

Enhancing Cooperation among the seven biodiversity related agreements and conventions at national level using the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans



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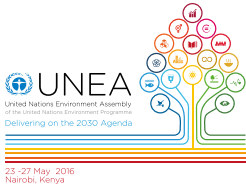
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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	4
1. Background	10
2. Role and relevance of NBSAPs in promoting cooperation and synergies	13
3. Experiences of how the NBSAPs have dealt with this agenda	15



4. Incorporating issues related to cooperation and synergies among the NBSAPs	17
4.1 The revision process of NBSAP	17
4.2 Step-by-Step approach to include synergies when revising NBSAPs or when implementing NBSAP	18
5. Example to deal with synergies using the World Heritage Convention	21
6. Assessing impacts of actions	24
7. Additional guidance	26

Executive Summary

Enhancing cooperation among the seven biodiversity related Agreements and Conventions at national level using NBSAPs

The National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are seen as key entry points for enhancing synergies and cooperation among the key biodiversity related conventions, namely the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species in wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species of wild fauna (CMS), the World Heritage Convention (WHC), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC).

With close of one hundred countries currently finalizing their NBSAPs that serve as key national policy documents concerning biodiversity, this paper attempts to provide specific guidance to countries on ways and means to integrate synergistic actions across key biodiversity conventions.

This paper builds on UNEP actions promoting synergies and cooperation among the biodiversity Conventions, including the 'Options Paper' that has been published in 2016 and various Decisions of governing bodies of the conventions calling for synergies.

Resumen ejecutivo

Fomento de la cooperación a nivel nacional entre los siete acuerdos y convenios relacionados con la diversidad biológica utilizando las Estrategias y Planes de Acción Nacionales sobre Diversidad Biológica (EPANDB)

Las Estrategias y Planes de Acción Nacionales sobre Diversidad Biológica (EPANDB) se consideran puntos de partida clave para fomentar las sinergias y la cooperación entre los principales instrumentos relacionados con la diversidad biológica, a saber, el Convenio sobre la Diversidad Biológica (CDB), la Convención sobre el Comercio Internacional de Especies Amenazadas de Fauna y Flora Silvestres (CITES), la Convención sobre la Conservación de las Especies Migratorias de Animales Silvestres (CMS), la Convención del Patrimonio Mundial (WHC), la Convención de Ramsar Relativa a los Humedales, el Tratado Internacional sobre los Recursos Fitogenéticos para la Alimentación y la Agricultura (ITPGRFA) y la Convención Internacional de Protección Fitosanitaria (CIPF).

Habida cuenta de que cerca de cien países están actualmente dando los toques finales a sus EPANDB –que constituyen importantes documentos sobre las políticas nacionales relativas a la diversidad biológica– en el presente documento se intenta proporcionar una orientación específica a los países sobre el modo de integrar medidas sinérgicas en los principales instrumentos relacionados con la diversidad biológica.

El presente documento se basa en las medidas adoptadas por el PNUMA para promover las sinergias y la cooperación entre los instrumentos relacionados con la diversidad biológica, incluido el “Documento de Opciones”, que se ha publicado en 2016, y las diversas decisiones de los órganos rectores de los distintos instrumentos en las que se exhorta a fomentar las sinergias.

Расширение сотрудничества между семью связанными с биоразнообразием соглашениями и конвенциями на национальном уровне с использованием НСПДБ

Резюме

Национальные стратегии и планы действий в отношении биоразнообразия (НСПДБ) рассматриваются в качестве основных отправных точек для укрепления синергии и сотрудничества между основными конвенциями, связанными с биоразнообразием, а именно - Конвенцией о биологическом разнообразии (КБР), Конвенцией о международной торговле видами дикой фауны и флоры, находящимися под угрозой исчезновения (СИТЕС), Конвенцией по сохранению мигрирующих видов диких животных (КМВ), Конвенцией о всемирном наследии (КОН), Рамсарской конвенцией о водно болотных угодьях, Международным договором о растительных генетических ресурсах для производства продовольствия и ведения сельского хозяйства (МДРГР) и Международной конвенцией об охране растений (МКОР).

Учитывая, что в настоящее время примерно в ста странах завершается подготовка НСПДБ, которые являются одним из основных национальных директивных документов, касающихся биоразнообразия, в настоящем документе делается попытка предложить странам конкретные указания в отношении путей и средств интеграции синергических мер в рамках ключевых конвенций, связанных с биоразнообразием.

