowledges the contributions made by many individuals/institutions to the preparation of the Sourcebook. Contributors include (in alphabetical order): Maja Stade Aarønæs, Hari Bhadra Acharya, Christine Akello, Ali Al-Lami, Naoki Amako, Hakim Aulaiah, Tim Badman, Andrew Bignell, Nicola Breier, Lijie Cai, Rahul Chand, Stanley Motsamai Damane, Ana Di Pangracio, Alexia Dufour, Thera Edwards, Idunn Eidheim, Niualuga Evaimalo, Moustafa M. Fouda, Amy Fraenkel, Dineo Gaborekwe, Habib Gademi, Prudence Galega, Ilse Geijzendorffer, Cicilia Githaiga, Saw Leng Guan, Henna Haapala, Agnes Hallosserie, Clare Hamilton, Raed Bani Hani, Jerry Harrison, Ahmed Al Hashmi, Valerie Hickey, Qongqong Hoohlo, Melissa Jaques, Lamin Jawara, Ndapanda Kanime, Susanna Kari, Ibrahim Linjoum, Ileana Lopez, Antje Lorch, Cyrus Mageria, Matthias Leonhard Maier, Budu Manaka, Els Martens, Jorge Cabrera Medaglia, Sonia Peña Moreno, Ba Moussa, Maximilian Mueller, Chouaibou Nchoutpouen, Kristiina Niikkonen, Kent Nnadozie, Andreas Obrecht, Roxana Solis Ortiz, Francisco August Pariela, Peter Pechacek, Clark Peteru, Balakrishna Pisupati, Neil Pratt, Christian Prip, Peter Pueschel, Malta Qwathekana, Laurette Hermine Rasoavahiny, Francisco Rilla, Nadine Saad, Hanaa Saif, Yolanda Saito, Tânia Salvaterra, John Scanlon, Carlos Alberto de Mattos Scaramuzza, Maria Schultz, Anne-Theo Seinen, Yara Shennan-Farpón, Marcos Regis Silva, Gwendalyn Sisior, Penina Solomona, Eva Spehn, Rania S. Spyropoulou, Cassandra Stevenson, Alissa Takesy, Trinison Tarivonda, John Tayleur, Ousainou Touray, Sofia Trevino, Tshikonelo Stanley Tshitwamulomoni, Gemedo Dalle Tussie, Tristan Tyrrell, Richard Veillon, Marina von Weissenberg, Christine Weizsaecker, Tim Wilkinson, Alana Williamson, Mark Thomas Zimsky, Yves Zinngrebe, the Norwegian Environmental Agency and the Ministry of Environment and Water of United Arab Emirates.

For questions or comments on the Sourcebook, please contact:

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Director
Division of Environmental Law and Conventions
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
P.O. Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya (Official)

Tel: +254 20 762 4749
Fax: +254 20 762 4249
Email: Elizabeth.Mrema@unep.org

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACB	Association of Southeast Asian Nations Centre for Biodiversity
AHJWG	Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on enhancing co-operation and co-ordination
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BIP	Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
BISE	Biodiversity Information System for Europe
BLG	Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CHART	Caribbean Harmonised 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 of the Biodiversity-related Conventions
CSN	Critical Sites Network
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DEWHA	Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts
EEA	European Environment Agency
EMG	Environment Management Group
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
ICOMOS	International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
IEG	International Environmental Governance
IMS	Information Management System
IPBES	Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LDC	Least Developed Country
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NBDB	National Biodiversity Data Bank
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEMA	National Environmental Management Authority
NFP	National Focal Point
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ORS	Online Reporting System
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value

PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
RBSA	Regional Biodiversity Action Plan
REDD	Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation
SADC	South African Development Community
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
STRP	Scientific and Technical Review Panel
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	UN Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
UNDAF	UN Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	UN Development Programme
UNEP	UN Environment Programme
UNEP - DELC	UNEP - Division of Environmental Law & Conventions
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
WGRI	Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the CBD
WHC	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
WOW	Wings Over Wetlands
WPC	World Parks Congress

Foreword

The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity remains one of the defining challenges of our era and an essential element of sustainable development. The well-being of present and future generations and the integrity of our planet rely on effective international cooperation to address the unprecedented loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems that we are observing at the global, regional and national level.

The international community has developed over the years a range of legally binding agreements that tackle different aspects of this challenge. The six major Biodiversity-related Conventions covered by this Sourcebook include 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 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), the Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). While each Biodiversity-related Convention serves a specific purpose and adopts different approaches, they all ultimately contribute towards conserving and sustainably using biodiversity. Most recently, the CBD developed the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the related Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which provides a coherent global framework to which implementation of all Biodiversity-related Conventions contributes.

There is a wide range of benefits to be gained by working more strategically, and implementing these Conventions in a more coherent manner at all levels. Key benefits include more holistic approaches through joint programming, improved access to and sharing of data and knowledge, joint and strengthened national position on biodiversity issues, more efficient preparation of national reports, cost and resource savings and facilitated access to funding from different sources.

To assist practitioners, countries and regional organizations in enhancing cooperation at the national and regional level, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with support from the European Union and the Government of Switzerland developed this Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. The Sourcebook is part of UNEP's broader efforts to strengthen capacity to implement Multilateral Environmental Agreements and environmental law more broadly and coherently, and to increase compliance.

The Sourcebook focuses on what can be achieved through cooperation among those implementing the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels. It provides practical examples, checklists, lessons learnt and case studies from around the world which can provide an inspiration for those countries interested in exploring synergies opportunities in their own national and local circumstances.

By providing practical examples, the Sourcebook also aims to inform ongoing processes that are looking into options for enhancing synergies and improve efficiency among the Biodiversity-related Conventions. It can also be a useful resource to ensure policy coherence and build on existing implementation processes in order to contribute to the achievement of the future Sustainable Development Goals.

We thank all those that have contributed to the Sourcebook, and in particular the secretariats of the Conventions, the national focal points and all others that through the consultation or in other ways provided valuable insights.

We commend this Sourcebook to all those interested in taking action for enhancing cooperation and synergies in implementing the Biodiversity-related Conventions. We also warmly invite the reader to continue to actively engage in knowledge and experience sharing to ensure the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

Elizabeth Mrema

Director, Division of Environmental Law and Conventions, United Nations Environment Programme

Karl Falkenberg

Director General, DG ENV, European Commission

Bruno Oberle

Director, Swiss Federal Office for the Environment

Executive Summary

Governments are party to a range of different international agreements, and one of the many challenges that they face is how to implement these in a joined up, coherent way. The Sourcebook showcases **national and regional opportunities** for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions, with the ultimate aim of strengthening their implementation. The Sourcebook is built around **63 illustrative examples** from around the world, showing the various mechanisms and approaches that individual countries and regional groups take to improving cooperation. It also highlights existing guidance.

The Sourcebook focuses on the **six global Biodiversity-related Conventions** listed below, although much of what is said is relevant to other international agreements as well. These conventions have already agreed to align some activities, particularly through the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) process. The main focus is therefore on national and regional cooperation among:

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)
- Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC)

A **key audience** for the Sourcebook are the **National Focal Points (NFPs)** of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, although it will also be of use to many other national stakeholders. In the context of the Sourcebook NFPs mainly refer to primary NFPs or generally focal points that are foreseen to collaborate with other stakeholder groups, including NFPs of the other Biodiversity-related Conventions, to ensure effective and coherent implementation of the conventions. NFPs' mandates, levels of authority and resources can vary greatly from one country to another, but they nonetheless play a crucial role in coordinating activities nationally, as well as liaising with the international level.

The **concept and structure** of the Sourcebook was developed in close consultation with NFPs, representatives from the Secretariats of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, and other experts and interested stakeholders. An online survey provided initial input on the current levels of national and regional cooperation, benefits and barriers, the influence of international initiatives, and best practices. Subsequently, a number of workshops and side events in the margins of Biodiversity-related Conventions meetings secured the views of NFPs and other key stakeholders. This was complemented by desk-based research, interviews with experts and extensive external review.

Six themes form the basis of the structure of the Sourcebook, namely: *i) institutional arrangements, ii) information management and reporting, iii) the science-policy interface, iv) capacity building, v) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs,* and *vi) financial resource mobilization and utilization*. Each of the six thematic sections outlines the relevance of the topic for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions, highlights the benefits and barriers of doing so and provides useful background information. Each section further include a table, listing the identified key barriers or challenges to enhancing cooperation, options to address these and further guides the reader to specific case studies in the same section or in other sections dealing with the respective challenge. The number of case studies demonstrates that there is a wide variety of ways in which NFPs can work together under each of these six themes, pooling resources, drawing on each other's expertise, reducing duplication, making joint funding bids and generally realising the benefits of collaborative work. All of this is essential for ensuring coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels.

INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The institutional arrangements within a government determine how the Biodiversity-related Conventions are implemented at the national level. Key benefits of cooperation among the many institutions and NFPs that implement the Biodiversity-related Conventions include improved access to and sharing of data and knowledge, achieving a joint national position on biodiversity issues, and preparing reports more efficiently. Collaboration is held back, however, by a lack of staff, time and finance, and weak collaboration more widely among state agencies and ministries.

The case studies in the section show how different **formal and informal** coordination mechanisms bring together NFPs from different conventions and other key stakeholders to update each other, prepare reports, drive the NBSAP process, hold onto institutional memory, and link to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to foster access to GEF funding and generally improve resource efficiency. An informal conservation consortium in **Palau**, for example, is flexible enough to draw together members from various sectors (including traditional leaders and business), and to respond to their

differing interests. It serves as a forum for NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, and enables project managers to share and refine their ideas. At the regional level, intergovernmental groupings and support networks set up by the conventions are also strengthening collaboration between NFPs. In Central Africa, the **Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC)** formed regional working groups for the three Rio Conventions, and also organized meetings or workshops that brought together NFPs of the Rio Conventions with NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

While many coordination mechanisms are in place to facilitate cooperation among NFPs, satisfaction with the level of cooperation among NFPs varies and most NFPs and other key stakeholders see **room for improvement**. Formal and informal cooperation mechanisms can help achieve the benefits of collaboration among Biodiversity-related Conventions. Informal coordination among NFPs are generally considered a key requirement for the coherent and efficient implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions; whether formal coordination mechanisms are seen as necessary depends much more on the specific country circumstances. At the same time informal arrangements are often only regarded as a valuable supplement to formal bodies. A need for formal cooperation can be identified if there is a lack of regular meetings among NFPs and other key stakeholders, if ad-hoc information exchange is insufficient to foster meaningful joint activities, in case of frequent organizational change and staff turnover, creating discontinuity in relationships, and if coordination suffers due to insufficient human resources and low priority.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The level of human, financial and technical resources required for national reporting to the Biodiversity-related Conventions can create significant burden, not least as each convention has a different reporting system, format and schedule, but there are some overlaps in terms of the information required. This provides an opportunity for harmonizing reporting and information management. Collaboration on national and regional levels on this topic can facilitate access to shared information, strengthen relationships with organisations that house the data, and can also help identify and reduce duplication. A common barrier to collaboration is the way that information is scattered between institutions, some of which are unwilling to share data.

There are a range of options for NFPs to cooperate at national and regional levels, in order to implement more efficient and effective information management and report writing. The case studies show how countries and regions ensure that relevant information is collected, shared, stored, and made available to national stakeholders, as well as incorporated into reports to the conventions. Many countries and some regions are making the most of technological options such as state-of-the art information management systems. **Uganda**, for example, has a national biodiversity data repository, the data of which can be used for species modelling. This is complemented by a Clearing House Mechanism that lists relevant legislation and policies, and links institutions that work on sustainable management of biodiversity. The two systems have proved to be very valuable, despite facing challenges of inadequate physical and technological infrastructure, and weak regulations, meaning that biodiversity information remains scattered among various institutions. Furthermore, stakeholder engagement is key for information management and reporting. **Iraq**, for example, responded to the difficulty of performing surveys and continuing fieldwork by basing its data collection for the CBD on extensive stakeholder consultation. This enabled them to access information and data from a wider range of stakeholders, including local university faculties and researchers.

The section also provides an overview of **intergovernmental initiatives** to streamline national reporting. These highlight the potential for conventions to align similar reporting requirements, use joint thematic reports (e.g. forests, sustainable land management), or promote joint information systems such as online reporting systems. One such online reporting system was developed for the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement. This received very positive feedback, achieved the highest national report response rate in the Agreement's history, and was used by other Agreements in the CMS Family.

SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE

Despite growing knowledge about biodiversity and the threats to it, the policies adopted in response are far from achieving the aims of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. The texts and decisions of the conventions emphasise the importance of the science-policy interface, including the roles played by parties, NFPs, the scientific advisory bodies to each convention, and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).This section provides options for how to collaborate around the science-policy interface, and also informs NFPs and other stakeholders that are unsure about the concept itself.

Many national governments have scientific advisors or scientific committees that act as a key interface between scientists and policy makers. A central **role of NFPs** is to facilitate the access to or awareness of national and local data to international bodies such as the scientific advisory bodies of the conventions or the IPBES Task Force on Data and Knowledge; the quality and relevance of this data are keys to its usefulness and impact. NFPs can also use science-policy interfaces in their countries to, on the one hand, direct scientists towards policy-relevant issues to be tackled through their research, and, on the other hand, to encourage policy makers to base their policies on the best knowledge available, i.e. to make informed decisions.

The case studies illustrate that many national plans, strategies and initiatives are underway that will strengthen the science-policy interface. Some of these present biodiversity data in ways that are more accessible to decision-makers, such as through national indicator sets. In **Finland**, research institutes, state authorities, universities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) worked together to develop relevant indicators that capture key changes in biodiversity trends and support biodiversity management. Other case studies show that some countries are putting in place mechanisms that will link decision-makers to scientists and those with relevant information, so that policies can better reflect data. Making this link can raise awareness within national governments of progress against the Biodiversity-related Conventions, and thus increase the political support for the conventions. In **Mexico**, a permanent commission acts as a bridge between academia, government and civil society by bringing together a large number of functions and services: it maintains the national biodiversity information system, advises the government, and acts as NFP for IPBES and the scientific authorities of CITES and the CBD. The **European Biodiversity Observation Network** is an example of a tool that brings together relevant, up-to-date information for decision-making by regional bodies. Linking traditional knowledge to policy makers is another aspect of the science-policy interface, addressed by a joint programme between UNESCO and the CBD, and by an IPBES task force.

CAPACITY BUILDING

The previous sections illustrate the need for and the benefits of enhanced cooperation at national and regional levels among the Biodiversity-related Conventions; this section focuses on how to achieve this, and especially how to build engagement and capacity for the coherent implementation of the conventions. The emphasis is on building capacity at the national level, especially the capacity of NFPs. Capacity can be built through **various means**, including through initiatives or activities not directly aimed at capacity building for the coherent implementation of the conventions. Capacity can for example be strengthened as a result of initiatives that simply fostered interaction among NFPs and/or other key stakeholders and experts, or that fostered a common understanding and approach on issues relevant to multiple conventions.

The case studies in the section show that **regional organisations** are particularly well placed to build capacity for cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions. They can draw from a wide pool of regional expertise, while maintaining close supportive relationships with NFPs, and enabling countries with similar experiences to learn from each other. The case studies describe regional training on cross-cutting skills such as taxonomy and indicator development. Joint preparatory meetings before COPs provide an opportunity for regional stakeholders to learn from each other, consolidate key messages, and harmonise their work programmes. **National level capacity building** tends to focus on convention-specific training or particular thematic issues, though some countries use the NBSAP process to provide training opportunities for stakeholders in different conventions. **Nepal's NBSAP**, for example, lists, among other objectives, the aim to develop and implement joint capacity building programmes for the NFPs of biodiversity-related MEAs. Mentoring and staff rotation at the national level can foster a common understanding of the technical issues involved with the different conventions.

At the **global level**, some of the conventions have established specific **support mechanisms,** and are coordinating their capacity-building activities that support the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In particular the NBSAP process provides a platform for regional capacity building to enhance collaboration among the conventions; for example a **joint workshop** for eight Francophone African countries on "indicators and integration of CITES and CMS objectives as part of NBSAP updating" took place in 2013 in Cameroon. It encouraged collaboration by inviting four participants from each country: one involved with the CMS, one with CITES and two working directly on their country's NBSAP.

THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020, THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS AND NBSAPS

As a NBSAP is an instrument addressing biodiversity as a whole, all issues relevant to other Biodiversity-related Conventions can and should be covered. The adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets created an important momentum to foster a new generation of NBSAPs that address the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. The other five Biodiversity-related Conventions than CBD recognized or supported the plan and they also explicitly encouraged their NFPs to engage in their country's NBSAP revision process, or called upon their state parties to ensure that convention-specific issues are fully considered.

This section explores a range of options for NFPs and other relevant stakeholders to cooperate on the NBSAP revision and implementation processes to enhance the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. In addition, a snapshot overview of how different countries have integrated issues related to the Biodiversity-related Conventions (other than CBD) in their NBSAPs is provided.

There are many examples of countries that found the NBSAP process to be a particularly useful platform to bring together NFPs from different conventions and realise synergies. This collaboration typically depends on having strong institutional arrangements, combined with good stakeholder engagement. One such case is **Bhutan**, where a national task force brought together various departments, agencies and NGOs for the latest NBSAP revision; this prioritised working with NFPs of different conventions to capture their objectives. The process helped overcome problems that had dogged previous NBSAPs, which had been developed by consultants. This should ensure that there is a wide sense of ownership for the resulting NBSAP, and that it is coordinated with other national strategies. Options to foster the active involvement of NFPs from the start of NBSAP revision also include a launch workshop and joint capacity building, assigning roles and responsibilities clearly, and enabling temporary secondments or exchanges.

FINANCIAL RESOURCE MOBILISATION AND UTILISATION

It is widely acknowledged that there is a biodiversity conservation "funding gap" and thus that available finance lags well behind conservation needs. This section focuses on opportunities for using resources more efficiently and increasing options for financial resource mobilisation through joint implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. Cost and/or resource savings is widely considered a main benefit of enhancing cooperation among the Conventions regarding all other thematic topics of the Sourcebook. In addition, the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as a global framework for biodiversity facilitated access to GEF funding for projects with multiple convention benefits.

The case studies in this section provide examples of different approaches to biodiversity financing, in particular in the context of the NBSAP process. These include mapping the existing national spending on biodiversity, working to mainstream biodiversity into other sectors and coordination with civil society organisations, not least around donor support. **Brazil** is for example working to map the resources invested in biodiversity across the country; tourism revenues are important for conservation in **Nepal**, **Slovenia** and **Uganda**; broad stakeholder engagement processes contribute to efficiency gains in **South Africa**; and in **Egypt**, NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions came together for a joint assessment of financial needs for implementation of the conventions. The section also includes information on specific approaches, initiatives or funding opportunities which can support the coherent implementation of multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions.

The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)** is the main global mechanism to support developing countries' to take action to fulfil their commitments under the world's major Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). 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 GEF-6 Biodiversity Strategy includes objectives and programmes that are relevant to all the Biodiversity-related Conventions. It also has a specific paragraph on synergies. 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. An annex to the section outlines important steps and entry points for engagement of NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions in the country-driven national biodiversity allocation process. This can support NFPs in engaging in priority-setting and in developing integrated project concept(s) in collaboration with the GEF Operational Focal Points.

KEY LESSONS LEARNT FOR ENHANCING COOPERATION AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

The benefits of cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions indicate that cooperation should be prioritised as an integral part of the national biodiversity governance structure, written into people's job descriptions and with a permanent budget line – not least as this would be likely to generate good returns on investment through efficiency savings and eventually lead to more efficient implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

Communication and stakeholder engagement: Realising synergies depends on effective communication and stakeholder engagement. This should include key sectors, including planning departments and civil society. Making decision-makers aware of progress can help conservation become more of a political priority.

Strengthening the institutional arrangements for cooperation among NFPs and other key stakeholders engaged in the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions has benefits for all thematic areas featured in the Sourcebook. Thereby, it needs to be ensured that coordination is a means to an end and not an end in itself.

To strengthen **informal** communication and exchange between NFPs, options include initiating personal contact, including e.g. through social events, raising awareness of the benefits of cooperation among staff and sharing information so that other NFPs are informed about relevant developments.

The need to strengthen or establish **formal** coordination mechanisms should be assessed on a regular basis. With regard to the creation of a national or regional platform, network or other body bridging the science and policy, for example, it will be important to conduct a comprehensive assessment of different options available regarding structure, composition, governance, host, key task and responsibilities, funding and status.

Biodiversity planning: The NBSAP process can be a vehicle to strengthen cooperation, in particular when building up on existing structures. If the review of the mechanisms in place does not already take place in the planning stage of the NBSAP process, it can be made a target or action in the NBSAP, drawing from the lessons learnt of the NBSAP process as well as other processes. Moreover, integrating convention-specific targets, objectives and activities of Biodiversity-related Conventions (other than CBD) into NBSAPs can attract additional funding for the conventions. This can be achieved by making NFP cooperation an integral part of the NBSAP process.

Biodiversity mainstreaming: Increased collaboration of NFPs to various MEAs, and relevant ministerial departments and agencies, should become part of a wider strategy to mainstream NBSAP development and implementation with other relevant sectors impacting on biodiversity - as well as to foster the post 2015 development agenda. With regard to the latter, NBSAPs should become a tool for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level.

Strategies and Plans such as MEA Implementation Strategies and NBSAPs have proved useful to foster collaborative action under each of the six themes in the Sourcebook, whether assessing capacity building needs or the options for strengthening the science-policy interface, improved institutional arrangements or new information management systems.

Scaling up biodiversity finance: NFPs should regularly play a role in supporting processes to scale up biodiversity financing, and in particular to achieve permanent flow of finance, including for coordination activities. NFPs should therefore have a good understanding of environmental expenditure and its effectiveness in their country (and potentially region) and be familiar with existing best practise and emerging opportunities.

Global and regional-level support: Initiatives by regional and/ or international organisations and institutions, including the Secretariats of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, have proved to be useful tools to foster collaboration at national and regional levels. Regional bodies have a particularly strong role to play in capacity building for the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. They are crucial for information sharing, developing regional funding proposals and pooling existing resources. Useful initiatives include the organization of regional meetings or workshops relevant to multiple NFPs, support to the development of regional projects with benefits for multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions and the development of regional biodiversity strategy and action plans.

External funding to strengthen collaboration: Only in very limited cases is external funding explicitly available to strengthen collaboration among NFPs. However, at the same time funding schemes generally do not impose any barriers to integrated project proposals that support the implementation of multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions. Furthermore, *as stated above*, coordination activities should ideally not be dependent on external funding sources which are provided on an ad-hoc basis, but should be an integral part of the governance structure in the country.

Development of integrated GEF project proposals: In order to foster the uptake of jointly developed GEF proposals with multiple-convention benefit, a number of steps and entry points for NFP engagement in the country-driven national biodiversity project allocation process should be considered. These include processes such as National Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues and/ or the National Portfolio Formulation Exercise and/ or Regional Expanded Constituency Workshops.

Introduction

1.1 AIM OF THE SOURCEBOOK

The aim of this Sourcebook is to provide National Focal Points (NFPs) of the **major Biodiversity-related Conventions** (see *Box 1*), as well as other stakeholders working on these conventions, with options to achieve enhanced implementation of the conventions through enhanced cooperation (*for key terms such as cooperation, coordination, collaboration, and synergies* see *Box 2*). These options are informed by examples of cooperation between the different actors and existing guidance produced by the conventions and other international organisations.

The Sourcebook focuses on **six areas** where cooperation could be improved for the Biodiversity-related Conventions:

1. *Institutional arrangements;*
2. *Information management and reporting;*
3. *Science-policy interface;*
4. *Capacity building;*
5. *The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs); and*
6. *Financial resource mobilisation and utilisation.*

The different sections build on a 2012 United National Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) publication "Promoting synergies within the cluster of biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements"[1]. The report analysed the potential for enhancing synergies between the Biodiversity-related Conventions and developed a set of practical options to achieve synergies at the **global level**. In addition, it developed a roadmap for achieving the suggested synergies that could be implemented by Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) governing bodies and the UNEP governing body, through a party-driven process.

The Sourcebook gives practical advice for achieving synergies among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at **national and regional levels**. It presents the key lessons learnt from a range of approaches that enhance cooperation and coordination among NFPs and other key stakeholders in different countries and regions. As implementation of the conventions varies country by country, the Sourcebook aims to provide illustrative options for achieving synergies, not instructions, as well as an overview of already existing guidance material on the subject-matter.

1 UNEP-WCMC (2012) Promoting synergies within the cluster of biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Cambridge, UK. [Online] Available from: http://www.unep-wcmc.org/resources-and-data/promoting-synergies-within-the-biodiversity-cluster-of-biodiversity-related-multilateral-environmental-agreements [Accessed: 27 February 2015]

BOX 1: THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

The Biodiversity-related Conventions are the conventions that are members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) (Box 3)[2]. As of February 2015 seven MEAs are members of the BLG[3]. The seventh member, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), joined the BLG in September 2014 and thus substantively after the start of this project. The Sourcebook therefore mainly focuses on the other six Biodiversity-related Conventions; however, there are also selected references to the IPPC.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Host institution: UNEP
Date entering into force: 29th of December 1993.
Main objective(s): To conserve biological diversity, ensure the sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilisation of genetic resources.
Website: http://www.cbd.int/

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
Host institution: UNEP
Date entering into force: 1st of July 1975.
Main objective(s): To ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.
Website: http://www.cites.org/

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
Host institution: UNEP
Date entering into force: 24th of June 1982.
Main objective(s): The conservation and sustainable use of migratory animals and their habitats.
Website: http://www.cms.int/

The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)
Host institution: The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
Date entering into force: 29th of June 2004.
Main objective(s): The conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture; ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from their use, in harmony with the CBD, for sustainable agriculture and food security; recognizes the enormous contribution of farmers to the diversity of crops that feed the world.
Website: http://www.planttreaty.org/

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention)
Host institution: The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Date entering into force: 21st of December 1975.
Main objective(s): The conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local, regional and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world.
Website: http://www.ramsar.org/

Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC)
Host institution: The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization UNESCO
Date entering into force: 17th of December 1975.
Main objective(s): Identification, protection, conservation, presentation and transmission to future generations of cultural and natural heritage of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).
Website: http://whc.unesco.org/

The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
Host institution: FAO
Date entering into force: 3rd of April 1952.
Main objective(s): To protect world plant resources, including cultivated and wild plants by preventing the introduction and spread of plant pests and promoting the appropriate measures for their control.
Website: https://www.ippc.int/

2 This Sourcebook uses the terms 'Conventions' and 'Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)' although the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) is called a treaty. Definitions of the terms Agreement, Convention, Treaty and MEA is [Online] Available from: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/overview.aspx?path=overview/definition/page1_en.xml#conventions [Accessed: 10 March 2015]

3 [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/blg/ [Accessed: 10 March 2015]

1.2 WHY DO WE NEED TO IMPROVE COOPERATION AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS?

BOX 2: 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
- Coherent Implementation: implementing the Biodiversity-related Conventions in a consistent manner as a whole
- Clustering: the combination, grouping, consolidation, integration or merger of MEAs or parts thereof in order to improve international environmental governance (IEG). Clustering provides opportunities for synergies, particularly within each cluster, where agreements have much in common in terms of issues to be addressed[4]

MEAs are a key part of International Environmental Governance (IEG), providing countries with space to convene and produce overarching global plans and strategies to guide coordinated national actions to protect the environment and sustainably use its resources.[5] However, the rapid increase in the number of MEAs in past decades has caused concern that states may lack the capacity to implement the numerous environmental obligations and that there might be duplication of efforts.

In February 2012, the UNEP Governing Council gave specific mandates to the UNEP Executive Director to undertake *"activities to improve the effectiveness of and cooperation among MEAs, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties"* and *"explore the opportunities for further synergies in the administrative functions of the MEA secretariats administered by UNEP and to provide advice on such opportunities to the governing bodies of those MEAs"*[6]. Furthermore, paragraph 89 of the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) outcome document, *The Future We Want*, held in June 2012, 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[7].

4 UNEP-WCMC (2012) Promoting Synergies in the biodiversity-related MEAs [Online] Available from: http://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset_file_fields/files/000/000/045/original/Promoting_synergies_in_the_biodiversity_cluster.pdf?1395761916 [Accessed: 21 January 2015]

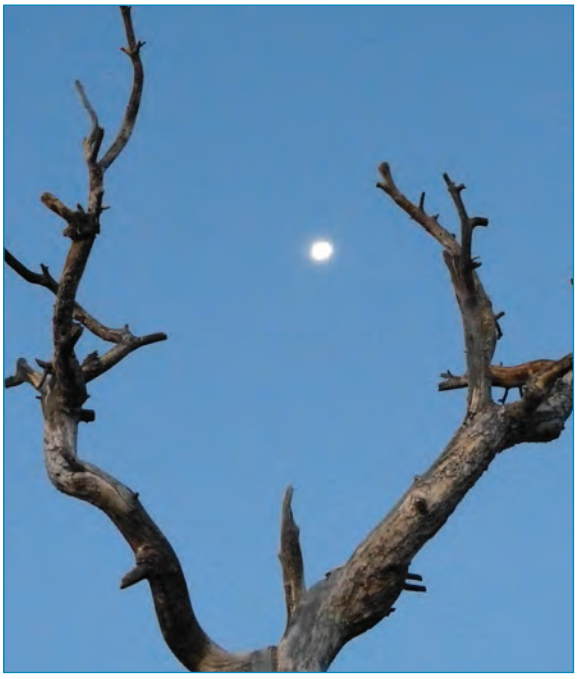
5 For an overview of MEAs please view Mitchell, R. and the IEA Database Project (2015) International Environmental Agreements (IEA) Database Project. [Online] Available from: http://iea.uoregon.edu/page.php?file=home.htm&query=static [Accessed: 12 February 2015]

6 paragraphs 2 to 3 of Decision SS.XII/3 on IEG (February 2012)

7 [Online] Available from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E [Accessed: 26 February 2015]

Steps to enhance cooperation and coordination among MEAs have mainly focused on thematic clusters of conventions, with a notable example being the **chemicals and waste cluster**, consisting of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions[8]. Achievements within this cluster have set a precedent for enhancing cooperation and coordination across other clusters. This has included an incremental process of reform, initiated by an "Ad Hoc Joint Working Group on enhancing co-operation and co-ordination" (AHJWG), resulting in merging of the three Secretariats, with work organised in a matrix and undertaken by a single body for technical assistance and aspects of administration, including organisation of meetings. There have been back-to-back COP meetings as well as joint meetings. However, although reference is often made to the lessons learnt from the chemicals and waste cluster, mechanisms to generate synergies in other clusters must be tailored to the specific characteristics of the respective cluster. The so-called biodiversity cluster (the major Biodiversity-related Conventions comprised in the BLG, *Box 1*) is much greater in scope and number of MEAs than the chemicals and waste cluster. In addition, the physical locations of their secretariats differ considerably, and their hosting agencies vary, which provides challenges in creating administrative synergies like that displayed in the chemical and waste cluster.

Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions, there are overlapping mandates and this has led to wide recognition of the need for enhanced coordination, and an exploration of possible synergies, with the specific aim of making their implementation more coherent, efficient and effective[9]. The decision-making bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions have therefore taken decisions or resolutions to enhance cooperation among the conventions. Recent decisions or resolutions concerning improved cooperation among NFPs are listed in *Table 1*.



8 [Online] Available from: synergies.pops.int [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

9 UNEP Background Information: Development of the "MEA synergies" debate, with a particular focus on the Biodiversity-related Conventions and the International Environmental Governance (IEG) reform process to the "First multi-stakeholder expert meeting on elaboration of options for synergies among biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements" (Interlaken, Switzerland, 26-28 August 2014). [Online] Available from: http://wcmc.io/workshopdocuments [Accessed: 26 February 2015]

Table 1: Recent MEA decisions and resolutions emphasizing the need for improved collaboration among NFPs

MEA	Decision/ Resolution (Year)	Decision/ Resolution Text
CBD	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;"*
	XI/6 (2012)	*"Encourages Parties to further **strengthen cooperation and synergy among convention focal points and focal points for other relevant processes** and partners at the national level so as to enhance capacity to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets"*
	X/20 (2010)	*"Urges Parties to establish **close collaboration at the national level between the focal points for the CBD and focal points for other relevant conventions**, with a view to developing coherent and synergetic approaches across the conventions at national and (sub-) regional levels"*
CITES	16.4 (2013)	*"Recommends that Parties further **strengthen the cooperation, coordination and synergies among the focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions** and other partners at the national level to enhance coherent national level implementation of the Convention"*
CMS	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, harmonized national reporting and adoption of coherent national positions in respect of each MEA."*
	10.25 (2011)	*"Further encourages interested Parties to **enhance collaboration with NFPs for the CBD and GEF** to implement the options available under the existing GEF structure … and specifically to: ...* *c) enhance collaboration at National Focal Point level* *d) integrate relevant objectives into support for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP)s."*
ITPGRFA	8/2011 (2011)	*"Requests the **NFPs of the Treaty to enhance their collaboration and coordination with their counterpart NFPs for the CBD on all relevant processes**, in particular on the Nagoya Protocol and the Strategic Plan"*
Ramsar Convention	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;"*
Even though not specifically addressing NFPs, it is acknowledged that the World Heritage Committee adopted decisions to encourage synergies between MEAs. For example Decision 37 COM 5A, adopted at its 37th session (Phnom Penh, 2013) reads in paragraph 8: *"Also encourages the World Heritage Centre to continue its cooperation with the BLG to create further synergies between the conventions, as well as the joint activities initiated with the Secretariats of the CITES, Ramsar Convention and the Council of Europe, and further requests States Parties to ensure their NBSAPs fully consider the importance of natural World Heritage sites to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets."*		

11 Other initiatives include the joint programmes of work and Memorandum of corporation between the MEAs. For more information see UNEP-WCMC (2012) Promoting synergies within the cluster of biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Cambridge, UK. [Online] Available from: http://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset_file_fields/files/000/000/045/original/Promoting_synergies_in_the_biodiversity_cluster.pdf?1395761916 [Accessed: 26 February 2015]

It needs to be highlighted, that there have already been considerable efforts and initiatives aimed at improving alignment in the biodiversity cluster of MEAs, coordinated at global level by the BLG (*Box 3*)[10]. These efforts mainly focused on programmatic areas of work. A significant achievement in that regard 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. The Biodiversity-related Conventions have agreed to align their activities with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and to use National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as the main planning tool for implementation at the national level (*section 6, pg. 109)*. This has been a key step in furthering cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions. Regarding financial resource mobilisation, the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 also provides opportunities for the preparation and implementation of projects and initiatives with co-benefits across the conventions. The GEF Biodiversity Strategy in the current sixth replenishment period (GEF-6) includes a specific paragraph on synergies among the Biodiversity-related Conventions which can provide a basis for collaboration, especially in NBSAP revision and implementation processes (For more information on GEF and its biodiversity strategy, see *Annex 3, pg. 172*).

Lastly, enhancing synergies among the Biodiversity-related Conventions is also considered crucial by the members of the BLG to effectively integrate biodiversity in the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. The SDGs will be adopted at the upcoming UN Special Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015 in New York. After their adoption, it will be important to ensure policy coherence and build on existing implementation processes in order to implement SDGs at the national level. NBSAPS, as the main tool of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, can and should become a key tool for SDG implementation. This in particular accounts against the background that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets go beyond the protection of biodiversity, but address several aspects of sustainable development, ranging from reducing direct pressures on biodiversity and mainstreaming nature across different sectors, to promoting sustainable use and providing benefits to all from the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. NBSAPs can thus provide for the institutional infrastructure and resources to implement SDGs related to biodiversity and to report on progress towards the goals. Ensuring synergies among the different processes will support more efficient use of resources in order to accomplish more with the limited resources available.

BOX 3: THE BIODIVERSITY LIAISON GROUP (BLG)

The Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (Biodiversity Liaison Group, BLG) was established in order to enhance coherence and cooperation between the major Biodiversity-related Conventions (Box 1). The BLG consists of the heads of the secretariats of the conventions, and they meet at least annually to explore opportunities for synergistic activities, 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).[11]

11 All BLG reports can be accessed on the CBD website, Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/blg/ [Accessed: 26 February 2015]

At the ninth ordinary meeting of the BLG in August 2014 at the Kartause Ittingen, in Warth, Switzerland, the BLG extended an invitation to the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) to become the seventh member of the group, which the IPPC accepted. According to the Modus Operandi adopted by the members, new members need to be global conventions with a mandate that is substantially related to biodiversity.

Initiatives led through this group, including ongoing activities and future priorities, include:

- **The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.** 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. 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.
- **Facilitation of access to financial resources from GEF for conventions other than CBD.** Participants of the BLG 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.
- **Inter-governmental platform for biodiversity and ecosystem services (IPBES).** The BLG agreed on the need for a coordinated approach within the framework of the 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 secretariats[12]. At the last meeting in August 2014, participants agreed to explore opportunities for interoperability and interconnection based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

12 [Online] Available from http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/preconditions-harmonization-unep-wcmc-en.pdf [Accessed: 26 February 2015]

1.3 WHAT IS THE ROLE OF NFPS IN ENHANCING COOPERATION AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS?

BOX 4: NFPS OF THE MAJOR BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

Available definitions of NFP from the Biodiversity-related Conventions include a definition from the CBD as well as from the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention.

The CBD provides a definition of a NFP in COP decision VIII/10. The terms of reference are reproduced in a CBD training module[13], which outlines that *"A focal point is **the person or institution** designated by a government to represent the Party between meetings of the COP in its routine dealings with the Secretariat in matters involving the Convention. These dealings include such activities as communications, dissemination of information, representation at meetings, responding to various requests, collaboration with other stakeholder groups, monitoring, promoting and/or facilitating national implementation of the Convention."*

The Ramsar Convention's Secretariat (2014) defines a NFP in the following way: *"A daily contact person, coordinating activities and liaising with national stakeholders and international partners including the Convention Secretariat"*[14].

In the context of this Sourcebook NFPs mainly refer to primary NFPs or generally focal points that are foreseen to collaborate with other stakeholder groups, including NFPs of the other Biodiversity-related Conventions, to ensure effective and coherent implementation of all the conventions. For the conventions covered by this Sourcebook, these are the following:

- **CBD** Primary NFPs : http://www.cbd.int/information/nfp.shtml
  - **Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety** Primary National Focal Points: http://www.cbd.int/doc/lists/nfp-cpb.pdf
  - **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing** Primary National Focal Points: https://absch.cbd.int/find?commonFormat=focalPoint
- **CMS** NFPs: http://www.cms.int/en/document/cms-national-focal-point-terms-reference
- **CITES** Management and Scientific Authority: http://www.cites.org/eng/disc/how.php
- **Ramsar Convention** NFPs: http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/about_nfp_2014_en.pdf
- **ITPGRFA** Focal Points: http://www.planttreaty.org/content/contracting-parties-treaty
- **WHC** List of NFPs for natural and cultural sites: http://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ (Click on a state party and find the respective NFP in the right column under contacts in the official relations tab)
- **IPPC** Contact Points: https://www.ippc.int/countries/contactpoints/

Fostering coordination and cooperation among NFPs can be an important step for enhancing coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. Such collaboration has the potential to identify opportunities for synergies and joint implementation and, in particular, in cases where NFPs of the conventions are housed in different departments or ministries, it can also foster inter-departmental/ministerial cooperation. Coordination and cooperation among NFPs can thus contribute to biodiversity mainstreaming across sectors and government departments and/or ministries.

Nevertheless it needs to be highlighted that NFPs in different countries have different mandates, roles and authorities regarding their position within the government. NFPs can for example

13 CBD (2009), Role of the CBD National Focal Point, Module A-2. [Online] Available from: https://www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/a2-train-role-nfp-v2-2009-02-en.pdf [Accessed: 12 February 2015]

14 [Online] Available from: http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/library/about_nfp_2014_en.pdf [Accessed: 12 February 2015]

be placed within ministries, in both high or low position in terms of decision making power, or be located in other institutions, for example scientific institutions. The measures for NFPs to foster collaboration that have been brought together in the Sourcebook will therefore not be applicable to all NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. Instead, activities carried out by NFPs in their respective country and/or region will be directed by the mandate, role and authority that NFPs hold within their government and even more generally the decision-making arena. If NFPs are individuals, and do not hold a strong position within the context of their national governments but focus on the technical level, enhancing cooperation among supervising institutions of NFPs might be more useful than enhancing cooperation only among NFPs.

As already pointed out, an example of a successful process initiated by the Biodiversity-related Conventions to foster coordination and cooperation between NFPs is the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 through the development or updating of NBSAPs. It is the translation of strategic planning documents and other decisions and recommendations of the Biodiversity-related Conventions into national planning documents and legislation which secures their implementation. This Sourcebook aims to provide clear and useful information for NFPs who wish to enact those decisions relating to enhanced collaboration at the national level.

1.4 WHAT IS THE ROLE OF OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN ENHANCING THE COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS?

There are several groups of stakeholders for which mutually beneficial cooperation is essential to reduce duplication of workload and improve effectiveness of implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. Even though this Sourcebook focuses on cooperation among NFPs, many of the case studies presented involve other key stakeholders, and therefore many of the lessons learnt will be applicable to stakeholders beyond NFPs. The stakeholder groups other than the primary NFPs of the six major Biodiversity-related Conventions that this Sourcebook focuses on, are the following:

- **NFPs under the same convention**. Particular examples include NFPs of the CMS 'daughter' agreements (e.g. the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement, AEWA) and NFPs on specific issues (issue focal points) under the CBD. These NFPs are often different to the primary NFP and therefore cooperation and coordination is also an internal matter. *CMS has produced guidance to support such internal cooperation*[15].
- **NFPs outside of the biodiversity cluster**. For example, there have been significant efforts to enhance coordination and collaboration between the NFPs of the CBD and the other two Rio Conventions[16]: The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)[17]. Even though these conventions are not considered part of the so-called biodiversity cluster, their successful implementation is of course also vital to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Lessons learnt from efforts to improve synergies between the Rio Conventions can also be applied to the biodiversity cluster and therefore this Sourcebook also makes references to such activities.
- **Stakeholders inside national government** who contribute to the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, i.e. mainstreaming processes, incorporating biodiversity considerations into national development and/or poverty reduction strategies.
- **Stakeholders outside of national government** who contribute significantly to the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. International, regional and national levels organisations may manage protected areas, undertake land restoration actions or educate citizens about conservation of and equitable, sustainable use of biodiversity. Collaboration between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders is essential to help to eliminate duplicative activities and improve the effectiveness of activities.

The case study below from **Madagascar** is an illustrative example of the wide range of stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

15 Manual for the National Focal Points for CMS and its Instruments. 2013. UNEP/CMS Secretariat and UNEP/ AEWA Secretariat, Bonn, Germany [Online] Available from: http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/publication/manual_e.pdf [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

16 The 'Rio Conventions' were either open for signature (CBD, UNFCCC) at, or envisaged by (UNCCD), the UN Conference on Environment and Development ('Earth Summit') in Rio de Janeiro in 1992. See in particular: http://www.riopavilion.org/past-meetings/

17 More information on the Rio conventions is [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/rio/ [Accessed: 10 March 2015] and for more information on opportunities for enhancing cooperation between the Rio conventions, see CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC (2004) OPTIONS FOR ENHANCED COOPERATION AMONG THE THREE RIO CONVENTIONS [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbstta/sbstta-10/information/sbstta-10-inf-09-en.pdf [Accessed: 10 March 2015]

Case study 1: The mobilisation of convention secretariats, other international bodies, civil society and national actors to protect Madagascan Rosewood

In 2009 a political crisis in Madagascar led to a rapid resurgence of illegal logging and timber trafficking from the Atsinanana rainforests of eastern Madagascar. The response involved the World Heritage Committee, the CITES Secretariat, other international bodies, civil society and the Madagascan Government. Deforestation had spared just 8.5% of these rainforests, and in 2007 six national parks with exceptional biological importance were designated as a World Heritage site.

During the resurgence of illegal logging in 2009, an estimated 100,000 trees were cut down illegally, mainly within the World Heritage Sites of Masoala National Park and Marojejy National Park. Timber species such as rosewood (*Dalbergia spp.*) and ebony (*Diospyros spp.*) were especially prized. In 2009 national and international civil society organizations including Madagascan branches of WWF and WCS issued a joint communiqué deploring the increase in logging and smuggling of precious woods and wildlife. The World Heritage Centre gave support to the communiqué by publishing it on their website and noting reports that armed and organized gangs had settled in the parks and built roads to extract timber. In 2010 the Atsinanana rainforests were added to the List of World Heritage in Danger, a listing that has been maintained in the four years since then.

Steps to protect Madagascan rosewood and ebony have also been taken through CITES, and subsequently reinforced by the World Heritage Committee. These genera were added to CITES Appendix III in 2011, then moved to Appendix II in 2013. Also in 2013, an Action Plan for these trees placed an embargo on stockpiles of illegal timber and required the Madagascan government to collaborate with CITES, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and national and international research/conservation organizations on research, enforcement and any trading activities.

Despite all these steps, illegal logging resumed at the end of 2013, apparently because police were removed from positions in the Masoala and Marojejy National Parks around the time of an election. When the World Heritage Committee considered the state of conservation of the World Heritage site in Danger of the Rainforests of the Atsinanana in 2014, it commended the political will of the new government to tackle illegal logging, while also reiterating the importance of the recommendations by CITES. For example, it urged Madagascar and all recipient States Parties of the illegal traffic to respect the embargo on stockpiled timber under the CITES Action Plan (and only lifted with the endorsement of the CITES Permanent Committee) and to inform the port and airport authorities of their respective capitals of the fraudulent nature of the exportation of rosewood from Madagascar. It also emphasized the importance of the consultation process with all stakeholders, and requested the government of Madagascar to invite a joint UNESCO / IUCN monitoring mission to the area.

Also in 2014, the CITES Secretary-General, Mr John E. Scanlon not only committed support from CITES, but offered to bring various other international bodies to bear on the issue of timber trafficking. These included the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime, which was to convene a meeting on joint strategies to coordinate enforcement, involving customs and other officials from source, transit and destination states. Mr Scanlon also recommended the rapid deployment of a Wildlife Incident Support Team led by INTERPOL. President Rajaonarimampianina of Madagascar welcomed these proposals for a collective effort to combat the illegal trade.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Madagascar

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Sources:

- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. State of Conservation (SOC) 2014: Rainforests of the Atsinanana. **[Online] Available from: http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/2947 [Accessed: 20 February 2015]**
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. President of Madagascar and CITES Secretary-General call for international support to halt surge in illegal timber trade. Press release. Geneva, 4 April 2014. **[Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/eng/Madagascar-president-CITES-Secretary-General-call-for-international-support-to-halt-surge-in-illegal-timber-trade [Accessed: 20 February 2015]**
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Action plan for Diospyros spp. and Dalbergia spp. Annex 3. Decisions of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in effect after its 16th meeting. Bangkok 2013. **[Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/dec/valid16/E16-Dec.pdf [Accessed: 20 February 2015]**
- D. Braun. Madagascar's logging crisis: Separating myth from fact. National Geographic News Watch. May 20, 2010. **[Online] Available from: http://newswatch.nationalgeographic.com/2010/05/20/madagascar_logging_crisis/**
- UNESCO. World Heritage Rainforests in Madagascar threatened by illegal logging and trafficking of precious wood. News item Friday, April 3, 2009. **http://whc.unesco.org/en/news/500 [Accessed: 20 February 2015]**

1.5 HOW THE SOURCEBOOK WAS DEVELOPED

The project "Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among Biodiversity-related Conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies", funded by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland, aims to address the mandate from the UNEP Governing Council cited in *section 1.2*, as well as related COP decisions of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (*Table 1, pg. 5*). This Sourcebook is one key output of the project, exploring best practices and options for implementing the Biodiversity-related Conventions in an effective, efficient and coherent manner at the national and regional levels (*see the project summary in Annex 1, pg. 167.*).

The concept and structure of the Sourcebook were developed in close consultation with NFPs, representatives from the Secretariats of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, and a wide range of other experts and interested stakeholders. This was in order to ensure the usefulness of the Sourcebook, build on existing work and avoid any duplication. The consultations were held as open discussions. The main outcome was the need to focus on lessons learnt from what MEA focal points are already doing, which illustrate the numerous ways of tackling this problem in the specific circumstances of each country. "Success" for each country is likely to take the form of a variant of the different examples provided, and this Sourcebook does not suggest that there is any one approach to collaborative and coordinated implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions that will be successful in each country.

The material in this Sourcebook was compiled from a number of sources:

- Desk-based research of academic and grey literature on cooperation and coordination in the implementation of MEAs. Examples from outside of the biodiversity cluster have been included where it is thought they are relevant and useful (in particular from the Rio Conventions);
- The UNEP Survey 2014 on the benefits, opportunities and barriers experienced by NFPs and other key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (*Box 5, pg. 13*);
- A workshop on *"Improving coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the national and regional levels"*, aimed at generating input for the Sourcebook. The workshop was held in the margins of the fifth meeting of the Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI-5) in Montreal. Where this workshop is referred to in the text it will be referred to as **UNEP Montreal Workshop 2014**[18].
- Interviews with NFPs to the Biodiversity-related Conventions and other experts to generate case studies, receive comments on the structure and content of the Sourcebook, as well as on its future dissemination. Interviews took place in the margins of a range of regional and global meetings in 2014, including at a NBSAP Forum workshop in Namibia and during a joint preparatory meeting for the Ramsar Convention, CMS and CBD COPs in Fiji;
- A peer-review workshop, *"Exploring opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-Related Conventions at national and regional levels – presentation of a draft sourcebook for discussion and peer-review"*, in the margins of CBD COP 12 in October 2014, aimed to ensure that the final product meets the needs and expectations of the target audience. A key component of the peer-review workshop was the breakout group session in which participants were divided into groups to discuss and review individual sections of the sourcebook. Where this workshop is referred to in the text it will be referred to as **UNEP Peer-review Workshop 2014**[19].

18 UNEP-WCMC (2014), Improving coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions at the national and regional levels. [Online] Available from: wcmc.io/WGRI5workshop [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

19 UNEP-WCMC (2014), Exploring opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-Related Conventions at the national and regional level – presentation of a draft sourcebook for discussion and peer-review. [Online] Available from: wcmc.io/CBDCOP12workshop [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

The UNEP Peer-review Workshop 2014 started an extensive peer-review process of approximately 3 months. Stakeholders, including the Secretariats of the 6 major Biodiversity-related Conventions, reviewed the publication in its entirety or parts thereof, and selected experts reviewed individual thematic sections as chapter reviewers.

BOX 5: UNEP SURVEY 2014

In the beginning of 2014, a questionnaire on 'improving coordination and cooperation in the implementation of MEAs at national and regional levels' was developed to collect data on current levels of cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels (especially among NFPs). Information was also collected on benefits of, and barriers to, cooperation, influence of global level processes on national level cooperation, best practices and approaches to enhance cooperation[20]. The survey was structured around the same six thematic sections that provide the foundation of the Sourcebook. It was provided in English, French and Spanish and on demand also in the other 3 UN languages.

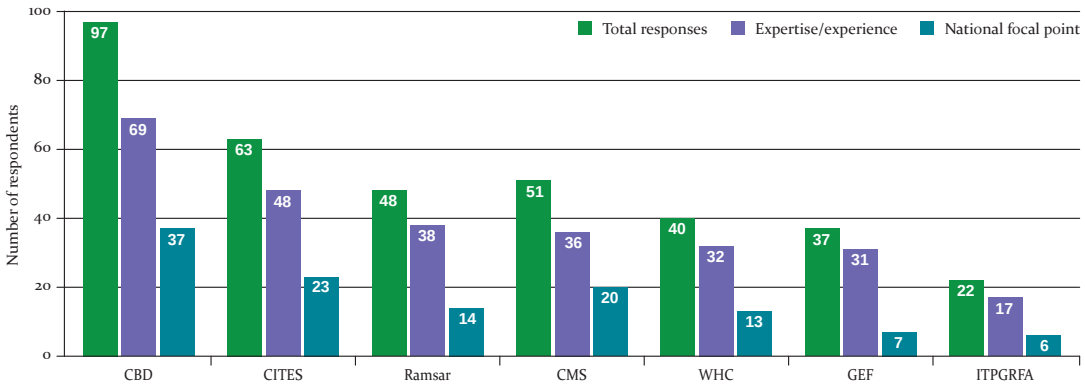
In April 2014, NFPs of the six major Biodiversity-related Conventions and from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) *(Box 31, pg. 175)*, as well as other national and international experts, were invited to fill out the questionnaire. A few weeks after its launch, the convention secretariats from CMS, WHC, ITPGRFA, CBD and CITES also informed their NFPs about the questionnaires via notification.

The preliminary results of the survey were presented at the UNEP Montreal Workshop 2014. Presentations about the project and questionnaire were also given at: CBD Resource Mobilisation workshops in Entebbe (Uganda), Brasilia (Brazil), Bangkok (Thailand) and Vilm (Germany); during an NBSAP Forum workshop in Namibia; and during a joint preparatory meeting for the Ramsar Convention, CMS and CBD COPs in Fiji – all in 2014. The questionnaire had 139 respondents from 88 different countries *(Figure 1)*.

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

20 In parallel to this survey, another questionnaire focused on global level synergies was launched, feeding into the UNEP project on identification of opportunities and options for enhancing cooperation between UNEP, other biodiversity-related MEA host institutions and the secretariats of the biodiversity MEAs in working towards the effective implementation of the MEAs. For the project summary, see Annex 1, pg. 160.

In addition to NFPs to the Biodiversity-related Conventions, NFPs to the convention's protocols and family agreements[21], as well as NFPs outside of the biodiversity cluster[22], the questionnaire also received a range of responses from other stakeholders, both inside and outside national governments, with expertise/ experience in the implementation of one or several of the six major Biodiversity-related Conventions as well as the GEF *(Graph 1)*.



Graph 1: Number of respondents who are NFPs to, or have experience with the six major Biodiversity-related Conventions that were the focus of this survey, plus GEF

Responses to the questionnaire provide insight into the advantages, obstacles and best practices for enhancing cooperation among NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and other key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the conventions. Furthermore, the survey provided the foundation for the identification of case studies for this Sourcebook. References to the results of this survey will therefore be made throughout this publication. It will be referred to the survey as **UNEP Survey 2014**.

