

Building on the outcomes of the workshop on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions

2 May 2016 – 13:15 – Room 3, ICAO, Montreal

Part I

By Vinod B. Mathur, co-Chair (India)

Workshop preparation, attendance and methodology



Preparatory activities

- Early 2015: Planning and mobilizing resources / contributions from the Governments of Finland and Switzerland
- May 2015: Establishment of Informal Advisory Group on the basis of nominations received from Parties (CBD notifications 27 February and 19 May 2015)

more...



Preparatory activities....

The constitution of the Informal Advisory Group (IAG)....

...regionally balanced informal advisory group, comprising of two members per region, selected by the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity on the basis of nominations by Parties...

Composition

REGION	COUNTRY	MEMBER
Africa	Benin	Mr. Mensah Bienvenu Celestin Bossou
	Sudan	Ms. Sawsan Khair Elsied Abdel Rahim Mustafa
Asia-Pacific	India	Dr.V.B. Mathur
	Palau	Ms. Gwendalyn K. Sisor
CEE	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Mr. Mehmed Cero
	Georgia	Ms. Maka Bitsadze
WEOG	Canada	Mr. Greg Filyk
	Finland	Ms. Marina von Weissenberg
GRULAC	Mexico	Ms. Margarita Caso Chávez
	Peru	Ms. Roxana Solis Ortiz

The Task...

...to prepare, in consultation with the Secretariat, prior to the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, a workshop with the task to prepare options which could include elements for a possible road map, for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them...

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Preparatory activities...

- June-December 2015: Series of three teleconferences and two GoTo Meetings between IAG members and representatives of the Secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions
- 17-18 September 2015: Face-to-face meeting in Geneva, including ^{more...} IAG members, secretariat's representatives and technical resource persons from international organizations



Preparatory activities

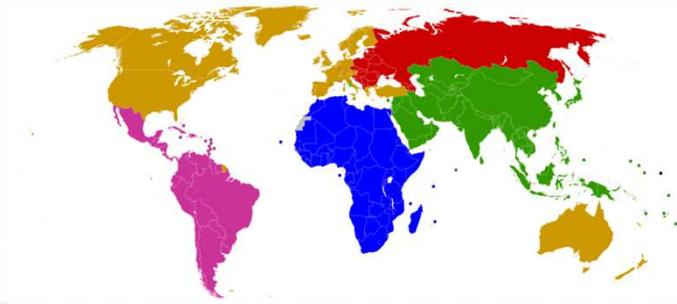
- September 2015-January 2016: Coordination among the secretariats, bureaux, standing committees or other appropriate processes, for the selection and nomination of party representatives from the seven conventions. Invitations, collection of case studies, national and regional consultations by Parties.
- November-December 2015: Survey and preparation for the study on capacity-building needs and awareness raising needs in collaboration with UNEP-WCMC
- 20 and 27 January 2016: Webinars on the UNEP Project on “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies”
- 8-11 February 2016: Workshop on Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at Geneva



Attendance

To ensure balance of perspective from the conventions and from among regions, taking into account funding and differences in the way the conventions organize themselves regionally:

- Representatives of five Parties to each convention, one from each of the five United Nations Regional Groups of Member States
- The selection and nomination of representatives was made by the Standing Body of the convention in consultation with its secretariat



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Attendance



Parties

- 32 representatives of Parties to the conventions from 28 countries
- 8 IAG members (two IAG members served as the co-Chairs of the workshop and, together with five other members, served as the moderator or rapporteur of breakout groups)

Organizations:

- Executive heads and other staff of the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions
- Representatives of observer organizations: UNEP, UNESCO, FAO and IUCN which provide secretariats to the conventions
- Representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, global NGOs and other international organizations.