Этот документ основывается на мерах ЮНЕП по содействию синергии и сотрудничеству между связанными с биоразнообразием конвенциями, в том числе на опубликованном в 2016 году документе о вариантах и различных решениях руководящих органов конвенций, в которых содержится призыв к синергии.



利用国家生物多样性战略和行动计划加强七项生物多样性相关协定和公约之间在国家一级的合作

国家生物多样性战略和行动计划被视为加强生物多样性主要相关公约（即《生物多样性公约》、《濒危野生动植物种国际贸易公约》、《保护野生动物迁徙物种公约》、《世界遗产公约》、《拉姆萨尔公约》、《粮食和农业植物遗传资源国际条约》和《国际植物保护公约》）之间协同增效和合作的关键切入点。

目前近100个国家正在完成各自的国家生物多样性战略和行动计划，并将其作为与生物多样性相关的关键国家政策文件。本文件旨在为各国就纳入各主要生物多样性公约之间的协同行动的方法和方式提供具体指导。

本文件借鉴了环境署推动不同生物多样性公约之间协同增效和合作的行动，包括2016年发布的《备选方案文件》以及各公约理事机构呼吁协同增效的各项决定。

تعزيز التعاون بين الاتفاقات والاتفاقيات السبع المتعلقة بالتنوع البيولوجي على الصعيد الوطني باستخدام الاستراتيجيات وخطط العمل الوطنية المتعلقة بالتنوع البيولوجي

موجز تنفيذي

يُنظر إلى الاستراتيجيات وخطط العمل الوطنية المتعلقة بالتنوع البيولوجي على أنها مداخل رئيسية لتعزيز التأزر والتعاون بين الاتفاقيات الرئيسية ذات الصلة بالتنوع البيولوجي، وهي على وجه التحديد اتفاقية التنوع البيولوجي، واتفاقية الاتجار الدولي بأنواع النباتات والحيوانات البرية المهددة بالانقراض، واتفاقية حفظ أنواع الحيوانات البرية المهاجرة، واتفاقية التراث العالمي، واتفاقية رامسار بشأن الأراضي الرطبة، والمعاهدة الدولية بشأن الموارد الوراثية النباتية للأغذية والزراعة، والاتفاقية الدولية لوقاية النباتات.

ومع وجود ما يقرب من مائة بلد يعكف حالياً على وضع الصيغ النهائية للاستراتيجيات وخطط العمل الوطنية المتعلقة بالتنوع البيولوجي التي تمثل وثائق رئيسية للسياسات العامة الوطنية المتعلقة بالتنوع البيولوجي، فإن هذه الورقة تسعى لتقديم توجيهات محددة إلى البلدان بشأن سبل ووسائل إدراج إجراءات تأزرية عبر اتفاقيات التنوع البيولوجي الرئيسية.

وتستند الورقة إلى إجراءات برنامج الأمر المتحدة للبيئة الرامية لتعزيز التأزر والتعاون بين الاتفاقيات ذات الصلة بالتنوع البيولوجي، بما في ذلك 'ورقة الخيارات' التي نشرت في عام ٢٠١٥ ومختلف مقررات الهيئات الإدارية للاتفاقيات التي تدعو للتأزر.





Photo: Peter Prokosch/Grid Arendal

Background

Biodiversity is life, biodiversity is our life! The role and relevance of biodiversity and ecosystems in securing our current and future lives, both urban and rural, cannot be overstated. Countries and stakeholders have addressed global biodiversity and ecosystems decline through a series of legal, policy and regulatory mechanisms. Though there are a number of national, sub-regional, regional and global agreements and conventions related to ecosystems and biodiversity, seven are considered as key biodiversity conventions in general.

These include, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage - World Heritage Convention (WHC), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)¹. The Secretariats of these

¹ All information as of 20 December 2015 from respective websites of MEAs

conventions also form the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) which was established under the Convention on Biological Diversity². For purposes of this paper, these conventions are considered as key biodiversity related Conventions³.

While some of these have specific mandate related to ecosystems and biodiversity (eg. the CBD), several others have specific focus on habitats, ecosystems and species (eg. CMS, Ramsar Convention, ITPGRFA). Given the mandates to implement actions, guided by their respective Governing Bodies and assisted by their subsidiary bodies and scientific advisory bodies, national implementation of these seven key biodiversity Conventions is crucial to achieve effective biodiversity conservation, including the global Aichi biodiversity targets.