Each thematic section of the Sourcebook includes the survey's results on benefits of, and barriers to, cooperation and coordination among NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions in the respective subject area (*sub-section 1.6*). Respondents were given the opportunity to select multiple potential 'main benefits' and 'main barriers' from a list of options, as well as to add other benefits and/or barriers through open-ended response fields. A high frequency of responses with regard to one benefit or barrier thus cannot be interpreted as it being the main issue in any given country. In general the survey consisted of a mix of multiple choice and open-ended responses: open-ended responses to prevent bias and encourage sharing of national approaches, and multiple-choice options to facilitate analysis of trends across responses, as well as to motivate people to fill out the survey despite time constraints.

The questions of the UNEP Survey 2014 and an analysis of each section of the survey can be found on the following website: wcmc.io/Survey

21 including the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing in Genetic Resources under the CBD and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) as a member of the CMS family

22 e.g. the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)) and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer)

1.6 STRUCTURE OF THE SOURCEBOOK

As outlined in *section 1.1*, the Sourcebook focuses on six areas where cooperation and coordination could be improved for the biodiversity cluster of MEAs, namely;

Institutional arrangements

Information management and reporting

Science-policy interface

Capacity Building

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP)

Financial Resource Mobilisation and Utilisation

Each section roughly follows the same basic structure, divided into 5 subsections:

1. Introduction:

1.1. Relevance of the theme as a means to foster coordination and collaboration among NFPs to the Biodiversity-related Conventions and other key stakeholders; introduction of key terms and concepts or relevant background information.

1.2. Benefits identified in the UNEP Survey 2014 related to the specific subject area

2. National level case studies

Each country case study includes a box, indicating which of the Biodiversity-related Conventions the country is a Party to.

3. Regional level case studies

4. Overcoming barriers and challenges

4.1. Barriers identified in the UNEP Survey 2014 related to the specific subject area

4.2. Response options: a table outlines the key barriers/challenges as well as national and/or regional-level response options, and links to cases studies presented in this Sourcebook.

4.3. Key lessons learnt: drawing on the case study examples, the identified response options for overcoming the barriers/challenges under 4.2, as well as input by a range of interview partners, key lessons learnt are outlined that could be applied at the national or regional levels to enhance coordination and cooperation.

5. Useful resources

1.7 USEFUL RESOURCES

This section collects key resources, providing useful information on the subject matter of synergies.

- **UNEP (2014) Development of the "MEA synergies" debate, with a particular focus on the Biodiversity-related Conventions and the International Environmental Governance (IEG) reform process**
  This document was produced as a background document for the "First multi-stakeholder expert meeting on elaboration of options for synergies among biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements" (Interlaken, Switzerland, 26-28 August 2014). It provides an overview of the development of the synergies debate, the IEG reform process, and the existing mechanisms of coordination and collaboration between the Biodiversity-related Conventions. **[Online] Available from:** http://wcmc.io/MEAsynergies **[Accessed: 5 March 2015]**
- ***UNEP-WCMC (2012) Promoting synergies within the cluster of biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Cambridge, UK.***
  The objective of this report is to analyse the potential for enhancing synergies between the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the global level, and to develop a set of practical options for realising these built around four selected key areas. The key areas include i) the science-policy interface (including the role of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, IPBES), ii) National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, iii) national reporting and iv) capacity-building. In addition, the report develops a roadmap for achieving the suggested synergies for MEA governing bodies and the UNEP Governing Council through a party driven process. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset_file_fields/files/000/000/045/original/Promoting_synergies_in_the_biodiversity_cluster.pdf?1395761916 **[Accessed: 20 February 2015]**
- ***Report from a Nordic Symposium: "Synergies in the Biodiversity Cluster" (2010)***
  This report summarises the discussions and presentations at a symposium that attempted to answer four questions relating to the potential creation of a biodiversity cluster, the role of governments in driving such a process, and generating synergies among the Biodiversity-Related Conventions. Of particular relevance are the presentations on 'Streamlining national reporting among biodiversity-related MEAs', 'NBSAPs – possibilities for collaboration with other biodiversity-related MEAs', 'CITES and the concept of country-driven, practical synergy' and 'Interlinkages and synergies in the implementation of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions'. Although these presentations contain valuable background information on creating synergies during national level implementation of MEAs, they do not explicitly explain how to coherently implement MEAs on the ground. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.biodivcluster.fi/pdf/Synergies report final.pdf **[Accessed: 20 February 2015]**
- ***Chambers, W. Bradnee (2008) Interlinkages and the effectiveness of Multilateral Environmental Agreements, United Nations University Press, Tokyo, Japan, 311p.***
  This book seeks to fill the gap in knowledge and policy-making that exists, particularly in international law. In the course of doing so, it examines the essence of the assumptions made about interlinkages and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), provides a framework for measuring the effectiveness of MEAs, and shows how the effectiveness of MEAs can be improved by interlinkages. Moreover, it demonstrates how MEAs that cooperate with treaties beyond those with an environmental focus, in other sectors of sustainable development, can improve their effectiveness.

- ***D. Mouat, J. Lancaster, I. El-Bagouri, and F. Santibañez, 2006, Eds. Opportunities for synergy among the environmental Conventions: Results of national and local level workshops. UNCCD, Bonn, Germany. 52pp.*** Information on the lessons learned through 24 national and local level synergy workshops organized between 2000 and 2004 with the support of the UNCCD Secretariat and key partners. It does not present a blueprint, but instead seeks to give information about experiences gained and methods developed so far, aiming to trigger ideas on how to enhance synergistic implementation at the national and local levels.

- ***Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2006) Guidance for Promoting Synergy among Activities Addressing Biological Diversity, Desertification, Land Degradation and Climate Change. Montreal, Technical Series no. 25, iv + 43 pages.***
This report highlights synergies between the Rio Conventions and how they can be implemented coherently at the national level. It explains how biodiversity considerations can be integrated into climate change and desertification adaptation projects, as well as the tools and mechanisms that can be used for this integration. The final sections of the report list the key points of advice for policymakers as well as relevant case studies.
[Online] Available from: https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-25.pdf **[Accessed: 20 February 2015]**

1.8 LIST OF CASE STUDIES

Country/institution	Case study # and title	Section/ Page #
AEWA	21. An Online Reporting System (ORS) for the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)	**3/58**
ABS Capacity Development Initiative and Bioversity International in cooperation with the Secretariats of the CBD and the International Treaty	42. A tandem workshop for NFPs of the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol	**5/100**
Arab League	63. Arab Working Group on Biodiversity and Combating Desertification	**7/159**
Belgium	50. Belgium's 2014 NBSAP as a tool for synergistic implementation	**6/121**
Bhutan	56. Financial resource mobilisation for Bhutan's 2014 NBSAP	**7/152**
Bhutan	45. Overcoming previous challenges in the development of Bhutan's new NBSAP	**6/116**
Botswana	12. Botswana's National Implementation Strategy for MEAs 2007	**2/34**
Brazil	54. Ensuring permanent flow of financial resources to the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions in Brazil	**7/150**
Brazil	2. Informal coordination among NFPs in Brazil	**2/25**
Brazil	29. Updating of National Biodiversity Targets in Brazil	**4/76**
Cameroon	5. Cameroon's Inter-ministerial Biodiversity Committee	**2/28**
Cameroon	47. Collaboration among NFPs in Cameroon's NBSAP revision process	**6/118**
CARICOM	23. Developing a harmonized reporting template for Caribbean countries	**3/60**
CEPF	62. Protecting the key biodiversity areas of the Eastern Afromontane hotspot	**7/158**
CITES	35. Providing information on elephant poaching to range states, CITES, the World Heritage Convention and the CMS through one monitoring programme	**4/82**
COMIFAC	14. MEA NFP coordination and collaboration under COMIFAC	**2/39**
Côte d'Ivoire	44. Côte d'Ivoire: laying the ground for an inclusive NBSAP process	**6/115**
European Environment Agency (EEA)	25. Creating a regional architecture to support national decision-making and reporting: the Biodiversity 2020 Target Cross-Linking Tool used in the EU	**3/62**
Egypt	8. Biodiversity and GEF steering committees in Egypt	**2/31**
Egypt	57. NFP collaboration on financial matters in Egypt	**7/153**
ESABII	38. Regional training to develop capacity in taxonomy in Southeast Asia	**5/95**
EU	34. Linking biodiversity data and policy through the European Biodiversity Observation Network (EU BON)	**4/81**
Fiji	48. The integration of existing steering committees of the Biodiversity-related Conventions in Fiji's NBSAP revision process	**6/119**
Finland	27. Using indicators at the science-policy interface in Finland	**4/75**
Honduras	32. An action plan to strengthen the science-policy interface in Honduras	**4/79**
Iraq	17. Data collection for the fifth national report to the CBD in Iraq	**3/54**

Country/institution	Case study # and title	Section/ Page #
IUCN	43. Developing best practice guidance through a partnership project on the integrated management of protected areas with overlapping international designations	**5/101**
Japan	37. Staff rotation in Japan's ministry of the environment	**5/94**
Lesotho	33. Improving the link between policy-makers and institutions working on MEA implementation in Lesotho	**4/80**
Lesotho	58. Strengthening the capacity for resource mobilisation in Lesotho through the National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of MEAs	**7/154**
Lesotho	11. The National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of MEAs in Lesotho (2013-2018)	**2/33**
Madagascar	18. Coordination through environmental committees to produce Madagascar's 5th National Report to the CBD	**3/55**
Madagascar	1. The mobilisation of convention secretariats, other international bodies, civil society and national actors to protect Madagascan Rosewood	**1/11**
Mexico	30. Mexico's national commission for knowledge and use of biodiversity: CONABIO	**4/77**
Micronesia	9. Different forms and levels of cooperation in the Federated States of Micronesia	**2/31**
Mozambique	49. Enhancing cooperation among stakeholders through Mozambique's biodiversity unit	**6/120**
Mozambique	7. Institutional arrangements for cooperation among NFPs in Mozambique	**2/30**
Nepal	55. Assessment of new funding sources for NBSAP implementation in Nepal	**7/151**
Nepal	46. Coordinating implementation of Nepal's newly developed NBSAP	**6/117**
Norway	4. The Conventions team in Norway	**2/27**
Norway	28. Using indicators at the science-policy interface in Norway	**4/75**
Palau	59. Enhancing the efficient use of financial (and human) resources in Palau	**7/155**
Palau	15. Information sharing at the Conservation Consortium in Palau	**3/52**
Palau	3. Palau's Conservation Consortium	**2/25**
Partnership among various biodiversity related conventions	24. Building a global and regional information system to support decision-making related to waterbirds	**3/61**
Peru	10. Biodiversity policy planning in Peru	**2/32**
Philippines	61. Joint climate change and biodiversity planning in the Philippines	**7/157**
Slovenia	60. Slovenia's Škocjan Caves: tourism and investment at a jointly designated site under the World Heritage and Ramsar conventions	**7/156**
South Africa	16. Creating ownership for and ensuring implementation of international commitments in South Africa	**3/53**
SPREP	39. An example from the pacific region: a synergistic approach to support preparations for the biodiversity MEA COPs	**5/96**
SPREP	22. Developing a streamlined reporting template for the pacific island countries to the Biodiversity-related Conventions	**3/59**
SPREP	13. SPREP's role in fostering synergistic implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions	**2/38**

Country/institution	Case study # and title	Section/ Page #
Switzerland	31. Linking biodiversity science with policy - the Swiss Biodiversity Forum	**4/78**
The Gambia	20. Developing an Integrated Management System for integrated coastal zone management in the Gambia	**3/57**
Uganda	53. Financing biodiversity conservation in Uganda	**7/148**
Uganda	19. The National Biodiversity Databank and Clearing House Mechanism in Uganda	**3/56**
UNEP	52. Workshop on “indicators and integration of CITES and CMS objectives as part of NBSAP updating”, Douala, Cameroon, June 2013	**6/127**
UNEP, CBD & CMS	51. Overcoming challenges and enhancing synergies among biodiversity MEAs through the NBSAPs process	**6/126**
UNEP, CBD & CMS	40. Regional capacity-building workshop on integration of CMS and CITES objectives into NBSAPs	**5/98**
UNEP, CBD, CITES, CMS and the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development of Cameroon	41. Workshop on “indicators and integration of CITES and CMS objectives as part of NBSAP updating” for Francophone Africa	**5/99**
UNESCO, CBD	36. Regional workshops on the links between biological and cultural diversity	**4/83**
United Arab Emirates	6. The UAE National Committee on Biodiversity and Combat Desertification	**2/29**
WHC	26. Regional support to Periodic Reporting under the World Heritage Convention in Africa	**3/63**

2. Institutional arrangements for cooperation at the national and regional levels

BOX 6: KEY TERMS RELATED TO INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- **Institutional Arrangements:** the structure of how Governments engage with the biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and cooperate between departments, ministries or agencies to support implementation of the conventions
- **Institutional Memory:** the collective knowledge held by a group of people, therefore less susceptible to being lost if one person leaves or changes position
- **Formal mechanism:** a continuing process initiated or mandated at ministerial level or by law
- **Informal mechanism:** an ad hoc process, usually between technical staff when demand arises

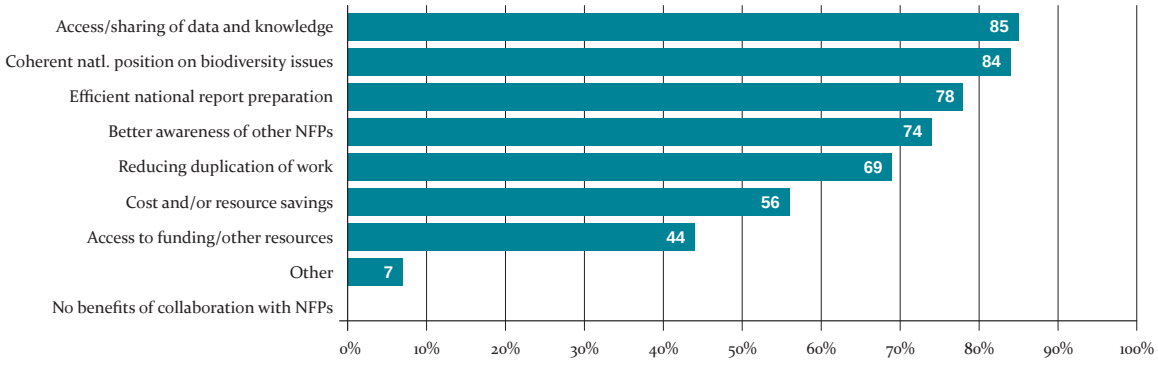
2.1 WHY LOOK AT INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS?

The institutional arrangements within a government determine how the Biodiversity-related Conventions are implemented at the national level. These arrangements can provide a foundation for cooperation among the many institutions and National Focal Points (NFPs) that implement the Biodiversity-related Conventions. This section outlines some different ways that institutions – and in particular NFPs – can be organized for cooperative working, to reduce and avoid duplication of tasks and increase the effectiveness of implementation. This section also suggests ways to minimize and overcome potential barriers, identifies support that is available from regional-level actors, and provides links to further guidance and support.

Institutional arrangements and cooperation mechanisms are something of a cross-cutting theme for this sourcebook, and will also be mentioned in the following five thematic sections. In particular the section on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the NBSAPs revision process shows how the adoption of the Strategic Plan as a United Nations (UN) system wide framework for biodiversity policy creates opportunities for enhanced cooperation and has the potential to strengthen existing coordination and cooperation structures, or create new ones.

2.1.1 Benefits identified in the UNEP Survey 2014

Responses to the UNEP Survey 2014 (*Box 5, pg. 13)* found that one of the key benefits of enhancing cooperation and collaboration among NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions is improved access to and sharing of data and knowledge (*Graph 2*). This allows for the inclusion of timely, accurate information in decision-making processes, and more efficient preparation of national reports. Another key benefit identified was the opportunity to develop a coherent national position 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. Another potential benefit of enhancing cooperation and collaboration among NFPs is that it could help raise the priority of biodiversity-related activities within the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).



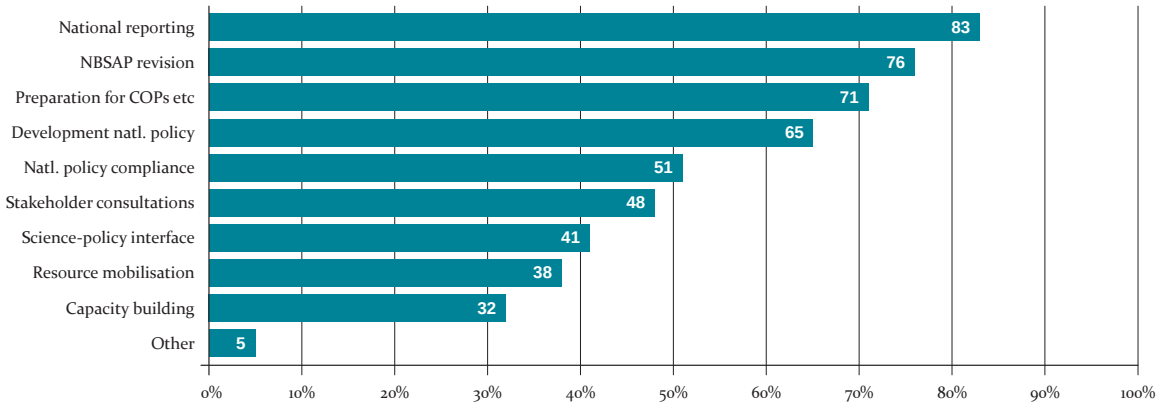
Graph 2: Main benefits of enhancing cooperation and collaboration among National Focal Points of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP survey 2014

The results of the UNEP Survey 2014 show that a variety of coordination mechanisms are in place, and whilst satisfaction with the level of cooperation among NFPs in a country varies, most NFPs and other key stakeholders see **room for improvement**.

Over 70% of NFPs who responded to the survey reported that coordination mechanisms are in place to facilitate cooperation among NFPs. This includes formal coordination mechanisms such as Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA) coordination units and National Biodiversity (Steering) Committees (NBC). In many cases, the consultation mechanisms or working groups are only temporary, and only formed to tackle specific issues, such as preparing national reports to the conventions.

Informal coordination occurs through communication and exchange between NFPs. This is particularly the case when NFPs are located in the same ministry or department. In these circumstances, informal cooperation can be as effective as having a formal cooperation mechanism. Cooperation mechanisms among NFPs are unnecessary if a single person is the focal point for several conventions (in the case of the Gambia, for example, one person is the focal point for 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) and the Ramsar Convention.

According to the UNEP Survey 2014 many NFPs feel that cooperation at the national level is working, with 36% of respondents to the survey saying that there is good or very good cooperation between biodiversity-related NFPs in their country; 37% felt that it is adequate; however 24% said that cooperation is poor. Around 80% of respondents suggested there were opportunities to improve the level of cooperation in their country. NFPs collaborate on many activities and among the activities identified most frequently by the respondents to the survey were; national reporting, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) revision and Conference of Parties (COP) preparation (*Graph 3*).



Graph 3: Percentage of respondents who collaborate with NFPs on particular activities related to Biodiversity-related Convention implementation

2.2 EXAMPLES OF INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

Coordination and cooperation mechanisms can be **formal** in nature, with terms of reference and policies setting out the division of tasks and leadership roles, or **informal**, relying on ad-hoc requests for support and information exchange, and conversations between NFPs in their workplace. In most countries there is a mix of both.

Respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 generally considered informal coordination among NFPs to be a key requirement for the coherent and efficient implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions; whether formal coordination mechanisms were seen as necessary depended much more on the specific country circumstances. For example, some respondents did not consider formal mechanisms to be so important if NFPs were housed within the same ministry, department and even building. However, even where these conditions apply some respondents and interview partners were still of the opinion that the level of interaction among NFPs was not sufficient. These respondents criticized that cooperation depends too much on the disposition of the directors and therefore the prioritization of cooperation by the senior management as well as simply the chemistry between individuals. The **best options for each country** will therefore depend on its characteristics and context. The case study examples below are intended as suggestions or inspiration to help each country strengthen its institutional arrangements in the most appropriate manner.

2.2.1 Formal and informal cooperation mechanisms among NFPs and other key stakeholders

In **Brazil,** communication, cooperation and collaboration are mainly informal among NFPs and other key stakeholders in the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. The case study illustrates the limitations or risks associated with informal arrangements. At the same time a number of entry points are identified to strengthen collaboration in Brazil, mainly capitalizing on recent developments in the country's policy and regulatory framework.

Case study 2: Informal coordination among NFPs in Brazil

In Brazil, communication, cooperation and collaboration on issues related to the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions mainly depend on individual champions, or process-demands that require comprehensive gathering of information such as the CBD National Reports, NBSAPs and the fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO 4). There are risks associated with this informality, as insufficient human resources are available to implement the highly demanding biodiversity conservation agenda in Brazil. Furthermore, insufficient human resources intended to follow the high demanding biodiversity conservation agenda in Brazil hinders the establishment of an appropriate coordination arrangement among the NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. A better human resource evaluation of the minimum team to cover CBD issues will naturally improve coordination because when there is a lack of people, aspects such as coordination, integration and synergy are the first key points to be sacrificed.

An opportunity to increase cooperation and collaboration among the Biodiversity-related Conventions in Brazil can be found in the fact that the country made considerable progress in implementing participatory mechanisms, guaranteeing the presence of various sectors, including the Ministry of Planning and Budgeting, which brings a strong support to best management practices such as critical prioritisation in budget and policy implementation processes

The current policy and regulatory framework for biodiversity calls for the establishment of committees on biodiversity-related issues. As a result, a number of issues under the responsibility of federal or state governments are linked to formal committees that regularly discuss provisions and implementation aspects. There is thus a great opportunity to ensure that the coherent implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions will be adequately discussed and better coordinated in these committees due to their overlapping scopes. In addition, the National Commission on Biodiversity (CONABIO) has been used as a forum to discuss and guarantee synergy among correlated issues. Another key strategy to improve coordination is the use of Clearing House Mechanisms/ information management techniques. This approach has been used but with clear room for improvement.

For more information about CONABIO (in Portuguese) please see: http://www.mma.gov.br/biodiversidade/comissao-nacional-de-biodiversidade

With thanks to Carlos Alberto de Mattos Scaramuzza , Director, Biodiversity Conservation Department, the Brazilian Ministry of Environment, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Brazil

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

In **Palau**, an informal group proved to be very effective in strengthening collaboration among NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions as well as all other members. The informal format enables the Conservation Consortium to accommodate the different interests of the multidisciplinary group for the benefit of the whole group, supplementing the work of formally established committees in the country.

Case study 3: Palau's Conservation Consortium

Environmental issues take a high priority in Palau, a state made up of 250 islands, with an economy mainly based on tourism, subsistence agriculture and fishing. The Conservation Consortium is an informal group comprised of representatives from government agencies and civil society, including traditional leaders, who come together about once a month to update each other generally or discuss specific issues or projects when requested by a consortium member. The Consortium supplements the work of formally-established national committees such as the Palau National Resources Council. Civil society members include, for example, the Palau Conservation Society, which helps sponsor and facilitate meetings.

Although originally only comprised of people working in the area of conservation, the Consortium has become multidisciplinary, open to members from other sectors such as energy, infrastructure and business. Membership is open to any interested group or individual and the format is informal and flexible to accommodate the different interests of stakeholders. This wide range of members brings in various perspectives and expertise, for the benefit of the whole group.

Initially the Consortium's purpose was information sharing between people conducting various environmental projects within Palau, but over time its remit has expanded, including adopting the role of a forum for NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. It is a space where project managers can present a range of project proposals and activities, and use the Consortium as a focal group for their project. The Consortium has successfully fostered synergies and practical project activities that support the implementation of different Biodiversity-related Conventions; a case study in the *Information management and reporting* chapter describes its role in reporting on the conventions.

Source

- UNEP-WCMC, FOEN (2014) Improving coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the national and regional levels [Online] Available from: http://nationalmeasynergies.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/wgri-synergies-workshop-final-report1.pdf [Accessed: 27 January 2015]

With thanks to Gwendalyn Sisior, Protected Areas Network Office, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism, Republic of Palau, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Palau

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

The following case studies describe predominantly **formal coordination mechanisms** that involve NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

Almost ten years ago in **Norway,** the 'Conventions Team' was established within the Norwegian Environmental Agency as a formal coordination body for NFPs. The Conventions Team comprises not only NFPs housed in the Environmental Agency, but also NFPs from other institutions. It thus fosters inter-agency cooperation. The committee's main challenge is to find time to hold regular coordination meetings. However, it also fosters the relationships that enable informal collaboration, so its members often get in touch to talk through specific topics over the course of their working day.

Case study 4: The Conventions Team in Norway

The Conventions Team is a formal coordination body consisting of all MEA NFPs from the Norwegian Environmental Agency (CMS, Ramsar Convention, CITES, , CBD, the CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services (IPBES),and the Bern Convention), and MEA NFPs based in other institutions (the World Cultural and Natural Heritage Convention (WHC) and the Convention for the Protection of the marine Environment of the North-East Altantic (OSPAR)). The Norwegian Environmental Agency appoints the person in charge. It was established in 2005 and meetings are held regularly about 3-5 times per year. The Team aims to integrate the international conventions into the strategic agenda of the Norwegian Environmental Agency. Its Terms of Reference give it a mandate to develop effective interfaces between conventions and agreements, promote synergy and avoid duplication. It continuously assesses the need to follow up on the implementation of conventions and agreements. It disseminates relevant information, both internally and externally. The Conventions Team also advises on measures and helps with implementation, including through thematic meetings. It provides a holistic overview of conventions and international cooperation on the Environmental Agency website.

Source

- Direktoratet for naturforvaltning, Mandat for konvensjonsteamet, 24 March 2011

With thanks to the Norwegian Environmental Agency for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Norway

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

National Biodiversity (Steering) Committees (NBSCs) are one type of formal mechanisms for coordination and collaboration that involve NFPs, ministerial departments and agencies. The participants of a recent Pacific Joint Preparatory Meeting to the CBD COP 12, CMS COP 11 and the Ramsar Convention COP 12 (*Case study 39, pg. 96*), concluded that NBSCs are a useful mechanism to promote greater cooperation between the NFPs of the conventions to which a country is a Party. Participants therefore drafted a recommendation that countries should establish and use NBSCs. They also recommended that these Committees remain active during the entire biodiversity policy cycle, i.e. developing the NBSAP, monitoring its implementation and the subsequent reporting. Participants agreed that this would help to ensure continuation of cooperation between the NFPs from the different conventions. For an example of a NBSC, see the case study from Fiji in *section* 6 (*Case study 48, pg. 119*). The two case studies below also describe examples of such NBSCs. **Cameroon**'s Inter-ministerial Biodiversity Committee was created in response to the Minister of Environment's coordination mandate, and the National Committee on Biodiversity and Combat Desertification of the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** was created in 2012 to tackle the national responsibilities of biodiversity protection.

Case study 5: Cameroon's Inter-ministerial Biodiversity Committee

Cameroon's Inter-ministerial Biodiversity Committee was created under the guidance of UNEP during the development of Cameroon's first NBSAP in 1999. The committee has since functioned in an ad hoc manner and is yet to have statutory or permanent status by a decision of the Prime Minister. However, the Minister of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development has the mandate to carry out consultations on cross-sectoral issues. The Minister invites and consults other ministerial departments in an ad-hoc manner as and when the need arises. Cameroon's Inter-ministerial Biodiversity Committee has always functioned effectively within the framework of specific biodiversity projects and acts as an advisory body in the design and monitoring of policy instruments within the office of the NFP for the CBD. The Chairperson of the Committee may invite relevant government and non-government stakeholders to participate in the meetings of the Committee based on its agenda or to participate in activities carried out under the supervision of the Committee.

With thanks to Prudence Galega, Technical Advisor #1 in the Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development of Cameroon, for providing information and review of this case study.

Cameroon's revised NBSAP is [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cm/cm-nbsap-v2-en.pdf [Accessed: 27 January 2015]

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Cameroon

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Case study 6: The UAE National Committee on Biodiversity and Combat Desertification

In 2012 the United Arab Emirates (UAE) assigned a National Committee on Biodiversity and Combat Desertification through a ministerial decree, to undertake a range of responsibilities related to biodiversity protection, including:

- Propose policies and action plans to enhance biodiversity conservation and combating desertification efforts.
- Review and evaluate current procedures relating to biodiversity and combating desertification and propose the necessary new measures.
- Supervising the preparation of the national reports according to the requirements of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- Coordinate the positions of the competent authorities in the country on regional and international conferences and meetings of relevant.

Managed by the Ministry of Environment and Water, the committee is composed of the MEA NFPs of the country as well as other stakeholders concerned about biodiversity and desertification related matters. The degree of awareness of the importance of coordination and exchange of information among decision makers on all competent and federal authorities contributed significantly to the response and cooperation of the different stakeholders in the process of the establishment of the team. Nowadays the process of collecting and exchanging the information and data is moving very fast, in particular due to the fact that for each subject area related to biodiversity a database has been established.

To date the Committee has produced several significant results, including;

- Development of UAE's NBSAP.
- Update of the UAE desertification strategy.
- Application of management effectiveness tools for all the protected areas.
- Preparation of all national reports to Biodiversity-related Conventions (CBD, UNCCD, Ramsar Convention and CITES).

With thanks to the Ministry of Environment and Water of United Arab Emirates for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by the United Arab Emirates

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

In most cases there are multiple coordination mechanisms that are relevant for the Biodiversity-related Conventions and their NFPs. Several respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 reported that their country had a general Convention Committee as a coordination mechanism for NFPs. One respondent highlighted that all NFPs related to biodiversity are members of the national advisory bodies of the other conventions (National Ramsar Convention Committee, National Biodiversity Committee, National Biosafety Committee, and the National Committee on Plant Genetic Resources etc). As noted in *Table 1, pg. 5*, the Ramsar Convention Secretariat urged such collaboration among the NFPs of related conventions and agreements, including through their inclusion in National Ramsar/Wetland Committees, in decision XI/6. In section 6 the case study from Fiji details such a structure, where the NBSC coordinated the development and implementation of Fiji's revised NBSAP, informed by seven thematic working groups which builds on existing steering committees, including a CITES committee and a Ramsar Convention Wetlands Steering Committee *(Case study 48, pg. 119)*.

In Mozambique the Ministry of Environmental Affairs regularly holds coordination meetings that all NFPs housed within the ministry must attend. The Ministry also established a Biodiversity Unit (BU) as an inter-ministerial coordination and cooperation platform, which involves relevant government ministries and key stakeholders, including NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. Its benefits include an improved institutional memory, avoiding discontinuity in particular in case of staff turnover in its member organizations.

Case study 7: Institutional arrangements for cooperation among NFPs in Mozambique

In Mozambique, the NFPs for most Biodiversity-related Conventions are in the Ministry of Environmental Affairs. The National Director of Environmental Management coordinates national meetings which all NFPs must attend and present their work. During these meetings the work of each convention is discussed, allowing NFPs and other ministry staff to provide input and stay up-to-date on the activities of each convention. In addition to these regular meetings, the Ministry of Environmental Affairs established a Biodiversity Unit (BU) to ensure the involvement of all relevant government ministries and stakeholders in the implementation of the country's NBSAP, including NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. Participation is optional since no funding is available to members but snacks are provided during meetings of the BU to encourage participation. The mandate of the BU is to mainstream biodiversity issues into all sectors, facilitate coordination of institutions, provide a platform for discussion for all stakeholders and as a result, to design and implement activities to respond to the challenges faced by Mozambique in this area. It meets at least quarterly but members can request extraordinary meetings if necessary. The BU provides technical advice to MICOA and CONDES (National Council for Sustainable Development). It also **identifies opportunities for alignment and synergies with** the work of other relevant groups such as the Inter-institutional Group on Climate Change, the Green Economy Group and the **Biodiversity-related Conventions** (Termos de referência da Unidade de Biodiversidade draft, 09/04/13).

As well as enhancing cooperation among stakeholders, the Biodiversity Unit ensures coherence and reduces duplication of work across member organizations. Since it has existed for over a decade with the same core membership, it has also provided a continuous and stable platform for planning and implementing work related to biodiversity. It provides an institutional memory that minimizes discontinuity due to staff turnover in its member organizations.

With thanks to Francisco August Pariela, CITES Management Authority, Director of National Conservation Areas, Ministry of Environment, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Mozambique

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✔

Several respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 and interview partners also highlighted national Global Environment Facility **(GEF) committees** as mechanisms for NFPs to foster the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as is the case in **Egypt**. Some respondents even reported that GEF coordination committees were the only formal coordination mechanism that brought them together with other NFPs.

Case study 8: Biodiversity and GEF steering committees in Egypt

In Egypt there are some mechanisms in place to enhance cooperation among Biodiversity-related Conventions. There are national committees for GEF and for biodiversity, to enable communication, cooperation and collaboration among the NFPs of these and other areas. The committees meet regularly to discuss projects of national importance, provide follow up, and discuss national reporting on biodiversity. The agenda of the committees recently expanded to include the country's NBSAP. The effectiveness of these committees is reasonable. One example of their work is a recent discussion of a synthesis report on sustainable development to be sent to the Ministry of Planning. The members of these committees include experts from both government and NGOs.

With thanks to Moustafa M. Fouda, Minister Advisor on Biodiversity, Department Nature Conservation Sector, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Egypt

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

In particular the case study from Brazil (*Case study 2, pg. 25*) already illustrated the multitude of coordination and cooperation mechanisms relevant for the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions that are often in place in a country. In the **Federated States of Micronesia** there are also different forms and levels of cooperation within the government, as well as between governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. Steering committee fatigue can be a challenge resulting from the fact that often committees and/ or working groups are made up of the same members. An innovative response to such a challenge is the organization of National Environmental Conferences which also support implementation of environmental agreements.

Case study 9: Different forms and levels of cooperation in the Federated States of Micronesia

Micronesia set up the National Environmental Management and Sustainable Development Council (SD Council) as an interdepartmental advisory board. It was established by Executive Order of the President and is chaired by the Vice President. Its members are national government departments (such as agriculture, tourism, education, finance, fisheries, sustainable development, health, social affairs, foreign affairs and legal issues), and representatives from environmental and tertiary education institutions. Under the SD Council there are a number of working groups to focus on specific thematic issues; such as the NBSAP Panel, which includes the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) NFP among its members. Both the NBSAP itself and the NBSAP Panel help to foster coordination between the various government and Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) actors working on biodiversity issues.

There are other national program/project steering committees that deal with different thematic areas (e.g. the Food Security Steering Committee and National Implementation Support Partnership on Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). A key challenge is that these are often made up of the same members as the SD Council and/or the NBSAP Panel, which can lead to 'steering committee fatigue'. Similarly, staff members and actors who have multiple responsibilities and roles can struggle with scheduling conflicts and finding time for each committee.

It is recognized that local level engagement is a key element for effective implementation on the ground, not least as the different States have diverse tenure systems. The national agencies and sub-national partners convene local meetings to engage with local actors, feeding the results to the national level agencies to inform decisions on implementation.

National Environment Conferences bring together national and sub-national stakeholders from relevant sectors. These conferences seek consensus on implementing environmental priorities, and support implementation of the national sustainable development plan and obligations under environmental treaties. The 2014 conference produced recommendations for priority interventions in Micronesia from 2014-2017, including on regulatory frameworks. Previous conferences gave guidance to inputs to Micronesia's GEF Project and Program priorities, and most recently to the 'Ridge to Reef' country project and a Small Grants programme focusing on access and benefit-sharing of genetic resources.

With thanks to Alissa Takesy, Department of Resources and Development, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by the Federated States of Micronesia

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✘	✘	✔	✘	✔

In **Peru** the institutional landscape for biodiversity policy changed dramatically since the adoption of the country's first NBSAP, particularly through an extensive participatory multi-stakeholder process aimed at ensuring informed policy-making as well creating ownership across the society. A key lesson learnt is that in order for biodiversity policy to have impact on the ground and therefore also at the sub-national and local levels, synergies and overlaps need to be identified and addressed at the national level.

Case study 10: Biodiversity policy planning in Peru

Since the adoption of the first NBSAP in 2001, the institutional conditions for implementation of biodiversity policy in Peru developed dramatically. In particular through the creation of the Ministry of Environment (MINAM), the Agency for Protected Areas and the Agency for Environmental Assessment and Enforcement (OEFA), a strong political capacity for environmental policy has been developed. Additionally, regional governments were established in 2002, which started creating their departments for natural resources and environmental issues. To coordinate efforts on biodiversity relevant policies, the Commission on Biodiversity started bringing all related national governmental actors together with NGOs, private actors and scientists in order to discuss the relevant issues and to generate trust and stimulate collaboration. The department for biodiversity in MINAM, where the CBD, the Ramsar Convention, CITES and other biodiversity-related issues are managed, coordinated the development of Peru's NBSAP 2015-2021, which was adopted in November 2014. An extensive participative process, involving governmental, non-governmental, scientific and private actors from all 25 political regions has been undertaken in order to ensure informed policy-making and create ownership across society.

A key lesson learnt from biodiversity planning in Peru is that it is desirable that policy processes on higher political levels aim at identifying synergies and diverging or even contradicting political interests in order to present coherent political orientation for all political actors. This supports in particular sub-national institutions and actors to implement all biodiversity-related policy objectives amidst their regularly limited capacities and resources.

With thanks to Roxana Solis Ortiz and Yves Zinngrebe, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Peru

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

2.2.2 *Strategies to improve cooperation and coordination*

If a country recognizes that it needs to improve existing formal coordination mechanisms among NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, or set up new arrangements where none exist, then National Strategic Planning for the implementation of MEAs is one way to identify opportunities and design institutional mechanisms. The National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of MEAs in **Lesotho** contains a comprehensive situation analysis and sets out steps to drive improvements over 2013-2018, including the establishment of a National MEA Committee.

Case study 11: The National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of MEAs in Lesotho (2013-2018)

In recognition that, like much of the developing world, Lesotho has had limited success in implementing the many MEAs that it is party to, the Lesotho Environment Ministry ran a project to assess the level of coordination among national implementing agencies, and developed a National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of MEAs ('the National Coordination Strategy').

The situation analysis for the National Coordination Strategy identified 14 MEAs that Lesotho is party to, including the CBD, CITES and the Ramsar Convention. Both international and national factors had prevented a joined up approach to implementation: the proliferation of MEAs had strained Lesotho's resources in terms of funds and time required for reporting and participation at meetings. The national focal institutions for the MEAs lacked technical resources to implement their roles, and contrary to the reporting protocol, they reported directly to the MEA secretariats without sending copies to the Department of the Environment – which itself lacked resources to coordinate, collect or disseminate reports.

The National Coordination Strategy sets out steps to address this situation over 2013-2018. It places the Department of the Environment at the centre, as this department is NFP to all MEAs to which Lesotho is party. The department acts as a central depository of reporting information, linking different sectors and reporting to Parliament. The strategy also proposes a National MEAs Coordination Committee (MEAs-NCC), with representation from all MEA working groups of all NFPs, including representatives from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Development Planning and the NGOs. Bonafide members of this Committee are officers at the level of Directors in their respective institutions. The role of this committee includes overseeing the coordination of efforts by each MEA's focal department and supporting institutions; mobilizing resources for implementation; and providing technical support to NFPs. The strategy also recommends clarifying the processes for stakeholder engagement.

Reported results of the National Coordination Strategy so far include meetings of all MEA NFPs to identify their needs and respond to these with training workshops; formulation of guiding tools for enhanced delivery by all; collective decision on qualifying projects for funding by any donor including the GEF; and approval, review and formulation of project concepts (representation of civil societies/ NGOs is formal and two umbrella organizations members are permanent members in the committee) . The NFPs are fairly active, well-informed and collaborating, partly because the National Coordination Strategy embraces communication between NFPs, and the fact that the MEAs-NCC meets at least quarterly.

Source

- Report for Department of Environment, Lesotho, compiled by Nonyana Hoohlo & Associates. National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Lesotho (2013-2018). African Union Commission, July 2013.

With thanks to Qongqong Hoohlo, Department of Environment, Lesotho, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Lesotho

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Botswana's National Implementation Strategy for MEAs 2007 also established a MEA Coordination Committee. The Strategy emphasizes the need to foster collaboration between MEAs, as well as to facilitate participation by a wide range of stakeholders, including from the private sector and civil society.

Case study 12: Botswana's National Implementation Strategy for MEAs 2007

Botswana has ratified several MEAs, including the Ramsar Convention, CITES and CBD. The country's National Implementation Strategy for MEAs responds to the country's obligations and development challenges, and proposes a strategy to increase the effectiveness of implementation of the MEAs through *organisational structure and functions, particularly to improve coordination; improved preparation for COPs and reporting after meetings; increasing capacity for implementation; and exploring funding opportunities for implementation and increasing participation in the COPs.*

A key strategic matter is to coordinate MEA implementation at a higher policy level than the level of inter-ministerial committees. The Strategy sets out that as part of the organisational structure, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) will convene the function of a MEA Coordinating Committee, reporting to the environmental affairs council.

To foster collaboration between MEAs, as well as to facilitate participation by a wide range of stakeholders, the Department of Agricultural Research, Department of National Museum and Monuments, the private sector and NGOs should be represented on the MEA Coordination Committee according to the Strategy. The role of the committee includes *information sharing on activities to be implemented, formulation of projects addressing multiple MEA objectives / synergies (e.g. GEF), Review reports to the COPs to ensure synergy between related MEAs and act as a clearing house for all MEAs.*

Following the implementation of the strategy, the Committee has since been established, called the Multilateral Environmental Agreements Coordinating Committee (MEACC).The MEACC Secretariat shall ensure effective communication and ensure upkeep of records, as well as formulating an annual report on MEAs implementation, which will be shared with all stakeholders.

The GEF-funded project "Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to National Reporting to the Rio Conventions" was instrumental to Lesotho's national strategy. For more information, see *Box 10, pg. 51*.

Sources

- Report for Department of Environment affairs, Implementation Strategy for Multi-Lateral
- Environmental Agreements and Terms of Reference for the MEACC

With thanks to Dineo Gaborekwe, Department of Environmental Affairs in the Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism in Botswana, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Botswana

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✘	✔

2.2.3 Overview of institutional arrangements presented in the case studies

Table 2: Institutional arrangements presented in the case studies

Case study	Type	Members	NFP members	Meeting frequency	Key tasks and responsibilities	Challenges and/or key elements of success
Palau' s Conservation Forum *(Case study 3, pg. 26)*	Informal, complementary to formal committees	Representatives from government agencies and civil society, including traditional leaders; cross-sectoral and open membership	• CBD • Ramsar Convention • CMS • CITES • ITPGRFA • WHC	About once a month; civil society members help to facilitate and sponsor meetings	Growing number of tasks over time, starting with information sharing between different people conducting environmental projects; today also forum for NFPs, expert group of the NBSAP steering committee, focal group for projects	**Key elements of success:** flexible format enables the accommodation of different interests; various perspectives and expertise come together for the benefit of the whole group
Norway's Convention Team *(Case study 4, pg. 27)*	Formal, Terms of Reference have been established	NFPs housed in the Environment Agency and from other institutions	• CMS • Ramsar Convention • CITES • WHC	regular; 3-5 times per year	**Mandate:** Integration of convention objectives into strategic agenda of the Environment Agency through continuous assessment of the need to follow up on the implementation of conventions; dissemination of relevant information; provision of advice on measures and support to implementation, including through thematic meetings	**Challenge:** Finding the time to hold regular coordination meetings **Key elements of success:** Facilitates informal communication among NFPs during their normal working days, including of NFPs housed in different institutions
Cameroon's coordination committee *(Case study 5, pg. 28)*	No statutory status, but mandate of the Minister of Environment	Inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral	• CBD • CITES • CMS • Ramsar Convention • Others have been invited	Ad-hoc, when need arises	Acts as an advisory body in the design and monitoring of policy instruments within the office of the NFP for the CBD	

Case study	Type	Members	NFP members	Meeting frequency	Key tasks and responsibilities	Challenges and/or key elements of success
Mozambique: Group of NFPs and the Biodiversity Unit *(Case study 7, pg. 30)*	**NFP group** is coordinated by the National Director - Environmental Management	**NFP group:** MEA focal points housed in the Ministry of Environment; Biodiversity Unit (**BU**): cross-sectoral (please view Case study 49, pg. 120)	**NFP group:** • CBD • Ramsar Convention • CMS • CTES • WHC **BU:** • CBD • Ramsar Convention • CITES	**NFP group:** regularly; mandatory attendance of NFPs **BU:** At least quarterly	**The NFP coordination:** Information exchange on work of each convention **BU mandate:** Ensure the involvement of all relevant government ministries and stakeholders in the implementation of the country's NBSAP, including NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (please view case study x)	**Key elements of success of the NFP group:** NFPs provide input and are up-to-date on the activities of each convention **Key elements of success of the BU:** Continuous platform ensuring coherence and reducing duplication of work across member organizations
Egypt's GEF and Biodiversity Committees *(Case study 8, pg. 31)*	Formal	Experts from both government and NGOs	• CBD • Ramsar Convention • CMS • CTES • ITPGRFA • WHC	Regularly	Discussion of projects of national importance, provide follow up, and discuss national reporting on biodiversity, including NBSAPs	**Key elements of success:** Needs of other Biodiversity-related Conventions are considered in GEF proposals; funds were obtained for wetlands, trade in marine species such as sharks, and also medicinal plants for the implementation of the country's first NBSAP. (please view Case study 57,page 153 in the resource mobilisation section)
Botswana's Multilateral Environmental Agreements Coordinating Committee (MEACC) *(Case study 12, pg. 34)*	Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) convenes the function of a MEA Coordinating Committee, reporting to the environmental affairs council	Department of Agricultural Research, Department of National Museum and Monuments, the private sector and NGOs			Information sharing on activities to be implemented, formulation of projects addressing multiple MEA objectives (e.g. GEF), review reports to the COPs to ensure synergy between related MEAs and act as a clearing house for all MEAs.	Key elements of success: Coordination of MEA implementation at a higher policy level than the level of an inter-ministerial committee

2.3 REGIONAL LEVEL INITIATIVES TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION

In the context of strengthening collaboration between NFPs at the regional level, several respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 highlighted **regional biodiversity agreements or other mechanisms**. These bring together NFPs for the global Biodiversity-related Conventions, although in many cases the mechanisms focus on strengthening regional collaboration between NFPs of just one of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. In that context, some respondents for example mentioned the informal meetings in preparation to the CBD SBSTTA held each year in Vilm, Germany, which allow for exchanges among NFPs of CBD and SBSTTA at the European level. An example for a regional biodiversity agreement that has the potential to strengthen collaboration between NFPs of the different Biodiversity-related Conventions is the main protocol of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the *SADC Protocol on Environment and Sustainable Development*, which pools the guiding principles that underpin the objectives of all MEAs endorsed in the region.

Several respondents also referred to **regional workshops** that enhanced collaboration among NFPs for CBD, CMS and CITES at the regional and national levels (*Case study 40, pg. 98, Case study 41, pg. 99, and Case study 51, pg. 126, Case study 52, pg. 127*). Respondents referred to the important role that the UNEP Regional Offices, and in particular the UNEP Regional Biodiversity MEAs Focal Points, played at these workshops.

BOX 7: THE UNEP MEAS FOCAL POINTS PROGRAMME

Since the inception of the UNEP MEAs Focal Points Programme in 2012, UNEP's Regional Biodiversity MEAs Focal Points, in close liaison and collaboration with secretariats of Biodiversity-related MEAs, have supported the synergistic implementation of MEAs through:

- Pilot projects and capacity building workshops, in particular in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;
- Facilitating the information exchange and networking among governments on MEA implementation and;
- Facilitating an integrated approach towards the organization of pre- and post-COP consultations at the regional level focused on multiple Biodiversity-related MEAs.

Regional MEAs Focal Points have also played a catalyst role in developing and implementing GEF projects that support the implementation of Biodiversity-related MEAs. Other types of support provided by Regional MEAs Focal Points to the secretariats of Biodiversity-related MEAs include: the recruitment of new Parties and ensuring that MEA-related issues are reflected at regional ministerial level, e.g. for an African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). The Regional Biodiversity MEAs Focal Points also contribute to the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and Delivering-as-One processes, as these regional delivery mechanisms are crucial to ensuring the coherent and coordinated delivery of UNEP's activities supporting the synergistic implementation of Biodiversity-related MEAs at the regional level.

Respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 also highlighted the important work of other **regional support networks**, for example the extensive field network of the non-UNEP conventions' host organizations: the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNESCO, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other partners. Within IUCN, for example, a Global Biodiversity Policy Coordinator coordinates an internal task force that brings together the "focal points/leads" of the different IUCN programmes that follow the Biodiversity-related Conventions and processes. This task force includes regional colleagues as well as staff from headquarters. Every 6-8 weeks the group has a conference call and jointly develops shared policy messages on biodiversity for IUCN to use in the different

fora. CITES partners include, for example, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), FAO, the World Customs Organization (WCO), Interpol, the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The **Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)** is the primary intergovernmental environmental organization working in the Pacific. SPREP has 26 members with direct interests in the region. It is the lead organization responsible for the coordination and implementation of CBD, CITES, CMS and the Ramsar Convention in the Pacific. SPREP assists to coordinate, develop and implement many coordinated activities for these conventions at both regional and national levels, for example by coordinating joint support to the review and implementation of NBSAPs. The organization has officers that specifically deal with individual conventions and close collaboration and coordination among these officers ensures synergies among biodiversity MEA activities in the Pacific.

Case study 13: SPREP's role in fostering synergistic implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions

The governments and administrations of the Pacific region have charged the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) with the protection and sustainable development of the region's environment. SPREP's members are American Samoa, Australia, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna. The organization is based in Apia, Samoa, with over 90 staff.

SPREP's Strategic Action Plan 2011-2015 guides its activities. Developed through extensive consultation with members, Secretariat programme staff and partner organizations, the Plan establishes four strategic priorities, one of these is for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management. It is delivered through four priority thematic areas: Island and oceanic biodiversity (marine and coastal biodiversity and terrestrial ecosystem and biodiversity); threatened and migratory species; invasive species; and regional and international instruments.

The Pacific Island Countries are Parties to a number of Biodiversity-related Conventions, mainly the CBD, CITES, CMS and the Ramsar Convention. SPREP's work programme assists with the coordination and implementation of these conventions. This support includes providing a focal point for the CBD who facilitates the sharing and dissemination of information, provides technical and policy advice and guidance, and coordinates regional preparatory COP meetings. SPREP also coordinates and delivers capacity building and training for Pacific islands for example training on negotiation skills which are delivered at both national and regional levels.

SPREP is strategically placed to enhance cooperation across Biodiversity-related Conventions. Close collaboration among the staff working on different Biodiversity-related Conventions is an excellent and effective way to further strengthen synergies across the biodiversity-related MEAs. This makes a positive contribution and significant impact through joint regional work, for example, the organization of the Pacific Regional Joint Preparatory Meeting in August 2014, described in a case study in the *Capacity building* section *(Case study 39, pg. 96)*. SPREP officers are dedicated for the Ramsar Convention, CMS, CBD and to some extent CITES; there is a possibility of having a CITES officer in the future. Collaborative working among these officers means that there are synergies in the support which is provided to Parties.

More information about SPREP is [Online] Available from: https://www.sprep.org/about-us [Accessed: 27 January 2015]

With thanks to Easter Galuvao, SPREP Biodiversity Adviser, and SPREP Migratory Species Pacific Officer (CMSPO) Penina Solomona, for providing information and review of this case study.

Another regional organization well placed to support the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions is the **Arab League**, as detailed in the case study on the Arab Working Group on Biodiversity and Combating desertification, in section 7 on resource mobilisation (*Case study 63, pg. 159*).

In Central Africa, the **Central African Forest Commission (Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale; COMIFAC)** formed regional working groups for the three Rio Conventions, and also organized meetings or workshops that brought together NFPs of the Rio Conventions with NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (other than CBD, which is already one of the three Rio Conventions).

Case study 14: MEA NFP coordination and collaboration under COMIFAC

COMIFAC is an Intergovernmental Organization responsible for directing, harmonizing and monitoring forest and environmental policies in Central Africa. COMIFAC has 10 member countries, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe and its secretariat is located in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

In February 2005 COMIFAC adopted an action plan, divided into 10 items, called Convergence Plan, which acts as a joint platform of priority interventions to be carried out at sub-regional and national levels. In order to integrate emerging issues like the REDD+ and enhance activities on poaching, wildlife trafficking, the illicit forest exploitation and others threats on forests, a revised Convergence Plan has been adopted in July 2014. Within the framework of the implementation of the Convergence Plan, the Executive Secretariat of COMIFAC established three relevant working groups related to the three Rio Conventions, one for each convention in order to coordinate the participation of the NFPs of these conventions to the international negotiations on Biodiversity, Desertification and Climate change.

The Central African Working Group on Biodiversity (GTBAC) aims to contribute to the implementation of the CBD in Central Africa and to strengthen the capacity of the Central African negotiators at CBD meetings. Its members tally all the NFPs under the CBD, representatives from several regional organizations and international, regional, sub regional and local NGOs, working with biodiversity conservation in Central Africa, representatives of the CBD Secretariat, COMIFAC representatives and other key stakeholders and networks.

Besides contributing to the mobilisation of financial resources, the working group provides advice to the CBD NFPs on how to create synergies between the various ministerial departments involved in the management and conservation of biodiversity; advice on the elaboration of policies, strategies and facilitate the implementation of the decisions of the CBD COP and others relevant meetings on Biodiversity in Central Africa; and it ensures/facilitates synergies with other MEAs.

The atmosphere of the working group generally facilitates an environment where NFPs are able to share information and experience related to the management and conservation of the biodiversity, and also provides a platform to mobilize funding for joint projects.

COMIFAC currently does not have a working group comprised of NFPs of different Biodiversity-related Conventions. However, in 2011 two Sub Working Groups were established within the GTBAC, one of which, 'The Sub Working Group on Protected Areas and Wildlife in Central Africa (SGTAPFS), is comprised of the National Director in Charge of Wildlife and Protected Areas and NFPs of CITES. In addition sub-regional workshops have been organized to enable NFPs of the Rio Conventions to develop synergies along with NFPs from other MEAs. In 2014, for example, COMIFAC organized two meeting on the sustainable Management of Protected Areas and wildlife with the NPFs of CITES and CBD.