Methodology – Setting the stage

- In addition to both Webinars, background material was made available to participants
- A facilitator helped catalyze the work and gain contributions and inputs from all participants
- Roles of participants and programme focused on party-led approach
- Participatory approach: discussions in plenary, small groups and breakout groups gave all Party representatives an opportunity to contribute
- Break out groups considered 8 thematic areas, using standard reporting templates to produce harmonized results



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Break out groups and plenary discussions



Methodology – 8 Thematic Areas for promoting synergies and enhanced cooperation

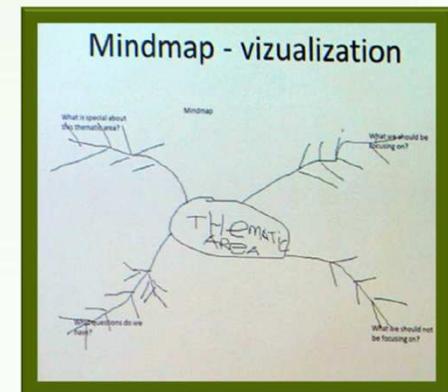
1. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
2. Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms;
3. Information and knowledge management;
4. National reporting, monitoring and indicators;
5. Communication and awareness-raising;
6. The science–policy interface;
7. Capacity-building; and
8. Resource mobilization and utilization.

more...

Methodology - Preparing options

For each thematic area, break out groups and plenary discussed:

- Challenges, barriers and opportunities
- Short, medium and long-term options
- What are the issues to focus on?
- National options for action
- Regional options for action
- Global options for action
- Party action required (What concrete actions in a defined time space are required by the Party (or by Parties)?
- What supportive actions do the Parties need and by whom?



Next presentation

Outcomes of the workshop

Ms. Marina Weissenberg

Co-Chair, IAG



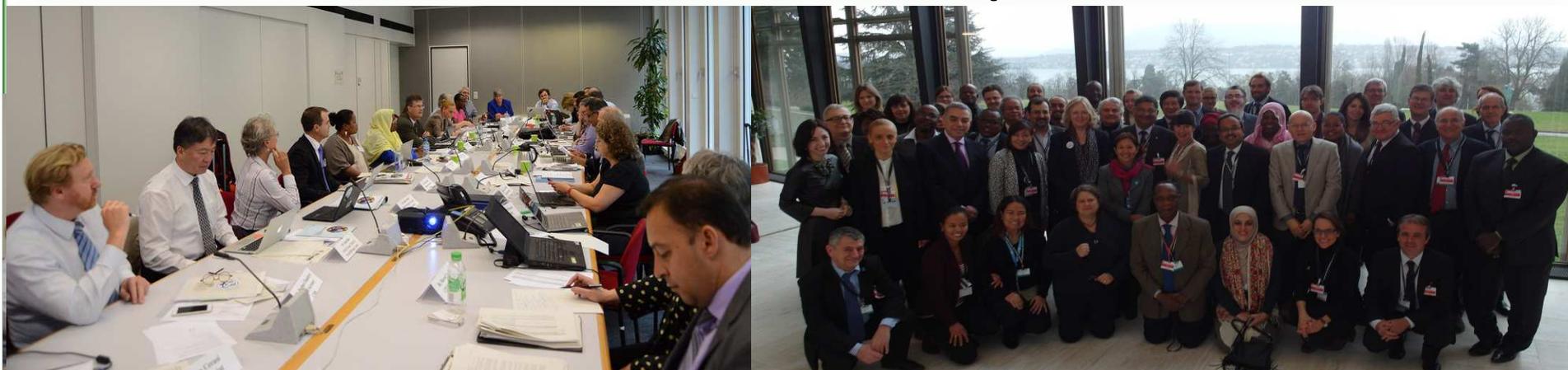
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Part II

By Marina von Weissenberg, co-Chair (Finland)

Presentation of the main outcomes of the workshop



Eight areas for enhanced synergy/cooperation among the conventions

- The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and national biodiversity strategies and action plans
- Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms
- Information and knowledge management
- National reporting, monitoring and indicators
- Communication and awareness-raising
- Science-policy interface
- Capacity building
- Resource mobilization and utilization