Synergies in action to implement these Conventions are essential to maximize the results, impacts and to ensure the most efficient use of limited conservation resources. However, national actions on synergies are still sub-optimal. Achieving synergy needs additional impetus to coordinate actions, most importantly at the national level, where the States who are the parties to all seven biodiversity related

convention identify needs through relevant convention's governing bodies to achieve this agenda⁴.

Recognizing the need for enhancing cooperation among these biodiversity related conventions (generically referred to as the biodiversity related conventions, biodiversity related MEAs, biodiversity related agreements), several Governing Bodies of these conventions have called for synergies in implementation at global, regional and national levels⁵. Such requests were also made by UN agencies (eg. United Nations Environment Programme⁶, the Environment Management Group of the United Nations⁷, the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations⁸ and others).

Through paragraph 89 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The future we want", Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives called for enhanced synergies among the multilateral environmental agreements.⁹

In 2015, UNEP developed an 'Options Paper' through a consultative process that provides for a series of options and recommendations on enhancing cooperation and synergies

2 CBD COP decision Vii/26, paragraphs 1 and 2

3 The words biodiversity related MEAs, biodiversity related Conventions and biodiversity related Agreements are interchangeably used. This paper prefers use of the term 'biodiversity related conventions' for reasons of clarity.

4 UNEP 2015 Elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions. UNEP, Nairobi (<http://unep.org/environmentalgovernance/Portals/8/publications/elaborations-options-enhancing-synergies-biodiv-paper.pdf>)

5 UNEP 2015 Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity related conventions at national and regional levels, UNEP, Nairobi.

6 United Nations, Proceedings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its twelfth special session, Decision 55.XII/3, <http://www.unep.org/gc/gcss-xii/docs/Proceedings/K1280542%20-%20e-GCSS-XII-14.pdf> [accessed 10 December 2015].

7 http://www.unemg.org/images/emgdocs/publications/Advancing_the_biodiversity_agenda_biodiversity_Publication_full_report.pdf (accessed on 20 December 2015)

8 JIU/Rep/2008/3 on Management review of environmental governance within the United Nations System, JIU/Rep/2014/4 on Post Rio+20 review of environmental governance within the United Nations System.

9 General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex. Available at <http://www.uncsd2012.org/thefuturewewant.html> (accessed on 10 December 2015).

10 ibid





Photo: Tony Karumba

among the biodiversity related conventions¹⁰. The Paper includes specific suggestions on seven thematic areas, twenty eight options across these thematic areas along with eighty eight actions to achieve synergies and cooperation among the biodiversity conventions. One of the thematic areas is on using the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as an entry point for synergies at national level.

The CBD Secretariat convened a workshop on synergies among the biodiversity conventions in February 2016 that came out with specific recommendations also on using NBSAPs as a key tool for promoting synergies.¹¹

This paper builds on this thematic area focus of the 'Options Paper' and the outcomes of the CBD workshop to suggest a range of actions to be considered within the specific framework of the NBSAPs to take forward the synergy agenda at national level.



Photo: Peter Prokosch/Grid Arendal



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Role and relevance of NBSAPs in promoting cooperation and synergies

2.

Article 6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity provides that each party shall, in accordance with its particular conditions and capabilities, develop national strategies, plans or programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity or adapt for this purpose existing strategies, plans or programmes, and integrate, as far as possible and as appropriate, the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies. NBSAPs are the

principal instruments for implementing the Convention at the national level in accordance with article 6.

Decision X/2¹² the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity urged parties and other Governments to review, and as appropriate update and revise, their NBSAPs, in line with the Strategic Plan.¹³ As of March 2016, a total of 83 countries had submitted their revised and/or updated NBSAPs, while several parties were either finalizing or revising their NBSAPs.¹⁴

¹² UNEP/CBD/COP/10/2.

¹³ Ibid.