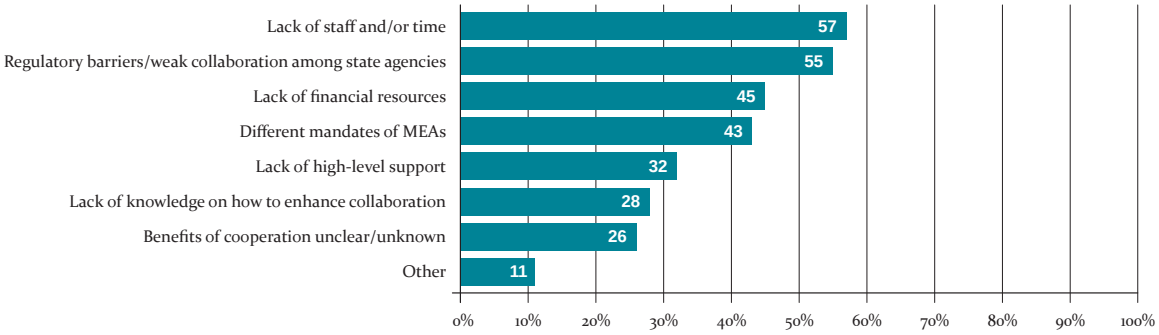
As a regional organisation COMIFAC is well placed to contribute to enhanced collaboration between NFPs from the different Biodiversity-related Conventions: by providing a platform for NFPs to meet and regroup; by regularly organising sub regional activities which involves the NFPs from different Biodiversity-related Conventions; and by mobilising financial resources in order to promote synergies between NFPs of the different Biodiversity-related Conventions.

With thanks to Mr Chouaibou Nchoutpouen, Biodiversity and Desertification Programme Officer of the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC), for providing information and review of this case study.

2.4 OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

2.4.1 Barriers identified in the UNEP Survey 2014

According to the UNEP Survey 2014 one main barrier to cooperation among NFPs is lack of staff and/or time (*Graph 4*). Initiation of national level work to reform and maintain institutional arrangements requires energy and cost, and financial support for such work is often difficult to find. Regulatory barriers and weak collaboration among state agencies and ministries is another key challenge to collaboration. The least cited barrier to cooperation among NFPs is that the benefits gained from cooperating are unclear or unknown. This echoes responses to the question on benefits of cooperating, indicating that all respondents know that benefits of cooperation exist. Respondents also referred to other barriers including lack of support for NFPs, lack of cooperation mechanisms and different convention NFPs being located in different government ministries or agencies.



Graph 4: Main barriers to enhancing cooperation and collaboration among National Focal Points of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP survey 2014

2.4.2 Response options

The UNEP Survey 2014, together with further discussions with NFPs and other key stakeholders and a review of grey literature identified a number of barriers or challenges for cooperation among NFPs, as well as a number of response options to address these challenges. *Table 3* below presents a summary of identified challenges, potential response options and links these to case studies presented in this sourcebook. Please note that this table of

challenges and response options is not exhaustive and stakeholders may find other more relevant issues within their national contexts.

Table 3: Summary of the key challenges to cooperationamong NFPs, and national and/or regional-level response options

Challenge/ Barriers	Response Options	Case studies
Lack of staff and/ or time and/or lack of technical knowledge.	1. Raise awareness on the benefits of coordination and cooperation among staff. 2. Identify individual champions. 3. Analyse the potential of existing mechanisms or arrangements to coordinate the activities of NFPs and other bodies that implement the Biodiversity-related Conventions. 4. Develop a National Strategic Plan for the implementation of MEAs, which includes an assessment of human resource needs. 5. Prioritize collaboration by e.g. creating a formal requirement for cooperation to avoid that coordination is being sacrificed due to overloaded schedules/ other tasks. 6. Identify needs and organize trainings or national or regional workshops. 7. Organize social events such as "name day celebrations", excursions, participation at the national parks football championship etc. for NFPs and other key stakeholders to foster informal communication and information exchange.	• SPREP (i) (1,6) *(Case study 13, pg. 38)* • Brazil (i) (2,3) *(Case study 2, pg. 25)* • Lesotho (i) (4,6) *(Case study 11, pg. 33)* • Botswana (4) *(Case study 12, pg. 34)* • COMIFAC (6) *(Case study 14, pg. 39)* **Case studies from other sections:** • Madagascar (i) (3) *(Case study 18, pg. 55)* • South Africa (5) *(Case study 16, pg. 53)*
Regulatory barriers and weak collaboration among state agencies and ministries.	1. Consider the establishment of inter-ministerial committees, or similar arrangements, comprising MEA NFPs from different ministries, as a means to foster inter-agency cooperation. 2. Assess the level of coordination among implementing agencies 3. Capitalize on ad-hoc processes, e.g. NBSAP revision, drafting of national reports. 4. Capitalize on progress in implementing participatory mechanisms, newly established committees for biodiversity-related issues; the clearing house mechanism and/ or bodies at the science-policy interface. 5. Create an informal platform open to all key stakeholders to facilitate information sharing and to enable members to use the platform as a focal group for their projects/ activities in a flexible format. 6. Provide a continuous stable platform for cooperation, which creates an institutional memory, avoiding discontinuity. 7. Develop a National Strategic Plan for the implementation of MEAs. 8. Identify or appoint a lead person, a champion or a lead institution. 9. Regional organization can establish a working group on the conventions and/ or collaboration of convention officers/ focal points in regional organizations can ensure synergies in support of members/ NFPs.	• Cameroon (i) *(Case study 5, pg. 28)* • Botswana (1,2) *(Case study 12, pg. 34)* • Lesotho (i) (2,6,7) *(Case study 11, pg. 33)* • Brazil (i) (4) *(Case study 2, pg. 25)* • Palau (i) (5,6) *(Case study 3, pg. 26)* • Mozambique (i) (5,6) *(Case study 7, pg. 30)* • Norway (i) (6) *(Case study 4, pg. 27)* • SPREP (i) (9) *(Case study 13, pg. 38)* • COMIFAC (9) *(Case study 14, pg. 39)* • Peru (2,3) *(Case study 10, pg. 32)*

Challenge/ Barriers	Response Options	Case studies
Lack of political will and administrative leadership for cooperation/ political sensitivities/ low priority of the synergies agenda.	1. Create an informal platform open to all key stakeholders to facilitate information sharing and to enable members to use the platform as a focal group for their projects/ activities in a flexible format. 2. Build upon already existing mechanisms. 3. Recruit or establish environment officers in key line ministries as environmental advisers who can ensure entrenchment of biodiversity concerns or principles of NBSAP in their sectoral policies and plans. 4. Organize environment conferences that bring together stakeholders from all relevant sectors. 5. Consider the involvement of regional partners or the launch of regional initiatives or draw upon regional support networks to advance the 'synergies agenda'. 6. Develop a regional biodiversity strategy that puts an emphasis on synergies among the Biodiversity-related Conventions.	• Palau (i) (1) *(Case study 3, pg. 26)* • Egypt (i) (2) *(Case study 8, pg. 31)* • Micronesia (4) *(Case study 9, pg. 31)* • SPREP (i) (5,6) *(Case study 13, pg. 38)* • COMIFAC (5) *(Case study 14, pg. 39)* • Peru (1,5) *(Case study 10, pg. 32)* **Case studies from other sections:** • Madagascar (i) (3) *(Case study 18, pg. 55)*
"Steering committee fatigue" - if too many coordination meetings take place with the same people.	1. Consider the composition of any committee by conducting a stakeholder analysis, and review potential roles and responsibilities. 2. Ensure sustainability through regular meetings that are on a reasonable schedule that take into account the busy work loads of NFPs and other key stakeholders. 3. Regularly revisit and discuss the benefit of committees/ their objectives and achievements.	• Micronesia *(Case study 9, pg. 31)*
Lack of Funding.	See section 7	

2.4.3 Key lessons learnt

Drawing on the case studies, the response options identified in the table above as well as input by a range of interview partners, there are a number of lessons learnt that could be considered in order to successfully enhance cooperation mechanisms among NFPs and other key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions:

- **Make coordination and cooperation a priority:** options include raising awareness and communicating the benefits to decision-makers; allocating funding for coordination meetings; writing the coordination task into people's job descriptions; developing an MEA Implementation Strategy; integrating the need for coordination and cooperation into NBSAPs (described in the section on the *Strategic Plan/ NBSAPs*) and making coordination a formal requirement, to avoid coordination being sacrificed due to overloaded schedules. Generally policy processes on higher political levels need to aim at identifying synergies and overlaps in order to help those sub-national entities to incorporate and implement all biodiversity related policy objectives on the ground.
- **Foster more informal communication and exchange between NFPs**: options include initiating personal contact, including e.g. through social events; raising awareness of the benefits of coordination and cooperation among staff and sharing information so that other NFPs are informed about relevant developments.
- **Foster more informal communication and exchange between NFPs and key stakeholders** across sectors to support mainstreaming of biodiversity in sectoral plans.

- **Assess the need to strengthen or establish formal coordination mechanisms**: a need for formal cooperation can be identified if there is a lack of regular meetings, information exchange and joint activities between services, and thus duplication and inefficiencies; if NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions are housed in different buildings, departments, ministries or even cities (in particular if departments and/ or ministries do not communicate); if ad-hoc information exchange is insufficient to foster meaningful joint activities; in case of frequent organizational change and staff turnover, creating discontinuity in relationships; and if it is found that coordination suffers due to insufficient human resources and low priority of coordination.
- Potentially **foster the establishment of formal coordination mechanisms among NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions** (and/or depending on the national circumstances among the supervisors/ supervising institutions of the NFPs), or among NFPs and other key stakeholders in the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions - as a continuous stable platform, creating institutional memory, and in addition to informal structures which allow for more flexibility and thus easy accommodation of the different interests of stakeholders:
  - Identify shortcomings and needs (including the appropriate level and scope of coordination);
  - Identify a lead person, or a champion, or a lead institution;
  - Capitalize on ad-hoc coordination processes, e.g. for NBSAP revision;
  - Develop a plan in a way that is transparent and involves consultations of key stakeholder groups (across sectors) - in awareness of the fact that the creation of a coordination mechanisms, even if legally backed, does not automatically lead to enhanced coordination, unless there is ownership of the institutions/ stakeholders involved;
  - Analyse the potential of existing mechanisms or arrangements to coordinate the activities of NFPs and other bodies that implement the Biodiversity-related Conventions;
  - Consider the range of mechanisms available and put them into the specific context of the country (or region) in question (building upon existing mechanisms, structures, level of coordination, interests of key stakeholders, funding sources etc.);
  - Consider the composition of any committee by conducting a stakeholder analysis, and review potential roles and responsibilities - take into account that while openness and involvement of various stakeholders is important, efficiency and focus of work need to be considered, too; thematic expert groups or environmental conferences/ workshops could be considered if the number of people (specifically with regard to the involvement of on the ground practitioners) becomes too big and/ or in case of steering committee fatigue etc.;
  - Identify capacity building needs;
  - Agree on functions and operations by drafting Terms of Reference (with regard to potential key functions see *Table 2, pg. 35*, as well as the other thematic sections of this sourcebook); the mandate of a NFP coordination mechanisms could e.g. be "develop an effective interface between conventions and agreements, promoting synergies and avoiding duplication";
  - Ensure sustainability through regular meetings that are on a reasonable schedule that takes into account the busy work loads of NFPs and other key stakeholders, and avoids coordination fatigue;
  - Encourage attendance at meetings by, for example, broadly communicating the benefits of cooperation, mapping potential funding sources and providing snacks at meetings etc.

Overall: Ensure that coordination is a means to an end and not an end in itself.

- Consider the involvement of **regional partners** or the launch of regional initiatives to advance the 'synergies agenda'.
- **Regional organizations** can consider the organization of regional meetings or workshops relevant to multiple NFPs (see *section* 5, e.g. *Case study 39, pg. 96*); support the development of regional projects with benefits for multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions (described in *sections* 6 *and* 7); develop a regional biodiversity strategy and action plan and generally provide support to its members on the issue by fostering information and experience sharing. In order to do so, and with regard to their internal structure, regional organization could consider the establishment of a special committees or working groups on the Biodiversity-related Conventions and/ or consider the appointment of regional focal points/ officers per biodiversity-related convention. By ensuring internal collaboration synergies can be ensured in support of member countries/ NFPs.

It is worth noting that many of the identified challenges in this section are general challenges for administrations or institutions that are not necessarily specific to biodiversity policy, so guidance can also be sought outside the biodiversity community.

2.5 USEFUL RESOURCES

- **Pisupati, B. & Prip, C. forthcoming (2015) Interim Assessment of Revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) UNEPWCMC, Cambridge, UK and Fridtjof Nansen institute, Lysaker, Norway**
  This interim assessment of post-2010 NBSAPs undertakes a preliminary review of how countries have considered the Strategic Plan of the CBD and the readiness to achieve the Aichi Targets at national level. *The publication is available online on the NBSAP Forum website:* nbsapforum.net'

- **UNDES~~~A, UNEP, FAO, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (2011) "Synergies Success Stories: Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions"**
  This publication provides success stories of a coordinated implementation of MEAs and other international frameworks in the hazardous wastes and chemicals cluster. The stories are based on national or regional projects and have been written by actors directly involved in activities at the national, regional or global level.
  [Online] Available from: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/synergies_success_stories.pdf **[Accessed: 12 February 2015]**

- **Prip, C; Gross, T; Johnston, S; Vierros, M (2010) Biodiversity Planning: an assessment of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, Yokohama, Japan**
  This report offers a comprehensive assessment of the preparation, content, adequacy and effectiveness of existing NBSAPs and, in the light of this assessment, offer recommendations on what steps should be taken to ensure that NBSAPs fulfil their role as the primary mechanism for the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. **[Online] Available from:** http://archive.ias.unu.edu/resource_centre/UNU-IAS_Biodiversity_Planning_NBSAPs_Assessment_final_web_Oct_2010.pdf **[Accessed: 21 January 2015]**

- **UNEP (2006) Manual on compliance with and enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Nairobi, Kenya**
  This Manual expands upon Guidelines on Compliance with and Enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). **[Online] Available from:** http://www.unep.org/delc/portals/119/UNEP_Manual.pdf **[Accessed: 21 January 2015**

- **Díaz, C. (2001) Guide to Best Practices for Sectoral Integration: Legislative Complementarity and Harmonisation of Biodiversity-Related Multilateral Environmental Agreements**
  This guide stems from a UNEP/UNDP/GEF Biodiversity Planning Support Programme (BPSP) project to provide national authorities with instruments to help them implement the Biodiversity-related Conventions synergistically. It highlights the interlinkages between the CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar Convention, WHC and UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB).
  [Online] Available from: https://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/legislation/LegalSynthesis.pdf **[Accessed: 20 February 2015]** A longer '**Discussion Document**' with more detailed information about each of the conventions and the synergies between them provides a checklists and suggestions for Party Convention Focal Points on several different aspects of Convention harmonization: biodiversity planning, legislative measures, institutional framework, exchange of information, reporting and public participation and education and awareness **[Online] Available from:** https://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/legislation/LegalDiscussion.pdf **[Accessed: 20 February 2015]**

3. Information management and reporting

BOX 8: KEY TERMS RELATED TO NATIONAL REPORTING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

- Information management: the entire framework used in a country to collect, store and share data, information and knowledge, usually consisting of technological tools (servers, monitoring stations etc.) and human capacities (skills, protocols for sharing data etc.).
- National reporting: the specific activity where Parties submit information related to implementation and effectiveness of a particular convention on a periodic basis, normally by completing a report template provided by an MEA secretariat.
- Harmonization of reporting: activities that lead to a more integrated process and greater potential for sharing information between conventions; it might include the merging of processes.
- Streamlining reporting: mechanisms that make each individual reporting process, or a joint integrated process, easier and more efficient and effective for Parties to implement.

Source

- UNEP-WCMC 2012[23]

23 UNEP-WCMC (2012) Promoting Synergies in the biodiversity-related MEAs [Online] Available from: http://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset_file_fields/files/000/000/045/original/Promoting_synergies_in_the_biodiversity_cluster.pdf?1395761916 [Accessed: 21 January 2015]

3.1 WHY COOPERATE ON REPORTING AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT?

National reporting is a core requirement for Parties to the Biodiversity-related Conventions. It is an important process as it demonstrates to the international community a Parties' compliance with the objectives of the conventions and enables assessment of the progress of Parties towards achieving these objectives. At the national level, national reports provide an opportunity for Parties and interested stakeholders to make an assessment of the current status of implementation of the convention in their country, thereby enabling national decision makers to develop and refine their own policies to protect biodiversity in the country. However, effective national reporting requires significant commitment of human, financial and technical resources. This so called "reporting burden" is exacerbated by the fact that Parties are usually signatories to multiple conventions, each with its own reporting system, format, terminology and schedule. In many cases, the same information may be reported a number of times to the different conventions (e.g. species richness, protected areas cover etc.), so collaboration and cooperation amongst the National Focal Points (NFP) and other stakeholders could be extremely useful to enhance the reporting process. International studies (e.g. UNEP-WCMC 2012) and guidance from the conventions (e.g. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) guidelines on preparing fifth National Reports[24]) recognize that collaboration and cooperation between NFPs, at the national level, can lead to efficient and enhanced reporting processes.

Table 4: Overview of the main reporting requirements of the biodiversity-related conventions

MEA	How often?	Report style?	Types of information requested
CBD	4 years	Narrative	Status and trends of biodiversity, actions to implement convention, contribution to MDGs and its Strategic Plan 2011-2020
CMS	3 years	Narrative and tick boxes	Trends in conservation status of listed species, actions to implement convention
CITES (Annual Reports (trade data))	Annual	Data table	Details of international trade in listed species
CITES (Biennial Report)	2 years	Mostly tick boxes with some narrative	Actions to implement convention, details of how convention is implemented (i.e. measures for compliance and enforcement and legislative and regulatory measures)
Ramsar Convention (Information sheet)	6 years	Short narrative answers	Status and trends of biodiversity at listed sites, actions to implement convention at those sites
Ramsar Convention (National Reports)	3 years (same periodicity as COPs)	Mostly tick boxes	Status and trends of biodiversity, actions to implement convention, details of how convention is implemented
WHC (state of conservation reporting (reactive monitoring))	On an ad hoc basis (in case of specific threats to the site)	Narrative	Status and trends of biodiversity at listed sites, actions to implement convention at those sites
WHC (Periodic Reporting)	6 years	Narrative	Status and trends of biodiversity at listed sites, actions to implement convention at those sites
ITPGRFA	5 years	Narrative and tick boxes	Details of implementation of and legislation for the convention

24 [Online] Available from: https://www.cbd.int/reports/guidelines/default.shtml#nr5 [Accessed: 21 January 2015]

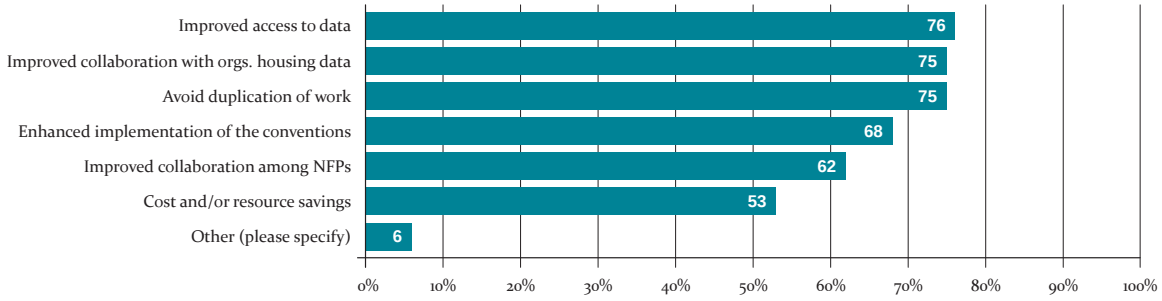
In compiling a national report, NFPs and other actors are likely to draw upon their country's existing **information management systems**, which collect data for internal monitoring of national policy effectiveness, for regulation of activities that can degrade biodiversity, and to form the evidence base for making policies. National information management systems are likely to include the following components in order to collect, store and make available the right data in useful formats:

- Technological capacities, such as databases held on national servers, online data stores, or online reporting systems where they are used;
- Institutional responsibilities and capacity for data collection, analysis and communication on biodiversity status, pressures and response measures;
- Institutional relationships between information producers and users that allow easy communication, building trust to share information and helping to uphold data and metadata standards;
- Operational protocols that dictate how certain data should be collected and analysed;
- Legal obligations which mandate the collection of certain datasets; and
- Privacy and intellectual property laws which influence how data can be shared.

A well-designed national information management system, tailored to national circumstances, can enable stakeholders to share and access relevant information for making decisions related to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Moreover, it will provide the opportunities for NFPs and other stakeholders to identify areas of duplication and generate options to harmonize and streamline processes for collecting, storing, sharing, analysing and reporting biodiversity information in the country. All NFPs need data, so collaborating and cooperating within national systems for collecting, storing and sharing data can ensure maximal benefit for all NFPs and actors implementing the conventions.

3.1.1 Benefits identified in the UNEP Survey 2014

Many NFPs are already benefiting from collaboration on information management and national reporting at the national level. In UNEP Survey 2014 (*Box 5, pg. 13)* NFPs from around 80 countries indicated that they collaborated with other relevant NFPs to write national reports. When asked about the key benefits of this cooperation, they reported that it helped to improve access to data, reduce duplication of efforts and enhance implementation of the conventions (*Graph 5*).



Graph 5: Main benefits of cooperating on reporting and information management among National Focal Points of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP survey 2014

Respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 identified a number of areas where cooperation amongst NFPs can further enhance reporting and information management, including: bringing together scattered datasets; increasing staff capacity (skills, time); increasing technological resources available (computers etc.); and increasing collaboration with data holding organizations.

Respondents also commented on coordination at the regional level. Several organizations were cited as having information management or reporting initiatives including, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Arab League, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), the European Union (EU) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

BOX 9: REPORTING ON THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

When the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets were adopted in 2010, it was widely accepted that this was the international community's strategy and not only that of the Convention itself. As a result other Biodiversity-related Conventions are increasingly aligning themselves with the Strategic Plant for Biodiversity 2011-202 and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This has started a process that will, to a certain degree, facilitate national reporting to the different Biodiversity-related Conventions. Information on achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets can usefully draw on information that has been or will be part of the reporting processes of a number of the conventions. For example, a national target on migratory species or on endangered species in trade could be a contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Target 12 and hence the report to CMS/CITES could provide substantive information on addressing this target.

The Biodiversity 2020 Target Cross-Linking Tool used in the EU (Case study 25, pg. 62) has already anticipated the move by the different conventions to using the Aichi Biodiversity Targets as an organizing framework, and aims to facilitate reusing and updating of reporting to the conventions. At the same time, various studies are under way to assess the extent to which each of the Biodiversity-related Conventions contributes to achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and for some of the targets, reviews are underway of the extent to which existing national reporting process can effectively contribute to assessing progress. In all these examples, the aim is to increase coherence in implementation and reporting, and to increase efficiency in the use of reported data and information.

3.2 NATIONAL EXAMPLES OF ENHANCING INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING THROUGH COOPERATION

There are a range of options for NFPs to cooperate at the national and regional levels, in order to implement more efficient and effective information management and report writing. These include processes for harmonizing and streamlining reporting, ad hoc or informal arrangements, permanent coordination committees, joint information systems and regional level initiatives.

3.2.1 Initiatives for harmonizing and streamlining national reporting

Initiatives for collaboration between NFPs have led to the establishment of some of the specific mechanisms described below, such as permanent committees and improved information management systems. NFPs from different conventions can meet to identify areas of common interest, particularly where data or information is useful for more than one NFP or there is a duplication of responsibilities. They can set out the steps needed to streamline the entire process of managing and reporting information, including for NFPs to harmonize their efforts, so that the same information is available for multiple reports.

Box 10 describes the Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project "Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to National Reporting to the Rio Conventions". This was instrumental in helping some countries to develop national strategies for collaboration on reporting to the conventions, for example, Lesotho and Honduras, as described in (*Case study 11, pg. 33*) and (*Case study 32, pg. 79*) in *sections 2 and 4*, respectively.

BOX 10: PRODUCING A METHODOLOGY TO IDENTIFY OPTIONS FOR HARMONIZED REPORTING AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL - AN EXAMPLE FROM THE RIO CONVENTIONS

Between 2010 and 2013, the GEF-funded project "Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to National Reporting to the Rio Conventions" convened representatives from six Less Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to produce and pilot a methodology that would enable more efficient, accurate, and timely national reports to be created for the CBD, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). This methodology consists of: stakeholder analysis and engagement; analysis of current methods of reporting and the opportunities for harmonization and streamlining; and developing options for and operational guidelines to support harmonized national reporting.

In support of this methodology a number of documents were produced, namely:

- Terms of Reference as guidance for a 'Situational Analysis' of existing capacities and arrangements for producing reports
- Terms of Reference as guidance for a 'National Manual', a compilation of guidelines and recommendations for more harmonized reporting processes at the national level
- A report on options for joint reporting to the three Rio Conventions

Participating countries recommended, or in some cases began to implement, the setting up of coordination committees and information management systems in order to remove duplication in the national processes of completing reports. Analysis and development of options and guidance could help identify the key barriers to and opportunities for harmonized reporting to MEAs, including the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

The project highlighted the potential for action by convention secretariats to enhance the completion of national reports, e.g. align similar reporting requirements, joint thematic reports (e.g. forests, sustainable land management), joint information systems between the conventions, online reporting systems etc. The differing nature of the information requested, the different reporting cycles and varying use of terminology provide challenges to countries aiming to harmonize their national reporting processes. Collaboration and coordination amongst conventions at the global level was suggested as a key approach to overcome these challenges.

3.2.2 Institutional arrangements for producing national reports

A number of countries use ad hoc methods for producing national reports and managing information. In these cases, collaboration on the analysis, sharing and reporting of data, information and knowledge occurs as and when it is necessary; for example, when writing a national report. It is useful to also consult other NFPs, during these processes, firstly as they may be able to contribute useful data or analysis, and secondly as they may find the report useful for the implementation and reporting of their convention as well.

In many cases, at least some of the NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions are located in one ministry, so all that is needed on basic issues is conversations, meetings and discussions with other NFPs. In these cases, internal institutional arrangements and social relationships provide the framework for cooperation in collecting, analysing, sharing and reporting data and information. In other cases working groups are initiated following requests for information or assistance; one focal point may ask other NFPs and relevant stakeholders to participate in the working groups. In other cases draft reports are shared with other NFPs for their comment and suggestions, rather than involving them in the whole process of report writing.

Informal groupings can also play an important role in reporting. **Palau**'s Conservation Consortium is one such group that not only brings together NFPs, but also many stakeholders from government and civil society, providing an opportunity for them to share information on activities under different Biodiversity-related Conventions. The function, set-up and organisation of the consortium is detailed in the case study below, and (*Case study 3, pg. 26*)

Case study 15: Information sharing at the Conservation Consortium in Palau

In Palau, most of the NFPs for the Biodiversity-related Conventions work under the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism. Although most major projects relating to the conventions are implemented by the respective NFPs and their offices, some smaller projects are conducted by NGOs, with assistance from various donors. NFPs do not always have easy access to information on all the activities relevant to implementation and reporting on their convention. The Conservation Consortium brings together all the relevant stakeholders and enables them to share information on their activities. This has reduced the duplication of work and enabled NFPs to include all relevant projects in their reports to the conventions.

The Conservation Consortium is regarded as an expert group by the NBSAP steering committee for the current NBSAP revision process. It was essential for the writing of the 5th National Report of the CBD, with members taking on certain sections of the report. The exchange of information has also created awareness of the scope of the different Biodiversity-related Conventions.

With thanks to Gwendalyn Sisior, Protected Areas Network Office, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism, Republic of Palau, for providing information for this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Palau

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

One of the most common **formal mechanisms** for managing information and writing national reports is through a coordination committee. These committees can provide clear lines of responsibility for certain tasks and communication between NFPs and other key stakeholders, therefore reducing duplication of effort and increasing the visibility of NFPs to each other. These committees are described in more detail in *section 2*, and include *Case study 5 (**Cameroon**), Case study 7 (**Mozambique**), Case study 9 (**The Federated States of Micronesia**) and Case study 8 (**Egypt**).* In some cases, reports and information presented at these committees are collated for use in national reports to the conventions, reducing the need for additional information when the reports are requested. This exchange of information can, in turn, support enhanced implementation of the conventions, both individually and as a group.

In **South Africa**, national reporting to the Biodiversity-related Conventions is facilitated by the fact that the NFPs of each convention coordinate an extensive stakeholder engagement process to ensure South Africa's compliance with its international biodiversity commitments.

Case study 16: Creating ownership for and ensuring implementation of international commitments in South Africa

Prior to international meetings and conferences to Biodiversity-related Conventions, experts and other relevant participants are selected to take part in national preparatory meetings. Based on the inputs to these meetings, the South African position on the different issues at stake is formulated. Depending on the complexity and the technicality of the issues addressed, the experts may also be required to be part of the South African delegation attending the international meeting itself.

After each international meeting or conference where decisions have been taken, such as Conferences of Parties (COPs) or meetings of Parties (MOPs), national stakeholder meetings are held, to report back on the outcomes of the meetings. Roles and responsibilities for each stakeholder and implementing partner are also identified at these meetings. These activities are then incorporated within their respective institutions strategic- and business plans and hence national budgets are allocated for their implementation. Follow up in terms of how far the implementation is progressing is done through working groups, constituted to fast track national implementation on biodiversity programmes. These working groups are composed of various government departments and other relevant organisations. As a result of this process the implementing partner responsible for each section of the national report is already identified. In order to compile a national report, the NFP of the respective Biodiversity-related Conventions requests the information from the responsible implementing partners by specifying exactly what is needed, so that all the stakeholders and implementing partners have a clear understanding of what is required from them.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), which is a Department for Environmental Affairs (DEA) public entity, assists in consolidating the collected information into National Reports to the Biodiversity-related Conventions. The consolidated report is also made available to various stakeholders for their final comments or inputs.

With thanks to Ms Malta Qwathekana, Department of Environmental Affairs, Biodiversity and Conservation Branch, South Africa for providing information and review for this example.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by South Africa

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✔

In **Iraq**, a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process was undertaken to collect data for the fifth national report to the CBD. The broad and successful outreach to key stakeholders is likely to foster further collaboration and partnerships as well as support to the development of a national data collection and data management system.

Case study 17: Data collection for the fifth national report to the CBD in Iraq

Due to the difficulty of performing field surveys and the discontinuity of current surveys and fieldwork, it is both challenging and unpredictable to assess the status and trends of species and habitats in Iraq. Consequently, Iraq developed a comprehensive data collecting strategy in preparation of the country's fifth national report to the CBD, targeting a wide range of governmental and non-governmental institutions that are relevant to biodiversity and environmental issues. After an initial round of official letters and emails, informing about the project and requesting data, government delegates from the Ministry of Environment were sent to collect information. Institutions visited include biodiversity departments of universities and environment directorates (of the Ministry of Environment) in the governorates. The NFPs of World Heritage Convention (WHC), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and other conventions were also contacted to identify and collect data.

As a means to supplement the data collected at national level, the team also contacted international institutions and organizations that have global databases on biodiversity. The main organizations and initiatives contacted were UNEP-WCMC, the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) and the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE).

Communicating with the stakeholders directly in order to get information, as well as getting to know how some studies on biodiversity were implemented, proved to be highly effective for the data collection process. Lessons learnt include that there is already a lot of data and scientific research and that continuing consultation and discussion with a wide range of stakeholders as well as improved collaboration will be key to overcoming present challenges.

The main challenges identified in the data collection process are the lack of a comprehensive data collection system, lack of information management systems as well as a lack of data exchange systems. In preparation for future national reports, including the sixth national report to the CBD, Iraq thus intensified efforts to compile a national dataset, through working on developing an 'Atlas of Environment', in order to group the available data using GIS systems. Furthermore, a national website of the CBD Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) is currently being developed, in order to facilitate the exchange of information and data with the contributors and key stakeholders.

Source

- Annex 3 in Iraq's 5th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/iq/iq-nr-05-en.pdf [Accessed: 21 January 2015]

With thanks to Dr. Ali Al-Lami, Minister Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Iraq, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Iraq

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

In **Madagascar**, the CBD NFP successfully called upon environmental committees in different ministries to collate relevant information and expertise for the development of the country's fifth national report to the CBD.

Case study 18 Coordination through environmental committees to produce Madagascar's 5th National Report to the CBD

In Madagascar, each government ministry has an environmental committee, to ensure environmental concerns are considered across every sector, even those that do not traditionally deal with conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources. The committees had not been used to foster inter-ministerial collaboration until the CBD NFP capitalized on them as contact points to collect information and arrange consultations for the preparation of the fifth National Report to the CBD. Elections taking place in the country at the time made the reporting task especially difficult, but the committees were used to overcome this challenge.

The involvement of environmental committees enabled the CBD NFP to coordinate around 200 stakeholders and prepare the national report collaboratively. Stakeholders included members of the environmental committees, NFPs of MEAs (including the Biodiversity-related Conventions), universities, civil society organizations, private sector organizations and financial donors and executing agencies. The stakeholders were organized into three thematic groups (taxonomy and ecosystems, cross-cutting issues and institutions) that were further split into 17 sub-groups, each responsible for drafting a section of the report. The report was reviewed by various ministers and submitted on time to the CBD.

One of the recommendations from the fifth National Report was to replicate the successful coordination process for the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) process. At the same time the need to further improve coordination of the Biodiversity-related Conventions was also identified. This issue could be addressed in the NBSAP.

With thanks to Laurette Rasoavahiny, Ministry of Environment and Forests, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Madagascar

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

3.2.3 Joint information systems

Many countries use reporting tools and information systems to facilitate the collection, storage and sharing of data and information among NFPs and other stakeholders at the national level. **Uganda**'s National Biodiversity Databank (*Case study 19, pg. 56*) has a specific focus on biodiversity data to support reporting and implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. The joint information system in **the Gambia** (*Case study 20, pg. 57*) is designed to share information on a number of environmental themes, and so is of relevance to a wider range of stakeholders. However, like many systems designed to share information, systems in both countries face the familiar challenges posed by intellectual property rights and disparate sources of information.

Case study 19: The National Biodiversity Databank and Clearing House Mechanism in Uganda

Uganda is a signatory to all the Biodiversity-related Conventions. In line with CBD Decision I/3[25] and the mission, goals and objectives set by CBD COP10[26], Uganda established a Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) to address the lack of a framework for sharing information on biodiversity (http://chm.nemaug.org). All the NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions were involved in the development of the CHM, through consultations throughout the design process, which ensured that the final output met the expectations of many different stakeholders. The National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) hosts the CHM and the CBD NFP.

The CHM aims to promote access to and sharing of information, such as publications on biodiversity in Uganda; a list of national legislation and policies for biodiversity; and links to collaborating institutions, to support sustainable management of biodiversity in Uganda. The CHM also provides information on the various activities being undertaken by task forces to implement the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

Separately, Uganda also has a National Biodiversity Data Bank (NBDB) established in 1990 initially as a manual system, as a direct response to conservationists' need for a central biodiversity data and information repository (http://nbdb.mak.ac.ug). Makerere University hosts the NBDB, which is now computerized and provides analytical functions such as species prediction modelling as well as being a data repository. The NBDB has been central to production of various products, including state of biodiversity reports, checklists and inventory reports, used by conservation agencies, researchers and decision makers.

Put together, the two systems (CHM and NBDB) hold critically important biodiversity datasets and information in Uganda and are a resource for reporting to and implementing the biodiversity -related conventions. Currently, the two systems are not linked and both face similar challenges, in particular: that the information on biodiversity remains scattered in various government departments, institutions, sectors, non-government organizations and individuals across the country; the lack of regulation on biodiversity information sharing and usage and thus intellectual property rights affects submission and sharing of data; and inadequate physical and technological infrastructure.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Uganda

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

25 [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=7063 [Accessed: 18 February 2015]
26 [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=12281 [Accessed: 18 February 2015]

Case study 20: Developing an Integrated Management System for integrated coastal zone management in The Gambia

The Gambia is developing an Information Management System (IMS) for Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), with support from the EU and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Currently the datasets and information needed to facilitate management of the Gambia's coasts and rivers are scattered among many different institutions. The IMS will provide a centralized repository to store relevant data from these institutions, to support decision-making processes in coastal areas.

Stakeholders from various departments involved in coastal management were consulted, and expressed a need to share and update information, enhance monitoring systems and increase the ability to exchange data with external organizations. Analysis of the national information assets (in terms of what data is collected, how, and where it is stored) led to recommendations that the IMS would need agreements between users to standardize data collection processes; that departments/ institutions would be responsible for filling data gaps; and that a centralized IT infrastructure would gather and share this data.

The IMS will include data relevant to several of the Biodiversity-related Conventions such as information on protected areas, protected species and habitat and reproduction sites, and will therefore support more harmonized reporting to these conventions. This is particularly useful for a country such as the Gambia where individual staff act as the NFPs to multiple conventions.

One challenge faced in the development of the IMS was gathering data from scattered institutions into one centralized repository. The Gambia's National Environment Agency is a key data holder, and previously would only release data upon the payment of a fee. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed so that data transfer into the IMS incurred no charge. Similar agreements were signed with other key data holding organizations.

With thanks to Ousainou Touray, from the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, for providing the information for this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by The Gambia

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✘	✔

The Online Reporting System (ORS) for the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA) is an example of an initiative for national **online reporting** under one convention, which has the potential to facilitate reporting towards other conventions. Although developed for the CMS family[27], it has also been customized for use by CITES. It demonstrates the benefits and future potential of online reporting, in encouraging harmonisation of national reporting formats and processes.

Case study 21: An Online Reporting System (ORS) for the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbird Agreement (AEWA)

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. The ORS enables MEA secretariats to easily generate tailored online questionnaires for completion by Parties. At the national level, the ORS streamlines the process of report compilation and completion, for example by allowing delegation of specific questions or sections to relevant experts. Furthermore, information from previous reporting cycles is retained in the system and can be updated in subsequent reporting cycles, thus improving efficiency.

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 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.

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. Challenges and areas for further improvement have also been identified by users, such as the dependency on internet connectivity and addition of an analytical component to automate analysis of responses. This feedback will be taken into consideration in future phases of development of the system.

More information on the CMS ORS is [Online] Available from: http://www.cms.int/en/node/4566 [Accessed: 21 January 2015]

Other types of information systems include the **development of indicators**, as exemplified in Case Study 27 and Case Study 28 in the science-policy interface section. The use of indicators is highly effective as a tool to measure progress, to simplify complex information in order to facilitate communication and as a means to guide future policy-making and actions to implement the conventions[28].

27 The CMS Family refers to the Convention and the collection of Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that have been concluded under it. For a full list see http://www.migratoryspecies.org/en/content/about-cms-family.

28 For more information on indicator development see UNEP-WCMC (2011) Guidance for national biodiversity indicator development and use. [Online] Available from: http://www.bipindicators.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=PDjcfjlI-ik%3d&tabid=373 [Accessed: 21 January 2015]

3.3 REGIONAL LEVEL INITIATIVES

Data and information at the regional level can be scattered across various government departments, non-governmental organizations, research institutions or individuals' notes and reports, which is a barrier to regional decision-making and effective transboundary management of biodiversity. Regional organizations and initiatives can address this by supporting national-level efforts to enhance cooperation in various ways. They can provide guidance and input that raise the capacity of NFPs and relevant stakeholders to collect, manage, analyse and report biodiversity-relevant information in their country. They can provide tools to make reporting easier (such as reporting templates). Another common role for regional level initiatives is to provide opportunities for NFPs from many different countries to come together to share best practices and experiences, learning from each other about potential ways to collaborate.

The two examples from the **Pacific** (*Case study 22, pg. 59*) and **Caribbean** (*Case study 23, pg. 60*) regions below show how this convening power has been used to create shared regional reporting templates to streamline and harmonize submissions to MEA secretariats.

Case study 22: Developing a streamlined reporting template for the pacific island countries to the Biodiversity-related Conventions

The Australian Government, in collaboration with the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (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 World Heritage Convention. The template was developed through a consultative process, with Pacific Island Countries, SPREP, UNEP-WCMC and the convention secretariats. The template consists of a core report of information needed for all five conventions, and supplementary annexes for specific information necessary for each convention.

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. Using this template could: reduce the time and funding inputs needed for national reporting; allow Pacific Island Countries to complete reports with less external support; provide incentives for greater consultation in reporting; and facilitate greater engagement between NFPs within a ministry. The template 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. The template has not been approved for use, so remains an example to use in discussions.

More information and the draft template is [Online] Available from: http://www.environment.gov.au/node/13062 [Accessed: 21 January 2015]

With thanks to Melissa Jaques for providing information and review of this case study.

Case study 23: Developing a harmonized reporting template for Caribbean countries

Following the successful trial of a reporting template in Pacific Island Countries (see Case study 16 above), 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. As with the Pacific Islands trial, this received a positive response from NFPs and secretariat staff, but is not yet formally endorsed for use by Secretariats of the relevant conventions. Across 44 pages, the template covers the information requirements of the CBD, CITES, Ramsar Convention and the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol). During the development process, NFPs reiterated the importance of national reporting, within their countries and globally, but noted that the capacity constraints of SIDS countries were a key barrier to efficient and effective completion of national reports. Country representatives attending a CHART workshop in St Lucia expressed deep concern that they could lose funding for data collection and report preparation from secretariats if they did not use MEA-specific report formats. This highlights the importance of endorsement of any such template by the relevant MEAs, as an essential ingredient for success.

With thanks to Dr. Thera Edwards, the University of the West Indies, for providing information and review of this case study.

The 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: 21 January 2015]

The next two examples look at regional convening power in a different context: joint information management systems that bring together information from many countries, in support of national and regional level decision making. These make information available to policy-makers, scientists and any interested individuals and institutions, increasing the awareness of biodiversity status and trends in countries that share borders. The first example, the **Critical Sites Network (CSN)**, is a regional information system that supports decision-making for migratory waterbirds. The second example describes a regional information system that the **EU** uses to support the review and implementation of regional policy and legislation. It also shows how linkages can be made between global, regional and national level action plans and associated information needs.

Case study 24: Building a regional information system to support decision-making related to migratory waterbirds

The Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) Project was a joint effort between Wetlands International and BirdLife International, supported by the UNEP-GEF (the Global Environment Facility), the Government of Germany and a wide range of other donors and partners. It provides an example of a regional information management tool that facilitates access to data from independent and disparate sources, providing a solution to the challenge posed by data spread across many countries, public bodies, researchers and civil society organizations.

This four year project (2006 - 2010) was the largest international, flyway-scale wetland and waterbird conservation initiative ever to take place in the African-Eurasian region, spanning Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Greenland and the Canadian Archipelago. It was a partnership among various Biodiversity-related Conventions, international conservation organizations and national governments, and aimed to improve the understanding and conservation of healthy and viable populations of African-Eurasian migratory waterbirds. The WOW project used collaboration between different NFPs (CMS and the Ramsar Convention in particular) across many countries to allow stakeholders across the African-Eurasian region to access important information relevant for birds using this crucial flyway.

The project established the Critical Sites Network (CSN) tool, an online resource for information relating to the conservation of 294 waterbird species and the key sites upon which they depend. This information was gathered from several independent databases and analyzed at the bio-geographical population level. The CSN tool aimed to provide decision-makers and researchers with improved access to the data they needed for timely and focused decision making on water bird conservation, as well as access to data for reporting. Further funding is required to update the tool in order to keep it relevant and operational in future.

More information is [Online] Available from: http://www.wingsoverwetlands.org/ or http://www.unep-aewa.org/en/project/wings-over-wetlands-wow-unep-gef-african-eurasian-flyways-project [Accessed: 21 January 2015]

The Critical Sites Network Tool is [Online] Available from http://csntool.wingsoverwetlands.org/csn/down.html [Accessed: 21 January 2015]

Case study 25: Creating a regional architecture to support national decision-making and reporting: the Biodiversity 2020 Target Cross-Linking Tool used in the EU

The European Environment Agency (EEA) collects environmental data and information from its 33 members and six collaborating countries, through regular environmental reporting and surveys. A joint information and report management system, Reportnet, stores data from across Europe. (http://www.eionet.europa.eu/reportnet).

The European Commission and the EEA set up a separate IT structure, the Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE), to give information on progress under the EU Biodiversity Strategy and its contribution to the Aichi Targets. BISE functions as Europe's Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) and brings together data and information from the EU level and from individual countries. An ad-hoc BISE-CHM working group was set up in 2013 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 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[29].

A trial of a Biodiversity 2020 Target Cross-Linking Tool, in short TCT, has been developed to respond to this recommendation. 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).

With thanks to Han de Koeijer, Ir., Belgian Focal Point to the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels and Rania S. Spyropoulou, EU Focal Point to the CHM, European Environment Agency (EEA), for providing information and review of this case study.

For more information please see:
http://biodiversity.europa.eu/chm-network/the-2020-target-cross-linking-tool
The demonstration tool can be found here: http://demo.tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/
The Belgian use of the tool is available here: http://nbsap.biodiv.be/implementation/intro
A version of the tool for Benin is available here: http://benin.nbsap.eaudeweb.ro/

Finally, regional level actors can use their convening power to bring together NFPs in order to build capacity for reporting. The final example below describes how a convention secretariat is delivering capacity development at the regional level, to improve reporting rates and reduce the perception of reporting as a 'burden'.

29 BISE (2015) Working Groups on "Sharing information on implementation and reporting on progress between global, regional and national levels" [Online] Available from: http://biodiversity.europa.eu/chm-network/meetings/2013-working-group-on-sharing-information-on-implementation-and-reporting-on-progress-between-global_-regional-and-national-levels [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

Case study 26: Regional support to Periodic Reporting under the WHC in Africa

The second cycle of Periodic Reporting under the WHC in the Africa Region began in January 2010. It was undertaken by 44 State Parties and the 78 World Heritage properties inscribed on the World Heritage List by the beginning of 2010, including 32 sites listed for their natural heritage. The World Heritage Centre ran a series of workshops to support the reporting process.

Preparations began in 2009, with training for regional coordinators and mentors from each of the four sub-regions in Africa. Throughout 2010 NFPs discussed the reporting process at workshops organized by region and language. This process helped countries to produce their own reports and to build region-wide consensus on the key issues affecting conservation. It also helped to define a number of capacity building needs for the region with regard to the implementation of the WHC namely community outreach, risk preparedness and enforcing legal frameworks.

This "focal-points and mentors" approach has also been used for the Second Cycle of the World Heritage Periodic Reporting in the other regions: Arab States (2009-2010), Asia-Pacific (2011-2012), Latin America and the Caribbean (2012-2013), Europe (2013-2014) and North America (2014-2015).

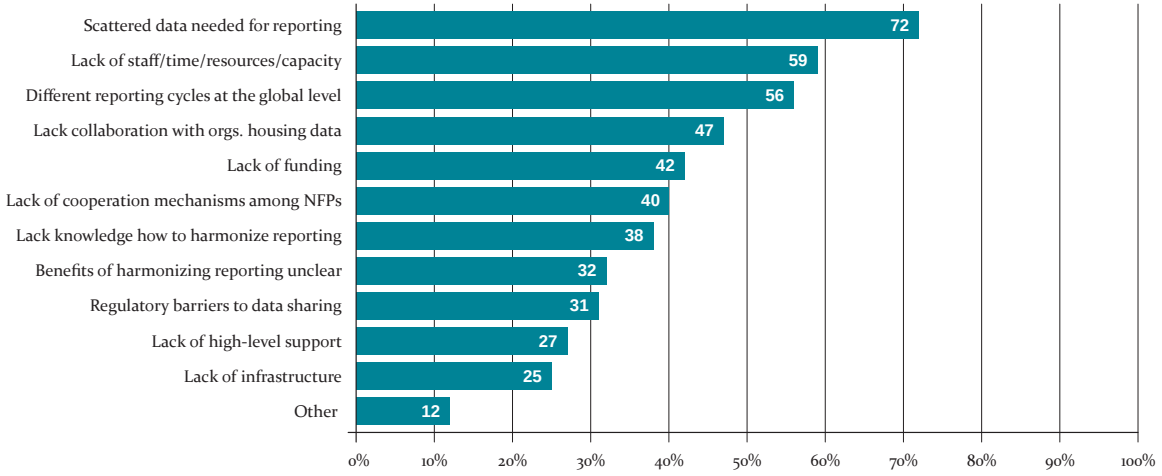
Source

- UNESCO World Heritage Centre (2011) World Heritage in Africa Region – Main Results: Second Cycle Periodic Reporting. [Online] Available from: http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001930/193019e.pdf [Accessed: 21 January 2015]

3.4 OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

3.4.1 Barriers identified in the UNEP Survey 2014

As shown in *Graph 6*, the respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 indicated that main barriers to harmonization of reporting and information management are scattered data (indicated by 72%), as well as a lack of staff, time and resources (indicated by 59 %). Another barrier identified by the majority of the respondents was the variability in reporting cycles of the biodiversity-related MEAs. Other main barriers identified include: lacking collaboration with organisations hosting data, lack of funding, lack of cooperation mechanisms among NFPs and a general lack of knowledge on how to harmonise reporting.



Graph 6: Main barriers to cooperation on reporting and information management among National Focal Points of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP survey 2014

3.4.2 Response options

The UNEP Survey 2014, together with further discussions with NFPs and other key stakeholders and a review of grey literature, identified a number of barriers or challenges to the harmonization of information management systems and national reporting's, as well as a number of response options to address these challenges. *Table 5* below presents a summary of identified challenges, potential response options and links these too cases studies presented in this sourcebook. Please note that this table of challenges and response options is not exhaustive and stakeholders may find other more relevant issues within their national contexts.

Table 5: Summary of the key challenges to cooperation at the national-level on reporting and information management, and national and/ or regional-level response options

Challenges/ Barriers	Response Options	Case studies
Lack of time, resources or capacity.	1. Bring together all relevant stakeholders, to stimulate and enable them to share information on their activities. 2. Ensure that roles and responsibilities for provision of information/ data for reporting match with the responsibility for implementation of biodiversity-related obligations and ensure that roles and responsibilities are clear. 3. Collaborate with other stakeholders (including NFPs) in a country and/ or regionally on resource mobilisation (see section 7). 4. Develop indicators to facilitate reporting. 5. Create an online reporting system that also holds the data from previous reporting cycles and can be updated in subsequent reporting cycles or an alternative online tool to facilitate reporting. 6. Share lessons learnt and systems with neighbouring countries within a region. 7. Hold regional and/ or national training workshops that bring together different stakeholders. 8. Develop (regional) harmonized reporting templates.	• Online Reporting System (ORS) (5) *(Case study 21, pg. 58)* • The European target cross-linking tool (5) *(Case study 25, pg. 62)* • Palau (ii) (1, 3) *(Case study 15, pg. 52)* • SPREP (ii) (8) *(Case study 22, pg. 59)* • CARICOM (8) *(Case study 23, pg. 60)* • South Africa (2) *(Case study 16, pg. 53)* • Regional support to periodic reporting (6,7) *(Case study 26, pg. 63)* ***Case studies from other sections:*** • Finland (4) *(Case study 27, pg. 75)* • Norway (ii) (4) *(Case study 28, pg. 75)*
Unavailability of data.	1. Identify gaps (and publicise them, including in the national report itself). 2. Target research/fundraising for research to address them. 3. Develop/make use of appropriate indicators for which data is available (e.g. use proxies).	• Iraq (2,3) *(Case study 17, pg. 54)* • Uganda (i) (1,2,3) (Case study 19, pg. 56) ***Case studies from other sections:*** • Bhutan (i) (3) *(Case study 45, pg. 116)* • NBSAP workshop 2013, Cameroon (ii) (3) *(Case study 52, pg. 127)*

Challenges/ Barriers	Response Options	Case studies
Data is scattered in numerous places and not easy to access and/ or existing databases are not linked.	Conduct broad stakeholder consultations (governmental and non-governmental stakeholders) to: 1. Locate the relevant stores of data and information. 2. Conduct an analysis of national information assets. 3. Improve access to this data and information, and enhance information sharing (for example through MoUs, including between different government ministries and committees). 4. Build a centralized repository that will allow easy access to and/or storage of data for biodiversity reporting, e.g. CHM (including user agreements to standardize data collection process and agreement on responsibility for filling data gaps). 5. Draw upon regional and global datasets as a complementary resource. 6. All of the above can be facilitated through the development of a data collection and management strategy. 7. Develop reporting protocols.	• Palau (ii) (1, 3) *(Case study 15, pg. 52)* • Uganda (i) (1-4) *(Case study 19, pg. 56)* • The Gambia (1-4) *(Case study 20, pg. 57)* • Iraq (1-6) *(Case study 17, pg. 54)* • Wings over Wetlands (WOW) (1, 3, 4) *(Case study 24, pg. 61)* • The European target cross-linking tool (1, 3, 4) *(Case study 25, pg. 62)*
Inadequate institutional arrangements.	1. Provide incentives for greater consultation in reporting; e.g. by harmonization of reporting templates. 2. Identify and reach out to key stakeholders by organizing a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process. 3. Reform institutional arrangements, e.g. creation or strengthening of coordination committees among NFPs and other key stakeholders, potentially by building upon existing structures. 4. Ensure that the parliament is informed about the process and the outcome of data collection for national reports to conventions. See section 2 on institutional arrangements for more details.	• SPREP (ii) (1) *(Case study 22, pg. 59)* • CARICOM (1) *(Case study 23, pg. 60)* • Iraq (2) *(Case study 17, pg. 54)* • Palau (ii) (3) *(Case study 15, pg. 52)* • Madagascar (i) (3) *(Case study 18, pg. 55)*
Information management systems are in place but are not being used.	1. Ensure close engagement with potential users to increase awareness of systems in place. 2. Look at technological options which will enhance access to and sharing of data (e.g. reduced dependence on fast internet connections). 3. Enhance capacity of stakeholders by e.g. developing and disseminating comprehensive guidance on the systems in place in a country. 4. Include the utilisation of information management systems in the operational guidelines or terms of reference (ToR) of competent authorities.	

Challenges/ Barriers	Response Options	Case studies
Overlapping report content resulting in duplication of efforts.	1. Analyse current methods of reporting and identify opportunities for harmonization and streamlining (i.e. operational guidelines to support harmonized reporting). 2. Identify the key areas of duplication and overlap between the information requirements of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (See the matrix in Annex 2, pg. 170, which provides an overview of areas where more than one of the conventions request data on similar topics for national reports). 3. Build a centralized repository at the national and/or regional level that will allow easy access to and/or storage of data for biodiversity reporting, in order to adapt to and prepare for the periodicity. 4. Ensure that reporting obligations are part of a wider strategy to improve implementation of the conventions.	• SPREP (ii) (1, 2) *(Case study 22, pg. 59)* • CARICOM (1, 2) *(Case study 23, pg. 60)* • Uganda (i) (3) *(Case study 19, pg. 56)* • The Gambia (3) *(Case study 20, pg. 57)* • South Africa (4) *(Case study 16, pg. 53)* • European target cross-linking tool (2) *(Case study 25, pg. 62)* ***Case studies from other sections:*** • Botswana (6) *(Case study 12, pg. 34)* • GEF-project on Rio Conventions (1-3) *(Box 10, pg. 51)*
Additional response options described in other sections With regard to the challenge "lack of time, resources and capacity", section 5 describes regional joint skills training workshops, where NFPs can share experiences and best practice. This is one way to build capacity to write reports and manage information at the same time as building the linkages that could increase cooperation. Section 7 describes ways to overcome the shared challenge of finding resources to implement the conventions. This section and section 4 describe options for storing data, information and knowledge electronically, in order to increase access to relevant and useful data by NFPs and others. While globalised data systems, like Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF), are effective as complementary information collection, nationally owned data and information are particularly useful for validating information for reporting purposes.		