Output of a break out group

Example

Workshop on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, 8-11 February 2016					
Outcomes of the discussions on:					
I. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans					
Short-term options (0 – 2 years)					
What are the issues to focus on?	National options for action	Regional options for action	Global options for action	Party action required What concrete actions in a defined time space are required by the Party (or by Parties)?	What supportive actions do the Parties need and by whom?
1. National biodiversity strategies and action plans as a possible entry point for synergies	<p>Reflect all the commitments of biodiversity-related conventions that are linked to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the commitments agreed to under relevant conventions.</p> <p>Conduct mapping and gap analysis of relevant implementation actions, including those related to contributions under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that include the Sustainable Development Goals.</p> <p>Identify potential needs from the gap analysis.</p> <p>Assess whether the actions on synergies in national implementation plans are in line with the priorities, commitments and opportunities.</p> <p>According to national need, review existing action plans for</p>	<p>Share best practices and experience from the national biodiversity strategies and action plan process and from other relevant regional strategies with regard to ongoing and planned actions on synergies between the biodiversity-related conventions.</p>	<p>Seek guidance from international organizations/ institutions to be used at national level by national focal points and practitioners, on synergies for implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans for the CBD and similar strategies and action plans for other conventions and multilateral environmental agreements.</p>		

Presentation in narrative form

Example

I. THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011–2020, THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS AND NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

Issues/areas addressed, including challenges, barriers and/or opportunities identified

1. National biodiversity strategies and action plans as a possible entry point for synergies
2. Involvement of key stakeholders, and of indigenous peoples and local communities
3. National coordination for implementing biodiversity-related conventions
4. National focal points
5. Awareness of national focal points of other relevant biodiversity-related conventions
6. Biodiversity-related conventions
7. Tools for accessing funding

Short-term options (0 – 2 years)

1. National biodiversity strategies and action plans as a possible entry point for synergies

National options for action

Reflect all the commitments of biodiversity-related conventions that are linked to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the commitments agreed to under relevant conventions.

Conduct mapping and gap analysis of relevant implementation actions, including those related to contributions under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that include the Sustainable Development Goals.

Identify potential needs from the gap analysis.

Assess whether the actions on synergies in national implementation plans are in line with the priorities, commitments and opportunities.

According to national need, review existing action plans for implementation to include implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.

Regional options for action

Presentation of outputs to SBI 1

Possible recommendations - prepared by the Secretariat

Addendum to UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/9

1. *The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans*

1. Opportunities to strengthen synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions provided by the frameworks of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans were identified under seven themes, including: NBSAPs as a possible entry point for synergies; involvement of key stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities; national coordination for implementing the conventions; national focal points, and; tools for accessing funding. The workshop identified the importance of involving key stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities¹ in the planning processes and their implementation at all levels.

2. Addressing each of these themes, the workshop identified options for action at the national, regional and global levels. These were categorized into short-term options (to be undertaken within two years) and medium-term options (to be undertaken over two to five years). Some of the options relate to coordination mechanisms or resource mobilization and so have been addressed in subsections 2 and 8, which address these matters. As well as being addressed as a dedicated area, the frameworks were highlighted under several thematic areas of discussion.

3. Derived from the options identified, the Conference of the Parties could consider elements of a decision addressing various actors, along the following lines.

4. Addressing the national level, the Conference of the Parties could encourage Parties, in revising or updating and implementing their national biodiversity strategy and action plan:²

(a) To reflect in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan all the commitments under each of the biodiversity-related conventions that are linked to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in line with the commitments agreed to under the conventions concerned;

(b) To conduct a mapping and gap analysis of relevant implementation actions, including those related to contributions under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals,³ and:

(i) Identify potential needs from the gap analysis:

Example of options (I, page 1)

1. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans

6. Opportunities to strengthen synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions provided by the frameworks of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans were identified under seven themes, including: NBSAPs as a possible entry point for synergies; involvement of key stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities; national coordination for implementing the conventions; national focal points, and; tools for accessing funding. The workshop identified the importance of involving key stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities in the planning processes and their implementation at all levels.