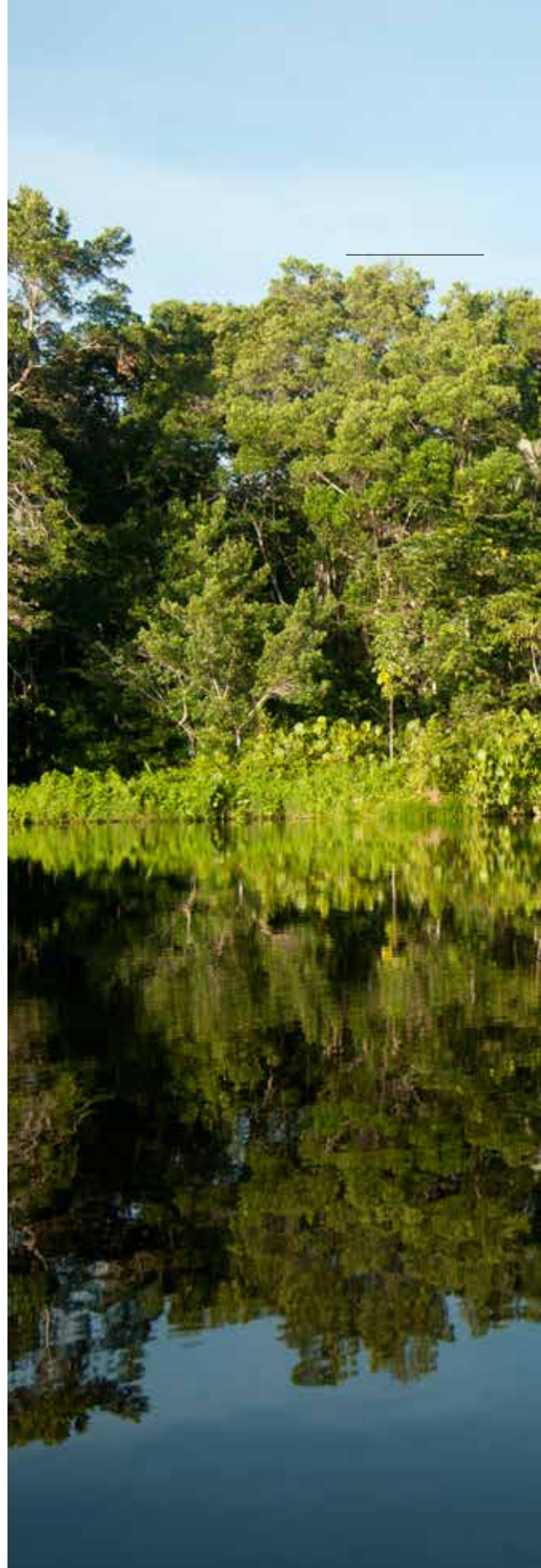
¹⁴ <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap> (accessed on 9 March 2016).



Since NBSAPs constitute the key policy document for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the period 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and considering that several biodiversity-related conventions have already aligned their strategies and activities with the Strategic Plan and the Targets of the CBD, the NBSAP serves as the main vehicle for enhancing cooperation and synergies at the national level.¹⁵ The Biodiversity Liaison Group has also agreed to use the Strategic Plan as the guiding framework for the strategic implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.¹⁶



Photo: Peter Prokosch/Grid Arendal ▲
Photo: Peter Prokosch/Grid Arendal ►



15 <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/BLG-9-rep-final-en.pdf> (accessed on 10 December 2015).
16 <https://www.cbd.int/cooperation/doc/report-hlr-2010-09-01-en.pdf> (accessed on 15 December 2015).



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Experiences of how the NBSAPs have dealt with this agenda

The Interim Assessment of Revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)¹⁷ indicates that very few NBSAPs systematically consider policy, legal and implementation options for enhancing national-level cooperation and synergies across the biodiversity conventions, possibly owing to a lack of clarity about how synergies would promote the effective implementation of biodiversity-related and ecosystem-related actions at the national and local levels.

A small number of NBSAPs have, however, considered such options.¹⁸

Using the outcomes of a questionnaire survey, UNEP in collaboration with UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center (WCMC), realized that national focal points generally do intend to promote and deal with synergies and cooperation amongst the biodiversity related conventions at local and national levels. The outcome document of the

3.

¹⁷ Assessment of Revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), UNEP-WCMC, Pisupati, B., and Prip, C. (2015), UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Fridtjof Nansen Institute, Lysaker, Norway. Available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/Interim-Assessment-of-NBSAPs.pdf>.

¹⁸ See NBSAPs of Moldova, Niue, Seychelles.



consultative process undertaken by UNEP to develop a set of options for enhancing cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements, entitled “Elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions” provides the following recommendations on dealing with synergies issues while revising and updating the NBSAPs and their implementation.