3.4.3 Key lessons learnt

Drawing on the case studies, the response options identified in the table above as well as input from a range of interview partners, there are a number of lessons learnt that could be applied at the country level to enhance information management and reporting:

- **Assess the existing institutional arrangements and develop a strategy for collaboration**: identify common needs between NFPs and stakeholders (whether formal or informal), such as producing a national report of use to all involved, as a basis from which to coordinate and collaborate on reporting and information management.

  Strengthening or creating new processes to enable effective cooperation and coordination can link the relevant stakeholders that contribute to information management and reporting. Sufficient attention needs to be paid to aligning the interests of different stakeholders (For more information, see *section 2.4.3*, on key lessons learnt for institutional arrangements).

- **Look at technological options which will enhance access to and sharing of data:** this section and *section 4* describe options for storing information electronically in order to increase access to relevant and useful data by NFPs and others.

- **Achieve resource-saving by increasing efficiency of processes**: strengthening processes and increasing the efficiency of existing ones in order to enhance cooperation on information management and reporting, is sometimes considered a "low-hanging fruit" in the synergies discourse, because of its potential to result in significant resource-savings.
- **Broadly communicate the results of national reporting**: reporting to the conventions should not be considered an end in itself, instead monitoring of progress and illustrations of trends and drivers of biodiversity loss supports national decision-makers to develop and refine policies and actions to protect biodiversity.
- **Foster activities of regional organizations**: Regional organizations are well placed to foster dialogue and action on how to harmonize and streamline reporting to the Biodiversity-related Conventions or to develop tools to facilitate reporting at the different levels (national, regional and global).

3.5 USEFUL RESOURCES

This section provides a list of useful resources for guidance on designing activities to enhance, harmonise or streamline their national processes for managing and reporting biodiversity-related data.

General guidance (across conventions)

- **InforMEA (2015) United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements**
  InforMEA allows users to search the decisions of all major MEAs, including the biodiversity cluster, for content. It has a specific "national reporting" keyword that can help search for decisions and guidance on national reporting. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.informea.org/ **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**
- **Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (2011) Guidance for national biodiversity indicator development and use. UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK**
  This guidance is designed to help the development of biodiversity indicators at the national level for uses such as reporting, policy-making, environmental management, and education. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.bipindicators.net/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=brn%2FLxDzLio%3D&tabid=157 **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**
- **Tematea (2010) Issue-based modules for coherent implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions**
  Tematea provides training and guidance related to coherent implementation of MEAs at the national level. A number of its modules relate to information management and national reporting, including:
  - Prepare national reports and provide information. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.tematea.org/?q=node/751 **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**
  - Facilitate Information Exchange. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.tematea.org/?q=node/404 **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**
  - Monitor the effects of Climate Change on biodiversity. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.tematea.org/?q=node/392 **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**
- **UNEP-WCMC (2009) Preconditions for harmonization of reporting to biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements**
  This paper presents a number of potential national and global-level activities that could lead to more harmonized reporting. It also synthesises previous projects and papers from 2000-2009 on this topic. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/preconditions-harmonization-unep-wcmc-en.pdf **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

Specific Guidance from each convention

- **CBD (2013) Training module on national reporting (focus on fifth national report)**
  This guide provides training to support completion of the latest national report and has some guidance that is widely useful for reporting processes in general.
  [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/nr/nr-05/train-nr5-en.pdf **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

- **UNESCO World Heritage Centre (2013) Operational guidelines for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. Paris, France**
  The document contains guidance on implementing the whole convention, and pages 199-210 specifically look at national reporting.
  [Online] Available from:
  http://whc.unesco.org/archive/opguide13-en.pdf **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

- **CMS (2013) Guide for National Focal Points in the CMS family of conventions and agreements**
  Chapter 6, on National Reporting, provides guidance on completion of national reports and managing information in relation to the CMS family, although it may also be useful for NFPs to other conventions.
  [Online] Available from: http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/publication/manual_e.pdf **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

- **UNESCO World Heritage Centre (2012) Periodic Reporting – Handbook for Site Managers**
  The document contains explanation to facilitate the National Focal Points and Site Managers' participation in the Periodic Reporting exercise. A video tutorial is also available.
  [Online] Available from: http://whc.unesco.org/en/pr-questionnaire/ **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

- **CITES (2011) Guidelines for the preparation and submission of CITES annual reports (2011)**
  Guidance is available for the compilation of CITES annual reports and biennial reports (see CITES Notification 2005/035), but note that the current biennial report format will be revised prior to the next reporting cycle (see CITES SC65 Doc. 24.2).
  [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/notif/2011/E019A.pdf **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

- **UNEP (2006) Manual on compliance with and enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Nairobi, Kenya**
  This document provides guidance for all MEAs, and contains a specific section on arrangements for national reporting (pages 384-391).
  [Online] Available from: http://www.unep.org/delc/portals/119/UNEP_Manual.pdf **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

4. Science-policy interface

BOX 11: KEY TERMS RELATED TO THE SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE

- The science-policy interface: the many ways in which scientists, policy makers and others link up to communicate, exchange ideas and jointly develop knowledge to enrich policy and decision-making processes. Science-policy interfaces cover a very wide range of communication forums, situations and methods. They can be formal or informal, long-term processes or one-off events. They involve exchange of information and knowledge leading to learning, and ultimately influencing decisions and changing behaviour, i.e. doing something differently as a result of the learning[30].
- Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES): an independent intergovernmental platform established in April 2012 that is open to all member countries of the UN. It will provide assessments on key issues related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, strengthen capacity to use science in decision-making, identify current knowledge gaps and support the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). It will also identify and develop policy-support tools eligible to tackle particular issues of change.
- Policy support tools: Policy support tools and methodologies are approaches and techniques based on science and other knowledge systems that can inform, assist and enhance relevant decisions, policy making and implementation at local, national, regional and international levels (IPBES/3/5 Guide on policy support tools and methodologies, annex I paragraph II).

30 Based on the definition in Young, J.C., Watt, A.D. van den Hove, S. and the SPIRAL project team. Effective interfaces between science, policy and society: the SPIRAL project handbook. 2013. [Online] Available from: http://www.spiral-project.eu/content/documents [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

4.1 WHY COOPERATE AT THE SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE?

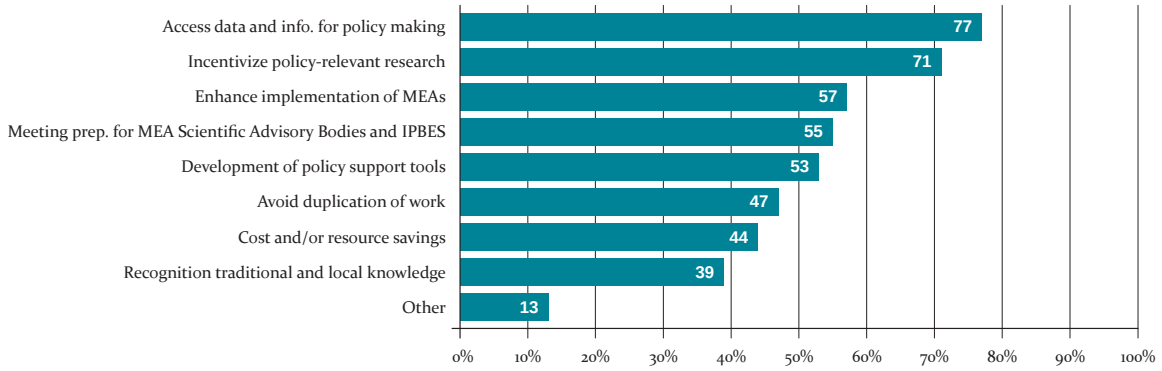
Despite the ever-increasing volume of scientific knowledge on biodiversity and the threats to it, the situation for biodiversity has continued to deteriorate. As a result, there has been a greater focus on the science-policy interface, as people look for ways to ensure that research and information on biodiversity are incorporated into effective policies that will have a demonstrable positive impact for conservation. The Biodiversity-related Conventions illustrate this point: even though the scientific knowledge is there to underpin the conventions' objectives, assessments show that the policies countries adopt to implement these objectives are yet to achieve many of their targets.

This section focuses on analysing and providing examples of collaborative processes to strengthen national and regional science-policy interfaces that are relevant for National Focal Points (NFPs) working to implement the six major Biodiversity-related Conventions. Many national governments have scientific advisors or scientific committees that act as a key interface between scientists and policy makers. A central role of NFPs is to facilitate the access to or awareness of national and local data to international bodies such as the scientific advisory bodies of the conventions or the IPBES Task Force on Data and Knowledge; the quality and relevance of this data is key to its usefulness and impact. NFPs can also use science-policy interfaces in their countries to, on the one hand, direct scientists towards policy-relevant issues to be tackled through their research, and, on the other hand, to encourage policy makers to base their policies on the best knowledge available, i.e. to make informed decisions. However, as elaborated in the introductory section of this sourcebook it should be highlighted once again that activities carried out by NFPs in the context of the science-policy interface in their respective country and/or region will be directed by the mandate, role and authority that NFPs hold within their government and even more generally the decision-making arena.

The science-policy interface theme is closely related to other processes explored in this sourcebook and in the UNEP Survey 2014, for example, reporting to the conventions, capacity building and the revision and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). These processes are discussed in more detail *in sections* 3 on *Information management and reporting*, 5 on *Capacity building* and 6 on *The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,*, respectively.

4.1.1 Benefits identified in the UNEP Survey 2014

40% of respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 (*Box 5, pg. 13)* indicated that collaboration among NFPs has played a role in strengthening the science-policy interface, in the context of the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. Thereby, a large majority of respondents (77%) listed improving access to and sharing of information and data as a main benefit of collaborating on the science-policy interface. In the context of data sharing it should be highlighted that data flows are not only important from scientists to politicians, but also vice-versa and therefore from politicians to scientists (e.g. policy papers, balance sheets, reports etc.). Improved access to biodiversity data facilitates reporting to the conventions and also enhances the coherent development of national policies. Many respondents (71%) also found that collaborating helped them incentivize policy-relevant research; this and other benefits are shown in *Graph 7* below.



Graph 7: Main benefits of cooperating with regard to interfacing science and policy among National Focal Points of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP survey 2014

4.1.2 The science-policy interface at the level of the Biodiversity-related Conventions

Implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions depends, on one hand, on monitoring and assessing the state of biodiversity, and, on the other, on the development of appropriate policies for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Each of the six major Biodiversity-related Conventions has established a scientific advisory body or identified external organizations to advise them. These bodies bring together the two elements of i) scientific expertise and ii) policy-making. They report to the Conference of the Parties (COPs) or other relevant convention bodies and have a mandate to provide scientific, technical and technological advice. Membership of the scientific advisory bodies can be open to all Parties or consist of appointed members. It has been observed that in many cases, the experts attending the meetings of the scientific advisory bodies are not the primary NFPs of the respective conventions. In the case of the CBD, for example, countries can appoint separate NFPs for the Convention and for the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA). *Box 12* lists the scientific advisory bodies of the conventions.

BOX 12: THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BODIES OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

- Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (**CBD**)
- Animals and Plants Committees of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (**CITES**)
- Scientific Council of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (**CMS**)
- Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the **Ramsar Convention**
- International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which advise the World Heritage Convention (**WHC**)
- The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (**ITPGRFA**) does not have a permanent scientific body; instead, if needed, the Governing Body establishes ad hoc advisory technical committees to provide scientific and technical advice to the Governing Body on specific issues. It also collaborates closely with FAO technical units and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture

At the global level, the group of Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) fosters collaboration by meeting to discuss cooperation regarding shared scientific issues and their translation into policy. For example, the Fourth Meeting of CSAB identified ecosystem restoration as a particular opportunity for collaboration, and discussed the mobilisation of the scientific community for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Nagoya Protocol and the UN Decade on Biodiversity[31]. As detailed in *section* 6, CSAB also recognized the need for all the Biodiversity-related Conventions to engage more strongly with the NBSAP process, recommending that they should, *(ii) consider what scientific guidance might be needed from the scientific advisory bodies, and how this might be co-ordinated.* More information on the composition of the scientific advisory bodies and CSAB and their roles in relation to the science-policy interface is available in UNEP-WCMC (2012).[32]

The treaty texts and COP decisions of the Biodiversity-related Conventions identify mechanisms to facilitate their own science-policy interface, through the scientific advisory bodies and calls for collaboration with other conventions. They also contain many references that illustrate the role of Parties in strengthening the science-policy interface to promote convention implementation, for example:

- Ramsar Convention Resolution X.18, paragraph 14, encourages the Ramsar Convention's Secretariat and Contracting Parties to collaborate with the secretariats and NFPs of other conventions in implementing actions based on the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) outputs and on the Ramsar Convention's advisory body's review of the MA.
- CITES Decision 16.13 states that Parties should consider promoting actions to reinforce linkages between IPBES and CITES, and to strengthen the science-policy interface at national and international levels.
- CMS resolution 10.8 urged 'CMS Focal Points and Scientific Councillors to communicate and liaise regularly with the national representative in the IPBES to ensure that the needs for research and policy guidance related to migratory species, especially those listed under CMS, are being adequately addressed by IPBES' whilst the 25th meeting of the Animals Committee of CITES (agenda item 7.2) encouraged Management Authorities of Parties 'to coordinate and enhance information exchange with their competent national authorities for IPBES'.
- ITPGRFA 5 Resolution 5 noted the potential contribution of information, technical and scientific cooperation and related capacity-building under the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Treaty;
- CBD decision XII/25 Requests the Executive Secretary; In consultation with the Chair and Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, to continue to collaborate with the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services where relevant, strengthening synergies and avoiding duplication of work, to review the progress on elements of the work programme of the Platform that are relevant to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and to report to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice on progress;

31 Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions. Fourth meeting Gland, 13 February 2011. [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/csab/csab-04/official/csab-04-02-en.pdf [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

32 UNEP-WCMC Promoting Synergies within the Cluster of Biodiversity-Related Multilateral Environmental Agreements. WCMC Cambridge, 2012. [Online] Available from: http://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset_file_fields/files/000/000/045/original/Promoting_synergies_in_the_biodiversity_cluster.pdf?1395761916 [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

- CBD decision XII/25 Requests the Executive Secretary; To bring to the attention of all relevant focal points under the Convention and its Protocols draft versions of deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services when they become publicly available for peer review, and to encourage them to participate in the peer-review processes by engaging with and providing input through their focal points for the Platform, where appropriate, and in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of deliverables of the Platform;
- CBD decision XII/25 Requests the Executive Secretary; To bring the deliverables of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the attention of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for its consideration with regard to the relevance of the findings for the work of the Convention, and for the development, as appropriate, of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties;

4.1.3 The science-policy interface at the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

Established in 2012, IPBES is the most recent addition to the family of intergovernmental biodiversity institutions. A gap analysis by UNEP in 2009 pointed to a widespread lack of capacity at the national level of brokering knowledge effectively so that it is used appropriately in decision-making, including by identifying the implications of various policy options[33]. IPBES provides a mechanism recognized by both the scientific and policy communities to synthesize, review, assess and critically evaluate relevant information and knowledge generated worldwide by governments, academia, scientific organizations, non-governmental organizations, indigenous and local communities, i.e. different knowledge systems. In order to be credible, relevant and legitimate, IPBES selects its experts from the entire range of these knowledge holders in a transparent and agreed manner. The overall objective is to strengthen the science-policy interface through building capacities for the effective use of science in decision-making at all levels.

BOX 13: IPBES WORK PROGRAMME 2014-2018

The IPBES Work Programme 2014-2018 (IPBES/2/5) responds to the needs of its members but at the same time also to the Biodiversity-related Conventions. It includes three task forces, i) on capacity building, (Box 15, pg. 92 in section 5), ii) on indigenous and traditional knowledge, and iii) on knowledge and data. Furthermore, there are experts groups for the development of various policy support tools, for example on valuing biodiversity, and an online catalogue of policy support tools and methodologies. IPBES will also carry out thematic assessments of globally important, cross-cutting issues, such as invasive species, pollinators and food production, land degradation and restoration, and sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity including looking at management tools and capacities. Additionally, there will be regional and sub-regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services, envisaged to provide a critical input into a global assessment and to contribute to the implementation and achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

IPBES, in the first place, addresses requests made to it by its Member States, but also aims to meet the needs of conventions that are related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, and build on existing processes. Several of the biodiversity-related convention COPs have taken decisions positioning themselves relative to IPBES, encouraging collaboration between Parties and IPBES NFPs[34].

33 Gap analysis for the purpose of facilitating the discussions on how to improve and strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and ecosystem services (UNEP/IPBES/2/INF/1)

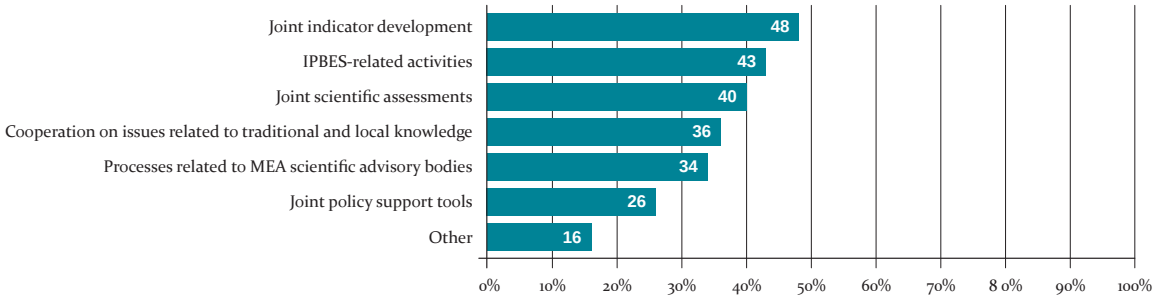
34 E.g. CMS in COP 10 resolution 10.8. [Online] Available from: http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/10_08_ipbes_e_0_0.pdf [Accessed: 18 February 2015]

The second IPBES Plenary session also took a decision approving the establishment of collaborative partnerships with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The decision provides a basis for them to coordinate activities, share expertise and exchange information.[35]

4.2 EXAMPLES OF COOPERATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL ON THE SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE FOR THE CONVENTIONS AND IPBES

Responses to the UNEP Survey 2014 revealed that joint indicator development was the most common activity of collaboration to strengthen the science-policy interface, cited by 48% of respondents. This may reflect the fact that the survey was distributed when many countries were developing national targets and indicators for revision of their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Case studies below describe how Norway and Finland and the EU Biodiversity Observation Network (EU BON), in the regional section below, are bringing together up-to-date biodiversity indicators in ways that are accessible and relevant to policy-makers.

Graph 8 also shows that 43% of respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 reported collaborating on activities related to IPBES, and 40% reported joint scientific assessments that inform the implementation of multiple conventions. As with joint indicators, joint scientific assessments can save national governments money or time, if for example, NFPs of different conventions work together to design a single tender document that will secure the inputs they each need to report to different conventions.



Graph 8: Percentage of respondents who collaborate with NFPs on particular activities related to biodiversity-related convention implementation, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP survey 2014

4.2.1 Joint indicator development

Finland and Norway have both developed processes to increase the access of environmental managers, policymakers and the public to up-to-date, easily understandable information on the state of biodiversity. Both countries do this through development of indicators.

The case study from **Finland** particularly highlights that volunteers provide large amounts of biodiversity data, and it is often non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that mobilize this resource. The case study from **Norway** emphasizes that a government mandate facilitated the dialogue between a multidisciplinary groups of experts and that the involvement of the different stakeholders and experts at each step of the indicator development process helped to build the necessary trust.

34 IPBES-2/8. Annex to the Final report and decisions of the second session of the Plenary of IPBES (IPBES/2/17). [Online] Available from: http://ipbes.net/plenary/ipbes-2.html#meetingreport [Accessed: 18 February 2015]

Case study 27: Using indicators at the science-policy interface in Finland

In Finland, research institutes, state authorities, universities and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) worked together to develop relevant indicators that capture key changes in biodiversity trends and support biodiversity management. These are presented through the Biodiversity.fi web service. Indicators are grouped by type of habitat, and include particular focus on red-listed species and those listed under the EU Birds and Habitat directives. For each indicator, graphs show the key trends and a general narrative provides a straightforward explanation. Collating the information in one website in an accessible format is intended to facilitate the dialogue between scientists and policy makers. It should also encourage the participation of citizen scientists: approximately 70% of all biodiversity related monitoring work in Finland is carried out by volunteer experts and enthusiasts.

Recently an effort has been made to develop indicators also of the most important ecosystem services in Finland.

More information is [Online] Available from: www.biodiversity.fi and www.biodiversity.fi/ecosystemservices [Accessed: 18 February 2015]

With thanks to Dr. Marina Weissenberg, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Finland

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Case study 28: Using indicators at the science-policy interface in Norway

The Norwegian Nature Index is designed to give an overview of trends in biodiversity in major ecosystems. It is based on 309 indicators representing different aspects of biodiversity in 1990, 2000 and 2010. The overall objective is to measure whether Norway is succeeding in halting the loss of biodiversity, in line with pledges under international agreements. In order to develop this index, dialogue between a multidisciplinary group of experts was necessary and the government mandate made this dialogue easier to initiate. Inputs from 125 experts were coordinated by a core team of three biologists and ecologists, supported by an additional team of statisticians providing support on uncertainty and methods. Discussions and deliberations with the experts at each stage of the indicator development process helped build trusting relationships. The results are available online in a report on the state of biodiversity in Norway, including various charts and maps that help communicate clearly to policymakers, management agencies and the public. The process has also identified knowledge gaps that should be filled when the Norwegian Nature Index is updated in 2015.

For more information is [Online] Available from: http://www.nina.no/ninaenglish/TheNorwegianNatureIndex.aspx [Accessed: 18 February 2015]

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Norway

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

With regard to the use of indicators at the national level the provision of biodiversity-related information and indicators in national statistics reports as well as in land use planning have been listed as examples by workshop participants of the UNEP Peer-review Workshop 2014.

4.2.2 National bodies to strengthen the science-policy interface

In many countries institutions have been set up to strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity. These institutions aim at bringing together key organizations and/ or experts from both science and policy and thus also support stakeholders working on different conventions to identify synergies and save administrative effort.

In **Brazil**, and by request of the National Biodiversity Commission (CONABIO), a process to define a list of indicators has been initiated in collaboration with the Biodiversity Panel (PainelBio), in order to monitor the achievement of the National Biodiversity Targets. PainelBio is a network among a wide range of institutions focused on biodiversity conservation and especially on the mainstreaming of Biodiversity-related Conventions in different sectors of the Brazilian society.

Case study 29: Updating of National Biodiversity Targets in Brazil

In 2013 Brazil updated its National Biodiversity Targets through its National Biodiversity Commission (CONABIO) following a broad multi-sector consultation process. Reaching consensus among the different stakeholders, including different governmental sectors and NGOs/civil society, was a long and difficult process.

Brazil is now starting a process to define a list of national indicators to monitor the achievement of the National Biodiversity Targets. By request of the Commission, the process is being done in collaboration with the Biodiversity Panel (PainelBio) The Panel's mission was defined as to "contribute for the conservation and sustainable use of Brazilian biodiversity by promoting synergy between institutions and knowledge, making scientific information available to society, promoting capacity building at various levels, and supporting decision making processes and public policies for the achievement of the Aichi Targets in Brazil". PainelBio is being implemented on a platform of strong networking and joint work among different organizations working on biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. The IUCN-Brazil is the Executive Secretariat of PainelBio and the participating institutions are federal ministries and organizations and NGOs/civil society organizations such as MMA, ICMBio, MCTI, Fiocruz, IUCN, WWF-Brasil, GIZ, APRENDER, FUNDHAM, CI, IPE, Fundação Biodiversitas, ISA, Fórum do Mar, FNB, CNI, and CEBDS. The proposal for the definition of a relevant and manageable set of indicators involves capacity building with the assistance of the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (http://www.bipindicators.net/), after which five workshops will be held, each addressing one of the five strategic objectives of the National Biodiversity Targets. One key correlated aspect of this performance indicators preparation is to use it also as means to promote awareness and internalization about the National Biodiversity Targets among the different sectors of Brazilian society and regional and local governments.

With thanks to Carlos Alberto de Mattos Scaramuzza, Director, Biodiversity Conservation Department, the Brazilian Ministry of Environment, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Brazil

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

In **Mexico,** a permanent inter-ministerial commission is a bridge between academia, government and civil society that offers its users new knowledge for decision-making. CONABIO brings a large number of functions and services under one roof, from maintaining the national biodiversity information system to acting as NFP for the scientific authority of CITES, SBSTTA and IPBES and hosting a website that not only hosts publications and an image bank, but a website for children.

Case study 30: Mexico's national commission for knowledge and use of biodiversity: CONABIO

The Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO) is a permanent inter-ministerial commission established in 1992. Its role includes the development, maintenance and update of the National Biodiversity Information System; support to projects and studies focused on the knowledge and use of biodiversity, including traditional knowledge; provision of advice and policy-relevant information to governmental institutions and other sectors; special projects and programmes and knowledge sharing on biological diversity; development of bioinformatics tools (e.g. mangrove monitoring system and fire early warning systems, among others); and follow up on international agreements on topics related to biological diversity, and to provide services to the public.

CONABIO acts as the scientific authority of CITES and as the focal point of various CBD-related institutions (namely the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), SBSTTA, the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and the Global Strategy for Plant Protection). Since 2013 CONABIO also hosts the NFP of IPBES. It coordinates the update of the NBSAP and the 5th national report to the CBD. In order to implement CBD commitments, CONABIO works in close collaboration with subnational environmental authorities to develop state-level biodiversity studies, strategies and state biodiversity commissions. So far, two states have established their own biodiversity commissions. CONABIO is responsible for collaboration with different governmental and non-governmental institutions.

CONABIO has a website where all publications, maps and other resources can be downloaded, including publications on species and ecosystems diversity; it also hosts a website for children. It publishes the bimonthly journal Biodiversitas, which gives researchers the opportunity to disseminate their work. The website also has an image bank related to biodiversity, in collaboration with various photographers.

In May 2014, the first ever CITES Secretary-General's Certificate of Merit for Science has been awarded to CONABIO, acknowledging CONABIO's participation in the Animals and Plants Committees in recent years. The outstanding input to the work of the Committees, and therefore CITES, was also highlighted with regard to relations between CITES and other bodies, such as the CBD's Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and IPBES.

Source

- Official website of CONABIO (Spanish only): http://www.conabio.gob.mx/;
- CONABIO´s web site for information and resources (Spanish and English): [Online] Available from: http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/index.html [Accessed: 18 February 2015]
- 2012 Publication: CONABIO – Two decades of history, Mexico: [Online] Available from: http://www.conabio.gob.mx/web/pdf/Two_Decades_synthesis_web.pdf [Accessed: 18 February 2015]
- CITES press release: Mexico's scientists commended for contributions to implementation of CITES (2 May 2014): [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/pr/2014/certificate_of_merit-20140505.php [Accessed: 18 February 2015]
- Mexico's 5NR to the CBD (Spanish): [Online] Available from: http://www.biodiversidad.gob.mx/planeta/internacional/pdf/5to_Informe%20MEXICO_2014_EF_PN.pdf [Accessed: 18 February 2015]

With thanks to Dr. Andrea Cruz Angón, CONABIO, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Mexico

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✘	✔

In **Switzerland** an independent body has been created 20 years ago as a platform to strengthen the science-policy interface for decision-making and scientific research related to biodiversity. It is currently expanding its focus beyond only the natural sciences to include members with expertise in social sciences.

Case study 31: Linking biodiversity science with policy - the Swiss Biodiversity Forum

The Swiss Biodiversity Forum is the scientific competence centre for biodiversity in Switzerland, leading research on biodiversity and maintaining dialogue between scientists and decision makers in administration, politic and society. It is part of the Science-Policy platform at the Swiss Academy of Sciences, and was created 15 years ago with its own Secretariat, Steering Committee and Plenary. The Plenary works like a think-tank on biodiversity science-policy and comprises around 40 scientific experts from various academic institutions, conservation practitioners, and government representatives as observers.

Based on the best available knowledge and expertise, the Forum contributes significantly to the implementation of the 2020 Biodiversity targets and acts as an initiator and catalyst to anchor biodiversity in all sectors of policy and society. It has been commissioned by the government to provide scientific information for the CBD and Swiss NBSAP process. In close collaboration with the Federal Office for the Environment, the Forum is also providing a national platform for IPBES, for exchange and collaboration between the international IPBES process and the Swiss policy and science communities on biodiversity, and the public. To foster this exchange, the Swiss Biodiversity Forum organises IPBES workshops in Switzerland (such as the 2nd Pan European Stakeholder Consultation in 2014 in Basel), informs on IPBES on its website and mobilises and nominates experts for IPBES task forces and assessment groups in the current work programme 2014-18. It also supports the Swiss delegation and provides scientific input and advice for IPBES Plenaries since its beginning.

In the future, the Swiss Biodiversity Forum may also be used to catalyse synergies among the conventions, in particular with regards to IPBES.

With thanks to Eva Spehn, Swiss Biodiversity Forum, Swiss Academy of Sciences, for providing information and review of this case study.

For more information please see the Swiss Biodiversity Forum website:
[Online] Available from: http://naturalsciences.ch/organisations/biodiversity [Accessed: 18 February 2015

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Switzerland

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

There are several national platforms in Europe similar to the Swiss Biodiversity Forum which coordinate efforts to engage in IPBES and the Biodiversity-related Conventions, for example the German Network-Forum for Biodiversity Research (NeFo)[36] as well as the newly established German IPBES Coordination Office[37], the Belgian Biodiversity Platform[38], the French Fondation pour la Recherche sur la Biodiversité (FRB)[39], the Portuguese IPBES Platform (Plataforma Portugesa da IPBES, IPBES-pt)[40] and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland[41]. These platforms are currently launching a joint website to align their efforts and build a regional hub on IPBES and Biodiversity-related Conventions and other Science-Policy Interface processes.

36 [Online] Available from: www.biodiversity.de [Accessed: 18 February 2015]
37 [Online] Available from: www.de-ipbes.de [Accessed: 18 February 2015]
38 [Online] Available from: www.biodiversity.be [Accessed: 18 February 2015]
39 [Online] Available from: http://www.fondationbiodiversite.fr [Accessed: 18 February 2015]
40 [Online] Available from: http://ipbes.fc.ul.pt/ [Accessed: 18 February 2015]
41 [Online] Available from: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=5281 [Accessed: 18 February 2015]

4.2.3 Strategies and action plans to strengthen the science-policy interface

Lesotho and **Honduras** both have national plans or strategies to support collaboration on MEAs; although neither explicitly refers to the concept of the science-policy interface, the case studies show the potential of these strategies to increase the links between data and decision-makers, which should encourage parliamentary support for implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions. Mexico's CONABIO and the Swiss Biodiversity Forum give an indication of the future potential for these more recent national initiatives.

Case study 32: An action plan to strengthen the science-policy interface in Honduras

In order to integrate implementation of different MEAs, the Honduran Government developed an Action Plan for 2008-2021. This is based on a Self-Assessment of National Capacity to Comply with MEAs, which looked across various conventions including the CBD and Ramsar Convention, and identified potential synergies, opportunities and national capacity building needs. The self-assessment was part of the international initiative to support National Capacity Self-Assessments (NCSA) in different countries, described in the Capacity building section.

One of the four cross-cutting strategic areas in the Action Plan is policy making and management. Actions under this area include, for example, securing improved technical and scientific input to update the information held by the conventions; and establishing the National Environment and Natural Resources Secretariat as the central coordinator for the Action Plan as a whole, including responsibility for engaging with non-state actors.

The Action Plan also proposes that the NFPs be involved in a national system to monitor implementation of the conventions. The institutions leading on each convention will report regularly on achievements and barriers, and make sure that decision-makers are aware of trends that could affect the achievement of international commitments. A small group of experts will track overall progress and learning, while the National Environment and Natural Resources Secretariat collates information and has overall responsibility for monitoring. The science-policy dialogue would also be strengthened through a proposed communication strategy to ensure open communication channels between the public and non-state sectors, including academia and civil society.

The GEF-funded project "Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to National Reporting to the Rio Conventions" was instrumental to Honduras's action plan. For more information on this, see Box 10, pg. 51

Source

- Government of Honduras. Ed. Miguel Mendieta. Plan de Acción (2008-2021) *Autoevaluación de Capacidades Nacionales para el Cumplimiento de los Compromisos Ambientales Globales.*

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Honduras

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

A case study in the institutional arrangements section (*Case study 11, pg. 33*) describes the work of the Government of Lesotho to establish a National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of MEAs for 2013-2018 ('the National Coordination Strategy'). The successful implementation of this strategy would strengthen the science-policy interface in **Lesotho**.

Case study 33: Improving the link between policy-makers and institutions working on MEA implementation in Lesotho

The situation analysis for the National Coordination Strategy showed that the science-policy interface was not working as it should. For example, the analysis found weak links between policy makers and the institutions working on implementing different conventions. This was partly because funding from international partners was for such tightly-specified projects that these links could not be made, and also because the committees responsible for work on the conventions reported directly to the secretariats and did not report their achievements within government. As a result, the committees were undervalued by policy makers and received little political support.

The National Coordination Strategy proposes that all reporting information flows through the Department of Environment, which should thus be able to report more effectively to the Lesotho Parliament, including regular reports to the Parliament sub-committee on the environment. The Department will act as a platform linking public and private sectors, civil society, academia and development partners. The National MEAs Coordination Committee (described in the Institutional arrangements case study) should further strengthen the science-policy interface as, on the one hand, it will support and monitor the NFPs – receiving information on implementation progress – and on the other hand, will have a role in improving policy, by working to integrate MEA goals into departmental planning, identifying existing national databases that can house MEA indicators, and formulating relevant legislation. Furthermore, as part of the Environment Act 2008, a National Environment Council was established consisting of ministers responsible for key line ministries including representatives from NGOs, the business sector, Youth League, the Council of women and renowned experts as needed. The Council is supposed to meet quarterly.

Source

- Report for Department of Environment, Lesotho, compiled by Nonyana Hoohlo & Associates. *National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Lesotho (2013-2018)*. African Union Commission, July 2013.

The Department of Environment website is [Online] Available from: www.environment.gov.ls [Accessed: 18 February 2015]

With thanks to Ms Qongqong Hoohlo, Department of Environment, Lesotho, for review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Lesotho

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

4.3 REGIONAL LEVEL INITIATIVES

There are various initiatives underway to bring together information on biodiversity in ways that are relevant and accessible for policy makers, whether working at the regional level or working within countries on species that cross international boundaries.

Regional hubs on IPBES and Biodiversity-related Conventions and other SPI processes have already been mentioned in the context of national bodies to strengthen the science policy interface in the sub-section above. One joint activity of the European platform is the annual Pan-European IPBES Stakeholder Consultation (PESC) aiming to inform about, and build capacities to take part in the IPBES processes which started out in 2013[42]. These meetings span countries form 3 UN regions:

42 Pan-European stakeholder consultation to support the inter-sessional process of IPBES (July 2013), [Online] Available from: http://biodiversity.de/index.php/ipbes/nefo-aktivitaeten-zu-ipbes/workshops/pan-european-stakeholder-consultation [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. This regional collaboration will considerably help to organise the regional IPBES assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services planned to cover exactly that region. The second IPBES Pan-European stakeholder meeting (PESC-2) took place in September 2014 in Basel, Switzerland.

The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) ran a series of regional capacity building workshops on indicator development in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as part of the NBSAP updating process. The workshops included one for Francophone Africa on 'Indicators and Integration of CITES and CMS Objectives as part of NBSAP Updating'; this is described in case studies in the NBSAP and Capacity building sections. Other examples include the establishment of the Critical Sites Network (CSN) tool and the European target cross-linking tool, both are described in *section* 3 (*Case study 24, pg. 61* and *Case study 25, pg. 62*).

Also at the regional level, the case study on the **EU BON** shows how this network facilitates access to relevant, up-to-date data on European biodiversity.

Case study 34: Linking biodiversity data and policy through the European Biodiversity Observation Network (EU BON)

EU BON addresses the fact that data sources for informed decision-making on Europe's biodiversity can be fragmented and difficult to access. It provides a data flow for the European biodiversity information needed by decision makers at multiple levels, which not only delivers a regional contribution to the Group of Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), but facilitates the science-policy information exchange within Europe. It is a consortium of 30 partners from 18 countries, running from 2012-2017.

EU BON brings science and policy together by collating existing biodiversity data, integrating it with environmental data (such a remote sensing) and making relevant, near-real-time data accessible, including through a European biodiversity portal. It is developing frameworks for better management and use of biodiversity data at national and regional levels, and internationally, will feed into the secretariats of Biodiversity-related Conventions and IPBES.

The EU BON portal should make it possible for NFPs of Biodiversity-related Conventions to do a quick stock take of available data and generate a first analysis. The accessibility and transparency of the portal means that the same data will be available to all, regardless of which convention they are working on, and will enable NFPs to identify and contact scientists if they need further information.

Stakeholder engagement and science-policy dialogue is one of nine EU BON work packages. Under this work package an assessment of the information available to support implementation of different European directives has, for example, been undertaken. With regard to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, it found that the evidence base is relatively weak (compared to, for example, the Habitats Directive or Birds Directive). In order to address this finding, EU BON is working in partnership with AquaMaps, an organisation that develops maps of predicted fish distribution across the world, and FishBase, the basis of AquaMaps' predictions and a global online searchable database of taxonomic and ecological characteristics of 32,900 fish species. EU BON is refining these maps to make the existing data more relevant and accessible for all interested people and institutes worldwide, including decision makers. One example of the added value is the Regional Assessment of Open Oceans which will be presented for agreement at IPBES 3. The maps should be helpful in complementing the existing data, and giving insights into global marine biodiversity issues.

With thanks to Dr. Ir. Ilse Geijzendorffer, Institut Méditerranéen de Biodiversité et d'Ecologie marine et continentale (IMBE), for providing information and review of this case study.

For more information please see the following websites for:
EU BON [Online] Available from: http://eubon.eu/ [Accessed: 20 February 2015]
AquaMaps [Online] Available from: http://www.aquamaps.org/ [Accessed: 20 February 2015]
FishBase [Online] Available from: http://www.fishbase.org [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

The case study on the **Monitoring Illegal Killing of Elephants** (**MIKE**) programme shows how a single monitoring system is providing robust information not only to elephant range states, but also to CITES, the CMS and WHC. This case study found that in order to be relevant to international bodies, the data must first satisfy needs at the local and national levels.

Case study 35: Providing information on elephant poaching to range states, CITES, the WHC and the CMS through one monitoring programme

The Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme is an international collaboration established by CITES. Implementation began in 2001, and as of 2014, it is in place in 80 sites spread across 44 countries - the entire range of African and Asian elephants. MIKE collates the findings from ranger-based data collection systems and law enforcement monitoring to provide reliable information on levels and trends on elephant poaching, enabling range states to make decisions on management and enforcement. CITES, CMS and the WHC also use MIKE data to inform their own policy development. Experience implementing MIKE has found that in order to ensure that monitoring data meet needs at the international level, the monitoring regime must first serve the needs of the local protected area and wildlife authorities.

Sixteen MIKE sites overlap with World Heritage sites, of which fourteen are in Africa and two in Asia. Through MIKE, CITES analyzes elephant poaching in World Heritage sites, and has found that most of World Heritage sites in elephant range are being seriously affected by poaching. Half of the fourteen African sites are now on the list of World Heritage Sites in Danger, and elephant populations in at least three of these sites are believed to have been reduced to the point of becoming unviable or even locally extinct. In 2013 the Director General of UNESCO and the Secretary-General of CITES jointly expressed concerns over the impacts of poaching and related illicit wildlife trade on World Heritage sites in Africa.

CITES and the CMS also collaborate on the MIKE programme through the CITES-CMS Joint Work Programme. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the secretariats of the CMS and CITES signed in 2002, provides the overall framework for cooperation. Collaboration on elephants focuses on West African elephants, as there is a MoU for these animals under the CMS. Joint activities have a particular focus on MIKE sites and include assisting countries with trans-boundary issues; joint research, reporting, fundraising and outreach; sharing information; and attendance at each other's meetings.

Building up on MIKE, a new programme called Minimising the Illegal Killing of Elephants and other Endangered Species (MIKES) was launched in July 2014[43]. Funded by the European Union and in partnership with the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, the programme aims at minimising the poaching of flagship species in ACP countries.

Sources

- CITES UNESCO calls for closer cooperation with CITES to protect World Heritage Sites. Press release. 2014. [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/eng/UNESCO_calls_for_closer_cooperation_with_CITES [Accessed: 20 February 2015]
- CITES Strategic matters: Cooperation with other organizations: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals. Sixty-fifth meeting of the Standing Committee, Geneva (Switzerland), 7-11 July 2014. SC65 Doc.16.2. [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/com/sc/65/E-SC65-16-02_0.pdf [Accessed: 20 February 2015]
- CITES Interpretation and implementation of the Convention: Species trade and conservation: Elephants: Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants. Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Bangkok (Thailand), 3-14 March 2013. COP16 Doc. 53. [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/cop/16/doc/E-CoP16-53-01.pdf [Accessed: 20 February 2015]
- CITES 2013 Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme. Brochure. 2013. [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/common/prog/mike/brochure.pdf [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

One aspect of the science-policy interface is linking **traditional knowledge** to policy makers. In recognition of the contribution of traditional knowledge to conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems, IPBES adopted 'indigenous knowledge recognition' as a basic operating principle.

43 CITES (2014) European Union invests EUR 12 m to minimize the illegal killing of endangered species [Press release]. [Online] Available from: http://cites.org/eng/node/15766 [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

To that matter IPBES established a taskforce on indigenous and local knowledge systems as part of their work programme 2014–2018, as detailed in IPBES decision 2/5[44]. The link between biological and cultural diversity is also being addressed through regional workshops organized by UNESCO and the Secretariat of the CBD as part of their Joint Programme on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity.

Case study 36: Regional workshops on the links between biological and cultural diversity

UNESCO and the CBD Secretariat launched their Joint Programme on the links between Biological and Cultural Diversity in 2010. With the CBD acting as global focal point for biodiversity, and UNESCO acting as global focal point for cultural diversity, this programme aims to strengthen the linkages between biological and cultural diversity initiatives, enhancing synergies between interlinked provisions of conventions and programmes dealing with biological and cultural diversity. A particular focus of the Joint Programme is the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, linking traditional knowledge to implementation of the conventions.

As part of the Joint Programme, UNESCO and the CBD Secretariat joined forces with various partners to run a series of regional workshops and conferences during 2013-2014. In most regions these were workshops for representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities and NFPs for traditional knowledge, facilitated by the CBD Secretariat. These took place in 2013 in the Latin American and Caribbean region (Bolivia), and in 2014 in Africa (Kenya), Asia (Thailand) and the Pacific region (Samoa). The workshops considered the link between traditional knowledge and policy making through agenda items on 'Exploring the inter-linkages between biological and cultural diversity, and possible implications for policy-makers', and 'Connecting traditional knowledge systems and science'.

The European conference took shape as the First European Conference for the Implementation of the UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme on Biological and Cultural Diversity, in Florence, Italy from 8-11 April 2014. The outcome of the conference included 'the Florence Declaration on the Links between Cultural and Biological Diversity, summarizing possible goals and strategies for implementing the Joint Programme in the European context'. This considered the implications of Europe's biological and cultural diversity for policy makers and for international commitments, and made recommendations, for example that rural and environmental policies should incorporate biological and cultural diversity and the links between them. A further outcome will be a series of scientific papers to be published as a book and a scientific journal issue, as a resource for academics, policy makers and the general public.

The outcomes of all the regional discussions were presented and discussed in the margins of the CBD COP 12 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea, during a full day's discussion on the links between biological and cultural diversity, and possible contributions to the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Sources

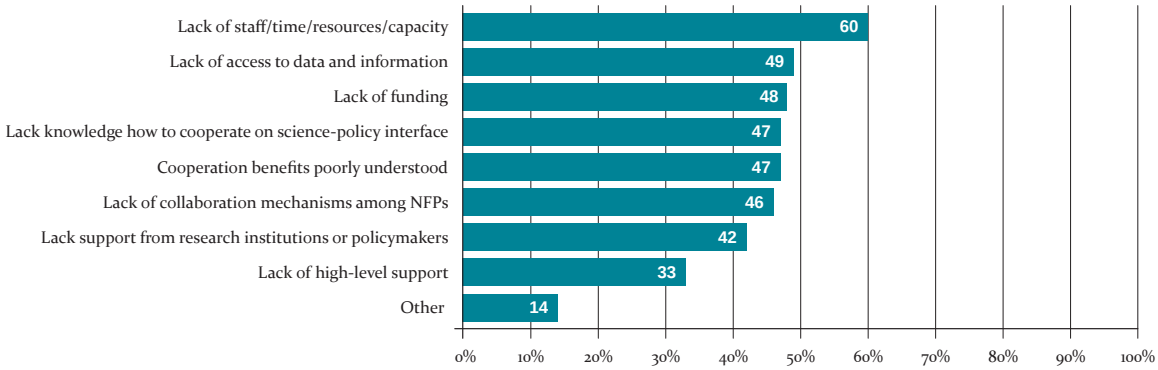
- UNESCO-SCBD Joint Programme on Biological and Cultural Diversity [Online] Available from: http://www.unesco.org/mab/doc/iyb/JointProgramme.pdf [Accessed: 10 March 2015]
- For more information on the European conference visit the following website: [Online] Available from: http://www.unesco.org/new/en/venice/about-this-office/single-view/news/linking_biological_and_cultural_diversity_in_europe#.VBWsqhaqT9c [Accessed: 10 March 2015]
- Regional Capacity-Building Workshop for Asia on Traditional Knowledge and Customary Sustainable Use under the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/A8J/WS/2014/2/1, 6 May 2014)[Online] Available from: www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/tk/8jws-2014-02/official/8jws-2014-02-01-en.doc[Accessed: 20 February 2015]
- The Florence Declaration is [Online] Available from: http://www.iufro.org/download/file/10652/4738/florence14-report_pdf/ [Accessed: 20 February 2015]
- Agenda of the event in the margins of CBD COP 12: [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/traditional/documents/diversity-final-10oct.pdf [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

44 [Online] Available from: http://ipbes.net/images/decisions/Decision%20IPBES_2_5.pdf [Accessed: 10 March 2015]

4.4 OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

4.4.1 Barriers identified in the UNEP Survey 2014

60% of respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 indicated lack of staff, time, resources and/or capacity as a main barrier to cooperation at the science-policy interface. For further identified main barriers please view *Graph 9* below.



Graph 9: Main barriers to cooperation with regard to interfacing science and policy among National Focal Points of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP survey 2014

Interestingly, many of the issues identified as barriers above, are the same issues that respondents reported as benefits from collaboration on the science-policy interface, for example barriers include lack of access to data, funding and political support, while benefits are improved access to data, reduced duplication of work and cost savings, and case studies provided by countries have shown the potential for increased political support.

A notable finding from the UNEP Survey 2014, and the UNEP Montreal Workshop 2014, is there is a high level of uncertainty relating to the concept of the science-policy interface. Nearly half of survey respondents said that they lack knowledge of how to cooperate on strengthening the science-policy interface, and that the benefits of cooperating on these issues are unclear and poorly understood. Also, over 30% of respondents indicated that they did not know if collaboration among NFPs had played a role in strengthening the science-policy interface. Many comments in the survey further indicated that collaborative work on the science-policy interface was relatively new, and had yet to yield significant results or that more work needed to be done in this area. Similarly, when the results of the survey were discussed at the UNEP Montreal Workshop 2014, participants expressed confusion about the concept of the 'science-policy interface' and the role of NFPs. These views highlight the need for clearer guidance on the concept in general, and specifically on the role of NFPs. The IPBES Work Programme (*Box 13, pg. 73*) includes capacity building elements to address this.

4.4.2 Response options

The UNEP Survey 2014, together with further discussions with NFPs and other key stakeholders, and in particular input provided at the UNEP peer-review workshop, identified a number of challenges for cooperation among NFPs, and pointed to some options to address these challenges. A summary of these challenges and response options are provided in *Table 6* and the bullet points from lessons learnt below. In addition, the outputs of the SPIRAL Project may facilitate understanding of the functioning of science-policy interfaces and their benefits for NFP, and other stakeholders (for more information please see the next section 'Useful guidance documents and project information').

Table 6: Summary of the key challenges to cooperation at the national-level with regard to interfacing science and policy, and national and/ or regional-level response options

Challenges/ barriers	Response options (national and regional levels) directed at the political system	Case studies
The political system		
Lack of knowledge on environmental (policy) issues.	1. Foster and enable interdisciplinary exchange and learning by bringing into the process experts and knowledge holders from different sectors/ disciplines and knowledge systems, e.g. traditional and indigenous knowledge. 2. Identify entry points to strengthen the science-policy interface (e.g. for research projects and policy actors to get an overview of the strategic policy contexts of projects). 3. Following a needs assessment, develop a strategy to enhance capacity. 4. Facilitate information- and data exchange (e.g. establishment of a central biodiversity information system supported by a government mandate or use of an existing (global) one, e.g. GBIF). 5. Ensure that units responsible for work on the conventions report not only to the Convention Secretariats, but also report on progress within government (including to Parliament). 6. Make information and data easily accessible and understandable to policy-makers (i.e. indicator development). 7. Foster policy relevance of research (please see the response options addressing challenges with the scientific system)	• Norway (ii) (1,4, 6) *(Case study 28, pg. 75)* • Honduras (1,3, 7) *(Case study 32, pg. 79)* • Lesotho (ii) (3, 5, 7) *(Case study 33, pg. 80)* • Mexico (4) *(Case study 30, pg. 77)* • EU BON (2, 4, 7) *(Case study 34, pg. 81)* • Finland (6) *(Case study 27, pg. 75)* ***Case studies from other sections:*** • Iraq (1,4) *(Case study 17, pg. 54)* • EU Target Cross-cutting tool (4, 6) *(Case study 25, pg. 62)* • The Gambia (4) *(Case study 20, pg. 57)*
Lack of incentives for policy-makers to bring scientists into the decision-making process.	1. Establish an independent technical unit to gather information and communication information that does not only contain experts from government, but also such from other groups (address power imbalance). 2. Develop a framework for improved management and use of biodiversity data (including the identification of entry points). 3. Address power imbalances within and between different groups.	• Honduras (2) *(Case study 32, pg. 79)*

Challenges/ barriers	Response options (national and regional levels) directed at the political system	Case studies
Mainstreaming of biodiversity/ convention objectives across sectors.	1. Identify entry points for mainstreaming activities. 2. Establish a permanent technical unit that provide advice and policy-relevant information to government institutions across sectors and/ or work to integrate MEA goals into departmental planning across sectors and/ or support the formulation of relevant legislation.	• Mexico (1,2) *(Case study 30, pg. 77)* • Lesotho (ii) (1) *(Case study 33, pg. 80)* ***Case studies from other sections:*** • South Africa (1) *(Case study 16, pg. 53)*
Stabilization of political will beyond legislative periods.	1. Develop a MEA Implementation Strategy and assign roles and responsibilities. 2. Set up permanent bodies that strengthen the science-policy interface.	• Honduras (1) *(Case study 32, pg. 79)* • Mexico (2) *(Case study 30, pg. 77)* • Switzerland (2) *(Case study 31, pg. 78)*
Cultural barriers: Identification of a common language to improve mutual understanding of science and policy.	1. Support/ provide a formal and regular platform for dialogue of science and policy and mutual capacity building. 2. Development of indicators through broad collaborative efforts including different groups of stakeholders.	• Honduras (1) *(Case study 32, pg. 79)* • Finland (2) *(Case study 27, pg. 75)* • Norway (ii) (2) *(Case study 28, pg. 75)*
Lack of incorporation of local and traditional knowledge.	1. Full and effective participation of indigenous and traditional knowledge holders in assessment processes (data and information), policy development and implementation, decision-making processes, programmes and projects. 2. Incentivize research and sharing of knowledge. 3. Generate trust with knowledge holders and develop modalities to make knowledge accessible for policy processes and the public.	• Linkages between biological and cultural diversity (2) *(Case study 36, pg. 83)*
The scientific system		
Lack of policy-relevant research (incl. means and methodologies to transfer scientific knowledge to policy).	Strengthen the funding system to ensure that incentives are provided for policy-relevant research (ideally alignment of procedures/ deadlines/ indicators with policy-making processes).	• Mexico *(Case study 30, pg. 77)*
Focus on education/ teaching and knowledge transfer next to research.	1. Develop biodiversity information web portals that reach a broad audience (e.g. special websites for children). 2. Involve the education sector (ministry) into the dialogue platform as suggested above ('cultural barriers').	• Mexico (1) *(Case study 30, pg. 77)* • Finland (1, 2) *(Case study 27, pg. 75)*
Limited knowledge on impacts of research for policy-making/ implementation of matters to reach biodiversity related goals.	Support the development of tools to assess impacts of research for policy-making/ implementation of matters to reach biodiversity related goals.	

4.4.3 Key lessons learnt

This section shows that respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 are benefiting in various ways from cooperation at the science-policy interface for the Biodiversity-related Conventions. The case studies show that many national plans, strategies and initiatives are underway that will strengthen the science-policy interface. Some of these present biodiversity data in ways that are more accessible to decision-makers, such as through national indicator sets. Other examples show some countries are putting mechanisms in place that will link decision-makers to scientists and those with relevant information, so that policies can better reflect data. Making this link can raise the awareness within national governments of progress against the Biodiversity-related Conventions, and thus increase the political support for the conventions.