7. Addressing each of these themes, the workshop identified options for action at the national, regional and global levels. These were categorized into short-term options (to be undertaken within two years) and medium-term options (to be undertaken over two to five years). Some of the options relate to coordination mechanisms or resource mobilization and so have been addressed in subsections 2 and 8, which address these matters. As well as being addressed as a dedicated area, the frameworks were highlighted under several thematic areas of discussion.

(...)

Example of options (I ,page 2)

8. Derived from the options identified, the Conference of the Parties could consider elements of a decision addressing various actors, along the following lines.

9. Addressing the national level, the Conference of the Parties could encourage Parties, in revising or updating and implementing their national biodiversity strategy and action plan:

(a) To reflect in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan all the commitments under each of the biodiversity-related conventions that are linked to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in line with the commitments agreed to under the conventions concerned;

(b) To conduct a mapping and gap analysis of relevant implementation actions, including those related to contributions under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and:

(i) Identify potential needs from the gap analysis;

(ii) Assess whether the actions on synergies in national implementation plans are in line with priorities, commitments and opportunities;

(iii) According to national need, review existing action plans for implementation to include implementation of the other biodiversity-related conventions;

(c) In revising or updating related strategies and action plans, make use of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and prepare Target-driven work plans for all biodiversity-related conventions;

Example of options (I, page 3)

(d) Make use of indicators of other relevant conventions in implementing measures towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and, as appropriate, prepare relevant national indicators for other biodiversity-related conventions to track effective implementation and monitoring of actions and also to feed into national actions related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) Ensure the appropriate participation of relevant stakeholders and of indigenous peoples and local communities in the finalization of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan and relevant national programmes, explicitly for better articulation and planning to achieve synergies;

(f) Link the national biodiversity strategy and action plan to the national clearing-house mechanism and/or other information-sharing hubs.

10. Addressing the global level, the Conference of the Parties could invite the Biodiversity Liaison Group and relevant international organizations:

(a) To prepare and make available guidance to be used, as appropriate, at the national level by national focal points and practitioners on synergies for implementing the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and similar strategies and action plans of other biodiversity-related conventions;

(b) To prepare and make available guidance for national focal points, as appropriate, on incorporating all relevant biodiversity commitments into a system-wide approach;

Example of options (I, page 4)

11. The Conference of the Parties could also invite the governing bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions:

- (a) To call for enhancement of joint efforts on synergies at various levels, ensure that future cooperation is based on a common understanding of issues and options, and undertake joint efforts to maximize the effectiveness of mandates and agendas delivered at various levels;
- (b) To coordinate relevant actions to translate the options for enhancing synergies into actions. A similar call could be made with respect to the financing mechanism.

Options for action: key characteristics

- Options were classified according to short, medium and long-term (but a roadmap was not defined per se)
- Options were classified according to national, regional and global levels but time did not allow to identify actors that would need to take the role in the action (the Secretariat identified a number of actors in UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/9.Add.1)
- Each option is not applicable to all conventions or situations. The options are presented as a “menu” that could be taken up by countries as appropriate and according to national circumstance
- Some options are already underway, a mapping exercise may be needed
- Parties can implement the proposed options for action immediately
- The eight thematic areas are interlinked
- Participants also noted the value of the workshop across the seven biodiversity-related conventions and for continuing such a Party-driven dialogue [BLG+]

Key conclusions emerging

Importance of:

- Unifying frameworks: Strategic Plan 2011-2020 (and post-2020), Aichi Biodiversity Targets, NBSAP and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs
- Enhanced coordination mechanisms
- Common information / knowledge platform link to reporting and scientific needs



Discussions

- Perspectives from representatives of secretariats and international organizations
- Perspectives from Parties, and
- Organization of work on item 11



Thanks...