- Taking into account already existing materials, prepare streamlined and simple guidance and tools for facilitating the development, revision and implementation of NBSAPs across the conventions
- Support the integration of NBSAPs and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into different sectors, UNDAF and sustainable development instruments at all levels.
- Support parties in accessing timely GEF-funding for the development, revision and implementation of NBSAPs, through promotion of coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions in a coordinated manner among their respective national authorities
- Support experience exchange on the development and implementation of NBSAPs and voluntary ‘peer review’ of NBSAPs, including through the NBSAP Forum, with a particular focus on the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions.
- Explore the use of regional approaches to address transboundary issues identified in NBSAPs, by focusing efforts on collaboration between national focal points and authorities and stakeholders involved in

the implementation of NBSAPs in different countries.

- Elaborate on the role of each convention and UN body in contributing to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Though not explicitly elaborated in the NBSAPs, few countries have already started to put in place institutional, programmatic, financial and strategic actions to realize synergies.¹⁹ A detailed description of these actions can be found in the UNEP Source Book on Synergies launched in 2015.²⁰ However, the post 2010 NBSAPs that have been finalized by countries thus far are still weak in dealing with synergies issues specifically.

Given this, there is a documented need to provide countries with guidance on how to include issues of cooperation and synergies among biodiversity related conventions within the revised/updated NBSAPs since these documents are considered as the main strategies to deal with national biodiversity agenda.

¹⁹ UNEP 2015 Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity related conventions at national and regional levels, UNEP, Nairobi (<http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/Portals/7/Documents/cooperation-source-book-biodiversity-conventions.pdf>)

²⁰ Ibid



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Incorporating issues related to cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity related Conventions in NBSAPs

This section provides ideas, inputs and options to help countries to include synergies in their NBSAPs. The suggestions and comments made are indicative and are intended to help countries understand the optional processes, and to suggest means for achieving harmonized implementation of actions across the biodiversity-related conventions using NBSAPs as the guiding framework.

4.1 The revision process of NBSAP

One of the key initial steps countries could consider while revising the existing NBSAPs is to undertake an assessment on how the different conventions are currently being implemented at national level, the legal and policy framework(s) that guide implementation of the key biodiversity conventions, key stakeholder at national level, financing options for implementing the biodiversity related conventions, human resources and institutional

4.



capacities available, the kind of resources (financial, time, energy and related) being spent on monitoring, reporting, compliance and evaluation. In addition, it is also important to understand whether there are any key linkages already being established in implementing actions related to multiple biodiversity related conventions.

Examples of such assessment could include the role of CITES or World Heritage Convention in achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 12 to conserve threatened species, the impact of conserving a Ramsar or a World Heritage Site in ensuring the flyways of birds are protected, the means of national implementation of access and benefit sharing (ABS) provisions in the context of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and the ITPGRFA, the impact of a sustainable use practices under CBD with regard to movement of species in the Appendices to CITES and the like.

Such an assessment could provide a clear basis for the systematic revision of NBSAPs in order to best realize potential for cooperation and synergies. In some countries, such actions could already be underway and can be further strengthened when revising or implementing the NBSAP. An example of how to consider convention specific inputs into the NBSAP is provided in section 5 using the World Heritage Convention as an example.²¹

Consultation with and among the focal points of key biodiversity-related conventions in the country, and consideration of their input in deciding on the key national biodiversity targets and related indicators, will also be critical.



Photo: Peter Prokosch

4.2 Step-by-Step approach to include synergies when revising NBSAPs or when implementing NBSAP

The following step-wise process is suggested as an option to consider issues related to cooperation and synergies among the biodiversity related conventions within the NBSAPs

Step 1 – Using the revision process outlined in section 4.1, prepare a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) matrix for each of the seven key biodiversity related conventions as well as other international agreements related to biodiversity which are important in the country to assess current effectiveness of implementation.

²¹ Inputs for this section has been provided by IUCN (Tim Badman and Sonia Pena Moreno)

Step 2 – Based on the SWOT analyses, draw a map of institutional, human resource, technical and financial capacities available and identify additional needs to deal with synergies. Based on this analysis, develop a work plan for enhancing cooperation and synergies among the conventions. One can make specific references to implementation options at national and local levels. In order to undertake this task, the following are a set of guiding questions that can be considered for further elaboration.