In summary, and drawing from the table above[45], the following key steps can serve as guidance to strengthen the science-policy interface in countries and/or regions:

- Enhance understanding of relevant processes, associated challenges and where the synergies between the processes are by conducting broad and regular formal and informal stakeholder consultations and reviewing respective research results;
- Identify opportunities (entry points) to strengthen the science-policy interface;
- Develop a national or regional strategy to strengthen the science-policy interface;
- Consider the development of tools to strengthen the science-policy interface;
- Consider the **creation of a national or regional platform, network or other body bridging science and policy** as a very effective means of enhancing synergies at national and/ or regional level. Centres of Excellence, such as CONABIO in Mexico (*Case study 30, pg. 77*), are another good approach. In order to establish such a mechanism, it will be important to conduct a comprehensive assessment of different options available regarding structure, composition, governance, host, key task and responsibilities, funding and status. Central to the success of such an institution will be the embedding of people/a unit whose focus is the science-policy interface.

4.5 USEFUL RESOURCES

Some of the guidance documents in other sections will also be useful for the science-policy interface (e.g. *section* 3)

- **IPBES (2015) Science and policy for people and nature**
  The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services website includes further information on its work programme including its thematic and regional assessments, and development of policy support tools. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.ipbes.net **[Accessed: 23rd of January 2015]**

45 Table 6 builds upon the work of the breakout group on the science-policy interface at the UNEP peer-review workshop. Please see the workshop report for more information. [Online] Available from: wcmc.io/CBDCOP12workshop [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

- **BIP (2015) Tracking global biodiversity**
  The Biodiversity Indicators Partnership's website has various resources, including an e-learning module on 'Developing Biodiversity Indicators'. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.bipindicators.net **[Accessed: 23rd of January 2015]**

- **EU BON (2015) Building the European Biodiversity Observation Network**
  The EU BON project, described in a case study in this section, will be of particular relevance to those in Europe, not least because of the data portal that it is developing. **[Online] Available from:** http://eubon.eu/ **[Accessed: 23rd of January 2015]**

- **AfriBES (2015) Towards a social network of scientific and technical information for Africa**
  The scientific and technical information network on biodiversity and ecosystem services in Africa, aims to develop a social network of scientific and technical information for Africa, with many resources in French. **[Online] Available from:** http://afriseb.net **[Accessed: 23rd of January 2015]**

- **The Biodiversity & Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net)**
  This project stems from the IPBES discussions. Building on existing networks and activities it aims at promoting dialogue between science, policy and practice & building capacity for more effective management of biodiversity and ecosystems worldwide, contributing to long-term human well-being and sustainable development. An explicit objective is also the provision of support to the implementation of the biodiversity-related MEAs and IPBES.

- **The European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7)**
  The EU's main funding instrument (FP7) for research have funded several projects working on the Science-Policy Interface, including;
  - **SPIRAL (2015) Interfacing biodiversity and policy**
    The SPIRAL project studies the science policy interfaces between biodiversity research and policy to improve the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The website includes dozens of short briefs on understanding and strengthening the science-policy interface, including through improved communication, integrating research into policy, and forming alliances. [Online] Available from: www.spiral-project.eu [Accessed: 23rd of January 2015]
  - **BiodiversityKnowledge**
    The Network of Biodiversity Knowledge, are developing a Knowledge Network for European expertise on biodiversity and ecosystem services to inform policy making economic sectors. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.biodiversityknowledge.eu/ **[Accessed: 6th of February 2015]**
  - **Operational Potential of Ecosystem Research Applications (OPERAs)**
    OPERAs is developing ecosystem science for policy and practice to enhance sustainable use of ecosystems. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.operas-project.eu/ **[Accessed: 6th of February 2015]**
  - **Operationalisation of Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services (OpenNESS)**
    OpenNESS aims to translate the concepts of Natural Capital (NC) and Ecosystem Services (ES) into operational frameworks that provide tested, practical and tailored solutions for integrating ES into land, water and urban management and decision-making. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.openness-project.eu/ **[Accessed: 6th of February 2015]**

5. Capacity building

5.1 WHY BUILD CAPACITY TO ENHANCE COOPERATION?

BOX 14: KEY TERMS RELATED TO CAPACITY BUILDING

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, behaviours, motivations, resources and external conditions that enable individuals, organisations, networks and broader social systems to carry out functions and achieve their objectives over time[46].

Capacity building: the process by which individuals and groups, including organisations, institutions and countries, plan, develop, enhance, review and re-organise their systems, resources and knowledge; all reflected in their abilities, individually and collectively, to perform functions, solve problems and achieve objectives[47].

46 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?

47 Based on OECD, glossary of key terms. [Online] Available from: https://search.oecd.org/development/governance-peace/conflictandfragility/whatdowemeanaglossaryofkeyincafterms.htm [Accessed: 11 January 2015]

The previous chapters illustrate the need for and the benefits of enhanced cooperation at national and regional levels among the Biodiversity-related Conventions; this chapter will focus on how to achieve this, and especially how to build engagement and capacity for coherent implementation of the conventions. The focus is on building capacity at the national level, especially the capacity of National Focal Points (NFPs); however, it is important to stress that there is not only a need to build capacity at the individual level, but also at systemic and institutional levels[48]. This is mainly the subject of the other sections of this sourcebook and in particular of the section on institutional arrangements. Capacity to implement the objectives and decisions or resolutions of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) has widely been acknowledged as a key aspect for countries. National capacity may vary considerably between developed and developing country Parties to conventions and treaties as well as within these groups (UNEP-WCMC 2012).

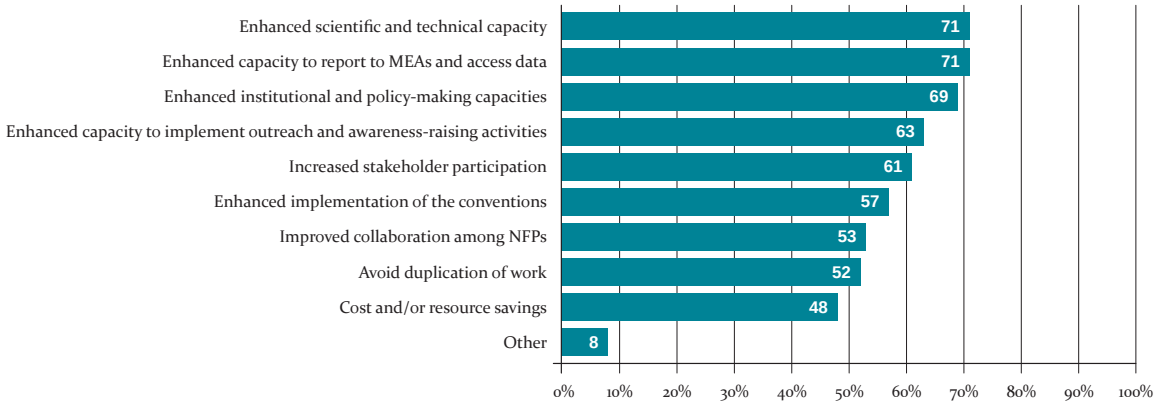
The level of capacity and building capacity, including knowledge sharing, is fundamental to create synergies between MEAs[49] and the cooperation and coordination between NFPs.

Building capacities can effectively enhance the scientific and technical ability to implement the conventions, avoid duplication of work, save costs and optimise the use of resources; for this reason capacity building transects all the other sections of the sourcebook. This is also reflected by the responses received in the UNEP Survey 2014 (*Box 5, pg. 13)* on the benefits of capacity building.

5.1.1 Benefits identified in the UNEP Survey 2014

Responses to the UNEP Survey 2014 indicate three key benefits of capacity building activities for enhancing cooperation and collaboration among NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to be, *enhancing scientific and technical capacity* and *enhanced capacity to report to MEAs*, both indicated by 71 % of questionnaire respondents, As well as *enhanced institutional and policy-making capacities which* was indicated as a main benefit by 69 % of the respondents (*Graph 10*).

Additional benefits identified by a large proportion of the respondents include *enhanced capacity to implement outreach and awareness-raising activities* as well as *increased stakeholder participation*.



Graph 10: Main benefits of conducting joint capacity building activities among National Focal Points of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP survey 2014

48 As highlighted in the introduction to this sourcebook NFPs can either be individually appointed people or institutions

49 On this topic, an example is offered by the CBD COP12 decision XII/17 (doc. UNEP/CBD/COP/12/l.17), at paragraph 14: "Encourages the further development of synergies and a common knowledge base between the different environmental conventions in order to establish a common and comprehensive monitoring framework and indicator system for gender mainstreaming, as appropriate, and taking into account the IUCN Environment and Gender Index"

5.1.2 Opportunities for capacity building

This section aims to offer examples of a wide range of capacity building activities. In particular the organization of workshops as a key training tool, reflecting responses received in the capacity building section of the UNEP Survey 2014 whereby workshops were the most frequently mentioned type of capacity building activity. In total, 44% of the respondents indicated that capacity building activities take place or have taken place to support the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions in their country or region. It should be highlighted that capacity can be built through various means, including through initiatives or activities not directly aimed at capacity building for the coherent implementation of the conventions. This section will reflect this by presenting several examples of measures or activities which may not necessarily be directly targeted at building capacity for cooperation among MEAs, however, such capacity is often strengthened as a result of the respective action. Survey respondents for example often referred to initiatives that simply fostered interaction among NFPs and/or other key stakeholders and experts, or that fostered a common understanding and approach on issues relevant to multiple conventions.

Many of the examples given in the UNEP Survey 2014 are related to initiatives driven by **regional organizations**, such as the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and international bodies, such as the convention secretariats, the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and UNEP. Examples of capacity building activities initiated by national governments were less frequent; again, this trend is reflected in the choice of examples provided in this chapter.

Respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 also referred to successful **National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)** processes, for example one respondent stated that NFPs for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) participated in the NCSA project and the formation of the National Convention Coordination Group (NCCG). In 2003 the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council adopted the Strategic Approach to Capacity Building, to set out ways to help countries meet the objectives of the Rio Conventions. Since then, through a programme jointly implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the GEF has supported 146 developing countries to undertake NCSAs, to determine their own capacity needs to implement MEAs. This recognizes that the best way to marshal resources for the implementation of the three Rio Conventions and other MEAs is by first determining capacity building needs[50]. To ensure that a NCSA is country-driven it is undertaken by national institutions and experts to the extent feasible, and it focuses on national contexts and priorities. Case studies from Lesotho (*Case study 11, pg. 33*) and Honduras (*Case study 32, pg. 79*) in (*sections 2 and 4* respectively) illustrate the outcomes of two NCSA processes.

50 GEF, UNDP, UNEP (2010) National Capacity Self-Assessments: Results and Lessons Learned for Global Environmental Sustainability. 2010. [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/NCSA-SR-web-100913.pdf [Accessed: 10 January 2015]

While NCSAs supported by the GEF mainly focus on the Rio Conventions, capacity building is also a priority for all Biodiversity-related Conventions and is incorporated into many key documents, including some of the convention texts, all the existing strategic plans and many of the specific work programmes. Some conventions have established specific capacity building programmes or mechanisms. For example, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) has a Joint Capacity Building Programme set up by the ITPGRFA, FAO and Bioversity International for developing countries. The World Heritage Convention (WHC) has a World Heritage Capacity Building Strategy (2011) and also supports the development of regional, sub-regional and national capacity building strategies.

For a review of the role that capacity building plays in the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and treaties, and its potential for developing cooperation and synergies between the conventions see UNEP-WCMC (2012)[51].

BOX 15: INTERGOVERNMENTAL PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES) TASK FORCE ON CAPACITY BUILDING

In December 2014, the second session of the IPBES Plenary adopted a work programme for 2014-2018 which addressed all four of the Platform's identified functions: promotion and implementation of assessments; identification of key knowledge needs and catalysing efforts to address those needs; developing and facilitating the development of policy support tools and methodologies; and promoting and supporting capacity building relevant to achieving the Platform's objective and implementing its work programme.

The adopted work programme includes two deliverables explicitly related to capacity building, although by their very nature these are cross-cutting across the whole work programme. These deliverables are: (a) priority capacity building needs to implement the Platform's work programme matched with resources through catalysing financial and in-kind support; and (b) capacities needed to implement the Platform's work programme developed. In order to support implementation of this part of the work programme, the IPBES Plenary established a Task Force on Capacity Building.

The Task Force on Capacity Building is helping IPBES to build capacity through four interrelated strands of work that are not only relevant to IPBES, but also more broadly supportive for implementation of MEAs at appropriate levels. These strands of work are: identifying priority capacity building needs; identifying and facilitating ways to match priority needs with available technical and financial resources; developing and implementing a programme on fellowships, exchange and training; and building networks of institutions that will support improved capacity building.

At the third session of the IPBES plenary, a list of priority capacity-building needs was approved, placing emphasis on: ability to engage in the work of the Platform; implementation and use of national ecosystem assessment; integration of indigenous and local knowledge into the Platform's activities; and pilot or demonstration projects on key issues. Some of this will be addressed through use of the IPBES Trust Fund (for example for a fellowship programme, and a number of training workshops), but it is also anticipated that support for other activities will be found through a new IPBES "matchmaking facility", and through a forum with donors. Many of these activities are as relevant to MEAs as they are to IPBES.

51 UNEP-WCMC (2012) Promoting Synergies within the Cluster of Biodiversity-Related Multilateral Environmental Agreements. WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

5.2 EXAMPLES OF COOPERATION IN CAPACITY BUILDING FOR THE COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTIONS

With regard to capacity building activities at the national level, respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 indicated that in over 80% of cases, collaboration among NFPs played a role in developing or implementing the activities. Respondents gave examples of NFP involvement, including requesting or organizing training sessions to better understand the function and national implementation of MEAs, and sharing information with other NFPs to incorporate lessons learnt to increase the success of project implementation. It should be noted that these examples mainly apply in an environment where collaboration and cooperation between NFPs of the different Biodiversity-related Conventions is already working- whether formal or informal. In other words, collaboration already requires a certain level of acquired capacity in many instances.

5.2.1 Capacity building initiatives within a government: training, mentoring and staff rotation

The responses to the UNEP Survey 2014 and subsequent discussions with partners suggested that capacity building aimed to address the coordination of activities to implement multiple conventions is less likely to be organised by single national governments, and is instead more likely to derive from regional or international initiatives. Training on biodiversity-related issues at the national level instead tends to focus on convention-specific training, or particular thematic issues that may be of relevance for the implementation of multiple MEAs. However, there are notable exceptions where countries focus specifically on cross convention capacity building initiatives, in particular in the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) process. For example, under "Strategy A: Harmonization of biodiversity-related international conventions", Nepal's NBSAP lists, among other objectives, the aim to develop and implement joint capacity building programmes for the NFPs of biodiversity-related MEAs (*Case study 46, pg. 117*), and during the revision of the latest NBSAP of Mozambique, members of Mozambique's Biodiversity Unit (*Case study 49, pg. 120*), had to participate in at least one of five working groups, one of which was a working group on capacity building for NBSAP implementation.

In considering informal cooperation mechanisms among NFPs, UNEP Survey 2014 respondents stressed the need for **mentoring,** amongst other forms of cooperation. Whenever a new person is assigned MEA-related work, and in particular the role of a NFP, he/she should be mentored and guided, ideally by the person who had previously been assigned to that work and role. Most importantly the new person needs to be introduced to the formal/ informal network, including to NFPs of the other Biodiversity-related Conventions and their work. A respondent from **Uganda,** for example, highlighted that mentoring regularly occurs whenever a new person is assigned to MEA related work. Typically the new person seeks out the previous post holder or a more senior member of the staff, in order to get mentored and educated on the modalities and technicalities involved. However mentoring doesn't necessarily have to take the form of face-to-face interaction, but can also be undertaken through e-mentoring programmes, i.e. learning forums.

Furthermore, a **staff rotation policy** can build capacity by broadening the experience and connections of staff, and may be of particular value in a country where a formal cooperation mechanism is not yet established or not working. Such a policy can also be valuable, in the case of a well-established cooperation mechanism, to foster a common understanding of the technical issues involved with the different Biodiversity-related Conventions, and thus foster a coherent and efficient approach to their implementation.

However, it is also important to consider the potential impacts of frequent staff turnover and the potential loss of continuity. Nonetheless, moving staff members between ministries can be particularly helpful when NFPs of the different conventions are housed in different ministries. An example from **Japan** illustrates one way to ensure that government officials have suitable expertise in implementing multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions within the Ministry of the Environment.

Case study 37: Staff rotation in Japan's Environment Ministry

The Environment Ministry of Japan has a policy of moving its staff to different roles every two to three years, so that their staff gains a wide range of experiences in different areas of the Ministry. This often means that staff can gain experience with a number of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as they become 'generalists' rather than specialists with any single convention or topic. As a result, there are a number of colleagues that any staff member can turn to for advice on implementing a particular convention, as they are very likely to have worked on it at some point in their career.

One example is Naoki Amako, who has dealt with four different conventions during his time at the Ministry. As a ranger, Naoki was involved in the Convention concerning the protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC) inscription process; in other positions he has worked directly on implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), and has also been asked to attend the CBD Conference Of the Parties (COP) to add expertise on some specific issues.

With thanks to Naoki Amako, Ministry of the Environment, Japan, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Japan

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

5.2.2 Capacity building initiatives at the regional level

Many respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 indicated that regional organisations are well placed to enhance cooperation of NFPs at the national level. These organizations have regional expertise and close links with NFPs of different countries, so they can provide guidance and input where necessary. They also provide opportunities for NFPs from several countries to come together, in order to share best practices and experiences in dealing with the challenges their particular region faces, identifying potential issues and methods for collaboration.

During the initial discussions of their meeting in Geneva in September 2013, the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) generally noted the effectiveness of regional approaches in enhancing support to countries. In that context, the BLG mentioned CITES-related support to the development of legislation and electronic permitting in member countries of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO) as well as CITES Parties in the Caribbean and the Pacific, and the legislative early actions initiative of the Central African Forest Commission (Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale; COMIFAC) under the Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund.

The case study below describes the **East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABII).** This is a regional training programme that builds key skills (namely, taxonomy), that are useful for multiple conventions, especially CITES and the CBD.

The training programme does not seek to enhance cooperation among MEAs, but benefits different MEAs separately and thereby by virtue of meeting the needs of multiple conventions at once, is one example of synergies in practice.

Case study 38: Regional training to develop capacity in taxonomy in Southeast Asia

The East and Southeast Asia Biodiversity Information Initiative (ESABII) is an international program run by the region's governments and agencies responsible for biodiversity conservation. The lack of trained human resources and the inadequate capacity in taxonomy have been stressed as obstacles to the implementation of commitments under the Biodiversity-related Conventions in South East Asia. Insufficient taxonomic capacity for data collection and analysis exacerbates the lack of scientific information on biodiversity in the region. ESABII was therefore launched to pursue capacity building in taxonomy and develop an information system on biodiversity in East and Southeast Asia. This can contribute to biodiversity conservation, regional implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 , and implementation of commitments under CITES.

ESABII organizes workshops for taxonomic capacity building for young researchers and officials involved in biodiversity conservation. These can be for specific countries (e.g. ESABII has run training courses on CITES policies and identification of species commonly found in trade in various countries) or on the taxonomy of certain groups, such as coral and terrestrial plants (dictos) of Southeast Asia. ESABII also runs Train the Trainer workshops and has released several manuals and species identification guides.

More information on ESABII is [Online] Available from: http://www.esabii.biodic.go.jp/training/index.html [Accessed: 10 January 2015]

As a very recent example of a regional capacity building initiative for the benefit of NFPs and other key stakeholders tasked with the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, **SPREP** hosted a joint preparatory meeting for three upcoming Conferences of the Parties (COPs) to Biodiversity-related Conventions in Fiji, in August 2014. In response to a call from Pacific island states for support to synergise efforts in meeting their obligations under the different agreements, it was the first time that a joint preparatory COPs meeting was held for the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

Case study 39: An example from the pacific region: a synergistic approach to support preparations for the biodiversity MEA COPs

The Pacific Joint Preparatory Meeting to the CBD COP 12, Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) COP 11 and Ramsar Convention COP 12 was held in Nadi, Fiji from 11 to 15 August 2014. 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. Countries represented included the Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Partners and stakeholders also came from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, UNDP, WWF Pacific, UNEP and the Secretariats of the CBD, CMS, Ramsar Convention, CITES and SPREP.

In order to prepare for the biodiversity COPs in an integrated manner, participants provided input and discussed linkages on issues under the different biodiversity related conventions. For example, issues on marine and coastal biodiversity were looked at in the context of the CBD, CMS, Ramsar Convention and CITES and the relevance of these issues to the Pacific. Although CITES had already held its COP, key issues that came out of the CITES COP were shared at the joint preparatory meeting. A special panel session on 'Opportunities to strengthen synergies among biodiversity-related [MEAs]' was useful to show the actions and progress made at the Secretariat level, and produced a set of draft recommendations to be presented in the next section on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the NBSAP revision process.

Key agenda items on the last day were the development of a 'Pacific Voyage: One Pacific Voice outreach campaign' and the development of consolidated key messages, activities and a Roadmap for Pacific Engagement at CBD COP 12, CMS COP 11, Ramsar Convention COP 12, World Parks Congress (WPC) and other key biodiversity events.

Participants at the meeting commended SPREP's initiative to convene a joint preparatory meeting for CBD COP 12, CMS COP 11 and Ramsar Convention COP 12 as a historic achievement for the Pacific Islands region, where multiple conventions came together as part of preparations for their COPs to look at synergies and possible harmonization of each other's work programmes. It was suggested that this integrated approach should continue in the future, if funding permits, and future events could involve more stakeholders, such as those that are involved in issues related to cultural heritage and traditional knowledge and practices.

Commenting on the success of the meeting, Makiko Yashiro, UNEP MEA Regional Focal Point for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) said: *"With different countries being party to all, several or just one of the three different biodiversity-related MEAs, bringing all the parties together for the first time is a new milestone that will help make the work of the parties much easier. It will help harmonise and synergise efforts to implement national obligations under these agreements by assisting with administrative demands at the national level but more importantly, it will help with better protection of our Pacific biodiversity."*

More information is [Online] Available from: https://www.sprep.org/biodiversity-ecosystems-management/working-together-to-protect-pacific-biodiversity-across-the-region-and-across-different-global-agreements [Accessed: 10 January 2015]

Or contact: Ms. Easter Galuvao, SPREP Secretariat Biodiversity Adviser or Makiko Yashiro, UNEP MEA Regional Focal Point

Joint preparatory meetings build national capacity by enabling countries to share experiences and be more prepared for the COPs. It fosters coherent policy-making, nationally and regionally, and enables a region's countries to speak with a more united voice at COP negotiations, and plan a more effective subsequent implementation of decisions.

The **Central African Forest Commission (Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale; COMIFAC)** (see *Case study 14*) is another example of a regional organisation which has already organised several joint meetings or workshops involving the NFPs of at least two MEAs of their members and which are designed to explore links and common approaches. In 2011, COMIFAC organised a sub-regional workshop on the link between climate change and land degradation which brought together the NFPs of UNFCCC and UNCCD. In 2012, COMIFAC organized a workshop on the "climate change scenarios in the Congo Basin" with the NFP of CBD, UNFCCC and UNCCD. In 2013 and 2014 the organisation hosted two workshops which involved the NFPs of the CBD, the UNFCCC and the National Coordinator of REDD+. In 2014 COMIFAC also organised two meetings on the sustainable management of Protected Areas and wildlife for pairs of NFPs for two Biodiversity-related conventions: CITES and CBD.

5.2.3 Capacity building initiatives by convention secretariats and other international bodies

Capacity building initiatives that foster the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions include (joint) preparatory meetings for upcoming COPs, joint workshops to support integration of Biodiversity-related Conventions objectives in NBSAPs as well as the creation of networks of NFPs of site-based agreements and site managers.

Regional (joint) preparatory COP-meetings

The Pacific Joint Preparatory meeting to the COPs presented in the previous section also facilitated further joint discussions sessions at subsequent preparatory COP meetings organized by convention Secretariats. The CMS secretariat hosted a CMS preparatory COP meeting for the Asia and the Pacific region (ROAP) in 2014, which was held back-to-back with the joint preparatory COPs meeting in Fiji. The participants of the Ramsar Convention pre-COP consultation (running in parallel) joined the CMS meeting for a while for a brainstorming session on ideas for a potential regional project on CMS-related issues (Protection of Breeding Areas for Threatened Migratory Species of Birds/Turtles, and Sharks and Rays Project in the Pacific Region). This enabled the Ramsar Convention representatives to provide inputs, highlighting potential linkages and benefits of the projects to the Ramsar Convention (namely their relevance to the Ramsar Convention core principles - wise use of wetlands, contribution and benefits to local communities, etc). Another example where a regional preparatory meeting for a meeting of the governing body of a convention also included a discussion on synergies among the Biodiversity-related Conventions is the CMS COP 11 Regional Preparatory and Negotiation Workshop for Africa, held from 21 to 23 September 2014[52].

Joint workshops

Many respondents to the UNEP survey 2014 and interview partners also referred to workshops to support the NBSAP revision process. Following the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at CBD COP 10, the second series of capacity building workshops for the revision and updating of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) was launched[53].

52 Other regional CMS preparatory workshops in 2014 include: Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 26-28 September 2014; the Pacific, Nadi, Fiji, 17-20 August 2014; Latin America, Santiago de Chile, Chile, 11-13 August 2014.

53 CBD (2015) NBSAP capacity building workshops for implementing the new Strategic Plan through NBSAPs. [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/workshops/default.shtml [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

Prior to CBD COP 10, participants at the first high-level retreat of the BLG in September 2010 had already agreed 'to coordinate capacity-building activities in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020' and that all Biodiversity-related Conventions should be invited to contribute to and participate in the regional and sub-regional capacity building workshops for the revision and updating of NBSAPs' (page 3 of the meeting report). In the implementation of that agreement, synergies and collaboration, both at the national and international levels, between all Biodiversity-related Conventions were regularly highlighted at regional workshops on updating NBSAPs and target-setting.

The following two workshops stand out with regard to promoting synergies among the Biodiversity-related Conventions, because both meetings specifically focused on the integration of CMS and CITES objectives into NBSAPs.

Case study 40: Regional capacity-building workshop on integration of CMS and CITES objectives into NBSAPs

A capacity-building workshop for thirteen Anglophone African countries was held on 26 – 28 November 2012 in Harare, Zimbabwe. The workshop brought together 46 National Focal Points of CBD, CMS and CITES to discuss how to integrate the objectives of the Biodiversity-related Conventions into the updating of NBSAPs. UNEP, in collaboration with the Secretariats of CBD and CMS, organized and conducted the workshop.

The workshop report stated that the workshop successfully 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. It was agreed that CBD NFPs will be central to facilitating an inclusive and collaborative process with other MEA NFPs towards updating and implementing the NBSAPs. 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.

For more information about the workshop see Case study 52, pg. 127, as well as the workshop report, which can be accessed through the following CMS website: http://www.cms.int/en/activities/capacity-building/meetings.

Due to the very positive feedback of participants at the workshop in Harare, as well as the active support of the UNEP Regional MEA focal point for Africa, Kamar Yousuf, a **second workshop on the integration of CITES and CMS objectives into NBSAPs was organised under the umbrella of the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership (BIP)**.

Case study 41: Workshop on "indicators and integration of CITES and CMS objectives as part of NBSAP updating" for Francophone Africa

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. The international participants included UNEP, the Secretariat of the CMS, the Central African Forest Commission (COMIFAC) and the Organisation for the Environment and Sustainable Development (OPED).

The workshop was funded by UNEP and organised jointly by various UNEP bodies, namely the UNEP Regional Office for Africa, UNEP Department of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELC) and UNEP WCMC, in collaboration with the Secretariats of the CBD, CITES and CMS, and the Ministry for the Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development of Cameroon. The programme consisted of a mix of presentations, interactive group work and training exercises designed to promote the identification of synergies and development of national targets and indicators as part of the NBSAP updating process.

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.

For more information please see the workshop report(in French) [Online] Available from: http://www.bipindicators.net/nationalindicatordevelopment/workshopsprojects/francophoneafricaworkshop [Accessed: 10 January 2015]

In addition to workshops on the NBSAP revision process, respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 and follow-up interviews also mentioned workshops on the topics of access and benefit-sharing, protected areas and invasive alien species (IAS). A joint workshop on the topic of **benefit-sharing in genetic resources** held in June 2014 in Rome, had a format that could potentially be replicated on other thematic issues relevant to multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions. The workshop aimed specifically at enhancing cooperation among the focal points of ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol.

Case study 42: A tandem workshop for NFPs of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol

This workshop for NFPs of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol (held in June 2014, in Rome, Italy) built on the outcome of an expert workshop that explored issues related to the interface between these two agreements. The workshop was jointly organised by the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and Bioversity International in cooperation with the Secretariats of the CBD and the ITPGRFA.

The aim was to bring together the NFPs of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol to demonstrate linkages between the Treaty and the Protocol. To ensure collaboration between the two respective NFPs from each country, all NFPs had to register for, and participate in the workshop together (as 'NFP pairs'). Over 20 NFP pairs attended the workshop, some of whom officially interacted for the first time. They discussed legal, practical and policy issues, and the workshop stimulated fruitful discussions between the different actors involved in the implementation of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol. Presentations of relevant case studies highlighted opportunities for the NFPs to collaborate, including joint presentations from some of them on how they are dealing with the interface. One such example from Rwanda showed how having a single focal point for both agreements was a way to integrate that implementation, and that the priorities of both conventions were included in a comprehensive access and benefit-sharing regime.

With thanks to Kent Nnadozie, Senior Technical Officer with the International Treaty, for providing information and review of this case study.

For more information, see the expert workshop report [Online] Available from: http://www.abs-initiative.info/fileadmin//media/Events/2013/29-31_January_2013__Rome__Italy/ITPGRFA-NP_Rome_Expert_WS_29-31012013_Report.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

Other regional workshops convened jointly by convention secretariats, include the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the CBD regional workshops on the links between biological and cultural diversity as part of their joint programme. For more information on these, see *Case study 36* in *section 4*. An example of a joint workshop of the CBD and the UNCCD is the recently held workshop on synergies for the design, development and implementation of NBSAPs and National Action Programmes (NAPs) in Cairo, Egypt, in November 2014.

Establishment of networks

Some respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 and many interview partners also highlighted the establishment of networks of NFPs and potentially other stakeholders as important tools for capacity building for the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

The case study below describes an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)-managed project that will develop best practice guidance to improve the integrated management of sites with overlapping international designations under the World Heritage- and the Ramsar Conventions - the two site-based international conservation conventions. This project will involve seminars and pilot areas, and will lead to the establishment of a network for managers of sites with overlapping international designations. A case study in the following chapter describes the opportunities for close cooperation arising from the overlap between many World Heritage sites and Ramsar sites (*Case study 43, pg. 101*). **Collaboration among NFPs and site managers** can efficiently promote synergistic implementation of different conservation instruments in protected areas. Furthermore, joint capacity building between NFPs and site managers reduces the risk of duplicate reporting and management actions.

Case study 43: Developing best practice guidance through a partnership project on the integrated management of protected areas with overlapping international designations

The project on Improving the Integrated Management System of Protected Areas with Overlapping International Designations 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 final publication will be available in English, French, Spanish and Korean on the IUCN, Ramsar and UNESCO websites.

Managers of protected areas with overlapping international designations should benefit from the final guidance document as it aims to encourage efficient and effective management. The managers will be involved as the project progresses, through at least one joint seminar to identify lessons learnt and key issues, and the proposed network to enhance communication between managers and with NFPs (such as those for the Ramsar- and World Heritage conventions). They can also provide case studies and respond to a consultation on the final guidance document. NFPs are also part of the intended audience for the guidance. A cooperative work programme among the international organisations with responsibilities for international protected areas will include steps to coordinate their advice to site managers on the best use of the different international conservation instruments.

Source

- Kim, Y; Kim, T; Chung, D; Suh, Y and Badman, T (2014). Improving the Integrated Management System of Protected Areas with Overlapping International Designations (Project Terms of Reference)

With thanks to Tim Badman, Director, IUCN World Heritage Programme, for providing information and review of this case study.

Other joint capacity building initiatives promoted by convention secretariats do not target NFPs, rather other key actors for the implementation of the conventions. Under the Green Customs Initiative for example, specific training programmes are provided to increase the skills of customs officials who enforce implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions, including CITES, at national borders.[54] Other collaborative efforts of CITES can be found in its cooperation with the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICCWC)[55] and with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) regarding trade in tropical timber.[56]

54 Green Customs (2015) The Green Customs Initiative – customs protecting the environment. [Online] Available from: www.greencustoms.org [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

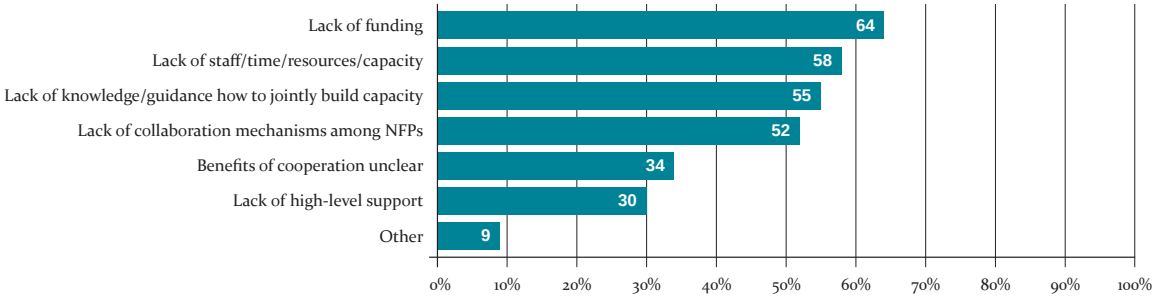
55 CITES (2015) The International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime. [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/ICCWC.php [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

56 CITES (2015) Cooperation between CITES and ITTO regarding trade in tropical timber [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/eng/res/14/14-04C15.php and ITTO-CITES programme on tree species [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/eng/prog/itto.php [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

5.3 OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

5.3.1 Barriers identified in the UNEP Survey 2014

Responses to the UNEP Survey 2014 pointed to a range of challenges for capacity building activities to support the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. *Lack of funding* was the most frequently identified barrier to implementing joint capacity building activities at the national level (*Graph 11*). Over half of respondents also indicated that *lack of knowledge or guidance* on how to implement such capacity building activities was a significant challenge.



Graph 11: Main barriers to conducting joint capacity building activities among National Focal Points of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP survey 2014

5.3.2 Response options

The UNEP Survey 2014, together with further discussions with NFPs and other key stakeholders and a review of grey literature identified a number of barriers or challenges for conducting capacity building initiatives, as well as a number of response options to address these challenges. *Table 7* below presents a summary of identified challenges, potential response options and links these to case studies presented in this sourcebook. Please note that this table of challenges and response options is not exhaustive and stakeholders may find other more relevant issues within their national contexts.

Table 7: Summary of key challenges for building capacity to enhance cooperation, and national and/ or regional-level response options

Challenges/Barriers	Response options at the national and regional levels	Case studies
Lack of collaboration mechanisms among NFPs.	1. Strengthen collaboration mechanisms among NFPs in general (see section 2 on institutional arrangements). 2. Foster meetings and workshops that bring together NFPs of multiple conventions at the national and/ or regional level. 3. Create networks of NFPs and potentially other stakeholders engaged in MEA implementation. 4. Implement a staff rotation policy that can enhance the experience and connections of staff. 5. Organize trainings across government departments, ministries and potentially regions.	• NBSAP workshop 2012, Zimbabwe (i) (1,2) *(Case study 40, pg. 98)* • NBSAP workshop 2013, Cameroon (i) (1,2) *(Case study 41, pg. 99)* • Tandem workshop (1,2) *(Case study 42, pg. 100)* • Integrated Management System of Protected Areas (2, 3) *(Case study 43, pg. 101)* • Japan (4) *(Case study 37, pg. 94)*

Challenges/Barriers	Response options at the national and regional levels	Case studies
Lack of staff, time, resources and knowledge/ skills.	1. Generally: start small and demonstrate the value of capacity building to superiors and donors. 2. Conduct capacity self-assessments, ie. NCSAs in order to develop a targeted capacity building strategy. 3. Conduct a budget review and evaluate the availability of financial support in general. 4. Based on the capacity needs and the availability of funds, develop a capacity building strategy, which e.g. ensures that "the right staff" receives "the right training" at "the right time". 5. Request/ organize trainings across government departments, ministries and potentially regions. 6. Foster meetings and workshops that bring together NFPs of multiple conventions at the national and/ or regional level. 7. Reach out to regional and international organizations for support.	• Training workshops (ESABII) (5) *(Case study 38, pg. 95)* • NBSAP workshop 2012, Zimbabwe (i) (6) *(Case study 40, pg. 98)* • NBSAP workshop 2013, Cameroon (i) (6) *(Case study 41, pg. 99)* ***Case studies from other sections:*** • Lesotho (i) (2,3,4) *(Case study 11, pg. 33)* • Honduras (2,3,4) *(Case study 32, pg. 79)* • Nepal (i) (5) *(Case study 46, pg. 117)*
Sustainability of capacity building.	1. Capitalize on the momentum created through the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity as a UN-system wide plan and in particular the availability of regional and global level support, including for funding of activities. 2. Create an institutional memory, by e.g. creating a (formal or informal) mechanism for cooperation and information exchange and ensure regular participation of key stakeholders. 3. Ensure transmission of knowledge generally by e.g. establish mentoring mechanisms or staff rotation schemes. 4. Ensure transmission of knowledge following training and workshops by tasking participants to share their knowledge with their colleagues, including at coordination meetings. 5. Foster follow-up activities after trainings and workshops (national and regional). 6. Incentivize regional exchange and/ or South-South exchange in particular in follow-up to regional meetings. 7. Identify regional leaders as a means to ensure follow-up to outcomes. 8. Mainstream education/ training on biodiversity and Biodiversity-related Conventions into curricula of universities and other higher education institutions.	• NBSAP workshop 2012, Zimbabwe (i) (1) *(Case study 40, pg. 98)* • NBSAP workshop 2013, Cameroon (i) (1) *(Case study 41, pg. 99)* • NBSAP workshop 2013, Cameroon (i) (1) *(Case study 41, pg. 99)* • Japan (3) *(Case study 37, pg. 94)* ***Case studies from other sections:*** • Mozambique (i) (2) *(Case study 7, pg. 30)*

Challenges/Barriers	Response options at the national and regional levels	Case studies
Lack of high level support.	1. Capitalize on the momentum created through the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity as a UN-system wide plan and in particular the availability of regional and global levels support, including for funding of activities. 2. Based on capacity self-assessments, advocate for and identify the key benefits of capacity building, i.e. cost and time savings. 3. Initiate and continuously foster capacity building at the organizational level (systemic changes), including coordination mechanisms and partnerships *(please view section 2 on institutional arrangements)*.	• NBSAP workshop 2012, Zimbabwe (i) (1) *(Case study 40, pg. 98)* • NBSAP workshop 2013, Cameroon (i) (1) *(Case study 41, pg. 99)*
Lack of knowledge/ guidance on how to implement joint capacity building activities.	1. Reach out to capacity building partners or colleagues who have the relevant knowledge/ experience (at national, regional and global levels). 2. Develop a capacity building strategy through active involvement of key stakeholders. 3. Foster meetings and national and/ or regional training workshops that bring together NFPs of multiple conventions at the national and/ or regional level.	• NBSAP workshop 2012, Zimbabwe (i) (1,3) *(Case study 40, pg. 98)* • NBSAP workshop 2013, Cameroon (i) (1,3) *(Case study 41, pg. 99)* • Tandem workshop (1,2,3) *(Case study 42, pg. 100)*
Different COP cycles and high number of meetings of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.	1. Identify agenda items of relevance for multiple conventions. 2. Organize joint preparatory meetings or workshops to multiple conventions for NFPs and other key stakeholders (ideally when meeting documents are already available). 3. Organize joint sessions in the margins of preparatory COP meetings of conventions (or other relevant schedules meetings) on issues of relevance for multiple conventions. 4. Develop a national and/ or regional MEA strategy/ position paper. 5. Integrate and share key issues of recent COPs in workshop material.	• Pacific Joint Preparatory COPs Meeting (1,2,4,5) (Case study 39, pg. 96)

Additional guidance from other sections

With regard to the challenge "lack of time and resources", the *Resource mobilisation* section describes ways to overcome the shared challenge of finding resources to implement the conventions.

Section 2 on *Institutional arrangements* provides several examples on how to overcome the challenge *"Lack of collaboration mechanisms among NFPs"*, including the establishment of **formal coordination bodies**, i.e. the Conventions team in Norway or steering committees, i.e. Cameroon's Inter-ministerial Biodiversity Committee and **informal groups** of stakeholders, i.e. Palau's Conservation Consortium.

5.3.3 Key lessons learnt

Drawing on the case study examples, the response options identified in the table above as well as input by a range of interview partners, there are a number of lessons learnt that should be considered in order to successfully enhance capacity-building of NFPs for the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions:

- **Identify capacity building needs** for the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the national, sub-national and regional levels. Available options include conducting a capacity self-assessment. Thereby it will be of paramount importance to define the target groups of capacity building.
- **Analyse the pros and cons** of fostering national and/ or regional capacity building initiatives and how to ensure complementarity of activities undertaken.
- **Evaluate the availability of financial support** for joint-capacity building activities, in particular in the context of NBSAP revision and implementation. *For more information, please view section 7 on resource mobilisation.*
- Based on the capacity needs assessment and the funds available, **develop a capacity building strategy** which can also be part of a wider strategy to enhance the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.
- Establishment of **coordination mechanisms among NFPs and other key stakeholders** or the organisation of joint meetings of NFPs and regular exchange are a useful form of capacity building to support the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. *For more information, see section 2 on institutional arrangements.* This can support the creation of a permanent community of learning and practice, also based on information and communication technology (ICTS) and social networks.
- **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. Use of online tools should also be considered where appropriate.
- **Communicate widely** on the outcomes of meetings of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and emerging issues via websites, newsletters etc. with a special focus on issues of relevance for multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions.
- Plan and implement participatory **monitoring & evaluation** of capacity building programmes.
- **At the national (and sub-national) level**:
  - **Foster institutional capacity building initiatives and systems** for the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, e.g. ministry staff rotation policy, informal exchange and establishment of formal cooperation mechanisms (including NFPs as well as potentially other key stakeholders across government departments and sectors as well as from civil society) - the guidance section in section 2 on *Institutional arrangements* describes further options.
  - **Training of NFPs** and more general training related to the Biodiversity-related Conventions for government and public institutions officials should not only be conducted within the same department of each institution, especially when NFPs are housed in different departments or ministries. There is a need to organise more workshops or other training activities for NFPs and other key stakeholders across departments and sectors, at a national level.

  - Develop mentoring frameworks and promote various mentoring programs suitable to common objectives of MEAs. Mentoring can take different forms, e.g. face-to-face interaction or it can also be undertaken through e-mentoring programmes, i.e. learning forums.

- **Foster meetings or workshops that bring together NFPs** from multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions, either at national and/ or at regional level (including NFPs across departments and sectors).

- Capitalise on opportunities arising from initiatives by regional and/ or international organizations and institutions to enhance coordination and collaboration at the national level.
  - **Regional organisations are well placed** to support the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the national level (e.g. by having regional NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions who ensure coordination of their work).
  - Although still limited in number, **co-hosted workshops** organized by Convention Secretariats and UN agencies as well as regional and sub-regional organizations are particularly important and efficient for the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.
  - **Joint preparatory COP meetings** can significantly contribute to the preparation of countries towards upcoming COPs and **workshops for multiple NFPs per country** are particularly suited to tackle emerging issues of common concern for multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions. Potential topics for the latter are in particular the formulation of a regional biodiversity strategy and action plan and the revision and implementation of NBSAPs (including e.g. indicator development).

- The model of ad-hoc intensive training for NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and other key stakeholders should not be the only tool to enhance national capacity for coherent implementation of the conventions. Wider educational efforts should be undertaken to mainstream education/ training on biodiversity and Biodiversity-related Conventions into curricula of universities and other higher education institutions.

5.4 USEFUL RESOURCES

- **GEF (2014) Building capacity to implement the Nagoya Protocol: a review of GEF support**
  The publication summarises the work in matter of ABS and in capacity building on ABS by the Global Environment Facility (financial and technical assistance), with useful perspectives on how to get access to funds. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/10842 **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

- **UNEP (2013) Indicators and integration of CITES and CMS objectives as part of NBSAP updating**
  This workshop report provides more information on indicator development for identifying synergies between the different MEAs, as part of the NBSAP updating process. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.bipindicators.net/nationalindicatordevelopment/workshopsprojects/francophoneafricaworkshop **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

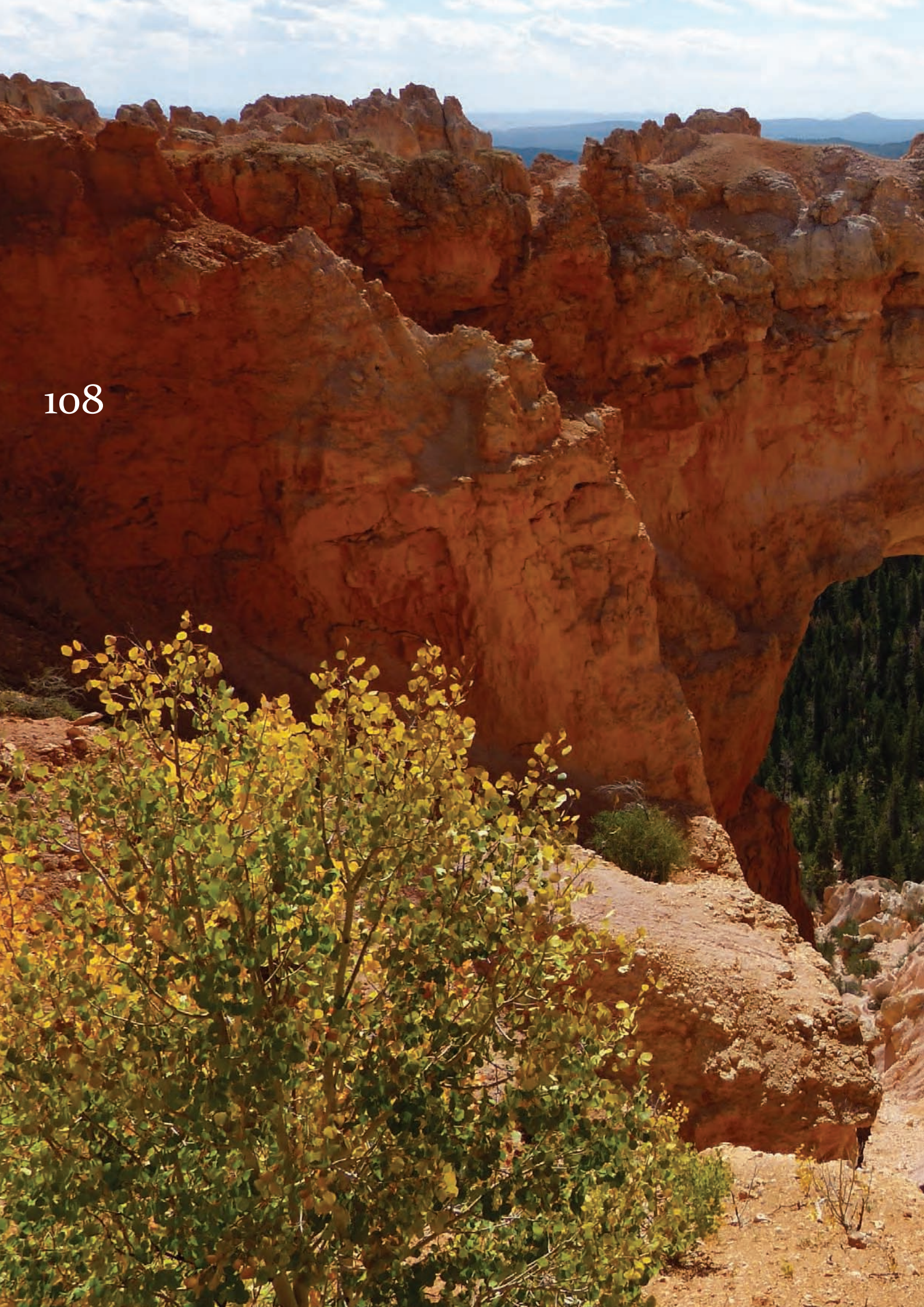
- **UNEP and EDO NSW (2013) Community protocols for environmental sustainability: a guide for policymakers**
  The guide helps policymakers and several other stakeholders understand what community protocols are, why they are important, and how they can support their development and recognition within formal environmental legal and policy frameworks. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.unep.org/delc/Portals/119/publications/Community_Protocols_Guide_Policymakers.pdf **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

- **UNEP, CBD and CMS (2012) Report of the regional capacity-building workshop on integration of CMS and CITES objectives into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**
  This workshop report provides insight and comments on how to integrate other biodiversity MEAs objectives into NBSAPs. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/harare_november2012_report.pdf **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

- **UNDESA, UNEP, FAO, Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (2011) Synergies success stories: enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions**
  The publication provides examples of successful activities undertaken to implement the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and other international frameworks in the hazardous wastes and chemicals cluster in a coordinated manner. **[Online] Available from:** http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/synergies_success_stories.pdf **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

- **Bellamy, J & Hill, K (2010) National capacity self-assessments: results and lessons learnt for global environmental sustainability. Global Support Programme, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme, New York, USA.**
  The publication summarizes the challenges and opportunities experienced by countries in meeting their commitments under the Rio Conventions, as well as areas where more effort could yield better progress. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.thegef.org/gef/pubs/NCSA **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**

- **UNEP (2006) Manual on compliance with and enforcement of Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Nairobi, Kenya**
  The manual provides a "toolbox" of approaches for promoting implementation of MEAs, including capacity building activities. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.ecolex.org/server2.php/libcat/docs/LI/MON-088703.pdf **[Accessed: 23 January 2015]**



6. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs

NBSAPS

National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the principal instruments for implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the national level. The CBD requires countries to prepare a national biodiversity strategy (or equivalent instrument) and to ensure that this strategy is mainstreamed into the planning and activities of all those sectors whose activities can have an impact (positive and negative) on biodiversity (Article 6 CBD). As such, NBSAPs thereby shouldn't be understood as a single document or product, but as a process, in which the level of governmental and non-governmental stakeholder engagement and participation is a key element for its success or failure.[57] It should also be noted that in addition to the national level, biodiversity strategies are also being developed and implemented at the sub-national[58] and regional levels[59].

57 For an overview of relevant NBSAP guidance material please visit the CBD website: http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/guidance.shtml and the NBSAP Journey on the NBSAP forum webportal: http://nbsapforum.net/#nbsap-journey

58 CBD (2015) SubNational Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (SBSAPs). [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/related-info/sbsap/default.shtml [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

59 CBD (2015) Regional Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (RBSAPs). [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/nbsap/related-info/region-bsap/default.shtml [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

6.1 WHY COOPERATE TO DELIVER THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020?

As a NBSAP is an instrument addressing biodiversity as a whole, all issues relevant to other Biodiversity-related Conventions can and should be covered. A 2010 assessment of the effectiveness of the first generation of NBSAPs[60], which generally indicated a low level of implementation, came to the conclusion that few NBSAPs explicitly incorporated measures to implement Biodiversity-related Conventions other than the CBD. Among the conventions, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands received the most attention. The 2010 assessment report of NBSAPs offered 28 recommendations for preparation and design of future strategies and plans. One of these was that NBSAPs should be an instrument for implementation of all the Biodiversity-related Conventions, hereby being a means to promote coherence in national implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). National Focal Points (NFPs) of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and other key stakeholders engaged in their implementation should therefore cooperate to work towards the best possible outcome of current and upcoming NBSAP development, revision and implementation processes.

6.1.1 The momentum created through the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

In 2010, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD COP 10) in Nagoya, Japan. Parties agreed to translate this overarching international framework into revised and updated NBSAPs by 2015[61]. Subsequently to its adoption the UN General Assembly (UNGA) agreed to take the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as a universal framework for action on biodiversity and a foundation for sustainable development for all stakeholders, including agencies across the UN System.[62]

The governing bodies of the other five Biodiversity-related Conventions, other than the CBD, have also recognized or supported the Plan[63], and a meeting of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) in 2010 played a key role in this[64]. Section I of the document on *cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives* provided to the fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation (WGRI-5) of the CBD contains a summary of recent decisions of the Biodiversity-related Conventions towards the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.[65]

The adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets therefore created an important momentum to foster a new generation of NBSAPs that address the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-

60 Prip, C; Gross, T; Johnston, S; Vierros, M (2010) Biodiversity Planning: an assessment of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, Yokohama, Japan.[Online] Available from: http://archive.ias.unu.edu/resource_centre/UNU-IAS_Biodiversity_Planning_NBSAPs_Assessment_final_web_Oct_2010.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

61 CBD decision X/10. [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12276 [Accessed: 6 March 2015]

62 United Nations General Assembly Resolution 65/161 of 11 March 2011. [Online] Available from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/65/161 [Accessed: 6 March 2015]

63 CMS Resolution 10.18; CITES Resolution 16.4; Ramsar Convention Resolution XI.6; ITPGRFA Resolution 8/2011; WHC Decision: 37 COM 5A.

64 CITES (2010) First high level retreat among secretariats of Biodiversity-Related Conventions. [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/eng/news/SG/2010/sum_retreat100901.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

65 UNEP/CBD/COP/12/24 on Cooperation with other Conventions, International Organizations and Stakeholders' Engagement, including Business.

related Conventions. In fact, it has often been highlighted that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity was formulated in a way that automatically addresses concerns of other conventions than just the CBD, and it would be almost impossible to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets without creating synergies with other Biodiversity-related Conventions. Accordingly, the CBD decision that adopted the strategy, invites parties to involve NFPs of all the biodiversity-related agreements, as appropriate, in the process of updating and implementation of NBSAPs and related enabling activities.

CBD COP 11 reiterated on the importance of the coherent implementation of the conventions, by encouraging Parties to incorporate into their revised NBSAPs inter alia the objectives of the Biodiversity-related Conventions[66]. Following CBD COP 11, in February 2011, at the fourth meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies (CSAB) of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, the need for all the Biodiversity-related Conventions to engage more strongly with the NBSAP process was recognized and recommendations were made that these conventions should: *(i) consider how to better support their NFPs to engage in the process at country level; (ii) consider what scientific guidance might be needed from the scientific advisory bodies, and how this might be co-ordinated; (iii) consider and provide recommendations to their contracting Parties on how the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and NBSAP process could help in harmonizing reporting requirements and processes*. CSAB also asked the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to map the strategic plans of the other Biodiversity-related Conventions against the Strategic Plan.

The Biodiversity-related Conventions also explicitly encouraged their NFPs to engage in their country's NBSAP revision process, or called upon their state parties to ensure that convention-specific issues were fully considered (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)[67], Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)[68], The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)[69], World Heritage Convention (WHC)[70] and the Ramsar Convention[71]). In addition, the CMS and the CITES Secretariats have developed guidance material which support Parties that consider the inclusion of migratory species or their CITES national and regional actions in a revised and updated NBSAP[72] (summarised in *Box 18 and Box 19*). In response to a recommendation by the BLG[73], other Biodiversity-related Conventions, for example the WHC, are currently in the process of compiling guidance material. conventions are also identifying appropriate entry points through which integration can be most beneficial. One key entry point for the integration of WHC and the Ramsar Convention into NBSAPs are protected areas, given that both have site conservation as core objectives. *Box 16* below outlines the interface between the two site-based conventions.

66 CBD (2012) Decision XI/6 on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations, and initiatives - paragraph 11. [Online] Available from: https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-11/cop-11-dec-06-en.doc [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

67 CITES (2011) Notification No. 2011/021. [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E021.pdf [Accessed: 10th of February 2015]

68 CMS (2005) UNEP/CMS/Resolution 8.18 [Online] Available from: http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/CP8Res_8_18_Integration_MigratorySpecies_Natl_Biodiversity_E_0.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

69 ITPGRFA (2013) Notification PL 40/31 NCP GB6 NBSAPs. [Online] Available from: http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/001_GB6_NCP_NBSAPs_en.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

70 WHC (2012) Committee Decisions: 37 COM 5A. [Online] Available from: http://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/4974/ [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

71 Ramsar (2012) Resolution XI.6 [Online] Available from: http://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/cop11/res/cop11-res06-e.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

72 CITES (2011) Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) - A Draft Guide for CITES Parties. [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E026A.pdf [Accessed: 26 January 2015] and CMS Secretariat and Prip, C (2011) Guidelines on the integration on migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs). [Online] Available from: http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/doc_27_guidelines_nbsap_e_0.pdf [Accessed: 26 January 2015]

73 BLG (2013) Report of the meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions. [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/doc/blg-2013-09-09-en.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

BOX 16: SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE WHC AND THE RAMSAR CONVENTION

Of the various conventions considered in this sourcebook, the Ramsar Convention and the Convention concerning the protection of the world cultural and natural heritage (WHC) are the two that are most directly based on specific geographical areas. They are also the oldest conventions featured, signed in 1971 and 1972 respectively. In addition to geographical overlap on the ground, where many Ramsar sites are situated within World Heritage Sites, linkages have long been made at the institutional level; a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and the World Heritage Centre in 1999 continues to be central to this.

In terms of joint sites, 48 World Heritage Sites host a total of 61 Ramsar sites. Joint sites include Ichkeul in Tunisia, Djoudj in Senegal, Mamirauá in Brazil, and Slovenia's Škocjan Caves, featured in *Case study 60, pg. 156*. For the most successful jointly designated sites, the international status associated with being listed under both conventions can multiply the benefits they receive, for example boosting tourism or access to conservation funding and research opportunities. In those joint sites that face the most significant threats, the joint designation can add urgency to raising funds and awareness. In some sites, however, simply achieving coherent action between diverse local agencies at the local level can be enough of a struggle, without giving consideration to international treaties.

The potential for synergies at the national and international institutional level is great, not least because the wording of both conventions recognises the importance of both natural and cultural values of listed sites. The MoU of 1999 between the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and World Heritage Centre remains in force, providing a framework for synergies to this day. Its original aims continue to be relevant and useful: to promote the nomination of wetland sites under both conventions, share expertise, coordinate reporting, and collaborate on missions to threatened sites. These joint missions have been successful not only in making recommendations for improving management and conservation practices, but in finding the financial resources needed to implement them.

A recent joint initiative resulting from the close relationship between the two conventions is the Ramsar Culture Network (RCN). This was launched in June 2013, replacing and scaling up the Ramsar Culture Working Group, which had long worked to promote the incorporation of culture in the activities of the Ramsar Convention. The RCN steering group includes a representative from both the Ramsar Convention Secretariat and World Heritage Centre. In close collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), especially the World Heritage Centre, the RCN will expand activities to promote and strengthen the integrated management of the natural and cultural heritage of wetlands. The intention is to have a pragmatic focus on the site level, using case studies, information exchange between managers and good engagement with local communities.

Further options for synergies are joint preparation for COPs for the two conventions, and encouraging a greater exchange of expertise – both scientific and managerial – to supplement one another's knowledge and avoid duplication. A case study in the *Capacity building* section also describes and IUCN-led project to support managers of jointly designated sites *(Case study 43, pg. 101)*.

Sources

- Ramsar Convention. Ramsar and World Heritage Sites - table of joint sites 09/09/2013 [Online] Available from: http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/es/ramsar-documents-list-world-heritage/main/ramsar/1-31-218%5E21960_4000_2 [Accessed: 15 February 2015]
- Ramsar Convention (2014) The Ramsar Culture Network in cooperation with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre. [Online] Available from: http://www.ramsarculture.org [Accessed: 10 February 2015]
- Ramsar Convention (1999) Ramsar MOU with the World Heritage Convention. [Online] Available from: http://archive.ramsar.org/cda/en/ramsar-documents-mous-ramsar-mou-with-the/main/ramsar/1-31-115%5E21517_4000_0 [Accessed: 10 February 2015]
- Briggs, C (2013) The Ramsar and World Heritage conventions and Slovenia's Škocjan Caves. World Heritage 70, December, pp.42-49

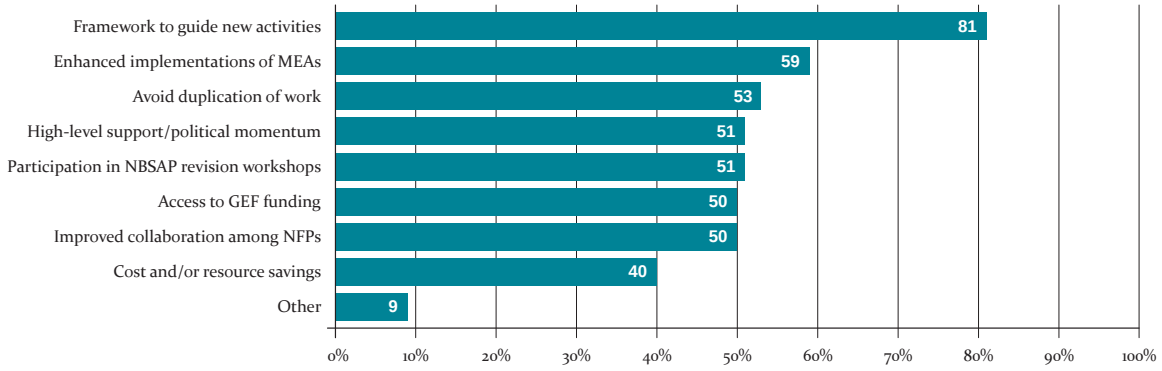
With regard to the mobilisation of financial resources in particular the sixth replenishment period of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-6) provides opportunities for the preparation and implementation of projects and initiatives with co-benefits across the conventions. See *section 7* for more information and in particular on how integrating other conventions' concerns in NBSAPs could help in mobilizing resources for implementation in a more coherent manner.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2010 is also of high relevance for the **post-2015 development agenda** and in particular the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, to be adopted at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015. The CBD has represented the views of the BLG in the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda (*Box 3, pg. 6*). Thereby, the CBD described the final outcome of the Open Working Group (OWG) on the SDGs as "extremely positive from the perspective of the CBD and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets". Furthermore, the CBD Executive Secretary invited CBD Parties to take the goals and targets into consideration in the planning and implementation of their revised NBSAPs[74]. In order to ensure policy coherence, efficient use of resources and to build upon already existing structures, NBSAPS can and should thus become a key tool for SDG implementation.

Furthermore, discussions are currently taking place in various settings on how to update the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) guidelines to include biodiversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

6.1.2 Benefits identified in the UNEP Survey 2014

The "main benefit" of using the Strategic Plan, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and/ or the NBSAP revision process to implement conventions coherently indicated by most survey respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 (*Box 5, pg. 13*) is that it *provides a common framework to guide new activities, initiatives and measures* (81%). This shows that a high number of respondents recognize the opportunities created through the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its status as a global framework for the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. The second most frequently indicated benefit was *enhanced implementation of the conventions* (59%). All other main benefit-options listed were ticked by approximately 50% of survey respondents (*Graph 12*), except for *cost and/or resource savings*, which was ticked by 40% of survey respondents.



Graph 12: Main benefits of using the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and/ or the NBSAP revision process to implement conventions coherently, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP Survey 2014

74 CBD (2014) CBD Reacts to Recognition of Biodiversity in SDG Proposal. [Online] Available from: http://biodiversity-l.iisd.org/news/cbd-reacts-to-recognition-of-biodiversity-in-sdg-proposal/ [Accessed: 09 March 2015]

Furthermore, 60% of respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 indicated that using the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and/or the NBSAP revision process as a reference has aided the coherent implementation of multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions. Specific fields, where integration has been beneficial according to survey respondents, include: protected areas management; setting national targets or indicators; engaging stakeholders; discussing the Nagoya Protocol (NP), and reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) schemes. However, 29% of the respondents didn't know whether respective activities or initiatives have taken place, while others suggested that activities to implement the Strategic Plan or revise NBSAPs did not help to increase cooperation. Over half of NFPs respondents (54%) also indicated that NFP collaboration played a role in developing or implementing such initiatives or activities. NFP respondents further elaborated that these processes have engaged NFPs in setting national targets and raised awareness of the work of different NFPs.

Some interview partners also expressed hope that cooperation among NFPs in the NBSAP process could foster the translation of abstract targets related to each Biodiversity-related Convention into more adapted and tangible objectives. Identifying synergies and overlaps among conventions at national level could thus foster the operationalization of the conventions at the sub-national level – in particular in case of limited resources.

6.2 EXAMPLES FOR ENHANCING COOPERATION IN THE NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020, THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS AND NBSAPS

This section explores a range of options for NFPs and other relevant stakeholders to cooperate on the NBSAP revision and implementation processes to enhance the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. In addition, a snapshot overview of how different countries have integrated issues related to the Biodiversity-related Conventions (other than CBD) in their NBSAPs will be provided.

6.2.1 NFP involvement in the NBSAP process

Involvement of NFPs of other Biodiversity-related Conventions in NBSAP revision and implementation is already taking place in a number of countries. Several case studies will be presented here that illustrate the variety of approaches taken by countries, reflecting national circumstances and, in particular, the institutional environment. The case studies highlight outcomes deriving from synergistic approaches and the extent to which particular objectives and activities related to the other Biodiversity-related Conventions (other than CBD) have been addressed in finalized NBSAPs.

In the absence of a coordination mechanism among NFPs in **Côte d'Ivoire**, integration of Biodiversity-related Conventions objectives has been initiated in the very beginning of the NBSAP revision process.

Case study 44: Côte d'Ivoire: Laying the ground for an inclusive NBSAP process

In Côte d'Ivoire a national workshop was held for the launch of the NBSAP revision process, at which the details of each convention and the complementarities between them were presented. Also, the baseline study for the NBSAP was conducted by a consultant in whose terms of reference the consultation of documents relevant to other conventions was required. A group was to be set up, including all NFPs for the relevant conventions, who would validate all terms of reference and draft reports. In addition, the process was to be enhanced through the formal establishment of a consultation mechanism.

Source

- UNEP (2013) Workshop on indicators and integration of CITES and CMS Objectives as part of NBSAP Updating. [Online] Available from: http://www.bipindicators.net/nationalindicatordevelopment/workshopsprojects/francophoneafricaworkshop [Accessed: 21 January 2015]

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Côte d'Ivoire

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

In **Bhutan**, synergy and coherence among existing biodiversity policies and acts was identified as a serious gap in the previous NBSAP revision and implementation process. Therefore, the National Task Force established to develop the new NBSAP, made sure to liaise with NFPs of the other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), including the Biodiversity-related Conventions. In particular, a mapping exercise was undertaken to show the relevance of national targets to the conventions. To strengthen collaboration for the future, the finalized NBSAP also recommends setting up a coordination platform for different MEAs.

Case study 45: Overcoming previous challenges in the development of Bhutan's new NBSAP

Previously, the development of the NBSAP in Bhutan was led by consultants, supported by technical working groups composed of various stakeholders. These NBSAPs tended to end up with low ownership, poor coordination mechanisms for resource mobilisation, and they were not mainstreamed with other national strategies (e.g. development). For the latest NBSAP, a National Task Force (NTF) was created to bring together the various departments and agencies in the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, the National Environment Commission, representatives from conservation NGOs and donor agencies. A key task of the NTF was to review and assess gaps of previous action plans, set targets, develop indicators, outreach to other stakeholders (local government, private sector etc.) and promote education and awareness related to the final NBSAP.

Based on assessments of the implementation of the previous NBSAP, synergy and coherence among existing biodiversity policies and acts was identified as a serious gap. In response to this finding, special attention was given towards communicating with other MEA NFPs. Members of the NTF liaised with NFPs in their respective departments, ensuring that the synergies between the different MEAs were captured. To ensure that implementation of the NBSAP is also harmonised, the NBSAP recommended that a coordination platform for different MEAs should be set up. Table 12 on page 119 in Bhutan's NBSAP, maps out potential synergies between national biodiversity targets and the objectives of the five biodiversity-related MEA's (other than the CBD), thereby providing a common ground for enhancing coordination, communication and cooperation between NFPs.

Also, in the Implementation Plan, a National Committee on biodiversity will be formed, comprising of high-level representatives from key sectors, which will guide the implementation of the NBSAP in line with obligations under both CBD and other MEA.

The NBSAP was adopted by the National Environment Commission Committee in September 2014, chaired by the Prime Minister of Bhutan.

For Bhutan's revised 2014 NBSAP please see: http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/bt/bt-nbsap-v4-en.pdf

With thanks to Ngawang Gyeltshen, Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan, for providing information and review of this case study.

With additional information from: http://www.nbc.gov.bt/

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Bhutan

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

In **Nepal,** the broad participation of different stakeholders in the development of the country's 2014 NBSAP, drafted by the NFP of the CBD, included different NFPs of the other Biodiversity-related Conventions. As a result, promoting synergies among Biodiversity-related Conventions has been identified as a key task.

The country will generate guidelines for joint capacity development programmes for NFPs, and has created a coordination mechanism which includes NFPs of the Ramsar Convention, CITES and WHC, to monitor the implementation of the newly adopted NBSAP.

Case study 46: Coordinating implementation of Nepal's newly developed 2014 NBSAP

Nepal's NBSAP was drafted by the Biodiversity and Environment Division of the Ministry of Forests and Soil Conservation, the NFP of the CBD, and was approved by the national government in 2014. The different NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, such as the Ramsar Convention, CITES and WHC, were invited to meetings throughout the process in order to collect their responses to the NBSAP. There was also broad participation of district and community-level stakeholders in its development. Through this consultation, the NBSAP provides an overview of all the existing conservation work, by different government agencies and NGOs, being undertaken across a range of themes, including wetlands, protected areas and reducing trade in endangered species.

The NBSAP specifically identifies synergies among the biodiversity-related MEAs as an issue for the smooth implementation of the MEAs, and thus a call is made for the generation of a set of coherent guidelines to bring synergy among the biodiversity-related MEAs.

Following the approval of the NBSAP, a high-level National Biodiversity Coordination Committee has been formed which is chaired by the Hon. Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation. Its members include staff from a number of different ministries, including the NFPs to the Biodiversity-related Conventions (as above) and also to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A specific sub-committee charged with the review and harmonisation of the implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions will be set up in 2015.

This follows the country's existing experience to coordinate implementation of the UNFCCC through the Nepal Climate Change Council, which is chaired by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister. This council is formed under the UNFCCC focal point, but includes different ministries which are focal points to other conventions; the Hon. Minister of Forests and Soil Conservation, for example, is a member. This coordination mechanism has built awareness of the provisions of the UNFCCC in different institutions in Nepal, and streamlined the process for meeting obligations to the convention in each agency of the government.

For more information please see: http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/np/np-nbsap-v2-en.pdf

With thanks to Hari Bhadra Acharya, Under Secretary of the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Nepal

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Collaboration among NFPs in **Cameroon**'s NBSAP revision process was facilitated by the collaborative actions at the level of the Secretariat of the conventions, as well as the organization of a regional workshop on NBSAP implementation (*Case study 41, pg. 99*). For example, through a call from the CITES Secretariat to the person in charge of the NBSAP revision process, a first contact was established between the CBD NFP and the CITES Management Authority of Cameroon. As a result, CITES and CMS national priorities are particularly incorporated in the finalized 2014 NBSAP.

Case study 47: Collaboration among NFPs in Cameroon's NBSAP revision process

Cameroon's NBSAP II was finalized in March 2014, and will be implemented through to 2020. As the focal institution of the CBD, the other Rio Conventions and the Ramsar Convention, as well as being the coordinating institution for biodiversity, Cameroon's Ministry of Environment, Protection of Nature and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED) led the revision process of the NBSAP under the technical guidance of the Biodiversity Inter-Ministerial Advisory Committee (Case study 47, pg. 118). Major steps in the revision process of the NBSAP included, preparatory work by the Advisory Committee, consultation with sector ministries, public wide regional/national consultations and task team validation meetings.

The involvement of the NFPs to the different Biodiversity-related Conventions in the revision of the NBSAP varied. The NFP to the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol located in MINEPDED, and the NFPs to CMS and the administrative NFP to CITES, seated in the Ministry of Forest and Wildlife, are active members of the Advisory Committee and participated fully in the NBSAP revision. For an integrated approach, the NFPs to the Rio Conventions, and the Ramsar Conventions all seated in MINEPDED were invited and participated, or were represented in the Committee planning meetings and the regional/national consultations. The Technical NFP to CITES identified at the later stage of the revision process was equally fully integrated in the development of biodiversity indicators and other activities of the Committee. On the other hand, the NFPs to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGREA) and the WHC located in other Ministerial Departments are yet to be identified.

The finalised NBSAP recognizes illegal commercial trade in wildlife species and commercial trade in specific or limited plant species as a cause of pressure. Several targets opt for conservation and sustainable use measures of these wildlife species. These include Target 2 and 12, which opt for increased knowledge on the value of species including wild species that can be valorised and marketed; and Target 8 for species conservation. The NBSAP also recognizes the ecosystem management approach which favors wetland protections, and a target related to freshwater ecosystems calls for coherence with the management principles of the Ramsar Convention.

To enhance collaboration in the future, target 17 of Cameroon's NBSAP II calls for the establishment of a dialogue platform that will bring together NFPs of the CBD, the Ramsar Convention, CITES and CMS, as a means to promote synergy and collaboration in the activities of the NFPs.

Cameroon's revised 2014 NBSAP is [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/cm/cm-nbsap-v2-en.pdf [Accessed: 10 March 2014]

With thanks to Prudence Galega, Technical Advisor # 1 in the Ministry of Environment, Protection Nature and Sustainable Development of Cameroon, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Cameroon

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

In **Fiji**, NFPs for the Ramsar Convention, CITES and CMS were involved in the NBSAP process. This resulted principally because the process, which is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Steering committee (NBSC), builds on existing steering committees of Biodiversity-related Conventions other than CBD.

Case study 48: The integration of existing steering committees of the Biodiversity-related Conventions in Fiji's NBSAP revision process

Development and implementation of Fiji's NBSAP are overseen and guided by the National Environment Council comprising representatives from relevant ministries such as fisheries, agriculture, etc. The process is coordinated by the National Biodiversity Steering Committee (NBSC), and is informed by seven thematic working groups. These working groups build on existing steering committees of different Biodiversity-related Conventions: the CITES committee, which constitutes the NBSAP thematic area working group on species conservation, and the Ramsar Convention's Wetlands Steering Committee, which is also represented in the biodiversity steering committee. The CMS NFP informs the NBSAP process under the working group on inshore fisheries. Some challenges to ensuring the active engagement of committee and working group members have been encountered and include overburdened agendas, interdepartmental coordination, lack of funding (only project support), as well as lack of technical expertise or understanding.

Source

- Fiji, side event presentation on Sharing Experiences with Implementation of MEA's in Fiji through plans, strategies and reports at the Pacific Joint Preparatory Meeting to CBD COP 12, CMS COP 11 and Ramsar Convention COP 12 (August 2014)

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Fiji

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

In **Mozambique**, NFPs of Biodiversity-related Conventions were involved in the development of the country's first NBSAP. The revision of the NBSAP now provides the opportunity to further strengthen this collaboration through the Biodiversity Unit (BU) as a formal coordination mechanism.

Case study 49: Enhancing cooperation among stakeholders through Mozambique's Biodiversity Unit

In the section on institutional arrangements, *Case study 7 "Institutional arrangements for cooperation among NFPs in Mozambique"* on pg. 27, touched upon the arrangements of the Biodiversity Unit (BU), as a mechanism for ensuring the involvement of all relevant government ministries and stakeholders in the implementation of the country's NBSAP, including NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. It was established in the late nineties by the Ministry of Environmental Affairs, and it is coordinated by the Ministry for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs (MICOA) through the National Directorate for Environmental Management, Ministry of Environmental Affairs. The BU includes representatives from key government ministries (such as the Ministries of Tourism, Agriculture, Fishing and Mining); academics; MEA NFPs (including the CBD, the Ramsar Convention, CITES and UNFCCC); national and international NGOs; private sector representatives and CSOs.

The BU is responsible for revising Mozambique's NBSAP and is now preparing the fifth national report to the CBD. During the revision of Mozambique's NBSAP, members of the BU are required to participate in at least one of five working groups established for this purpose, including a working group on participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building for NBSAP implementation. Mozambique had a specific in their latest NBSAP (objective 1.2), calling for the promotion of the ratification of relevant agreements and conventions, with particular consideration to CMS and the Ramsar Convention, both of which Mozambique have subsequently ratified.

Mozambique's 2008 NBSAP is [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mz/mz-nbsap-v2-en.pdf [Accessed: 10 March 2015]

With thanks to Francisco August Pariela, CITES Management Authority, Director of National Conservation Areas, Ministry of Environment, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Mozambique

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✘	✔

In **Belgium**, the integration of issues related to Biodiversity-related Conventions (other than the CBD) is ensured in the NBSAP revision process through the involvement of the Steering Committee "Nature".

Case study 50: Belgium's 2014 NBSAP as a tool for synergistic implementation

Belgium commenced the process of updating the country's NBSAP in 2011. It was initiated by the Steering Committee "Biodiversity Convention" jointly with the Steering Committee "Nature", who gathered the Regional and Federal competent authorities, scientists and environmental NGOs. Both committees are established under the Belgian Coordination Committee for International Environment Policy under the auspices of the Inter-ministerial Conference for the Environment.

The Steering committee "Biodiversity Convention" deals with all aspects linked to the implementation of the CBD, and the Steering Committee "Nature" is in charge of the follow-up of other Biodiversity-related Conventions (Ramsar Convention, CMS, CITES, Bern Convention) and of EU policy. Following the development of a first draft, the updated strategy went through public consultation, including a stakeholder dialogue. As a result of the multi stakeholder approach, as well as the involvement of the Steering Committee "Nature", Belgium's updated 2014 NBSAP includes an objective (objective 10)to ensure a coherent implementation of/and between biodiversity-related commitments and agreements, as well as a range of specific activities supporting the implementation of CITES and the Ramsar Convention.

Sources

- Belgian National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity (ed.) (2013) Biodiversity 2020 – Update of Belgium's National Biodiversity Strategy. Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, Brussels, Belgium. [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/be/be-nbsap-v2-en.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2014]
- Belgian Clearing House Mechanism (2013) Public consultation - Biodiversity 2020: Update of Belgium's National Biodiversity Strategy 2006-2016. [Online] Available from: http://www.biodiv.be/implementation/docs/stratactplan/updating-process-nbs/consult-biodiv2020 [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Belgium

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Lastly, it should be stressed that in most countries where NFP collaboration is an integral part of the NBSAP revision process, joint efforts are not restricted to the Biodiversity-related Conventions, but regularly, for example, also includes the NFPs of the **Rio Conventions**. In that context, and as also stressed by a number of respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 and participants of the two project workshops, it should be highlighted that revised NBSAPs should also reflect on emerging issues, particularly climate change and its impacts and linkages with biodiversity issues.

BOX 17: SYNERGIES BETWEEN REDUCING EMISSIONS FROM DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION (REDD+) AND NBSAPS

An information note for CBD COP 12 was developed by the CBD Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC on *National level synergies between REDD+ and the NBSAPs: a review of current guidance and national efforts.* One of the aims of the report is to provide an overview of actions, information needs and outputs that may promote synergies between REDD+ and NBSAPs. As overlaps exist between activities, information needs and planning requirements under both policies, there are multiple opportunities for synergies to be drawn (for example, protected areas may be mentioned in both NBSAP and REDD+ strategies).

Five case studies are also presented in the report, as examples of countries currently exploring possible links between REDD+ and NBSAPs: Cameroon, Uganda, Philippines, Viet Nam, and Colombia. Each case study presents a summary of current plans and strategies on NBSAPs and REDD+, and whether synergies are mentioned in terms of activities undertaken, information needs, planning and implementation. The report also draws on feedback provided by countries during two (inter-)regional workshops on REDD+ and Aichi Biodiversity Targets: in Costa Rica and Cameroon in 2014. The workshops brought together both CBD NFPs and REDD+ experts.

Besides giving feedback on country experiences, the participants to the workshops also provided important input in terms of identifying possible actions, as well as challenges in implementing the two policies. Some of the highlighted actions included promoting coherent and joined up planning; sharing lessons learnt and increasing capacity building; and ending perverse incentives. Some of the challenges which were identified include lack of conditions for sustainable development and for equal and fair distribution of benefits; and low staff and technical capacity.

Source

- CBD (2014) National-level synergies between REDD+ NBSAPs: a review of current guidance and national efforts. [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/information/cop-12-inf-15-en.pdf [Accessed: 21 January 2015]

6.2.2 Coverage of the Biodiversity-related Conventions in NBSAPs

The following section provides a snapshot of whether concerns related to CMS, CITES, the Ramsar Convention, The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and WHC are integrated in NBSAPs. *Table 8* is based on a review of the NBSAPs in the case studies for this publication. It only includes NBSAPs that make explicit reference to one of the Biodiversity-related Conventions named above and/or NBSAPs that address the coherent implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions in general (category "Synergies").

Table 8:

	Post-2010 NBSAPs						Pre-2010 NBSAPs							
	Belgium (2014)	Bhutan (2014)	Cameroon (2014)	Finland (2013)	Nepal (2014)	Republic of Korea (2014)	Cote d'Ivoire (2006)	Fiji (1998)	Madagascar (2002)	Mozambique (2008)	Slovenia (2002)	South Africa (2006)	The Gambia (1998)	Uganda (2006)
Synergies	√		√		√	√	√		√	√			√	
CMS		* NP √			√	* NP	√						√	
CITES	√	√	√		√	√	√	√	√	√		√	√	
ITPGRFA		√			√					* NP		* NP √	* NP	
WHC		√				√				√		√	√	
Ramsar Convention	√	√	√	√	√	√	√			√	√		√	√

√ (Explicit reference to MEA)	* NP (Not party)	No explicit reference	* NP √ (Not party, but with explicit reference to MEA)

The following table showcases examples for how the reviewed NBSAPs make direct reference to Biodiversity-related Conventions (other than the CBD) or address the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions in general (category "Synergies").

Table 8b: Examples of included objectives/actions from analysed NBSAPs

Synergies	**Belgium's NBSAP (2014)** **Page 90-91:** Ensure a coherent implementation of/ and between biodiversity-related commitments and agreements. ● *Reduce overlaps, duplications or contradictions in the implementation of different biodiversity-related conventions.* ● *All climate change, biodiversity and desertification cooperation projects funded by Belgium should be assessed to ensure that they are mutually supportive of the objectives of the three Rio conventions.*	**Nepal's NBSAP (2014)** **Page 38:** Promoting synergy among biodiversity related MEAs (e.g. CBD, CITES, Ramsar Convention, World Heritage Convention and ITPGRFA) is an issue in smooth implementation of the MEAs. ● *There is a need to generate a set of coherent guidelines to bring synergy among the biodiversity related MEAs. This can be useful in a number of ways, including:* *I. enhancing the science-policy interface.* *II. promoting cooperation at the international level in the implementation of the NBSAP.* *III. simplifying the national reporting.* *IV. improving information management and* *V. capacity building.*
CMS	**Bhutan's NBSAP (2014)** **Page 119:** As part of a larger mapping exercise, mapping all the Biodiversity-related MEAs, the NBSAP indicates three National Biodiversity Targets (5, 11 and 12), that are expected to indirectly benefit migratory species of concern.	**Nepal's NBSAP (2014)** **Page 92:** As part of strategy 5.5.4 *(Harmonization of Biodiversity related International Conventions)*, Priority Action IC-A2 aims at acceding to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979).

CITES	**Belgium's NBSAP (2014)** **Page 98:** For CITES-listed wood, work closely with the countries of origin to ensure that CITES permits are only issued when a clear non-detriment finding has been carried out and the legality and sustainability of the tropical wood is proven. In case of seizures of large quantities of CITES-listed wood, and, where possible, the subsequent public sale of this timber, revenue will be invested in local projects to enhance local sustainable use of forests. ● *Encourage the implementation of CITES with the aim of supporting conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity.* Within the customs and excise administration (FPS Finances), emphasis is currently put on security in the broad sense, including several areas such as the protection of the fauna and flora (CITES). In this optic, a CITES target group has been established; its purpose is to analyse risks in this field. All enforcement actors related to CITES are united in the Belgian Enforcement Group which regularly interacts with the federal CITES team to ensure adequate enforcement of CITES in Belgium.	**The Republic of Korea's NBSAP (2014)** **Page 32:** Strengthening biodiversity conservation - **Goal and target** - Control import and export of globally endangered species (CITES). ● *Dissemination of globally endangered species and CITES implementation - Improving management and information system of endangered species listed in CITES.* ● *For efficient management of export/import of CITES species, information and DB sharing with relevant agencies, classification and identification manuals for frequently traded species required to be developed (2015–).* ● *Facilitating public access to search for CITES species by linking Wildlife Export Import Civil Service System of ME and Korea Customs Clearance System (2015–)* ● *Tightening related regulations to promote healthy breeding facilities of CITES species* ● *Defining registration of species in breeding facilities, installation standards for breeding facility, animal management standards, etc. in sub regulations of 'Act on Wildlife Protection and Management'.* ● *Provide standard protocols for the breeding facilities of CITES species (2014).*
ITPGRFA	**Bhutan's NBSAP (2014)** **Page 119:** As part of a larger mapping exercise, mapping all the Biodiversity-related MEAs, the NBSAP identifies five National Biodiversity targets (3, 4, 7, 13 and 16) that complement the Treaty's goals of conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including benefit sharing.	**Nepal's NBSAP (2014)** **Page 66:** The amendment of the Agro biodiversity Policy (2007) is in the final stage to accommodate requirements of the implementation of ITPGRFA. **Page 86:** **AB Strategy C:** Improving access to genetic resources for food and agriculture - AB-C2 Establishment of an efficient system for exchange of information on all kinds of agricultural genetic resources and implementation of ITPGRFA and multilateral system of exchange of PGRFA.
WHC	**Bhutan's NBSAP (2014)** **Page 119:** As part of a larger mapping exercise, mapping all the Biodiversity-related MEAs, the NBSAP identifies six National Biodiversity targets (5, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 18) that contribute to WHC's interventions to preserve the cultural and natural heritage sites of outstanding values, including protected areas and key ecosystems.	**The Republic of Korea's NBSAP (2014)** **Page 13:** Priority action II (Strengthening biodiversity conservation). ● *Modify the management system on natural heritage.* ● *Expand the coverage of protected areas and conservation programs.*

Ramsar Convention	Finland's NBSAP (2013) **Page 25-26:** ● *Develop and implement an action plan for wetlands in Finland.* ● *Prepare an extensive wetland Life project 2014–2019.* ● *Restore other areas included in the Waterfowl Habitats Conservation Programme.* ● *Restore former peat fields into wetlands, restore former wetlands and create new ones.* ● *Implement the decisions of Ramsar, the international Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially with respect to waterfowl habitats and the objectives of the strategic plan (2009–2015).* ● *Examine the possibility of phasing in the start of hunting seasons, by time and location in ways that benefit both game management and biodiversity.* ● *In cooperation with landowners, specify methods of waterfowl habitat conservation so as to enable landowners to promote the conservation of waterfowl habitats based on the greatest possible ecological diversity, and to enhance the sustainable use of game waterfowl populations.*	Cameroons NBSAP (2014) **Page 137:** Criterion E.10.3 Assessment of all wetlands in the country is carried out, drawn and implemented with management plans Consistent with management principles of Ramsar Convention on Wetland.

6.2.3 Regional level initiatives

Very few respondents of the UNEP Survey 2014 (21%) were aware of regional-level initiatives that are using the Strategic Plan and/or NBSAP process to coherently implement the Biodiversity-related Conventions. With regard to **Regional Biodiversity Strategies** respondents listed the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2011-2020 and the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2014-2020 in the Pacific Islands Region. Two respondents also highlighted that the East African Community (EAC) is formulating a Regional Biodiversity Action Plan (RBSA). One of them specifically regards the plan as an opportunity to initiate regional cooperation in implementation of MEAs.

In addition to regional biodiversity strategies, some respondents also mentioned **regional training centres and institutions,** like the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), which supports the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. However, most respondents mainly highlighted **regional activities**, such as the joint capacity building workshops for NBSAP revision, which aim at supporting countries in NBSAP revision to foster the coherent implementation of multiple NBSAPs by bringing together NFPs and other national stakeholders. In this context in particular, the work of Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) (*Case study 13, pg. 38* and *Case study 39, pg. 96*) and the UNEP-Regional Offices (*Box 7, pg. 37*) were mentioned.

With regard to the above-mentioned joint capacity building workshops on NBSAP revision, the format of two key **regional workshops on integration of CMS and CITES objectives into NBSAPs** has already been the topic of two case studies in the previous section on capacity development (*Case study 40, pg. 98* and *Case study 41, pg. 99*). Building up on the guidelines issued by CMS and CITES (*Box 18, pg. 132* and *Box 19, pg. 133*), participants of the two workshops shared their experience in fostering the integration of CMS and CITES' objectives into NBSAPs; discussed associated challenges and how they could be overcome; identified potential entry points and concrete next steps in order to advance the national "synergies agenda". A summary of the discussions as well as the outcome of the workshops are provided in the two following case studies.

Case study 51: Overcoming challenges and enhancing synergies among biodiversity MEAs through the NBSAPs process

During the three-day 2012 capacity-building workshop for thirteen Anglophone African countries in Harare, Zimbabwe, presented in the previous section on capacity development *(Case study 40, pg. 98)*, seven key challenges were identified which had previously been experienced and which need to be addressed in the updating of the NBSAPs. The identified challenges related to synergies including: *scattered MEAs NFPs in different government agencies do not communicate and collaborate* (challenge no. 5) and *previous NBSAPs only focused on CBD objectives overlooking other biodiversity related MEAs* (challenge no. 7).

In the discussion, participants considered possible entry points for synergies, including the relevant Aichi Targets for CITES and CMS, which need to be looked at by the relevant players at the national level. These relevant players need to be brought in by design not by default. It was suggested that CBD, CITES and CMS NFPs systematically go through the Aichi Targets and identify the most promising entry points within the specific national context.

In conclusion, workshop participants highlighted the following steps as important for synergies among biodiversity MEAs through the NBSAPs process: (a) make NBSAPs multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral processes that are coordinated horizontally by the CBD NFPs; (b) ensure active participation of other biodiversity related MEAs NFPs by inviting them to relevant NBSAP meetings; and (c) ensure there is coordination, collaboration and effective communication among NFPs in order to come up with sound, well planned NBSAPs inclusive of all MEAs objectives.

More information about the workshop is [Online] Available from: http://www.cms.int/en/activities/capacity-building/meetingshttp://www.cms.int/en/activities/capacity-building/meetings [Accessed: 10 March 2015]

Under the umbrella of the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership (BIP) the 2nd regional workshop on integration of CITES and CMS objectives as part of NBSAP updating focused amongst others on (joint) indicator development. The discussions also had a clear focus on institutional mechanisms for coordination of the NBSAP revision process.

Case study 52: Workshop on "indicators and integration of CITES and CMS objectives as part of NBSAP updating", Douala, Cameroon, June 2013

At the 2013 capacity building workshop on 'Indicators and Integration of CITES and CMS Objectives as part of NBSAP Updating' in Douala, Cameroon, three countries (Cameroon, Ivory Coast and Niger) presented on their experiences with regards to the identification and promotion of synergies between the biodiversity-related MEAs within their NBSAP. Based on these presentations, a discussion highlighted some important observations:

- The development of relevant targets adapted to different sectors is crucial
- It is necessary to bring different actors together from the start of the process – NFPs must be committed to ensure their participation, and, to this end, a legal framework is often necessary
- The CBD, through the Strategic Plan, plays an integral role in the participation of other sectoral actors and of different conventions

Participants then identified successes and gaps (shortcoming) in implementing synergies between the three conventions (CBD, CITES and CMS).

Gaps:

- A lack of information and communication, particularly by consultants brought on board for the NBSAP updating who often do not have access to necessary documents and information.
- Civil society actors are often insufficiently involved.
- A lack of guidance at a high political level of consultation committees and the need for clear mandates to better formalise the work of these committees.
- A lack of regulation and of legal frameworks for NBSAP implementation.
- A lack of indicators to evaluate synergies between conventions at the international level. In addition, a clarification of the role of the Secretariats of the conventions is desirable.
- The need for international support to build capacity and increase financing to promote synergies at the national level.

Successes:

- Identification of relevant partners before the process.
- The creation of consultation committees bringing together the relevant actors and different conventions (including NFPs) and Ministries, as well as political will at different levels.
- Consultation and dialogue during the process of writing the NBSAP allows the priorities of each convention to be identified.

The following conclusions were drawn from the workshop:

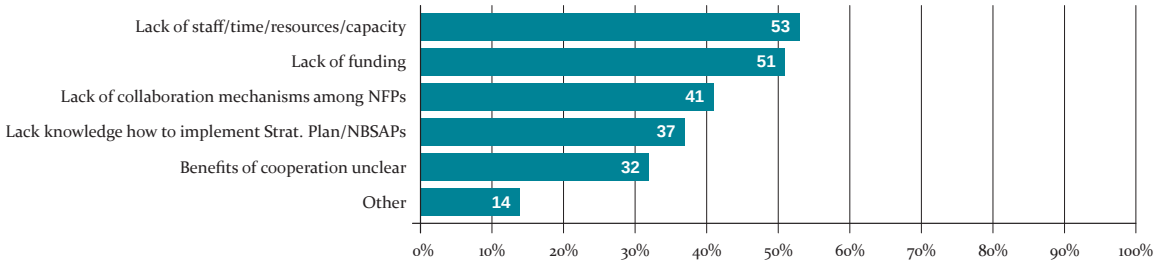
- The different levels of progress through the NBSAP revision process result in different opportunities for strengthening synergies.
- The different positive and negative points identified from the three countries that presented are common across the different countries at different levels. In all cases, a dialogue between different NFPs has been put in place but was nonetheless insufficient.
- The strengthening of mechanisms for information exchange between NFPs is necessary.
- High level political support is essential.
- The implementation of the NBSAP must involve a resource mobilisation strategy, which should involve the different NFPs.

For more information, see the workshop report (in French) [Online] Available from: http://www.bipindicators.net/nationalindicatordevelopment/workshopsprojects/francophoneafricaworkshop [Accessed: 10 March 2015]

6.3 OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

6.3.1 Barriers identified in the UNEP Survey 2014

The majority of respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 marked *lack of staff, capacity and time* (53%) as well as *lack of funding* (51%) as "main barriers" to cooperation in implementing activities under the Strategic Plan and/or NBSAP processes. Further issues indicated as "main barriers" can be drawn from *Graph 13* below.



Graph 13: Main Barriers to using the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and/or the NBSAP revision process to implement conventions coherently, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP survey 2014

In further comments within the survey, respondents suggested that a lack of UNEP dedicated in-country pilot projects may further reduce the abilities of national staff to cooperate. Some respondents used the opportunity to point out methods to further cooperation, including improved coordination of programs of work or projects undertaken by NFPs, and the potential role of national inter-ministerial committees to oversee implementation of biodiversity relevant activities.

6.3.2 Response options

The UNEP Survey 2014, together with further discussions with NFPs and other key stakeholders and a review of grey literature identified a number of barriers or challenges to collaboration in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and undertaking the NBSAP process, as well as a number of response options to address these challenges. *Table 9* below presents a summary of identified challenges and potential response options and links these to case studies presented in this sourcebook. Please note that this table of challenges and response options is not exhaustive and stakeholders may find other more relevant issues within their national contexts.

Table 9: Summary of the key challenges to using the strategic plan for biodiversity 2011-2020, the aichi targets and/or the nbsap revision process to implement conventions coherently, and national and/ or regional-level response options

Challenges/ Barriers	Response Options	Case studies
NFPs are scattered in different government agencies and do not communicate or cooperate and/ or are not sufficiently engaged in the NBSAP process.	1. Identify and bring together NFPs (ideally prior to the process). 2. Launch workshop for the NBSAP revision process. 3. If consultants are hired, ensure engagement of NFPs as part of their Terms of References (ToR). This can also address capacity needs. 4. Ensure active participation by MEA NFPs, e.g. by inviting them to relevant (consultation) meetings and raising awareness on the importance of their full involvement. 5. Promote coherent implementation of the conventions in NBSAPs. 6. Establish dialogue platforms or other informal and/or formal coordination/ collaboration mechanisms, bringing together NFPs (and potentially other key stakeholder). 7. Create a separate convention planning process to identify and feed priorities into the NBSAP process. 8. Generally make efforts to raise the profile of the NBSAP process to ensure high level support, e.g. by linking the process with national development planning processes, ensuring that the implementation of the NBSAP is reflected in the national budget etc.	• Cameroon (1,4,5) *(Case study 47, pg. 118)* • Cote D'Ivoire (2,3) *(Case study 44, pg. 115)* • Nepal (i) (1,4,5,6,8) *(Case study 46, pg. 117)* • Bhutan (i) (6,8) *(Case study 45, pg. 116)* • Fiji (6) *(Case study 48, pg. 119)* • Mozambique (ii) (5,6,8) *(Case study 49, pg. 120)* ***Case studies from other sections:*** • Madagascar (ii) (6) *(Case study 18, pg. 55)* • Brazil (i) (6) *(Case study 2, pg. 23)* • Palau (i) (6) *(Case study 3, pg. 26)* • Norway (i) (6) *(Case study 4, pg. 27)* • Egypt (i) (6) *(Case study 8, pg. 31)* • Micronesia (6) *(Case study 9, pg. 31)* • Lesotho (i) (1,4,6) *(Case study 11, pg. 33)*
Lack of technical expertise.	1. Arrange joint capacity building workshops or trainings for NBSAP revision (for NFPs and other key stakeholders). 2. Plan joint capacity building workshops or trainings for NBSAP implementation (for NFPs and other key stakeholders). 3. Ensure that non-CBD NFPs become familiar with CBD decisions, work programmes, targets etc. and their relevance for all the conventions - and provide basic information related to the Biodiversity-related Conventions to the CBD process. 4. Conduct a mapping exercise on potential synergies between national biodiversity targets and the objectives of the Biodiversity-related MEA as part of the NBSAP process. 5. Conduct a national capacity self- assessment exercise and conduct targeted formal training program in collaboration with the national development agency and the ministry of education to ensure government support and funding.	• Nepal (i) (2) *(Case study 46, pg. 117)* • Bhutan (i) (4) *(Case study 45, pg. 116)* • Regional NBSAP workshop 2012, • Zimbabwe (ii) (1) *(Case study 51, pg. 126)* • NBSAP workshop 2013, Cameroon (ii) (1) *(Case study 52, pg. 127)* ***Case studies from other sections:*** • Lesotho (i) (5) *(Case study 11, pg. 33)*

Challenges/ Barriers	Response Options	Case studies
Lack of integration of convention objectives (other than CBD) in NBSAPs (and also other sectoral plans), despite consultations.	1. Ensure active consultation or collaboration with NFPs from the very beginning of the process and responsiveness to the input provided (i.e. by approaching ministry directors, stressing the value and importance of collaboration among NFPs). 2. Raise awareness on benefits of integrating issues related to the other conventions in NBSAPs (e.g. potential entry point for GEF funding for projects with benefits for multiple conventions).	• Mozambique (ii) (1) *(Case study 49, pg. 120)* • Cameroon (1,2) *(Case study 47, pg. 118)* • Nepal (i) (1,2) *(Case study 46, pg. 117)* • Bhutan (i) (1,2) *(Case study 45, pg. 116)* • Belgium (1) *(Case study 50, pg. 121)* • Fiji (1) *(Case study 48, pg. 119)*
Lack of coherent implementation of NBSAPs despite integration of convention objectives.	1. Assign clear roles and responsibilities in the NBSAP. 2. Ensure that NFPs and implementing agencies are members of any committee which ensures monitoring and implementation of the NBSAP. 3. Ensure sufficient funding through a resource mobilisation strategy.	• Nepal (i) (2) *(Case study 46, pg. 117)* • Bhutan (i) (3) *(Case study 45, pg. 116)* ***Case studies from other sections:*** • Uganda (ii) (3) *(Case study 53, page 148)* • Nepal (ii) (3) *(Case study 55, page 151)* • Bhutan (ii) (3) *(Case study 56, page 152)*
Lack of or inadequate funding.	*Please see the guidance section on resource mobilisation in section 7.4* On opportunities for attracting funding, the draft guide for CITES Parties on *Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of NBSAPs* (April 2011) stresses that activities identified in the NBSAPs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition will be better placed to attract financial resources, especially from GEF. The same point is being made with regard to the integration of CMS concerns into NBSAPs in the *Guidelines on the integration of Migratory Species into NBSAPs* developed by the CMS Secretariat (November 2011). This issue will be further elaborated on in the section on resource mobilisation.	

6.3.3 Key lessons learnt

Drawing on the case studies, the response options identified in the table above, as well as input by a range of interview partners, there are a number of lessons learnt that should be considered in order to enhance cooperation in the national implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs:

- Consider **integration of convention-specific targets**, objectives and activities of Biodiversity-related Conventions (other than the CBD) into NBSAPs, by making NFP coordination and cooperation an integral part of the NBSAP process.
- Foster **involvement of NFPs** of other Biodiversity-related Conventions from the very beginning and throughout the whole process (development and implementation of NBSAP) - options for early engagement in the absence of a (formal) coordination mechanism include personnel exchange, as well as the organization of an inception workshop involving NFPs and other key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

- **Mechanisms for coordination** and cooperation between NFPs and the ministerial departments and agencies involved can be developed, not least through the formation of national biodiversity committees or equivalent bodies including policy-making bodies and subordinated thematic working groups. It is therefore important to build upon and thus strengthen existing coordination structures. If the review of the coordination structures in place does not already take place in the planning stage of the NBSAP revision process, it can be made a target or action in the NBSAP, drawing from the lessons learnt of the NBSAP process and potentially other coordination processes.
- Create **ownership by governmental and non-governmental stakeholders** through a well-designed and transparent coordination process. Lessons should in particular be derived from the experience with other coordination processes (e.g. coordination process to develop national reports to conventions, see *Case study 16, pg. 53* in *section 3*; and by assigning clear roles and responsibilities.
- Increased collaboration of NFPs to various MEAs, and relevant ministerial departments and agencies, should become part of a **wider strategy to mainstream NBSAP development and implementation** with other relevant sectors impacting on biodiversity - as well as to **foster the post 2015 development agenda**. With regard to the latter, countries that have already incorporated or are in the process of incorporating MEA obligations into their national systems through the NBSAP process, can provide the institutional infrastructure and resources to implement SDGs related to biodiversity and report on the results.
- The web portal of the **NBSAP Forum** (http://nbsapforum.net), a global community of practice aiming to support NBSAP revision, can be used to foster and facilitate further exchange on the integration of issues related to the other (than CBD) Biodiversity-related Conventions:. The web portal is a repository of useful resources for NBSAP practitioners which can be explored by key themes. It also provides an online forum where members can ask the advice and share experiences with fellow practitioners and technical experts, organized by country, theme or region.

6.3.4 Existing guidelines on the integration of issues related to the other Biodiversity-related Conventions in NBSAPs

Guidance on how to contribute to the NBSAP process has been issued by two of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (other than the CBD), namely CITES and CMS. Furthermore, CMS has provided a first guidance to their NFPs on structured participation in the recommended NBSAP process prior to the adoptions of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020[75]. Despite directly targeting their NFPs, some of the directions provided by both conventions can also be useful for NFPs of WHC, the Ramsar Convention and the International Treaty

Draft Guidance on Integration CITES Targets into the NBSAP process

In recognition of the reciprocal benefits between the NBSAPs and CITES objectives, the CITES Secretariat prepared a 'how-to' guide for parties who wish to consider mainstreaming CITES objectives into the revised NBSAPs. By following the seven-step process recommended for developing an NBSAP[76], a series of suggested methods is listed for all steps, for CITES management authorities to participate in the NBSAP revision, as a means to ensure that CITES activities are included.

75 CMS (2005) UNEP/CMS/Resolution 8.18 [Online] Available from: http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/CP8Res_8_18_Integration_MigratorySpecies_Natl_Biodiversity_E_0.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

76 CBD, GEF, UNEP (2007)The Biodiversity Planning Process: How to prepare and update a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/training/nbsap/b2-train-prepare-update-nbsap-en.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

BOX 18: EXTRACTS FROM THE DRAFT GUIDANCE ON INTEGRATING CITES TARGETS INTO THE NBSAP PROCESS[77]

It might be useful for countries to explore the relationship between CITES and the CBD more fully when revising and updating the NBSAPs and possibly request the inclusion of a chapter on trade in biological resources in their NBSAPs. This chapter could be linked to a country's obligations to CITES and their CITES targets. Annex IV [of the guidance] contains a set of suggested methods for mainstreaming CITES objectives into NBSAPs. Below are some suggestions as to how the CITES Management Authorities[78] can participate in the seven-step process recommended for developing an NBSAP:

1: **Identifying and Engaging Stakeholders:** The CITES Management Authority could contact the CBD Focal Point and request to participate in the revision and update of the NBSAP. The CITES Management Authority could also propose to be on the committee/working group for NBSAPs.

2: **Assessing National Biodiversity and its Links with Human Well-being:** During this step, CITES-related drivers of biodiversity loss, the policies and legislation adopted to reduce biodiversity loss and the very strategic relationships between species and human well-being specific to CITES could be included in the stocktaking exercise. This will ensure that the update and revision will include CITES considerations in the future.

3: **Developing a Strategy:** A number of the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, particularly targets 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12, 17, 18, 19 and 20, are closely linked with the objectives of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2013. These can be linked during this stage and CITES objectives and indicators can be mainstreamed into the priorities and targets set by the country. Annex V on assessing policy options may provide useful guidance in this step.

4: **Developing a Plan of Action:** If CITES objectives and indicators have been included in the targets and priorities set by the country in stage 3, in stage four a set of activities and actions can be developed or taken from an existing CITES national action plan.

5: **Implementing the NBSAP:** Once the Action Plan has been developed, it has to be implemented within a certain timeframe. The CITES Management Authority could implement the activity stream related to CITES (noting that this activity stream could also be an existing CITES action plan that is already being implemented) within the framework of a wider and more mainstreamed biodiversity action plan.

6: **Monitoring and Evaluating Implementation of the NBSAP:** If a CITES national action plan is integrated into the NBSAP, its implementation can also be tracked during this stage.

7: **Reporting:** This is a requirement specific to the CBD, however, the CBD National Report could include the process followed to integrate and enhance synergies with the other Biodiversity-related Conventions to ensure the more effective and coherent implementation of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at the national level. The CBD national report could also complement, contribute to or facilitate preparation of the CITES biennial report on measures taken to enforce the provisions of the Convention.

The full draft document is [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E026A.pdf [Accessed: 26 January 2015]

77 CITES (2011) Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)[Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E026A.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

78 Please see Box 4 (NFPs of the Major Biodiversity-related Conventions), on page 7.

Guidelines on National Strategies and Actions for Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)

Recognizing the opportunity to ensure coherent implementation of CBD and CMS and for conservation of migratory species to be mainstreamed into national policies for biodiversity, the *Guidelines on National Strategies & National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans*, developed by the CMS Secretariat in collaboration with Christian Prip, seek to assist CMS Parties in becoming best involved in the coming processes of revising and updating NBSAPs.

BOX 19: EXTRACT FROM THE GUIDELINES ON THE INTEGRATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES CONCERNS INTO THE REVISION AND UPDATING OF CBD NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPS)

The following provides some measures that national CMS NFPs and NFPs of CMS Agreements and MoUs could take, depending on national circumstances and, if they have not done so already, to ensure that migratory species concerns will be reflected in the revised and updated NBSAPs.

Process

1. Establish contact and collaboration with the national CBD and the other Biodiversity-related Conventions NFPs.
2. Become familiar with CBD decisions, work programmes, targets etc. and their relevance for CMS.
3. Create a separate CMS planning process to identify and feed CMS priorities into the NBSAP process.
4. Promote coherent integration of migratory species in Range States' NBSAPs.
5. Become fully involved in the NBSAP process.
6. Provide basic information on migratory species for which the country is a Range State to the NBSAP process.

Tools for implementation

7. Promote enhanced monitoring of and research into migratory species.
8. Promote targets and indicators for migratory species.
9. Promote the establishment of protected areas networks as beneficial for migratory species.
10. Promote restoration of habitats for migratory species.
11. Promote provisions for sustainable use of migratory species in NBSAPs.
12. Promote integration of migratory species in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
13. Promote outreach and communication activities related to migratory species.
14. Explore the value of migratory species and the potential to create incentives for the conservation and sustainable use.
15. Promote the preservation of local communities and indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge, innovations and practices related to migratory species.
16. Resource mobilisation.

Addressing threats to migratory species

CMS NFPs are encouraged to identify the threats to migratory species, identify the species most threatened, and ensure that these threats and corresponding conservation actions are properly addressed in the NBSAP. Climate change, invasive alien species and threats caused by economic sector activities are specifically highlighted. With regard to the latter, CMS NFPs are encouraged to promote sector integration in the NBSAPs and to get fully involved in the dialogues with the different sector authorities to provide relevant information and ensure that migratory species threats caused by sectoral activities will be properly addressed.