- (a) What is the level and nature of understanding of the biodiversity-related conventions and their interlinkages and communication channels and options among the focal points?
- (b) Which good practices and useful resources of the different conventions could be usefully shared to enhance synergies and cooperation?
- (c) Can the focal points for the conventions be organized in such a way that they address, on a rotational basis, specific subject areas of different convention on a periodical basis?

- (d) Is there an institutional mechanism that could coordinate and assist in reporting, monitoring, evaluation and dealing with compliance across all the conventions?

Step 3 – Prepare a matrix, using the guidance available in the following table to indicate the opportunities and needs for synergies related actions at national level. It should be understood, however, that there can be different permutations and combinations of actions, and that the following table provides only examples. Countries are best placed to identify the options most suitable.

Step 4 – Include an implementation plan, in phases, to implement actions related to cooperation and synergies.

It is important that the implementation plan fully considers the current and emerging issues of institutional mandates, capacities, external influences such as funding and inputs from other agencies, policy and political interests and impacts at project and/or local levels.



Table 1.**Opportunities and needs for synergies-related actions**

Issue	Key Convention (Anchor)	Linked Conventions	Action(s)
Substantive	CITES	CBD, Ramsar Convention, WHC	Ensure all wildlife trade issues impacting biodiversity conventions (such as Ramsar and WH sites, and nationally protected areas) are being addressed in the national work on CITES; Reduce unsustainable trade, including illegal trade using the national policy legal frameworks with focus on sustainable use and management of resources and information sharing (CHM)
	WHC, Ramsar Convention	CBD, IPPC	Harmonizing the management of sites with multiple international designation (i.e. jointly designated WH/Ramsar/ Biosphere Reserves and Geoparks), and ensure that these instruments are deployed in an effective and coordinated way.
Institutional	CBD	All biodiversity related conventions	Establish a biodiversity working group with coordinated secretariat whose core mandate is implementing biodiversity related actions, including the NBSAPs responding to all the key biodiversity related Conventions as well as dealing with reporting and monitoring. The secretariat will be assisted by a set of experts drawn, on deputation, from ministries such as finance, planning, development and others for a period of 2-3 years.
Financial	CBD (as the GEF eligible convention currently)	All relevant biodiversity conventions	Proposals for projects and programmes should contain specific links to more than 1 Convention and contribute to coordinated delivery of actions at national and local levels.
Legal	All conventions related to biodiversity	All relevant biodiversity conventions	Ensuring legal preparedness and coordinating actions to deal with various legal regimes already available.



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Example to deal with synergies using the World Heritage Convention²²

5.

5.1. Process

To be fit for purpose related to the World Heritage Convention, each NBSAPs should:

- a) Identify and involve the World Heritage focal point(s) (the relevant ministry, department, office and individual currently in post; if split between ministries for natural and cultural heritage, involve both) and the national World Heritage committees in the process to review and implement the NBSAP. The World Heritage focal point(s) should be part of the national steering group for the NBSAP and their contribution should be documented and noted.
- b) Review the full application of the World Heritage Convention within the country including:
 - i. The status of inscriptions on the World Heritage List in the country (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>) – list all natural, mixed and cultural World Heritage sites and consider their

²² ibid



- international, regional, national and sub-national biodiversity conservation values, and the effectiveness of their management to conserve those values. A particular emphasis should be taken on the sites listed under World Heritage criteria ix and x (and if related to migratory species, criterion vii) since these are specifically related to biodiversity.
- ii. The status of the national Tentative List of possible World Heritage nominations (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/tentativelists/>) – list sites on the Tentative List and consider their international, regional, national and sub-national biodiversity conservation values, and the effectiveness of their management to conserve those values.
 - iii. The adequacy of coverage of the national Tentative List in comparison to global conservation priorities in the country – assess the need for update of the Tentative List.
 - iv. The overlap of inscribed World Heritage sites and sites on the Tentative List with the other international, regional and national nature conservation designations and options for synergies.
 - v. The extent to which issues related to the challenges and opportunities in conservation of World Heritage sites in the country relate to matters covered by the other biodiversity MEAs.
 - vi. Documentation of the specific contributions of World Heritage sites in the country to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/biodiversity/>).
- c) Consult the site managers of World Heritage sites and sites on the Tentative List, and fully consider their feedback on the revision and implementation of the NBSAP.
 - d) Consider fully as an input to the NBSAP:
 - i. World Heritage Committee Decisions on inscribed World Heritage sites, and other statutory documents, as appropriate (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/> → documents; State of Conservation Information System SOC, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/soc/>; List of World Heritage in Danger, <http://whc.unesco.org/en/158/>).
 - ii. Completed Periodic Reporting questionnaires on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention at the national level, including Part 1 (national analysis) and Part 2 (site specific analysis) (<http://whc.unesco.org/en/periodicreporting/>; national reports).
 - iii. National and regional strategies, action plans and other documents that define national priorities on World Heritage.
 - e) Contact by letter the UNESCO World Heritage Centre and the World Heritage Programme of IUCN (the designated Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee on natural heritage) to invite their comments on the draft NBSAP.
 - f) Provide a copy of the completed NBSAP to the World Heritage Centre and to IUCN, together with a covering letter noting the actions on World Heritage included in the NBSAP.