The full document is [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/NBSAP-guidelines-CMS.pdf [Accessed: 26 January 2015]

6.4 USEFUL RESOURCES

- **CBD (2015) NBSAP capacity building modules**
  This website by the CBD offers a set of capacity building modules on NBSAPs. **[Online] Available from:** https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/default.shtml **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **CBD (2015) Harmonization of legal obligations under biodiversity-related MEAs**
  This webpage by the CBD offers a set of reference materials and case studies related to legislative complementarity and harmonisation of biodiversity-related MEAs.
  [Online] Available from: https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/guidance-tools/mainstream/law.shtml **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **NBSAP Forum (2015) Support for action on NBSAPs**
  This is a global partnership aiming to support NBSAP revisions. It is hosted by the Secretariat of the CBD, UNDP and UNEP. The purpose of the NBSAP Forum web portal is to support countries in finding the information they need to develop and implement effective NBSAP. 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. **[Online] Available from:** http://nbsapforum.net/ **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **CBD (2014) Societal participatory processes in the revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) - advanced draft report**
  In this report, an analysis of societal participation in the process of NBSAP revision in ten developing countries is reviewed. **[Online] Available from:**
  http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/information/cop-12-inf-38-en.pdf **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **CBD (2013) Incorporating objectives of the Biodiversity-related Conventions into revised National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other issues of relevance to NBSAP revision identified by the Conference of the Parties**
  This CBD notification presents a succinct compilation of pertinent resolutions and associated tools developed by Biodiversity-related Conventions. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2013/ntf-2013-092-nbsap-en.pdf **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **UNEP, CBD (2012) Progress report on the contribution of the United Nations system to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) prepared by the UN Environment Management Group (EMG)**
  This document presents a synthesis of strategies and activities employed by EMG member agencies towards the international biodiversity agenda, including related to synergies among MEAs.
  [Online] Available from: https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-11/information/cop-11-inf-05-en.pdf **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **CMS Secretariat and Prip, C (2011) Guidelines on the integration of migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)**
  This document, produced by CMS Secretariat, in collaboration with Christian Prip, provides a set of recommendations, mainly directed to CMS Family Focal Points, on how they could best become involved in and influence the NBSAPs revising and updating processes. **[Online] Available from:**
  http://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/NBSAP-guidelines-CMS.pdf **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **CITES (2011) Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) - A Draft Guide for CITES Parties**
  Recognizing the reciprocal benefits between the NBSAPs and the goals of CITES, the CITES Secretariat has prepared this practical "how-to" Guide for Parties which may wish to consider the inclusion of their CITES national and regional actions in the revised and updated NBSAPs. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E026A.pdf **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**
- **Prip, C; Gross, T; Johnston, S; Vierros, M (2010) Biodiversity planning: an assessment of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, Yokohama, Japan.**
  Includes a desk review of relevant NBSAPs, and has a dedicated chapter on synergies with the implementation of other Biodiversity-related Conventions. **[Online] Available from:** http://archive.ias.unu.edu/resource_centre/UNU-IAS_Biodiversity_Planning_NBSAPs_Assessment_final_web_Oct_2010.pdf **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

7. Financial resource mobilisation and utilisation

BOX 20: RESOURCE MOBILISATION

In the context of this Sourcebook, resource mobilisation refers to a process of raising different types of support for a cause and can include both cash and in-kind support. Resource mobilisation will include the ability to mobilise the resources (financial, institutional, human and technical) and be well positioned to access, absorb and make use of them effectively.

7.1 WHY COOPERATE AT NATIONAL LEVEL TO MOBILIZE FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS?

No Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) can be effectively implemented without the necessary resources, including finance. In particular, developing countries face significant challenges in implementing the Biodiversity-related Conventions with the limited resources available. Additional resources need to be mobilised at different scales, from existing sources as well as new and innovative ones. Enhanced coordination and collaboration among National Focal Points (NFPs) of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and other key stakeholders could broaden the range of available financing opportunities. However, access to adequate funding is only one side of the coin. The other side is implementing coherent, effective and efficient conservation programs that make the most of available funds. Improving the quality of conservation action is also a critical ingredient of a successful strategy to attract additional funding. This can also be achieved through enhanced coordination and collaboration among NFPs and other key stakeholders as a number of case studies in this section show.

This section focuses on opportunities for achieving more efficient resource utilisation and increasing options for financial resource mobilisation through joint implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

BOX 21: THE 'FUNDING GAP' AND THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD) HIGH-LEVEL PANEL ON GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCES

It is widely acknowledged that there is a biodiversity conservation "funding gap" and thus available financial resources lag well behind the conservation needs. The CBD High-Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (CBD HLP on Global Assessment of Resources) estimated that between US$150 billion and US$440 billion per year would be required to meet the Aichi Targets by 2020. The Panel observed that few quantitative assessments have been made at national or regional level of the resources needed to deliver biodiversity priorities, and that most of the commissioned regional reviews found few specific assessments of the resources needed to deliver the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

As an example of a recent target by target assessment of resource needs the CBD HLP on Global Assessment of Resources identified a study by Conservation International for the CBD Secretariat which assessed the resources needed to deliver the Aichi Targets in Ecuador (Albánet al, 2013). The assessment produced a total estimate of US$ 4.6 billion for the resources required to deliver the 20 Targets nationally, equivalent to US$ 669.8 million per year over 7 years. This amount represents 19% of the Ecuadorian national government budget for the year 2013. The current budget for the entire environment sector of the Government for the year 2012 is US$ 163.4 million and the Ministry for the Environment budget for year 2013 is US$ 110.6 million. This indicates the need to mobilise resources in addition to the national environment budget in order to achieve the Targets.

One of the key findings (Key Message 6) of the Second Report of the CBD HLP on Global Assessment of Resources is that enhancing synergies, addressing trade-offs and promoting alignments across sectoral policies are prerequisites for effective implementation of the Aichi Targets and of major importance for resource mobilisation. This will help to identify co-funding opportunities and to secure contributions to meeting the Aichi Targets from a wide range of sources across economies and societies. The report also specifically notes that enhancing synergies across the Biodiversity-related Conventions and other [MEAs] could increase the effectiveness of spending and lead to resource savings.

Source

- Resourcing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: An Assessment of Benefits, Investments and Resource needs for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Second Report of the High-Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources for Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (12 September 2014). [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/information/cop-12-inf-04-en.pdf [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

7.1.1 Sources of biodiversity finance and scaling up

According to the First Report of the CBD HLP on Global Assessment of Resources (2011) "funding from a diverse range of international and national sources, and across different policy areas, is required to secure the full range of economic and social benefits to be gained from meeting the Aichi Biodiversity Targets". The report further reads that "as policy areas impacted by the delivery of Aichi Biodiversity Targets extend well beyond biodiversity conservation, when enumerating funding sources, budgets and provisions beyond just conservation budgets must also be considered". The CBD HLP on Global Assessment of Resources thereby assessed, in particular, the potential of (innovative) finance mechanisms to raise additional funds for biodiversity conservation[79].

A 2013 report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) also highlights opportunities to scale up biodiversity finance through the use and effective application of a range of finance mechanisms, summarised in *Box 22* below[80]. In addition to highlighting these opportunities, the report also stresses the need to address design and implementation issues – including environmental and social safeguards – so that governments can ensure these mechanisms are environmentally effective, economically efficient and any benefits are equitably distributed.

BOX 22: OECD WORK ON INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR BIODIVERSITY

Recent work by the OECD (2013) highlights opportunities to scale up biodiversity finance through use of a range of financing mechanisms:

Environmental Fiscal Reform – environmentally related taxes were estimated to generate revenues of US$ 700 billion in OECD countries in 2010. However, revenues from taxes on pollution and resources, which are most relevant for biodiversity, constitute a very small fraction of this total and offer substantial growth potential.

Payments for Ecosystem Services – there are now more than 300 Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) programmes around the world, and there is scope for considerable further growth. It is estimated that 5 national PES programmes alone involve payments exceeding US$ 6 billion per year. Another study estimates that payments for watershed services in 2008 totalled over US$ 9 billion.

Biodiversity offsets – there are 45 programmes that require biodiversity offsets or compensatory conservation measures, and were estimated to have mobilized financial resources of between US$ 2.4 and 4 billion in 2011.

Markets for green products – markets have been developed for goods and services that are based on sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems. There has been growth in certified timber and seafood products, and new markets are emerging in sustainable soy and sugar. Price premiums for green products reward practices that benefit ecosystems and biodiversity.

Biodiversity in Climate Change Funding – there is potential to leverage biodiversity co-benefits within the increasing flow of finance that is directed towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. Notable examples of where synergies can be harnessed include the mechanism for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation and ecosystem-based adaptation. Climate change finance flows were estimated at US$ 70-120 billion annually in 2009/2010, with lower bound estimates of biodiversity related climate change finance from multilateral sources amounting to USD 8 billion.

Biodiversity in International Development Finance – there are opportunities to harness synergies and better mainstream biodiversity in broader development objectives. Biodiversity-related bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA), as tracked by the OECD Development Assistance Committee, increased from an average of USD 3.3 billion per year in 2005/06 to USD 5.7 billion per year in 2009/10.

79 CBD (2012) Report of the High-Level Panel on global assessment of resources for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-11/information/cop-11-inf-20-en.pdf [Accessed: 3 March 2015]

80 OECD (2013) Scaling-up Finance Mechanisms for Biodiversity. OECD Publishing.

With regard to resource mobilisation, a range of guidance material is already available or is currently being further refined under different initiatives, some of which will be briefly introduced in the section on "opportunities for cooperation in financial resource mobilisation for the coherent implementation of the conventions". Some case studies in this section deal specifically with national planning approaches for biodiversity financing. For selected key resources and key initiatives please also see *section 7.5* for useful resources, at the end of this section, and for opportunities on accessing the GEF as a multilateral fund for integrated projects (with multi-convention benefit), see *Annex 3, pg. 172*.

7.1.2 Mainstreaming, resource mobilisation and utilisation and synergies

One of the key findings of the Second Report of the CBD HLP on Global Assessment of Resources is that "enhancing synergies, addressing trade-offs and promoting alignments across sectoral policies are prerequisites for effective implementation of the Aichi Targets and of major importance for resource mobilisation" (Key Message 6). The recommendation thus links the concept of synergies and mainstreaming and stresses that this will help to identify co-funding opportunities and to secure contributions to meeting the Aichi Targets from a wide range of sources across economies and societies.

Mainstreaming means integrating or including actions related to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in strategies relating to production sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism and mining as well as to including biodiversity considerations in poverty reduction plans and national sustainable development plans (CBD HLP on Global Assessment of Resources 2014).

In the context of resource mobilisation, mainstreaming biodiversity across wider policy sectors can deliver shared benefits and open up additional sources of finance. Recommendations of the second report of the CBD HLP on Global Assessment of Resources thus include that human and institutional capacity development programmes should include an increased focus on the sharing of practical knowledge and experience in developing effective policies and instruments for mainstreaming that support increased investment in conservation and sustainable use.

Biodiversity mainstreaming also contributes to efficiency gains through reducing duplication of efforts and saving time in reporting. This is illustrated with a case study from **South Africa** in the section on *reporting and information management* (*Case study 16, pg. 53*)

Biodiversity mainstreaming is central to the approach supported by the Biodiversity Finance Initiative BIOFIN (*Box 27, pg. 149*). The approach includes analysis of current policy and institutional frameworks affecting biodiversity and ecosystem services both positively and negatively, and quantification of related investments through comprehensive reviews of past and current (baseline) public and private expenditures. Analyses of impact, effectiveness and coherence will provide key opportunities for mainstreaming, aimed at reducing the cost of biodiversity management, such as through the removal of biodiversity-harmful incentives.

BOX 23: THE NBSAPS 2.0: MAINSTREAMING BIODIVERSITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Biodiversity mainstreaming is the integration of biodiversity concerns into defined sectors and development goals, through a variety of approaches and mechanisms, so as to achieve sustainable biodiversity and development outcomes. This definition, which emphasises dual biodiversity-development outcomes, was agreed upon at a meeting of the African Leadership Group of the NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming biodiversity and development project.

The three-year project aims to raise the profile of biodiversity as a key development asset with substantial economic, social and political benefits. The project works with the environment ministries and agencies that are responsible for NBSAP revision in Botswana, Namibia, the Seychelles and Uganda. It is providing learning support and knowledge resources to foster these organizations as champions of integrating biodiversity into policy debates and processes.

The project has:

- convened a group of seven independent experts on biodiversity and development as a learning resource for African partners
- facilitated a series of workshops to support peer learning and review
- produced a set of tools for putting biodiversity at the centre of policy agendas, including 'Biodiversity Mainstreaming: A Rapid Diagnostic Tool', 'Ten Steps to Mainstreaming Biodiversity' and 'Developing a Business Case for Biodiversity'
- showcased successes in NBSAP revision and disseminated lessons in the African biodiversity policy community and beyond

For more information on the NBSAPs 2.0: Mainstreaming biodiversity and development project: [Online] Available from: http://www.iied.org/nbsaps-20-mainstreaming-biodiversity-development [Accessed: 20 February 2015].

7.1.3 Financial resource mobilisation under the Biodiversity-related Conventions

Financing has been a concern of all the Biodiversity-related Conventions and the discussions on how to secure and increase the flows of funds for biodiversity conservation have featured in decisions of all the conventions governing bodies. In 1992, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established to support developing countries in the implementation of environmental conventions.

BOX 24: THE GEF, GEF REPLENISHMENT PERIODS AND GEF IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AND PARTNERS

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a partnership for international cooperation where 183 countries work together with international institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector, to address global environmental issues. Since 1991, the GEF has provided $13.5 billion in grants and leveraged $65 billion in co-financing for 3,900 projects in more than 165 developing countries. For 23 years, developed and developing countries alike have provided these funds to support activities related to **biodiversity**, climate change, international waters, land degradation, and chemicals and waste in the context of development projects and programs.

Through its **Small Grants Programme (SGP)** the GEF has made more than 20,000 grants to civil society and community based organizations for a total of $1 billion.

The GEF serves as financial mechanism for the following conventions:

- **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Although not linked formally to the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer (MP), the GEF supports implementation of the Protocol in countries with economies in transition.

The GEF Trust Fund is replenished every four years based on donor pledges for that four year period. The funding is available for activities within the GEF Focal Areas, defined during the replenishment discussions. The current programme, the sixth GEF replenishment period (GEF-6) started on 1st July 2014 and will run to 30th June 2018. GEF-6 achieved record funding of $4.43 billion.

The World Bank acts as trustee for the GEF[81]. GEF-6 works with the following implementing agencies: World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank (AfDB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Also, the World Wildlife Fund, Inc. (WWF-US), Conservation International (CI), Development Bank of South Africa (DBSA) and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are new GEF project agencies since GEF-5. They are the first non-governmental agencies to be listed.

Although the idea for a project proposal can be originated by countries or any other entities, and the projects take place in eligible countries, **only the implementing or project agencies can submit a proposal to access GEF funds.**

For more information please see: www.thegef.org

81 The GEF administers different trust funds: Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF); Least Developed Countries Trust Fund (LDCF); Special Climate Change Trust Fund (SCCF); Nagoya Protocol Implementation Fund (NPIF). The GEF also provides secretariat services, on an interim basis, for the Adaptation Fund.

Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions, the GEF is the financial mechanism of the CBD only (Box 24). However, other multilateral finance mechanisms have been established for the benefit of the environment and many developing countries have also created their own environmental funds. In addition, conventions have employed a diversity of approaches to address funding gaps, covering a range of actions relating to international finance flows, through to domestic fundraising and biodiversity finance mechanisms. For example, the CBD has a Resource Mobilisation Strategy which provides a framework to assist Parties in establishing national targets, goals and action for enhancing international financial flows and domestic funding for biological diversity (decision IX/11) in the context of national planning and local sustainable development policies[82]. Furthermore, as adopted in decision X/3, parties were invited to provide data on resource mobilisation according to a list of indicators, as outlined in paragraph 7 of the decision text. Close to 40 countries[83] have since submitted national reports, providing information on progress towards Aichi target 20, outlining the flow of resources for biodiversity from developed to developing countries, financial resources available for biodiversity, steps taken to implement the strategy for resource mobilisation and the role of specific initiatives including those relating to technical cooperation, and innovative financial mechanisms. The trends in national and international biodiversity financing and progress in mobilisation of resources during the 2011-2020 strategic programme will be a key indicator to achieving the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, as expressed in decision XI/6, CBD COP11.

BOX 25: FINANCIAL MECHANISMS FOR THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS ACCORDING TO THE CONVENTION WEBSITES

MEA	Location	Host institution	Financial mechanism for implementation at the national level	Description
CBD	Montréal, Canada	UNEP	Global Environment Facility (GEF)	Box 24
CITES	Geneva, Switzerland	UNEP	No financial mechanism	
CMS	Bonn, Germany	UNEP	CMS small grants programme	Established in 1994 as a grassroots tool, the **CMS small grants programme** has provided funding for a number of projects in more than 30 countries. The programme has strengthened the implementation of the Convention through supporting CMS conservation initiatives for a number of migratory taxa, with a strong focus on implementation in developing countries[84].

82 CBD (2015) Strategy for resource mobilization. [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/financial/rms.shtml [Accessed: 5 March 2015]
83 See full list on http://www.cbd.int/financial/reporting.shtml
84 CMS (2015) CMS Small Grants Programme [Online] Available from: http://www.cms.int/en/activities/small-grants/about [Accessed: 5 March 2015]

Ramsar Convention	Gland, Switzerland	IUCN	Ramsar Convention Small Grants Fund (global), Wetlands for the Future Fund (for Latin America) and The Swiss Grant Fund for Africa	The **Small Grants Fund** was established in 1990 as a means to support the conservation and wise use of wetland resources in developing countries, and the sustainable development of communities which depend on them and care for them[85]. Since 1997, the **Wetlands for the Future Fund** has promoted the implementation of the concept of "wise use" of wetlands through the strengthening of capacity of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, to manage their wetland resources in perpetuity and contributing to integrate wetland conservation and management with the development process[86]. Dating back to 1989, the role of the **Swiss Grant Fund for Africa** is to finance suitable emergency action or specific activities in needy areas of wetland conservation and wise use[87].
WHC	Paris, France	UNESCO	World Heritage Fund (for all sites)	The **World Heritage Fund** is a trust fund, maintained by the compulsory and voluntary contributions from the State Parties, as well as from private donations. Its main function is to assist in the protection of properties forming part of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) in accordance with the terms of the Convention and of the present Regulations[88].
			Rapid Response Facility	The **Rapid Response Facility** is a small grants programme, jointly operated by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, the UN Foundation and Fauna & Flora International, that provides emergency funding of up to US $30,000 to address severe and time sensitive threats to endangered biodiversity, primarily within UNESCO natural World Heritage sites[89].
ITPGRFA	Rome, Italy	FAO	The Benefit Sharing Fund	The Benefit-sharing Fund invests directly in projects, supporting farmers in developing countries conserve crop diversity in their fields and assisting farmers and breeders globally to adapt crops to changing needs and demands[90].
IPPC	Rome, Italy	FAO	No financial mechanism	

85 Ramsar (2015) Ramsar Small Grants Fund [Online] Available from: http://www.ramsar.org/news/ramsar-small-grants-fund-invest-in-wetlands [Accessed: 5 March 2015]
86 Ramsar (2015) Wetlands for the future [Online] Available from: http://www.ramsar.org/activity/wetlands-for-the-future [Accessed: 5 March 2015]
87 fund-for-africa [Accessed: 5 March 2015]
88 WHC (2015) World Heritage Fund [Online] Available from: http://whc.unesco.org/en/world-heritage-fund/ [Accessed: 5 March 2015]
89 WHC (2015) Rapid Response Facility [Online] Available from: http://whc.unesco.org/en/activities/578 [Accessed: 5 March 2015]
90 ITPGRFA (2015) The Benefit-sharing Fund [Online] Available from: http://www.planttreaty.org/content/benefit-sharing-fund-brief [Accessed: 5 March 2015]

Even though the GEF is the financial mechanism of the CBD only (among the Biodiversity-related Conventions), there is the potential for other Biodiversity-related Conventions to benefit from access to GEF funds. One entry point is of course the relevance of one of the GEF focal areas (*Box 35*) to the scope of the respective convention. In addition, there is the potential for other Biodiversity-related Conventions to benefit from the fact that the GEF is the CBD's financial mechanisms. A key entry point here is the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and thus the integration of activities, projects, programmes and objectives of the other Biodiversity-related Conventions into NBSAPs. The Biodiversity Strategy under GEF-6 includes a specific paragraph on synergies among the Biodiversity-related Conventions, which can provide a basis for collaboration, especially in NBSAP revision and implementation processes:

"*The CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi targets form the global policy framework and entry point for harnessing synergy amongst the Biodiversity-related Conventions. The Strategic Plan has been recognized as such in various COP decisions or resolutions of the governing bodies for the other Biodiversity-related Conventions and ongoing work is under way in several conventions with a view to aligning their respective strategic frameworks even more strongly with the Strategic Plan. Hence, due to the inclusive and comprehensive nature of the GEF biodiversity strategy, ample opportunity exists for the inclusion of pertinent GEF-eligible activities, as prioritized in the country's revised NBSAPs, to exploit this synergy amongst the conventions and advance shared objectives*"[91].

At CBD COP 12 in October 2014 Parties addressed enhancing programmatic synergies among the Biodiversity-related Conventions with regard to funding of national priorities in the context of GEF funding and in particular invited Parties to enhance coordination among their respective Biodiversity-related Conventions NFPs (*Box 26*). For further information on "opportunities for accessing GEF Funds for the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions" please view *Annex 3, pg. 172.*

BOX 26: CBD COP DECISION ON ENHANCING PROGRAMMATIC SYNERGIES AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

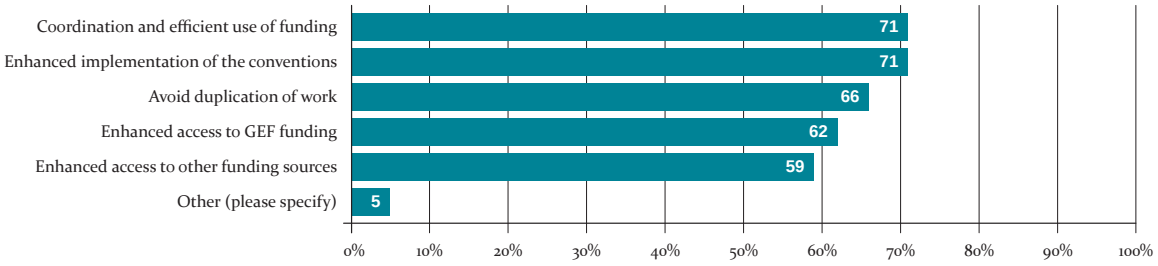
In decision XII/30, Financial mechanism, CBD COP 12 (A. 1.) ***Invites* Parties** to enhance coordination among their respective biodiversity-related convention NFPs, in order to identify national priorities in support of the implementation of the various Biodiversity-related Conventions that are aligned with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and with the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and incorporate them into their NBSAPs; (A. 2.) ***Invites* the governing bodies of the various Biodiversity-related Conventions:** (a) To provide elements of advice, as appropriate, concerning the funding of the national priorities referred to in the paragraph above, within their respective mandates and in accordance with the mandate of the GEF, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the COP to the Convention and the Council of the GEF as per decision III/8, that may be referred to the GEF through the CBD COP; (b) To request their respective secretariats to transmit such advice in a timely manner to the Executive Secretary of the CBD; ... and also (A. 4.) ***requests* the Executive Secretary of the CBD** to further liaise with the various Biodiversity-related Conventions and the GEF in order to find ways to facilitate the efforts of Parties as indicated in paragraph 1 above.

91 Please see GEF/R.6/20/Rev.01, GEF-6 PROGRAMING DIRECTIONS, p.8, November 26, 2013. [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/GEF_R.6_20.Rev_.01,%20%20Programming%20Directions,%20Final,%20November%2026,%202013.pdf [Accessed: 10 March 2015]

7.1.4 Benefits identified in the UNEP Survey 2014

Increased collaboration in implementing MEAs at national level may result in efficiency gains, avoiding duplications in efforts and expenditure; for example, the development of more coherent or shared activities on actions such as national reporting, joint scientific assessments, and shared databases or information tools. This is also reflected in the UNEP Survey 2014 (*Box 5, pg. 13)*. With regard to all subject-areas addressed in the different sections of this sourcebook, *cost and/or resource savings* was indicated as a main benefit *(institutional arrangements*, by 56 % of respondents, *information management and reporting*, by 53%, *capacity building*, by 48 %, *science-policy interface*, by 44%, *Strategic Plan/ NBSAPs*, by 40%). In addition to the cost and/ or resource savings aspect, *improved access to funding* was indicated as a main benefit by 44% of respondents in the section on institutional arrangements and *access to GEF funding* was indicated by 50% in the section on the *Strategic Plan/NBSAPs*.

Furthermore, respondents to the UNEP Survey 2014 also indicated that there are many potential benefits from the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions with regard to resource mobilisation itself. *Graph 14* shows the benefits identified by the respondents. The benefits ticked most frequently by respondents are, *increased coordination and efficient use of funding for convention implementation* and *enhanced implementation of the conventions*, both of which were indicated as a main benefit by more than 70% of the respondents. *Avoiding duplication of work* was another frequently cited benefit, listed by more than 66% of respondents.



Graph 14: Main benefits of cooperating on mobilising resources for the Biodiversity-related Conventions among national focal points of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP survey 2014

As one of the key sources of national biodiversity funding in eligible countries, the UNEP Survey 2014 also asked NFPs about their working relationship with NFPs of the GEF. In the most positive cases, respondents reported having direct links, through participation in GEF committees or departmental connections.

However, although the majority of respondents did cooperate with GEF NFPs (60% of total respondents, and 62% of NFPs respondents), 22% of respondents didn't know who the national GEF (operational or political) Focal Point is.

7.2 OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION IN FINANCIAL RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR THE COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTIONS

Already different countries are employing various approaches to cover the funding gap for biodiversity conservation. The case studies below provide examples of different approaches to biodiversity financing in different countries and regions, in particular in the context of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) process. Examples of collaboration among National Focal Points (NFPs) on financial needs assessments, financial resource mobilisation and utilisation are also presented. Furthermore, some context is included to provide information on specific approaches, initiatives or funding opportunities which can support the coherent implementation of multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions.

7.2.1 National planning approaches to biodiversity financing

In **Uganda**, a national sustainable resource mobilisation strategy for biodiversity has been developed in response to the call by CBD COP 10. As in most developing countries and despite significant efforts, current sources of financing are inadequate for biodiversity conservation in Uganda. The strategy therefore aims at the efficient use of all available funds, mainstreaming of biodiversity across sectors, as well as the mobilisation of additional resources for biodiversity, including through new financing mechanisms or reallocation of funds.

Case study 53: Financing biodiversity conservation in Uganda

Uganda has pursued a multifaceted approach to financing biodiversity conservation. The major source of funding has been by government, through an annual allocation of over $3.5 million to biodiversity related agencies. Additional contributions come from revenues generated by national agencies, such as the Uganda Wildlife Authority, and also donor support. Coordination with the operations of civil society organizations provides other financial opportunities through biodiversity research and inventories, increasing public awareness, policy support and detailed species and site conservation activities. The government has complimented these efforts with other innovative financing mechanisms such as fiscal reforms, payments for ecosystem services (PES) and green marketing, but these have been used modestly without a long-term strategy.

In summary, these sources of financing have been inadequate for biodiversity conservation in the country, allowing continued degradation of biodiversity and ecosystem services, leading to diminishing productivity and reduced contribution to livelihoods and society support. Yet biodiversity remains an important factor in Uganda's economic development, with tourism ranked as the highest foreign exchange earner, raising over US$ 2.4 billion in 2014, a value higher than that of all cash crops. At the same time, the value of organic exports has increased six fold since 2005, with export earnings of over US$36 million. The value of organic exports signals the significance of green marketing to Uganda's agriculture, and organic farming also has inherent benefits for biodiversity.

To augment efforts in financial mobilisation, Uganda has developed a national sustainable resource mobilisation strategy with the support of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative – BIOFIN (Box 27, pg. 149). The strategy is process-oriented, not only describing activities but also defining a set of ideas, guidelines and action plans to raise the resources required, and linking the strategy with the overall concept of sustainable development. The strategy aims to sustain and scale up existing successful initiatives to increase funding and enhance the productivity of biodiversity resources and ecosystems services. It aims at establishing appropriate and coherent mobilisation, and proper use of financial resources based on national biodiversity priorities and needs. The strategy was developed in a consultative manner, and in response to CBD Decision X/3 on 'developing a strategy for financial resource mobilisation'. It addresses a significant barrier affecting effective implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions strategies, actions and activities in the country, including the implementation of Uganda's NBSAP.

The National Development Plan identifies biodiversity as an important component that enhances the performance of the primary and secondary sectors of the economy such as agriculture, forestry, tourism and industry. Therefore, the guidelines and action plans in the strategy provide a platform for all stakeholders to mobilize, and appropriately use, financial resources for biodiversity conservation in Uganda.

For more information:
Uganda's 5th national report to the CBD is [Online] Available from: www.cbd.int/doc/world/ug/ug-nr-05-en.pdf [Accessed: 10 March 2015]
NBSAP for Uganda (2014-2024), NEMA 2014 (Draft).

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Uganda

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Uganda's strategy for sustainable resource mobilisation has been developed with the support of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative – **BIOFIN**, a global partnership seeking to address the biodiversity finance challenge in a comprehensive manner.

BOX 27: THE BIODIVERSITY FINANCE INITIATIVE (BIOFIN) - BUILDING TRANSFORMATIVE POLICY AND FINANCING FRAMEWORKS TO INCREASE INVESTMENT IN BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT

Launched in October 2012 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the initiative is managed by the UNDP Ecosystems and Biodiversity Programme, in partnership with the European Union (EU), and the Governments of Germany, Switzerland, Norway and Flanders. GEF is a further financing partner of in-country projects.

BIOFIN works along two main axes:

1. Globally-led development of a new methodological framework

2. Adaptation and implementation of this new methodological framework at national level

   To help countries increase the importance attributed to biodiversity, and in consequence bridge the financing gap, the work at national level will be led by Ministries of Finance, Economics or Planning and the Ministry of Environment. It is articulated through the following components:

   a. Analyse the integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in sectoral and development policy, planning and budgeting
   b. Assess future financing flows, needs and gaps for managing and conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services
   c. Develop comprehensive national Resource Mobilisation Strategies to meet the biodiversity finance gap
   d. Initiate implementation of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy at national level

As of January 2015, there are a total of 29 core participating countries. While discussions are ongoing in several countries to formally join the Initiative, the following 19 countries are already fully engaged: Botswana, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Fiji, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Seychelles, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda and Zambia. Further countries can be supported as additional resources are leverages.

Tools developed through BIOFIN will also be applied in the 45 countries that are receiving UNDP-GEF support towards the development of new national biodiversity strategies, and will be made available to all CBD Parties through an ongoing collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), such as on regional workshops on resource mobilisation.

Source

- BIOFIN (2015) BIOFIN Factsheet [Online] Available from: http://www.biodiversityfinance.net/links-and-publications/biofin-factsheet [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

In **Brazil,** in response to the Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, a comprehensive effort is being undertaken to ensure sufficient funds for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. Next to the development of a national resource mobilisation strategy for the implementation of the country's NBSAP, a Federal Government Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use has been developed. This, due to the implications for federal budget planning, is a major effort to ensure permanent flow of financial resource from the federal budget to the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. In addition, the Ministry of Environment of Brazil negotiated, with the country's Applied Economic Research Institute (IPEA), the national mapping of resources invested in biodiversity, to enable better informed policy-making in the future. Parallel discussions on inventorying environmental expenditures, including biodiversity-related items, are also taking place with the private sector.

Case study 54: Ensuring permanent flow of financial resources to the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions in Brazil

The umbrella provided by the Global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the NBSAP revision process was used in Brazil to foster several initiatives such as the preparation of a Federal Government Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use. This plan, which is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment (MMA) together with the Ministry of Planning, Budget and Management, is currently being elaborated and will integrate biodiversity-related actions of several ministries. It will guide the review of the Federal Government's multi-year budget planning for the next cycle, 2016-2019. Furthermore, as a crucial element for enabling the continuous efforts towards implementing the NBSAP and achieving the national and Aichi Biodiversity Targets, a national strategy for the mobilisation of resources and for meeting capacity needs is being designed.

Also, MMA negotiated with the Applied Economic Research Institute (IPEA) the national mapping of resources invested in biodiversity in Brazil through the Classification of Environmental Activities (CEA) methodology developed by the UN under the System of Economic and Environmental Accounts (SEEA). IPEA is already working on the quantification, analysis and monitoring of environmental expenditures within the federal government, with the objective of preparing a proposal for enhancing effectiveness of governmental environmental expenditures. This analysis should contribute to a better understanding of the management and operation of national environmental policies and can support further public policy analyses to suggest implementation adjustments and/or plan future actions. Negotiations between MMA and IPEA seek to broaden the scope of the analysis to include specifically the biodiversity theme, both at state and federal levels. In the future, IPEA intends to transform this study into a permanent research line, yearly updating the data on environmental expenditures.

In parallel, discussions are being carried out among MMA, the Brazilian Business Council for Sustainable Development (CEBDS), the National Confederation of Industries (CNI), and IPEA to define a common methodology for inventorying biodiversity expenditures within the private sector. To this end, the classification of environmental expenditures under IPEA's methodology will be applied, which will involve the analysis of items directly and indirectly related to biodiversity.

With thanks to Carlos Alberto de Mattos Scaramuzza, Director, Biodiversity Conservation Department, the Brazilian Ministry of Environment, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Brazil

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

In **Nepal**, biodiversity conservation is streamlined in the budget allocation at national, district and village levels. The allocations at all levels are based on national priorities that are developed consultatively with all stakeholders, using the best information available. The same participatory process was used to develop the country's NBSAP, and included the NFPs of all the Biodiversity-related Conventions. To mobilize additional resources Nepal is assessing the prospects of introducing new biodiversity finance mechanisms in the country.

Case study 55: Assessment of new funding sources for NBSAP implementation in Nepal

As is the case for most countries, resource mobilisation is vital for Nepal to sustainably manage its biodiversity and implement policy related interventions. The funding required to implement the country's NBSAP is expected to come from government sources, donors, NGOs and the private sector, including revenue collected from biodiversity-related products and services, such as timber and non-timber forest products, tourism, trekking and mountaineering fees as well as in-kind cooperation by local communities.

Further to enhancing the existing sources of funding, Nepal has begun an assessment of new sources, including a strategy to introduce a system of Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) into the Acts and Rules which govern the forestry and other relevant sectors, and also involving the private sector. A few PES schemes have been implemented (e.g. in Rupa Lake) for compensation upstream. Additional sources of sustainable income are being assessed, from protected areas and promoting the culture of corporate environmental responsibility.

There is also a strategy to mobilize local funds, starting from 2015, by ensuring the allocation of a proportion of District Development Committee and Village Development Committee budgets.

Nepal's revised NBSAP is [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/np/np-nbsap-v2-en.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Nepal

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Similar to Nepal's approach (*Case study 55, pg. 151*) **Bhutan** has also identified biodiversity finance mechanisms as potential additional sources of funding for the implementation of the country's NBSAP. Ecotourism, PES and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) are listed as potential mechanisms for financing the implementation of the NBSAP, in addition to donor support and funds allocated from government. In addition, one of the national targets incorporated in the NBSAP requires the adoption of a resource mobilisation plan by 2016. In response to the current lack of coordinated approaches to resource mobilisation and allocation, the mainstreaming of biodiversity into national economic development plans (*Box 23, pg. 141*) has been identified as a key component of the resource mobilisation plan.

Case study 56: Financial resource mobilisation for Bhutan's 2014 NBSAP

The 2014 NBSAP provides a brief insight into the sources of financing with respect to donor funding in Bhutan and also reflects on the total funds allocated by the government. It estimates the total funds required to implement activities, the funding available and the financial gaps.

Furthermore, the NBSAP identifies opportunities for innovative financing such as PES, eco-tourism, REDD+ and climate financing. Bhutan has also initiated projects on integrating PES and REDD+, and eco-tourism. Although these are new biodiversity related instruments, they have been included as potential mechanisms for financing the implementation of the NBSAP.

The NBSAP process recognizes the significant role that adequate financial resources play in ensuring its successful implementation: national target 20 calls for an effective fund mobilisation plan to identify and mobilize funding requirements by 2016. The aim is to mainstream the NBSAP into the national economic development plans (five year plans), as a response to the current lack of coordinated approaches to resource mobilisation and allocation. The National Biodiversity Center will coordinate the development of the resource mobilisation plan, as well as all the strategies under target 20. A participatory and inclusive stakeholder approach will prioritize the national targets that will guide the plan.

Bhutan's revised 2014 NBSAP is [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/world/bt/bt-nbsap-v4-en.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

With thanks to Ngawang Gyeltshen, Department of Forests and Park Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan, for providing information and review of this case study.

With additional information from: http://www.nbc.gov.bt/

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Bhutan

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

7.2.2 NFP collaboration on financial needs assessment, financial resource mobilisation and utilisation

In **Egypt**, the NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions collaborate in the assessment of financial needs for implementation of the conventions and are currently preparing a strategy. The case study below also provides an example of NFP (and GEF Operational Focal Point) collaboration which has already resulted in the mobilisation of additional resources for the coherent implementation of multiple conventions.

Case study 57: NFP collaboration on financial matters in Egypt

The NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions in Egypt collaborate in the assessment of financial needs for implementation. An assessment has been completed and a strategy is currently being prepared. Mr. Moustafa Fouda was involved in all preparations and explains that meetings are organized in order to evaluate all funding available to the region, taking into account how much has been spent, how much is still available and how much is needed to put enforcement measures in place. The Arab League, a regional organization of Arab countries in and around North Africa, the Horn of Africa, and Southwest Asia, works with regional organizations that facilitate the elaboration of strategies according to needs of each region and ministries (Case study 63, pg. 159).

Another initiative in Egypt is the cooperation of NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions with the national GEF Operational Focal Point (Case study 8, pg. 31). When preparing requests to GEF, the needs of other Biodiversity-related Conventions are therefore considered. One of the results of the cooperation was obtaining funds for wetlands, trade in marine species such as sharks, and also medicinal plants.

The coherent implementation of multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions has also led to new opportunities for resource mobilisation, such as obtaining funds from donors, for example, Italy and the USA. One of the outcomes of resources obtained was the creation of a bank of genetic resources, the Gene bank, and the creation of certifications.

With thanks to Moustafa M. Fouda, Minister Adviser on Biodiversity, Ministry of Environment, Egypt, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Egypt

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Lesotho has already prepared a National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of MEAs, which formally sets out the Government's aim to take an integrated approach to the mobilisation of resources. Adopted in 2013, one of the two sets of meetings and workshops of NFPs which has since taken place, has focused on GEF funding and proposals for implementation of the strategy.

Case study 58: Strengthening the capacity for resource mobilisation in Lesotho through the National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of MEAs

A case study in the *institutional arrangements* section *(Case study 11, pg. 33)* describes the Lesotho Government's National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of MEAs for 2013-2018 ('the National Coordination Strategy'). This was based on a National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) on some of the MEAs that Lesotho is a party to, funded by GEF. The strategy includes plans to enhance capacity so that the country can make meaningful progress in managing its environment and biodiversity.

There was no funding dedicated to consciously implement the recommendations. Instead, the National Coordination Strategy formally sets out the Government's aim to take an integrated approach to the mobilisation of resources. As part of the strategy, all MEA NFPs are involved in meetings on financial resources, at which their needs are identified and then addressed in subsequent workshops. Since 2013, one of the two sets of meetings and workshops has focused on GEF funding and proposals. The Ministry of Environment has advised that once a funding request touches on the mandate of another department, the concerned departments should work together to send a joint request. The strategy also suggests that the National MEAs Coordination Committee should identify and list potential funding avenues, and could explore the potential for private-public sector partnerships for financing MEAs implementation.

Lesotho also had success on regional collaborating on resource mobilisation before the development of the National Coordination Strategy. For instance, GEF approved a joint proposal involving Lesotho and South Africa, in 2002, which resulted in the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development project.

Sources

- Nonyana Hoohlo & Associates (2013) National Coordination Strategy on Implementation of [MEAs] in Lesotho (2013-2018). Report for Department of Environment, Lesotho. African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- GEF (2000) The Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Conservation and Development project. [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/repository/Regional_Maloti.pdf [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

With thanks to Ms Qongqong Hoohlo, Department of Environment, Lesotho, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Lesotho

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✘	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

The case study from **Palau** provides an example of an informal coordination mechanisms that illustrates how NFPs and other key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders can enhance the efficient use of financial (and human) resources. Through monthly information sharing, Palau's Conservation Consortium fosters collaboration in project implementation, supports the identification of donors/ funding sources as well as the refinement of project proposals, including through the identification of synergies among the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

Case study 59: Enhancing the efficient use of financial (and human) resources in Palau

Palau like many other small island countries has limited financial and human resources. However, a culture of conservation is deeply rooted in Palau's society, and the efficient use of the resources available is therefore of high importance. One of the actions taken to enhance the efficient use of resources was to increase collaboration between different projects through the opportunities provided by the creation of an informal partnership, Palau's Conservation Consortium, as detailed in *(Case study 3, pg. 26)* in section 2.

The consortium provides a platform for NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and other stakeholders to present their project proposals before they are submitted to funding agencies. This provides an opportunity to receive feedback and capitalize on potential synergies with other conventions and existing or planned activities.

Through the consortium, NFPs or project managers can also request assistance for project implementation from other agencies or non-governmental organizations, whether there are similar activities that can be implemented together and therefore costs are shared or to request manpower to assist with implementing project activities at minimal or no cost. Resource sharing (both human and financial) can facilitate reduction of project implementation costs while information sharing among members reduces duplication of work and ensures similar projects can be implemented coherently.

The consortium has also proven to be a useful network for members to identify and connect with donors. Some members of the consortium are also able to provide small funding for projects with specific activities or focus which can be accessed by several of the members.

Although the Consortium is not generally used to make coordinated requests to GEF, it generally provides a platform for input to funding proposals, and in particular, a platform for facilitating the coherent implementation of projects. Therefore, the consortium also successfully supported the government with resource mobilisation, such as project proposal development under GEF-5.

With thanks to Gwendalyn Sisior, Protected Areas Network Office, Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment & Tourism, Republic of Palau, for providing information and review of this case study.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Palau

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Slovenia's Škocjan Caves provide an example of how a protected area, jointly-designated under the World Heritage Convention (WHC) and the Ramsar Convention, has created new opportunities for supporting sustainable tourism and thus the mobilisation of additional resources. In particular as the Ramsar Convention's NFP is also the acting Director of the regional park, the joint designation also provides an opportunity to enhance collaboration between the NFPs of the two conventions on financial resource mobilisation and utilisation.

Case study 60: Slovenia's Škocjan Caves: tourism and investment at a jointly designated site under the World Heritage and Ramsar Conventions

The Škocjanske Jame (Škocjan Caves) site includes one of the largest underground wetland systems in the world. It was designated as a World Heritage Site in 1986, a Ramsar site in 1999, and a Man and Biosphere Reserve in 2004. The caves and surrounding landscape are nationally designated as the Škocjan Caves Regional Park, with an area of 413 ha.

The aims of the Regional Park have synergies with the Ramsar Convention and WHC, supporting the economic and cultural development of the local communities, for example by working with local tourism associations and encouraging traditional agriculture. Tourism has brought major economic benefits to the communities in the area.

The Director of the Regional Park, Dr Gordana Beltram, is also Slovenia's NFP for the Ramsar Convention. Tourism is the most important economic activity in the area, and Dr Beltram believes that the recognition of the Škocjan Caves by both the Ramsar Convention and WHC helps increase interest in the caves, and awareness of their importance. As the caves have become better known nationally and internationally, new opportunities have arisen for supporting sustainable tourism, and the site receives 100,000 visitors annually, three quarters of whom are international tourists. Entrance fees and the sale of souvenirs provide almost two-thirds of the park's annual budget.

As well as providing facilities and services to tourists, three villages in the Regional Park also receive direct financial help to maintain the traditional architecture and cultural landscape. Between 1999 and 2011, the park invested over €430,000 in the infrastructure and appearance of the villages.

Sources

- Briggs, C (2013) The Ramsar and World Heritage conventions and Slovenia's Škocjan Caves. World Heritage 70, December, pp.42-49.
- Osipova, E; Wilson, L; Blaney, R; Shi, Y; Fancourt, M; Strubel, M; Salvaterra, T; Brown, C; Verschuuren, B (2014). The benefits of natural World Heritage: Identifying and assessing ecosystem services and benefits provided by the world's most iconic natural places. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by Slovenia

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

An example from the **Philippines,** featured in in the 2nd report of the CBD High Level Panel on Global Assessment of Resources to CBD COP 12, showcases a project that strengthened coordination among the three **Rio Convention** focal point agencies by highlighting the relationship between biodiversity loss, land degradation and climate change in community investment plans.

Case study 61: Joint climate change and biodiversity planning in the Philippines

The Philippines provides an example of a country preparing to streamline investment through local development plans for both biodiversity and climate change objectives. The Strengthening Coordination for Effective Environmental Management Project (STREEM) strengthened coordination among the CBD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) focal point agencies by highlighting the relationship between biodiversity loss, land degradation and climate change in community investment plans. Mangrove rehabilitation and reforestation strategies were included in these plans that were incorporated into Barangay Development Plans after mobilising funding from the Protected Area Management Board.

Source

- CBD (2014) Resourcing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: an assessment of benefits, investments and resource needs for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/information/cop-12-inf-04-en.pdf [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

Biodiversity-related MEAs ratified by the Philippines

CBD	CMS	CITES	Ramsar Convention	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC
✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

7.3 REGIONAL INITIATIVES

Threats to biodiversity are not limited by national boundaries and often involve multiple countries. The response to these transboundary challenges requires collaboration among stakeholders in different countries, so that they either access resources together or coordinate their individual spending towards a common regional or transboundary goal. In particular the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Secretariat points out in their guidance material that projects for migratory species inherently need to be multi-country in nature, if they are to address range-wide concerns.[92] One example is the **Wings Over Wetlands (WOW) project**, funded by GEF, where stakeholders across the African-Eurasian Migratory Flyway received funding to respond to transboundary challenges of protecting migratory birds (*Case study 24, pg. 61*). This helped achieve progress under multiple conventions, in particular CBD, the Ramsar Convention and CMS. Another example that supports the implementation of the three conventions is the **Siberian Crane Wetland Project** ***(SCWP)***[93]. The project was a six-year effort to sustain the ecological integrity of a network of globally important wetlands in Asia that are of critical importance for migratory waterbirds and other wetland biodiversity, using the globally threatened Siberian Crane as a flagship species for this effort. At the regional level, SCPW focused on the development of wetland site networks, building capacity for the coordination of the flyway networks and applied field research in support of flyway conservation. Both projects were completed in 2010, the year of the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

92 UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.41 (26 October 2011), paragraph 14, Enhancing engagement with the GEF

93 SCWP (2011) Conserving wetlands and migratory waterbirds in Asia [Online] Available from: http://www.scwp.info/ [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

There are also **regional funding initiatives** that have set aside resources to support regional programmes or biodiversity threats that cannot be effectively solved by activities in one country. One example of a regional approach to funding is the **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)**[94]. This fund unites seven global leaders committed to enabling non-governmental and private sector organizations to help protect vital ecosystems[95]. CEPF provided financial resources to protect key biodiversity areas in the **Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot**, a project that was developed through consultation with representatives of various Biodiversity-related Conventions. The key areas for biodiversity in the region include protected areas, Ramsar sites, World Heritage sites and other areas important for globally threatened biodiversity. This initiative will therefore have benefits under multiple conventions.

Case study 62: Protecting the key biodiversity areas of the Eastern Afromontane hotspot

The Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot stretches over a curving arc of more than 7,000km from Saudi Arabia to Mozambique. Of the key biodiversity areas (KBAs) in this hotspot, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) identified approximately 5.5 million hectares of priority KBAs for investment. These priority KBAs are important sites for conservation of biodiversity and include Ramsar sites, World Heritage Sites and protected areas, as well as and many globally threatened species and ecosystems providing multi-convention benefits.

The CEPF profiling exercise – a process used to identify the investment strategy for the hotspot – highlighted a lack of understanding of the importance of biodiversity on the part of decision makers, and also a lack of dialogue and coordination among stakeholders who have an obvious interest in enhanced coordination. The CEPF therefore provided $9.8 million to invest over five years in conserving the Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot. The investment strategy is to work with civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations across the region to preserve the biodiversity hotspot. The initiative highlights the importance of recognizing interconnected regional ecosystems that require coordinated regional efforts to manage the challenges that traverse multiple countries.

Source

- CEPF (2014) Eastern Afromontane [Online] Available from: http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/africa/eastern_afromontane [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

The benefits of establishing **regional organisations/ mechanisms** to coordinate on issues related to the Biodiversity-related Conventions have already been illustrated in the chapters on *institutional arrangements* and *reporting and information management*. With regard to financial resource mobilisation, these mechanisms not only enable stakeholders to share information on available funding opportunities or facilitate the development of regional project proposals, but they can also raise awareness and increase the involvement of policy makers in the work of the conventions, potentially leading to an increase in budget allocation or mainstreaming biodiversity targets into national development planning (*Box 23, pg. 141*). In addition, regional organization or mechanisms can contribute to a significant degree to more efficient utilisation of resources by contributing to enhanced collaboration between NFPs from the different Biodiversity-related Conventions.

94 CEPF (2014) Eastern Afromontane [Online] Available from: http://www.cepf.net/where_we_work/regions/africa/eastern_afromontane [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

95 CEPF (2014) Who we are [Online] Available from: http://www.cepf.net/about_cepf/Pages/who_we_are.aspx [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

The respective work of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme **(SPREP)** (*Case study 13, pg. 38*) and the Central African Forest Commission (Commission des Forêts d'Afrique Centrale; **COMIFAC**) (*Case study 14, pg. 39*) has already been presented in *section* 2 on *institutional arrangements*.

Another regional example is the **Arab Working Group on Biodiversity and Combating Desertification** - a mechanism under the auspices of the Arab League that shares information with the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE), including on Biodiversity-related Conventions. Despite lack of funding preventing regular attendance by all countries, the working group is regarded as a key partner by the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA) and Convention secretariats in order to conduct regional meetings in the most efficient and most effective way.

Case study 63: Arab Working Group on Biodiversity and Combating Desertification

The Arab League[96] is a regional organization of Arab countries in and around North Africa, the Horn of Africa, and Southwest Asia that aims to strengthen ties among member states, coordinate their policies and direct them towards a common good.

The organization set up an Arab Working Group on the implementation of biodiversity and desertification related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), under the Council of Arab Ministries of Environment (CAMRE). The Working Group is a regional MEA mechanism under the auspices of the Arab League that meets annually and informs the advisory body and the secretariat. CAMRE takes final decisions based on its advice.

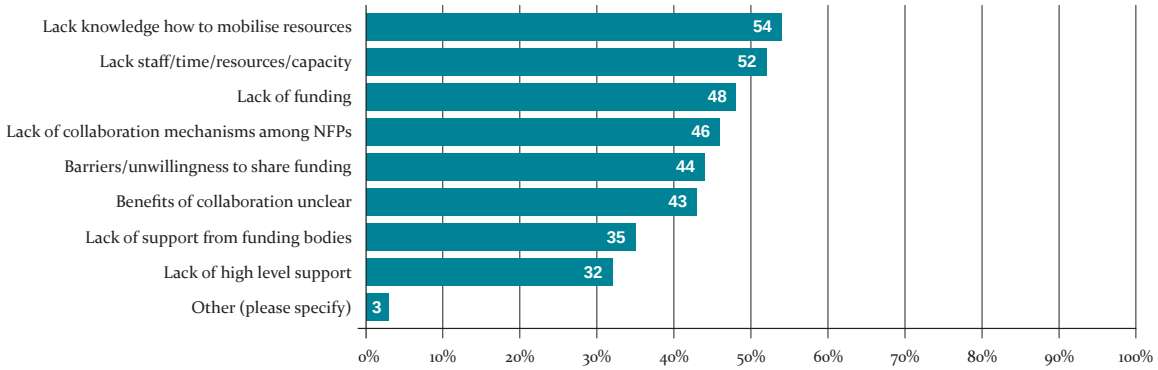
The effectiveness of the working group is held back by the level of participation from member countries, as lack of funding means that not all countries attend regularly. In order to address weaknesses and increase the coherence of implementation of different conventions, the UNEP Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA) collaborates with the different convention secretariats to support the working group meetings with technical inputs and reports on implementation. Representatives from UNEP and other MEA secretariats, such as the Ramsar Convention, have attended Working Group meetings, which has helped share information on outstanding issues, funding mechanisms and guidance. The meetings of the Working Group have also been used as a platform for pre-COP meetings for CBD and CMS, where key draft decisions can be highlighted for the Group's attention and action.

7.4 OVERCOMING CHALLENGES AND BARRIERS

7.4.1 Barriers identified in the UNEP Survey 2014

The respondents in the UNEP Survey 2014 (*See Box 5, pg. 13*) considered the barriers to cooperating on (financial) resource mobilisation, and pointed out various difficulties (*Graph 15*). While many challenges were case-specific, the *lack of knowledge on how to collaborate to mobilize resources for the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions* was indicated by the highest number of respondents as a main barrier inhibiting cooperation. This was followed by *lack of staff, time and resources* and *lack of funding*. *Lack of cooperation mechanisms among NFPs*, *unwillingness to share funding* and *unclear benefits of cooperation* also ranked very prominently in the survey responses.

96 Member countries include: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen. Updated list available at http://www.lasportal.org/



Graph 15: Main barriers to cooperation on mobilising resources for the Biodiversity-related Conventions among NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, as identified by the respondents in the UNEP Survey 2014

Lack of funding was also listed as a barrier in the other thematic sections of the UNEP Survey 2014: capacity building was indicated by 64 % of all respondents as a barrier; 50% of respondents identified the science-policy interface and the Strategic Plan/NBSAPs as a barrier; and information management and reporting was acknowledged as a barrier by approximately 42% of respondents.

One potential consequence of lack of coherence among the Biodiversity-related Conventions is duplication of work across the various conventions, leading to inefficient allocation of resources and often low appreciation of the importance of the sector. One respondent commented that often other national level priorities outcompete coherence as a goal, hence a barrier to joint efforts on resource mobilisation is the low political priority attached to biodiversity conservation.

7.4.2 Response options

The UNEP Survey 2014, together with further discussions with NFPs and other key stakeholders and a review of grey literature identified a number of barriers or challenges for cooperation on financial resource mobilisation, as well as a number of response options to address these challenges. *Table 10* below presents a summary of identified challenges, potential response options and links these to case studies presented in this Sourcebook. Please note that this table of challenges and response options is not exhaustive and stakeholders may find other more relevant issues within their national contexts.

Table 10: Summary of the key challenges to cooperation at the national-level on resource mobilisation, and national and/ or regional-level response options

Challenges/ Barriers	Response Options	Case studies
Lack of or inadequate funding for joint activities/ low priority of coherent implementation	1. Make coordination/ consultation of NFPs on financial needs a (formal) requirement. (E.g. through a National MEA Coordination Strategy). 2. Identify joint activities to split costs and increase the impact. 3. Develop a comprehensive MEA Coordination Strategy which also include a section on financial resources. 4. Develop a funding strategy as part of the NBSAP process, which integrates actions of several ministries (or include an objective to do so in the NBSAP) and link the NBSAP with national strategic development plan or equivalent plans. 5. Involve ministries which tackle critical prioritization questions of budget and policy (regularly ministry of finance and/ or planning). 6. Ensure involvement of all stakeholders (NGOs, NFPs and private sector) in provision of resources for NBSAP implementation. 7. Work towards a permanent flow of finance from the federal budget to biodiversity-related activities and in particular implementation of the NBSAP. 8. Explore funding opportunities in the private sector. 9. Seek support by regional or international organizations or initiatives. 10. Consider joint/ integrated project proposals at the regional level. 11. Involve all NFPs in the national GEF steering committee and potentially at National Portfolio Formulation Exercises (NPFE) (Box 34, pg. 178) 12. Foster the attendance of NFPs at GEF regional constituency meetings.	• Lesotho (ii) (1,3,8) *(Case study 58, page 154)* • Egypt (ii) (1,9,11) *(Case study 57, page 153)* • Palau (iii) (2,6) *(Case study 59, page 155)* • Uganda (ii) (4,5,7,9) *(Case study 53, page 148)* • Brazil (iii) (4,5,6,7) *(Case study 54, page 150)* • Nepal (ii)(4,5,6) *(Case study 55, page 151)* • Bhutan (ii) (4) *(Case study 56, page 152)* • Arab Working Group (9) *(Case study 63, page 159)* • Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot (10) *(Case study 62, page 158)* • Slovenia (2) *(Case study 60, page 156)* ***Case studies from other sections:*** • Norway (i) (2) *(Case study 4, page 27)* • Mozambique (i) (2) *(Case study 7, page 30)* • South Africa (7) *(Case study 16, page 53)* • SPREP (i) (9) *(Case study 13, page 38)* • COMIFAC (9) *(Case study 14, page 39)* • WOW (10) *(Case study 24, page 61)*
Lack of staff/ time	1. Foster an assessment of human resource needs for collaboration and develop a strategy, including on related financial matters. 2. Establish a formal or informal mechanism for information exchange on project development and project implementation. 3. Make coordination/ consultation on issues related to financial resource mobilisation and utilisation a (formal) requirement (e.g. part of job description). 4. Seek support by regional or international organizations.	• Lesotho (ii) (1,3) *(Case study 58, page 154)* • Palau (iii) (2) *(Case study 59, page 155)* • Egypt (ii) (2,3,4) *(Case study 57, page 145)* ***Case studies from other sections:*** • Egypt (i) (4) *(Case study 8, page 31)* • Brazil (i) (1,2) *(Case study 2, page 23)* • South Africa (2) *(Case study 16, page 53)* • Mozambique (i) (2) *(Case study 7, page 30)* • SPREP (i) (4) *(Case study 13, page 38)* • COMIFAC (4) *(Case study 14, page 39)*

Challenges/ Barriers	Response Options	Case studies
Barriers/ unwillingness to share information or (financial) resources	1. Create trust and raise awareness by communicating the mutual benefits of joint activities and potential funding sources (e.g. GEF, regional funds etc.). 2. Make it a (formal) requirement (for NFPs) to assess relevance to other conventions when developing funding proposals.	• Slovenia (1) *(Case study 60, page 156)* • Palau (iii) (1) *(Case study 59, page 155)* • Eastern Afromontane biodiversity hotspot (1) *(Case study 62, page 158)* • Lesotho (ii) (2) *(Case study 58, page 154)*
Lack of collaboration mechanism among NFPs	Please view the guidance provided in the section on institutional arrangements (Section 2, pg. 20)	

7.4.3 Key lessons learnt

Drawing on the case study examples, the response options identified in the table above as well as input by a range of workshop participants and interview partners, there are a number of lessons learnt that could be considered in order to achieve a more coordinated approach to financial resource mobilisation and financial resource utilisation in the context of the coherent implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions:

- Even if **NFPs are regularly not responsible for financial resource mobilisation** in their countries, they should regularly play a role in supporting processes to scale up biodiversity financing, and in particular to achieve permanent flow of finance, including for coordination activities. **Governments** should therefore **support NFPs and other key stakeholders** engaged in the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions in **enhancing their understanding of environmental expenditure and its effectiveness** in their country (and potentially region), and by facilitating their engagement in **ongoing processes related to biodiversity financing**. In particular, such processes can include the development and implementation of a **sustainable resource mobilisation strategy, financial needs assessment, financial planning as part of the NBSAP process,** as well as generally any process aimed at ensuring or strengthening permanent budget flow to biodiversity financing and coordination activities.
- **Strengthening cooperation** among NFPs (formal or informal) and potentially other key stakeholders at central and operational levels can foster regular consultations, exchange of information on programming, as well as project implementation and project development. Further benefits potentially arising include more efficient use of available resources, and identification of joint activities and relevant funding sources (see *section 2 on institutional arrangements*). Such efforts can also include the organization of **joint capacity building activities** - either at the national or regional level (for an overview of the different forms of capacity building see *section 5 on capacity building*).
- **Pooling existing resources at the national and regional levels** to strengthen collaboration among NFPs and other key stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, can make a strong case for biodiversity and biodiversity mainstreaming by improving the efficient use of resources, as well as by facilitating the mobilisation of additional financial resources.

- Only **in very limited cases is external funding explicitly available to strengthen collaboration** among MEA NFPs in acknowledgement of the fact that this will lead to more efficient use of existing resources, as well as enabling NFPs to pool their resources to mobilize additional funding sources. A notable exception is the funding provided by the GEF for National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA) and the subsequent drafting of MEA coordination strategies.
- **Funding provided explicitly in support of the implementation of one of the Biodiversity-related Conventions** should ideally encompass coordination activities to ensure that issues related to all the conventions are taken into account, and coherent implementation and efficient use of resources can be ensured.
- Nevertheless, **coordination activities should ideally not be dependent on external funding sources** which are provided on an *ad-hoc* basis. Coordination should be an integral part of the governance structure in the country, which for the sake of more efficient use of existing resources, should be covered by a permanent budget.
- **Funding schemes generally do not impose any barriers to integrated project proposals** that support the implementation of multiple Biodiversity-related Conventions. This is due to the integrated nature of biodiversity as opposed to the governance structure of the biodiversity cluster, which splits the subject-matter into conventions-silos.
- The **GEF**, as the main global mechanism to support developing countries' to take action to fulfil their commitments under the world's major MEAs[97], provides **opportunities for integrated project development (with multiple convention benefit)**. Thereby, the GEF Biodiversity Strategy under GEF-6 is an important starting point to identify targets and activities that relate to the Biodiversity-related Conventions. Moreover, integrated projects submitted for funding in GEF-6 will have to demonstrate that the thematic areas addressed within the project have been prioritized within the NBSAP and are appropriately aligned with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. See *Annex 3, pg. 172 for detailed information on "Opportunities for Accessing GEF Funds for the Coherent Implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions ", including information on entry points for influencing the allocation of GEF resources at the national level accordingly. This guidance is also briefly summarized below.*

BOX 28: KEY STEPS TO FOSTER FINANCIAL RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR INTEGRATED PROJECTS FROM GEF FUNDS IN ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES

1. NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (other than CBD) are key stakeholders in the NBSAP process (revision and implementation);
2. Integration of activities related to the conventions (ideally activities with multiple conventions benefits) in NBSAPs and prioritization of their implementation; and
3. Joint development of GEF proposals with multiple conventions benefit.

For 1 and 2 see section 6 on the *Strategic Plan/ NBSAPs*, for 3 see Annex 3, page 172.

97 GEF (2014) Record Funding for the Global Environment [press release] 16 April 2014. Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/Record-Funding-for-Global-Environment [Accessed: 9 February 2015]

BOX 29: DEVELOPMENT OF INTEGRATED GEF PROJECT PROPOSALS: IMPORTANT STEPS AND ENTRY POINTS FOR POTENTIAL ENGAGEMENT OF NFPS OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS IN THE COUNTRY-DRIVEN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PROJECT ALLOCATION PROCESS

1. **NFPs should familiarize themselves with the GEF allocation process in their country**
2. **NFPs should get in touch with the GEF NFPs and in particular the GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP) and request information on**
   a) GEF-funded activities in the country or region to explore synergies;
   b) National Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues;
   c) National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) consultations;
   d) the possibility of using the System of Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), as well as potentially the possibility of pooling of resources with resources from other countries, or to access additional funding focal area set-aside (FAS) for regional/ multi-country projects; in particular, with regard to regional/ multi-country projects, the potential participation of NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions at Regional Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECW) should be explored.
3. **NFPs should engage in priority-setting and develop concept(s) in collaboration with other NFPs and the GEF OFP, ideally focusing on jointly developed activities in the country's NBSAP**

For more information on each step/ entry point please see Annex 3, pg. 172.

- **Regional entities** can provide a forum for enhanced collaboration of NFPs across the Biodiversity-related Conventions on issues related to financial resource mobilisation and utilisation, e.g. through the organization of joint regional workshops (see *section 5 on capacity building*) or the design of more integrated regional projects with multiple convention benefits. **Regional organisations** can facilitate the sharing of information on available funding opportunities as well as the development of regional project proposals. They can also increase the involvement of policy makers in the work of conventions and raise their awareness, potentially leading to an increase in budget allocation or mainstreaming biodiversity targets into national development planning (*Box 23, pg. 141*)

7.5 USEFUL RESOURCES

This section points to resources that provide guidance on designing activities to enhance, harmonize or streamline national processes for financial resource mobilisation.

- **BIOFIN Website**
  The BIOFIN website provides resources for participants in BIOFIN as well as resources for all that are interested in biodiversity finance approaches. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.biodiversityfinance.net/resources **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **Conservation Finance Alliance (CFA) Environmental Funds Tool Kit**
  The online Tool Kit shares the experiences of Environmental Funds – their legal documents, manuals, plans, and communications materials. The goal is to help guide the creation and start-up of new funds, promote best practices for existing funds, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness to secure, and expand, reliable funding streams for biodiversity conservation. The website provides an ongoing means of sharing documents and best practices. **[Online] Available from:** http://toolkit.conservationfinance.org/ **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES)**
  This global partnership brings together a broad coalition of UN agencies, governments, international institutes, non- governmental organizations and academics to implement Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) where there are internationally agreed standards, and develop approaches for other ecosystem service accounts. By working with central banks and ministries of planning and finance across the world to integrate natural resources into development planning through NCA, the hope is to enable more informed decision making that can ensure genuine green growth and long-term advances in wealth and human well-being. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.wavespartnership.org/en **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **GEF (2014) The GEF-6 Biodiversity Strategy**
  The strategy prioritizes the three principal direct drivers — habitat loss, overexploitation, and invasive alien species — which remain the most critical for the achievement of the Aichi Targets and are largely responsible for current trends of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/GEF-6-BD-strategy.pdf **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **UNDP (2014) The BIOFIN workbook: a tool to mobilize financial resources for biodiversity and development. UNDP, New York, USA**
  The workbook aims to help countries chart their own new development pathway by assessing and mobilizing the financial resources required to fully implement the strategies within their NBSAP, with an eye toward the direct contributions these strategies can make toward attaining national sustainable development goals (SDGs).
  [Online] Available from: http://www.biodiversityfinance.net/sites/default/files/uploads/documents/biofin_workbook_final.pdf **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **OECD (2013) Scaling-up Finance Mechanisms for Biodiversity. OECD Publishing, Paris, France**
  The report examines six mechanisms (environmental fiscal reform, payments for ecosystem services, biodiversity offsets, green markets, biodiversity in climate change funding, and biodiversity in international development finance) that can be used to scale-up financing for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and to help meet the 2011-20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/scaling-up-finance-mechanisms-for-biodiversity_9789264193833-en **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **GEF (2012) Country support programme (CSP) toolkit**
  The objective of this toolkit is to provide a practical guide for GEF Focal Points, and the staff they are working with, that will help them access the various resources available through the CSP. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.thegef.org/gef/pubs/country-support-programme-toolkit **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **Parker, C; Cranford, M; Oakes, N; Leggett, M. eds. (2012) The Little Biodiversity Finance Book. Global Canopy Programme, Oxford, UK**
  The aim of the Little Biodiversity Finance Book is to help key stakeholders including governments, NGOs, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities to compare existing and future options for biodiversity finance in a clear and consistent way. To do so, the publication introduces an overarching framework that organises financial mechanisms under three main headings: revenue generation, delivery and institutional arrangements. These modules can be thought of as independent building blocks that can be arranged in a 'mix and match' approach, choosing the most suitable options from each module to create a more effective, efficient, and equitable financial system. **[Online] Available from:** http://globalcanopy.org/sites/default/files/LittleBiodiversityFinanceBook_3rd%20edition.pdf **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **CMS Secretariat and Prip, C (2011) Guidelines on the integration on migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs)**
  A set of guidelines, mainly directed to CMS Family NFPs, on how they could best become involved and influence the coming processes of revising and updating NBSAPs. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/NBSAP-guidelines-CMS.pdf **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **CITES (2011) Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) - a draft guide for CITES parties**
  Recognizing the reciprocal benefits between NBSAPs and the goals of CITES, the CITES Secretariat has prepared this practical "how-to" Guide for Parties that may wish to consider the inclusion of their CITES national and regional actions in revised and updated NBSAPs. Section 5 deals with "Operationally integrating CITEs Targets into the NBSAP Process and Potential Access to GEF Funds". **[Online] Available from:** http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E026A.pdf **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **GEF-CSO Network (2005) A guide to the GEF for the NGO**
  The Guide is intended to help NGOs understand how the GEF operates, how to access to its funds, and how to influence its policies. It was developed by NGOs for NGOs. It is a work-in-progress as the GEF evolves and adopts new policies. **[Online] Available from:** http://www.gefcso.org/index.cfm?&menuid=5 **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

- **OECD (2002) Sustainable development strategies: a resource book. OECD, Paris, France. UNDP, New York, USA.**
  The resource book provides guidance on how to develop, implement and assess national sustainable development strategies. It is based on an analysis of past and current practice, in both developed and developing countries.
  [Online] Available from: http://www.sd-network.eu/pdf/resources/Dalal-Clayton,%20Bass%20%282002%29%20-%20Sustainable%20Development%20Strategies%20-%20A%20Resource%20Book.pdf **[Accessed: 26 January 2015]**

8. Annexes

ANNEX 1. PROJECT SUMMARY

Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among Biodiversity-related Conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies

Over the past decades, numerous Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) have been adopted. Most of these agreements have been developed and adopted in isolation from each other, resulting in a complex web of member state obligations. These obligations are at times duplicative, and difficult to implement in a coherent manner. In addition, the programmes of work of MEA host institutions are in many cases not fully coordinated with those of the MEAs. Furthermore, the administrative arrangements governing the operations of the MEAs Secretariats do not fully address potential synergies regarding administrative functions among themselves and *vis a vis* the host institutions. The international community has therefore increasingly called for synergies between MEAs, with the specific aim of making national implementation of the resulting obligations and the associated capacity needs more coherent and effective.

This is also true for the six major biodiversity-related MEAs, i.e. the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the World Heritage Convention (WHC). Despite considerable efforts and initiatives, the biodiversity cluster mirrors much of the fragmentation and complexity experienced generally in the international environmental governance system. The Governing Council of UNEP, in paragraphs 2 to 3 of Decision SS.XII/3 on International Environmental Governance (February 2012) gave specific mandates to the UNEP Secretariat to undertake "*activities to improve the effectiveness of and cooperation among Multilateral Environmental Agreements, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties*" and "*explore the opportunities for further synergies in the administrative functions of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats administered by the United Nations Environment Programme and to provide advice on such opportunities to the governing bodies of those Multilateral Environmental Agreements*".

The project *Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among Biodiversity-related Conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies* aims to address these mandates and similar calls for synergies from the Conferences of the Parties of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. It will improve 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. The project will be delivered through four interrelated work packages which focus on synergies at the global level of MEAs (work package 1) and in their national and regional level implementation (work packages 2, 3 and 4).

Work package 1: identification of opportunities and options for enhancing cooperation between UNEP, other biodiversity-related MEA host institutions and the secretariats of the biodiversity MEAs in working towards the effective implementation of the MEAs. The project will also explore opportunities for further synergies in the administrative functions of the MEAs administered by UNEP.

Work package 2: identification and sharing of best practices for achieving collaboration and coordination among the National Focal Points of the different MEAs within countries.

Work package 3: identification and sharing of best practices for achieving increased synergies through enhanced coordination and cooperation in the mobilisation of financial resources.

Work package 4: provision of technical support to countries revising their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), particularly with respect to collaboration and integration into other sectors.

The main outputs of the project are outlined in *Figure 2*. Desk-based reviews of existing guidance and publications on synergies informed the development of two questionnaires on opportunities for enhancing cooperation and collaboration among the biodiversity-related MEAs, one focused on the global level and the other on the national and regional levels. The questionnaires were distributed to National Focal Points, UNEP Regional Biodiversity MEA Focal Points, MEA secretariat representatives and other relevant national and international experts. The responses to the questionnaires will provide the basis for drawing out best practices, lessons learnt and opportunities for improving cooperation and collaboration among MEAs at all levels, which will be developed further through stakeholder workshops and consultations and the development of in-depth case studies. This material will form the basis for recommendations presented to UNEA and other governing bodies of MEA host institutions and MEA Secretariats on how to enhance synergies on programmatic, institutional and administrative areas of work (work package 1). The material will also be compiled into a sourcebook with non-prescriptive guidance for improving collaboration and coordination among National Focal Points (work package 2) and with regard to resource mobilisation (work package 3). The main outputs of work package 4 will be the development of technical tools and training materials, made available through the NBSAP Forum web portal, to support the NBSAP revision process.

UNEP manages the project and the work packages are led by DELC (Division of Environmental Law and Conventions) and UNEP-WCMC (World Conservation Monitoring Centre) with support from DEWA (Division of Early Warning and Assessment) and DEPI (Division of Environmental Policy Implementation). The implementation of the project is guided by consultations with representatives of the secretariats of UNEP, FAO, UNESCO, IUCN and those MEAs represented in the Biodiversity Liaison Group; national governments; MEA focal points and the UNEP Regional Biodiversity MEA focal points. The project is currently in its first phase (2013-2015) and will present outputs and conduct outreach activities through consultations at the margins of the following major intergovernmental meetings: a workshop immediately prior to, and side event during WGRI-5 in June 2014; a workshop prior to, and side event during CBD COP-12 in 2014; Ramsar COP-12 in 2015; CMS COP-11 in 2014 and CITES COP-17 in 2016. The first phase of the project is fully funded by contributions from the European Commission's ENRTP funds and funds from the Swiss Federal Agency for Nature Conservation.

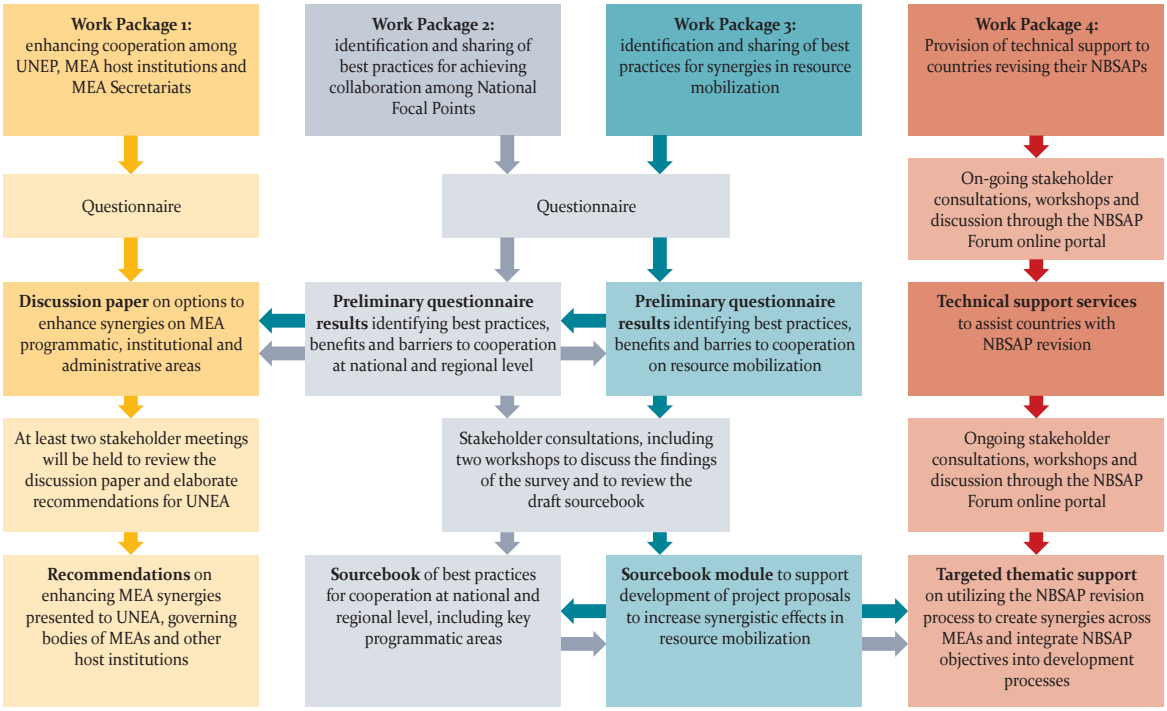


Figure 2: Main outputs of the four work packages

ANNEX 2. POTENTIAL AREAS OF OVERLAP BETWEEN THE INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

Table 11 below provides an overview of areas where more than one of the Biodiversity-related Conventions request data on similar topics in their national reports. The table was generated by analysing the reporting templates of each of the six Biodiversity-related Conventions for their most recent reporting cycles, looking first for key categories and then refining the analysis to identify specific sub-themes. Note that CITES annual reports are not considered, as they are substantially different to the other report formats, comprising records of trade in listed species. The matrix could be used to identify potential opportunities for collaboration on the collection and storage of information on certain topics (such as developing joint tenders), but is not suggesting that, where there is overlap, *exactly* the same information is needed.

This analysis updates and draws on previous analyses by UNEP-WCMC over the last decade. In the early 2000s, a project investigated options to harmonize and streamline reporting to the Biodiversity-related Conventions, by looking at a number of information modules (e.g. measures for conservation, overview of the ecosystem) shared amongst the conventions. It considered the feasibility of producing one consolidated template to meet the requirements of all the conventions (UNEP-WCMC 2004). In 2011, the FNR Rio Project of UNEP-WCMC included drafting a joint reporting template to the Rio Conventions (CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD). This used sustainable land management as a theme common to all three conventions. The project identified further options for streamlining, either by arranging questions by key subject areas or in relation to strategic planning and development (UNEP-WCMC 2011[98]). UNEP-WCMC 2011, p.19-20 describes how questions can be grouped by major subject areas (with respect to the Rio Conventions), national strategies and action plans and cross-cutting areas. *Table 11* takes a similar approach, with key overlaps relating to:

Public awareness: other than the CBD Fifth National Report, every national report is expected to present information on public awareness events.

Efforts to monitor or conduct research into biodiversity: except for the CBD, every national report is expected to report on research and monitoring of biodiversity.

Implementation of the convention: All conventions ask for details about how the convention is implemented at the national level, which may involve not only activities relevant to multiple conventions, but also extends to topics that may have commonalities between conventions, such as the stakeholders involved, the institutional arrangements for implementation and any lessons learnt from implementation.

Capacity: other than the CBD Fifth National Report and submissions through Ramsar Convention Site Information Sheets, national reports all tend to ask about the country's capacity to implement a convention, and their capacity-building needs for improved implementation or resource mobilisation.

Sharing information on these topics of interest for multiple conventions can not only aid the completion of national reports but can help NFPs from the different conventions to coordinate efforts to implement various aspects of the conventions. For example, sharing information on public awareness issues and coordinating awareness raising activities (e.g. training courses, student engagement etc.) can help to engage stakeholders in a wide range of biodiversity-related topics with thematic overlaps (e.g. World Wetlands Day). Any existing cooperative efforts for implementation or resource mobilisation (as covered in *section 7, pg. 137*), can be a relatively straightforward area for collaboration on relevant sections of national reports.

98 UNEP-WCMC (2011) Assessment of potential options for consolidating and integrating national reporting to the three Rio Conventions [Online] Available from: http://old.unep-wcmc.org/medialibrary/2013/04/23/65c30811/Joint%20reporting%20assessment%20-9%20May%202011-1.pdf [Accessed: 10 February 2015]

Table 11: The extent of overlap in the thematic contents requested by the biodiversity eas in their national reporting templates.

Theme	Sub-theme	CBD	CITES biennial	CMS	Ramsar (National Report)	Ramsar (Information sheet)	WHC	ITPGRFA
Status, Trends and Pressures								
	Value of biodiversity	■			■	■	■	
	Changes in status and trend	■			■	■		
	Threats to biodiversity	■		■		■	■	■
	Ecological character and description of current biodiversity			■		■	■	■
National Plans of Action								
	National Legislation for this MEA		■	■	■		■	
	National Strategies and Action Plans related to this MEA	■		■	■	■	■	
	Mainstreaming across other Government plans and strategies	■		■	■		■	
	Plans for the Future			■	■	■	■	
Implementation of the Convention								
	Arrangements for Implementation		■	■	■	■	■	■
	Activities undertaken	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
	Working with other countries		■		■		■	■
	Cooperation with stakeholders and partners		■	■	■		■	■
	Lessons learnt from implementation and review of effectiveness	■	■		■		■	■
Capacity Building								
	Existing Capacity Levels		■				■	■
	Capacity building activities in country		■		■		■	■
	Capacity Building Needs and limits to implementation		■	■	■		■	■
	Capacity Provided to Others		■	■	■			■
	Resource Mobilisation		■	■	■		■	■
Relationship with the Convention								
	Accession and Ratification status		■	■			■	
	Providing Information to the Secretariat		■		■		■	
Cross-cutting Issues								
	Science-Policy Interface		■		■		■	
	Public Awareness		■	■	■	■	■	■
	Information Systems		■		■		■	
	Research and Monitoring		■	■	■	■	■	■
	Exchanging Information				■			■
	Other					■	■	■

ANNEX 3. OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCESSING GEF FUNDS FOR THE COHERENT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is the main global mechanism to support developing countries' to take action to fulfil their commitments under the world's major Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)[99]. This annex will therefore elaborate on the opportunities offered by the GEF for funding joint actions and enhanced cooperation and coordination to implement the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

Opportunities for integrated GEF-projects

As already highlighted in the introduction to the section on *financial resource mobilisation and utilisation*, the GEF is the financial mechanism of the CBD only (among the Biodiversity-related Conventions; however, where synergies can be found with one of the GEF focal areas, there is the potential for other Biodiversity-related Conventions to benefit.

The **GEF Biodiversity Strategy** is an important starting point to identify targets and activities that relate to the Biodiversity-related Conventions. *Box 30* describes the GEF-6 Biodiversity Strategy, which encompasses four Biodiversity Objectives and ten programmes. National Focal Points (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 the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (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.

99 GEF (2014) Record Funding for the Global Environment - US$ 4.43 billion pledged for the Global Environment Facility. Press release, GEF-6 (Geneva, April 16, 2014). [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/Record-Funding-for-Global-Environment [Accessed: 9th of February 2015]

BOX 30: THE GEF-6 BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY & PROGRAMMES

The GEF has six focal area strategies, including the **Biodiversity focal area Strategy**.

In accordance with the replenishment agreement, the GEF-6 envelopes for the three focal areas covered by the System of Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) are $1,296 million for Biodiversity, $1,260 million for Climate Change and $431 million for Land Degradation. After adjusting for focal area set-asides (FAS, Box 35), the amounts available for country STAR allocations are as follows: $1,051 million for Biodiversity, $941 million for Climate Change, and $346 million for Land Degradation.[100]

The goal of the Biodiversity Strategy is to maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society. To achieve this goal, the strategy encompasses four Biodiversity Objectives (BD) and ten biodiversity programmes:

BD1: Improve Sustainability of the Protected Area System
1) Improving financial sustainability and effective management of national ecological infrastructure.
2) Expanding the reach of the global protected area estate.

BD 2: Reduce threats to Globally Significant Biodiversity
3) Preventing extinction of known threatened species.
4) Prevention, control, and management of Invasive Alien Species.
5) Implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

BD3: Sustainable Use of Biodiversity
6) Ridge to Reef +: Maintaining integrity and function of globally significant coral reefs.
7) Securing Agriculture's Future: Sustainable use of plants and animals genetic resources.
8) Implementing the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.

BD4: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use in Production Landscapes/ Seascapes and Sectors
9) Managing the Human-Biodiversity Interface
10) Integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services in development and financial planning

Annex I of the Strategy provides a table on the relationship between the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the GEF Biodiversity Objectives and Programs.

Source

- GEF (2014) The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/10802 [Accessed: 9 February 2015]

Previous GEF Biodiversity Strategies also supported a range of Biodiversity-related Conventions. The five strategic objectives in the GEF-5 Biodiversity Strategy, for example, included many of the same targets and activities identified in the CITES Strategic Vision for 2008-2013. The CITES Secretariat in its 2011 Draft Guide for CITES Parties on "Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of [National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)]" therefore called on countries to "ensure that CITES indicators and action plans which match the GEF objectives and targets are identified during the NBSAP revision for future financing consideration through the GEF" (para 28)[101].

100 GEF/C.46/05/Rev.01, Proposal for the System of Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) for GEF-6; GEF-6 Country STAR Allocations: [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/STAR/GEF6_country_allocations [Accessed: 9 February 2015]

101 CITES (2011) Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) - a draft guide for CITES Parties. [Online] Available from: http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E026A.pdf [Accessed: 9 February 2015]

In that context, it should also be noted that a number of projects that supported the implementation of other Biodiversity-related Conventions (other than CBD) have been funded by GEF - either under the biodiversity focal area or another one, like for example the focal area on international waters. The Wings over Wetlands Project (WOW) (*Case study 24, pg. 61*), as well as the Siberian Crane Wetland Project (SCWP)[4] have already been mentioned. A recent country-level example with co-benefits for Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Ramsar Convention is the project for the restoration and strengthening the resilience of the Lake de Guiers Wetland Ecosystems in Senegal[103].

A **key entry point for integrated GEF projects under GEF-6 is the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets**. As already highlighted 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[104].

As already outlined in the previous section 6 on the *Strategic Plan/ NBSAPs*, NBSAPs are the key instrument for implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 at the national (and regional) level and Aichi Target 17 calls for the adoption of a new generation of NBSAPs by 2015.

According to the Biodiversity Strategy the overwhelming majority of GEF-eligible countries (95%) have received support during GEF-5 to revise their NBSAP to be aligned with the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. However, the few remaining countries that have not been able to submit a project proposal will remain eligible for support to revise their NBSAP during GEF-6.[105]

Lastly, with regard to the potential for integrated projects under GEF-6 that use biodiversity funding, and consistent with past practice and the GEF project review criteria, projects submitted for funding in GEF-6 will have to demonstrate that the thematic areas addressed within the project have been prioritized within the NBSAP and are appropriately aligned with the Strategic Plan and the Aichi Target.[106]

In consequence, there are three key steps that should be considered to foster financial resource mobilisation for integrated projects from GEF funds in eligible countries:

1. **Ensure that NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (other than CBD) are key stakeholders in the NBSAP process (revision and implementation);**
2. **Ensure the integration of activities related to the conventions (ideally activities with multiple conventions benefits) in NBSAPs and prioritize their implementation (building up on step 1.); and**
3. **Jointly develop GEF proposals with multiple conventions benefit based on 2.**

For steps 1 and 2 see *section* 6. Guidance for step 3 will be provided in the following.

102 SCWP (2011) Conserving wetlands and migratory waterbirds in Asia [Online] Available from: http://www.scwp.info/ [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

103 UNEP/CBD/COP/12/14/ADD1 Annexes to the Report of the Council of the Global Environment Facility, Annex 9: Summary Descriptions of Full-size projects in the biodiversity focal area approved during the reporting period.

104 See GEF/R.6/20/Rev.01 p.8, November 26, 2013.

105 GEF Direct Access for Biodiversity Enabling Activities, [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/BD_direct_access [Accessed: 19 February 2015]

106 Please see Box 37, page 180 on item 4 in the ninth ordinary meeting of the BLG in August 2014, [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/BLG-9-rep-final-en.pdf [Accessed: 19 February 2015]

Development of integrated GEF project proposals

Although NFPs themselves do not submit proposals to the GEF, it is useful to have a **basic understanding of the process**. Extensive guidance and information on how to access GEF funding and its processes can be found on the GEF website. The webpage "What is GEF?" includes information on key stakeholders, including political and operational focal points: http://www.thegef.org/gef/whatisgef.

BOX 31: GEF FOCAL POINTS

GEF Focal Points play a critical coordination role regarding GEF matters at country level as well as serving as the liaison with the GEF Secretariat and Implementing Agencies while representing their constituencies on the GEF Council.

The **GEF Political Focal Points and Operational Focal Points** have different functions, although the exact specifications of the two designations may vary from country to country. All GEF member countries have Political Focal Points, while only recipient member countries eligible for GEF project assistance have Operational Focal Points.

GEF Political Focal Points are concerned primarily with issues related to GEF governance, including policies and decisions, as well as relations between member countries and the GEF Council and Assembly.

GEF Operational Focal Points are concerned with the operational aspects of GEF activities, such as endorsing project proposals to affirm that they are consistent with national plans and priorities and facilitating GEF coordination, integration, and consultation at country level.

Focal point list: http://www.thegef.org/gef/focal_points_list

The webpage "Project & Funding" gives an overview of GEF projects, including the project cycle, the requirement for co-financing of projects, project types and programme approach and who can apply. Templates and guidelines are also provided: http://www.thegef.org/gef/gef_projects_funding.

GEF projects and programmes are developed in collaboration with a GEF Agency, which submits projects to the GEF Secretariat and is responsible for the disbursement of funds to a country for an approved project. GEF Agencies develop projects that fall within their comparative advantage. For a list of GEF Agencies that currently operate and their comparative advantage please visit the following website: http://www.thegef.org/gef/gef_agencies.

It is also important to understand one key characteristic of the GEF, which is that funding for GEF projects is based on the principles of incremental costs and global environmental benefits (GEBs).

BOX 32: THE CONCEPT OF INCREMENTAL REASONING UNDER THE GEF

GEF funds the "incremental" or additional costs associated with transforming a project with national benefits into one with global environmental benefits; for example, choosing solar energy technology over coal or diesel fuel meets the same national development goal (power generation), but is more costly. GEF grants cover the difference or "increment" between a less costly, more polluting option and a costlier, more environmentally friendly option.

The GEF Instrument states that "the GEF… shall operate for the purpose of providing new and additional grant and concessional funding to meet the agreed incremental costs of measures to achieve agreed global environmental benefits" in the GEF focal areas. The concept of incremental reasoning was further clarified in the June 2007 Council paper which provided operational guidelines to determine the incremental costs of a GEF project. The following are the key steps towards determining incremental costs of a GEF-financed project or program at its preparation stage:

(a) Describe the "Business-as-Usual scenario" (What would happen without GEF financing?) as enshrined in country planning documents, strategies, sectoral action plans, investment plans, etc;

(b) Identify the Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) and fit these with the GEF strategic objectives for the project activities proposed financed by the GEF; and

(c) Provide incremental reasoning and GEF's role and agree on actual level of GEF financing.

Sources

- GEF (2011) Guidelines for project financing (GEF/C.41/Inf.04). [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.41.Inf_.04_Guidelines_for_Project_Financing.pdf [Accessed: 19 February 2015]
- GEF (2007) Operational guidelines for the application of the incremental cost principle (GEF/C.31/12). [Online] Available from: https://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/documents/C.31.12%20Operational%20Guidelines%20for%20Incremental%20Costs.pdf [Accessed: 19 February 2015]

With regard to specific guidance on opportunities for engagement of the NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions in the country-driven national biodiversity project allocation process, it should be highlighted once again that the CITES as well as the CMS Secretariat, have already provided guidance that is still applicable under GEF-6. Please see *Box 18, pg. 132* and *Box 19, pg. 133* respectively.

Drawing from this material, the case studies presented in this section, as well as stakeholder consultations, the following steps should be considered by NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions:

1. Familiarize yourself with the GEF allocation process in your country

2. Get in touch with the GEF NFPs and in particular the GEF Operational Focal Point (OFP)[107],and request information on

a. GEF-funded activities in the country or region to explore synergies: The GEF OFP has been mandated to track the list of project concepts developed in a country and to endorse any project submitted to the GEF for funding

b. National Multi-Stakeholder Dialogues: It should be considered to foster the organization of a national multi-stakeholder dialogue, which can be supported by the GEF Country Support Programme (CSP) in eligible GEF countries. According to the GEF, past dialogues have enhanced synergy and linkages among GEF and Convention related activities at the national level.

107 A key step to enhance coordination and collaboration between different NFPs and the GEF operational focal point to create direct links between them. The Institutional arrangements chapter of this sourcebook shows that the appointment of NFPs as members of GEF steering committees has proved to be an important step.

BOX 33: NATIONAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUES

The GEF National Dialogue Initiative (NDI) is designed to facilitate a series of country level dialogues on GEF related issues and themes. National Dialogues aim to raise awareness about the GEF, strengthen country level coordination and ownership, and clarify and address country GEF needs and priorities linked to national development strategies.

National Dialogues provide a forum for consultations on global environmental management and national sustainable development issues in GEF recipient countries. They provide an opportunity for discourse among GEF partners and key stakeholders representing a wide range of national and local interests and areas of expertise. At the country level, each National Dialogue is managed as a collaborative effort involving the national GEF Focal Points, the GEF Secretariat, and the Implementing Agencies.

The main objectives of the GEF NDI are to assist participating countries by:

- Promoting in-depth understanding of the GEF's strategic directions, policies and procedures;
- Strengthening country coordination and ownership in GEF operations and sharing lessons learnt from project implementation; and
- Achieving greater mainstreaming of GEF activities into national planning frameworks and coordination and synergies amongst the GEF focal areas and convention issues at the national level.

Past dialogues have enabled countries to address a number of different objectives including: increasing understanding of the GEF's strategic directions, policies and procedures; strengthening country coordination and ownership in GEF operations; sharing lessons and experiences from GEF portfolio and projects; enhancing synergy and linkages among GEF and Convention related activities at the national level; and facilitating greater integration of GEF in national planning and policy frameworks. These dialogues normally last two or three days and are organized by the GEF OFP, with financial and technical support from the GEF Secretariat.

Sources

- GEF (2013) National multi-stakeholder dialogues [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/CSP_ND [Accessed: 20 February 2015]
- GEF (2012) Toolkit to access resources under the Country Support Programme [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/CSP%20Toolkit%20FINAL_HS.pdf [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

c. National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE) consultations: NPFEs are voluntary exercises that are designed to help countries programme their GEF allocations under the System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)[108]. The GEF OFP can request the GEF Secretariat for resources to conduct an NPFE and is tasked to be the coordinator of the exercise in his/her country. NPFEs provide an opportunity for joint project concept developments. At the 9th ordinary meeting of the BLG in 2014 Ms. Yoko Watanabe of the GEF Secretariat indicated that this process might provide opportunities for the conventions of the BLG to participate and provide input to the process.[109].

108 The System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR) is the GEF's resource allocation system for biodiversity, climate change, and land degradation focal areas [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/STAR; http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/10474 [Accessed: 19 February 2015]

109 Please see item 4 paragraph 21 in the report from the ninth ordinary meeting of the BLG in August 2014, [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/BLG-9-rep-final-en.pdf [Accessed: 19 February 2015]

BOX 34: GEF NATIONAL PORTFOLIO FORMULATION EXERCISES (NPFE)

All recipient countries can access GEF resources, up to $30,000, to undertake, on a voluntary basis, GEF National Portfolio Formulation Exercises (NPFEs). These will serve as a priority setting tool for countries, and as a guide for GEF Agencies as they assist recipient countries. Undertaking a NPFE is not a requirement or prerequisite for requesting GEF grants.

To request support for this exercise, countries have to submit a proposal that includes a detailed description of the activities that have to be carried out to produce the National Portfolio Formulation Document, as well as the expected costs. As the NPFE is to be carried out under the Direct Access approach, countries should select a national entity that has the experience and competence to develop such an exercise. The financial management questionnaire applies to this institution.

In this exercise, countries are encouraged to follow principles of transparency and inclusiveness of national stakeholders, including civil society.

Once NPFE is complete, the country will submit a report to the GEF Secretariat summarizing:

1. The steps followed during the preparatory process of the national portfolio.
2. The list (and description) of the priority projects and/or programmatic approaches that have been identified and that are eligible under the GEF-6 focal area strategies and their estimated costs.
3. An outline of how implementation of these projects will contribute to the fulfilment of obligations to the conventions (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, Stockholm).

The report will be shared with the Convention Secretariats for their information.

Sources

- GEF (2013) GEF National Portfolio Formulation Exercise (NPFE). [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/National_Portfolio_Formulation_Exercises [Accessed: 20 February 2015]
- GEF (2012) Country support programme toolkit. [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/pubs/country-support-programme-toolkit [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

d. The possibility of using STAR allocation, as well as potentially the possibility of pooling of resources with resources from other countries, or to access additional funding focal area set-aside (FAS) for regional/ multi-country projects should be explored:

The STAR allocation system covers the three focal areas of biodiversity (BD), climate change (CC), and land degradation (LD). Each country that meets the criteria for an allocation in BD, CC, or LD under the STAR receives an allocation for these focal areas.[110] A percentage of Focal Area resources are set-aside for each focal area (FAS) and are not available for national STAR allocations. Countries will be able to access FAS to implement enabling activities.

REVIEW CRITERIA FOR FSP/MSP (FULL/ MEDIUM-SIZED PROJECTS)[111]

- Country eligibility and ownership
- Global Environment Benefits
- GEF Focal area strategy
- Agency's comparative advantage
- Resource availability
- Project consistency
- Project design
- Project financing and co-financing (baseline)
- Monitoring and evaluation; and
- Agency's responses to comments and reviews

110 GEF (2013) System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR). [Online] Available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/content/system-transparent-allocation-resources-star [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

111 GEF provides grants to various types of projects ranging from several thousand dollars to several million dollars. These are Full-Sized projects, Medium-Sized Projects, Programmatic Approaches and Enabling Activities, and are defined on the following website: http://www.thegef.org/gef/project_types

Countries have the possibility to pool resources under STAR allocation with resources of other countries to conduct multi-country projects. Access to funding under FAS can be provided for single as well as multi-country projects. Whereas some enabling activities for which FAS funding is available are specified in the GEF Biodiversity Strategy for activities at the national level, the Strategy also leaves some room for further project support in global, regional or multi-country projects that meet some or all of the listed criteria.

BOX 35: BIODIVERSITY FOCAL AREA SET-ASIDE (FAS)

Enabling activity under the Biodiversity Focal Area Set-aside (FAS) support could be provided for all GEF eligible countries to produce their 6th National Report to the CBD, as well as national reporting obligations under the Cartagena Protocol and Nagoya Protocol that will be identified during upcoming COP-MOPs and that will come due during the GEF-6 period. The remaining funds in FAS will be used for a variety of priorities. The first is to contribute to the Sustainable Forest Management program and to the following integrated approaches to be piloted in GEF-6: Taking Deforestation out of Commodity Supply Chains, and Fostering Sustainability and Resilience for Food Security in Africa. **The FAS will also complement biodiversity investments at the national level through participation in global, regional or multi-country projects that meet some or all of the following criteria:**

- support priorities identified by the COP of the CBD and in particular the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets;
- relevant to the objectives and programs of the GEF-6 biodiversity strategy;
- high likelihood that the project will have a broad and positive impact on biodiversity;
- potential for replication;
- global demonstration value;
- potential to catalyse private sector investment in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use; and
- contribution to global conservation knowledge through formal experimental or quasi experimental designs that test and evaluate the hypotheses embedded in project interventions.

Source

- GEF (2014) The GEF-6 biodiversity strategy. [Online] available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/10802 [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

In particular, with regard to regional/ multi-country projects, the potential participation of NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions at Regional Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECW) should be explored. Alternatively, the NFPs of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (and the GEF OFP) would need to coordinate their efforts prior to the ECW in order to enable the CBD NFP to present and discuss the integrated project concept at the workshop (or in the margins of the workshop).

BOX 36: (REGIONAL) EXPANDED CONSTITUENCY WORKSHOPS (ECW)

The main objective of Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECW) is to provide a forum for GEF Focal Points, Convention NFPs and representatives of civil society from each of the participating countries to learn about GEF strategies, policies and procedures and gain a better understanding of the GEF as the funding mechanism for the conventions it serves.

The workshop is an opportunity for different national partners to meet with their counterparts from other countries in the region, staff from the GEF Secretariat, the GEF Agencies and other GEF partners, and to share lessons and experiences from the development and the implementation of GEF projects and their integration within national policy frameworks. Additionally, these workshops can encourage coordination among national officials and allow better understanding among constituency members.

These workshops are organized annually by the GEF Secretariat. The workshop covers participation costs for 6 representatives from each country: GEF Political Focal Point, GEF Operational Focal Point, three of the four national Convention Focal Points (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, and Stockholm Convention), as well as one representative from civil society. The agenda addresses the needs and requests of the invited participants and is developed by the GEF Secretariat team with the help of GEF partners and GEF NFPs through tailored online surveys.

Source

- GEF (2015) Expanded Constituency Workshops (ECW). [Online] available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/CSP_ECW [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

e. Engage in priority-setting and develop concept(s) in collaboration with other NFPs and the GEF OFP, ideally focusing on jointly developed activities in the NBSAP - capitalize thereby on informal or formal coordination mechanisms that were ideally strengthened through the NBSAP revision process

GEF projects and programmes are developed in collaboration with a GEF Agency, which submits projects to the GEF Secretariat and which is responsible for the disbursement of funds to a country for an approved project. GEF Agencies develop projects that fall within their comparative advantage.[112]

BOX 37: FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS AGREED UPON AT THE 9TH MEETING OF THE BLG IN AUGUST 2014 REGARDING ACCESS TO GEF FUNDS[113]

At the ninth ordinary meeting of the BLG in August 2014, Ms. Yoko Watanabe of the GEF Secretariat updated participants on the outcomes of the meetings of the GEF Council and the GEF Assembly in June 2014, including the endorsement of the programming directions and policy recommendations for GEF-6 as well as the GEF 2020 strategy. Following the presentation and the general discussion a list of follow-up actions were agreed.

- GEF-Secretariat to share, when available, the list of country-level dialogues and consultations on portfolio planning;
- GEF-Secretariat to share information on the guidelines for accessing funds and any other information that could assist other conventions and focal points in better understanding the GEF application processes and requirements;
- BLG members to identify common issues/countries/regions where they could undertake joint activities/projects.

112 GEF Agencies [Online] available from: http://www.thegef.org/gef/gef_agencies [Accessed: 20 February 2015]
113 Report from the ninth ordinary meeting of the BLG in August 2014, [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/BLG-9-rep-final-en.pdf [Accessed: 19 February 2015]

ANNEX 4. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

For a general overview of potential funding for activities contributing to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets please view the table below, created by the CBD HLP on Global Assessment of Resources in its first assessment report.

Table 12. Potential funding for activities contributing to the aichi biodiversity targets[114]

1. Awareness raising	Private sponsorship of awareness raising campaigns, joint initiatives with NGOs, opportunities to negotiate discounts or free provision of "social advertising", education and training budgets.
2. Biodiversity values	Much of the funding is likely to come from core biodiversity budgets. However, since delivering the Target plays an essential role in achieving sustainable development globally, there will be a wide range of beneficiaries and there is scope to secure funding from a range of sources such as governments, businesses and international development agencies, building on the international partnerships that have already been established to finance both the TEEB and WAVES initiatives.
3. Incentives	Initial work to identify negative incentives and options for positive incentives may need to be funded primarily from core biodiversity/environmental budgets, as the required action is motivated primarily by biodiversity/environmental concerns. Assessments of reform options for negative incentives, and development of action plans for reform may attract resources from other government departments, especially where a need for reform has been identified for financial, economic or social reasons – finance ministries and sectoral ministries (e.g. agriculture, fisheries, energy) may contribute to this process. The development of positive incentives will deliver benefits for both the land management sector and for beneficiaries of ecosystem services (e.g. water companies, communities, property interests and the public at large). There may be opportunities for funding from beneficiaries through PES schemes (e.g. water sector, insurers, carbon, biodiversity, property interests), from a range of government departments (e.g. agriculture, forestry, water resources, energy) and from development agencies (because of the importance of natural capital and ecosystem services for development). A national fossil fuel tax has provided the main source of funding for Costa Rica's PES scheme.
4. Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)	As well as core biodiversity budgets, this Target has opportunities to attract funding from businesses. Engagement of businesses will be important in the development of SCP plans for different sectors, and should provide opportunities to secure business funding for research and action planning, helping businesses to develop the evidence base and identify the actions they need to take to reduce their impacts on biodiversity over time.
5. Reduced loss of natural habitats	Wetland banking is an innovative economic instrument that has substantially increased private sector funding for wetland conservation in the US, and could be applied in other countries. Cancelling construction of high impact dams and other forms of water infrastructure harmful to wetlands could help to finance a significant portion of the annual expenditure needed to implement wetland conservation and public acquisition programs.

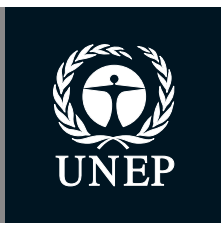
114 Adapted from CBD (2012) Resourcing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: a first assessment of the resources required for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 [Online] Available from: http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/fin/hlpgar-sp-01/official/hlpgar-sp-01-01-report-en.pdf [Accessed: 20 February 2015]

6. Sustainable fisheries	A range of options could be used to finance the achievement of Target 6. UNEP's Green Economy Report proposes a range of options for financing fisheries rebuilding plans, which broadly include: ● Public investment – through national budgets, multilateral funds, resources raised from capital markets backed by government guarantee and a share of government taxes, and levies or revenues earmarked at a national level for a fisheries fund; ● National investment – through environmental fiscal reform and redirection of subsidies; ● Regional investment – through regionally managed funds; ● Private investment – funded through markets for sustainable products and/or the creation of private property rights, for example through tradable quotas; and ● Public-private partnership (PPPs), where public sector investment is leveraged to attain private sector participation in fisheries projects.
7. Sustainable aquaculture	Both integrated aquaculture and closed containment systems require industry buy-in, and thus government incentives and regulation will help their implementation. Most aquaculture operations do not presently take into account their true environmental costs, and instead the costs of remediation come out of public funds. The industry has a leading role to play in funding implementation of technologies that internalise the environmental costs of their operation. Sustainable production techniques can achieve this while maintaining or enhancing the overall profitability of the sector. For capacity building and implementation of best management practices in developing countries, there is a role for funding from the GEF, the World Bank and other funding and development agencies, given the benefits for rural livelihoods.
8. Pollution control	Reductions in environmentally harmful subsidies will reduce pollution and yield cost savings, helping to offset the costs of environmental investments. Environmental taxes and charges, tradable permit systems, deposit-refund systems, non-compliance fees and liability payments also offer potential funding sources.
10. Coral reefs	A wide range of donor-based and innovative or market-based funding sources can be used to enhance the management of coral reefs.
11. Protected Areas	Domestic government budgets are the single largest source of protected area funding in most countries. In the developing world, many protected areas rely on funding from international agencies and other foreign donors, including multilateral donors (e.g. European Union, World Bank, regional development banks, and Global Environment Fund) and bilateral donors (e.g. USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and European countries). Significant funding also comes from private sources, including business and philanthropic foundations as well as nongovernmental organizations and local communities. Emerging opportunities include Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes, including the UN Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) programme.
12. Species Conservation	Significant funding for species conservation is provided by national governments and international agencies. In addition, some global funds are available for threatened species conservation through: the Save Our Species fund (a partnership between IUCN, the GEF and the World Bank, with initial financing commitments of US$10 million); the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund (€25 million endowment fund); the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (a joint program of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the GEF, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank), as well as a host of smaller funding bodies.
13. Genetic diversity	In-situ and ex-situ conservation sources include multinational companies, national treasuries, and public-private partnerships. There are some funding opportunities that may specifically be harnessed for ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources, including the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the CGIAR Fund.
14. Ecosystem restoration	The assessment estimates that reducing investment in unnecessary highways and other forms of public infrastructure could help to meet Target 14 while yielding annual budgetary savings of $108 billion, more than offsetting the estimated cost of restoration activities over the 2013 to 2020 period.

16. Access and benefits sharing	Overall, the Target could potentially benefit from internal and external funding sources. The GEF is an important source of funding. Considering the advantages and benefits that countries could secure by meeting the Target, countries may decide to invest in ABS activities. The GEF has been a catalyst for leveraging large amounts of funds for projects with global environmental benefits of which ABS could be one.
17. NBSAPs	Overall, the Target could potentially benefit from internal and external funding sources. The GEF is an important source of funding. Considering the advantages and benefits that countries could have by meeting the Target, countries may decide to invest in the activities, and attract various types of funding sources including the private sector. The GEF has also been a catalyst for leveraging large amounts of funds for projects with global environmental benefits of which NBSAPs, National Reports and Clearing House Mechanism.
18. Traditional knowledge	Main actions are likely to be funded through voluntary funds from mostly traditional donor countries. Potential sources of further funding could be non-traditional donors, including emerging and developing economies and economies in transition or even the private sector. Funds for developing and least developed Parties are mainly sourced through the GEF.
20. Resource mobilisation	The GEF is an important source of funding and has been a catalyst for leveraging large amounts of funds for projects with global environmental benefits.

www.unep.org

United Nations Environment Programme
P.O. Box 30552 - 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel.: +254 20 762 1234
Fax: +254 20 762 3927
e-mail: uneppub@unep.org
www.unep.org



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