g) In the (very rare) cases a country is not a signatory to the World Heritage Convention, the NBSAP should articulate how the Convention could, if signed, contribute to the biodiversity conservation goals in the country, and define a process for its ratification.

5.2 Content

To be fit for purpose related to the World Heritage Convention, each NBSAP should:

- a) Include details of World Heritage sites and sites on the Tentative List (natural, cultural and mixed) in the country that contain internationally, regionally and nationally significant biodiversity, and specify clearly their biodiversity conservation values.
- b) Document the analysis and key findings of steps listed under “process”.
- c) Include measures to ensure that the biodiversity values of inscribed World Heritage sites, sites on the Tentative List, as well as sites that would justify addition to the Tentative List are conserved; notify measures that need to be taken outside the boundaries of the sites, including actions related to national institutional and legal conditions, connectivity conservation, access, rights and benefits, and the provision of adequate financial, technical and human capacity.
- d) Include measures that ensure effective implementation of the national actions requested by the World Heritage Committee to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage sites, and particularly their biodiversity values.

e) Define other ways the application of the World Heritage Convention could assist in making progress towards the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (for example, through promotion of sustainable tourism <http://whc.unesco.org/en/tourism/>, or education <http://whc.unesco.org/en/wheducation/>).

f) Include measures to improve synergy and cooperation among the biodiversity related MEAs at the national level, integrated management of sites with multiple designations and measures that could be taken within other biodiversity related MEAs on issues affecting World Heritage sites.

g) Include details of the national focal point(s), ministry/ies, and the specific office responsible for World Heritage, the name and contact details of the current incumbent, and a written confirmation that they have contributed to the NBSAP.

For compilation of further resources, including on how the World Heritage Convention contributes to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets, please consult <http://whc.unesco.org/en/biodiversity/>





Photo: Peter Prokosch/Grid Arendal

Assessing impacts of actions

Assessing the impacts of the options and implementation plans for dealing with synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions should be a part of the NBSAP preparation and implementation processes. The following elements are key indicators of progress and success that can help countries to carry out impact assessments related to actions on synergies among the conventions:

- (a) The type of institutional mechanism established;
- (b) The number and diversity of staff members and

experts forming the core team dealing with synergies and cooperation from both the programmatic and policy perspectives;

- (c) The diversity of institutional partners involved in the initiative;
- (d) The diversity and distribution of joint biodiversity-related projects and programmes developed and implemented;
- (e) The number of local actions that combine the principles and objectives

of the biodiversity related conventions, thus providing evidence of synergies-related awareness-raising and outreach;

- (f) The level of political support to the process as indicated by the number of high-level officials forming part of the institutional support system(s).

While synergies are about enhancing the impacts and effectiveness of individual conventions, it is important to understand that the aim of enhancing synergies is not to centralize power or strengthen the mandate for implementing any one convention. Nor is it solely to minimize costs or reduce the influence and impact of any particular convention.

Photo: Ho New/Reuters ▶

Photo: Lawrence Hislop/Grid Arenda ▼





Photo: Peter Prokosch/Grid Arendal

Additional guidance

In focusing on issues related to synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in the post 2010 NBSAPs, countries may wish to consult the following key guidance documents:

- (a) Sourcebook of Opportunities for Enhancing Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at National and Regional Levels, UNEP, 2015. Available at <http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/Portals/7/Documents/cooperation-sourcebook-biodiversity-conventions.pdf>.
- (b) Interim Assessment of Revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), UNEP, 2015. Available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/Interim-Assessment-of-NBSAPs.pdf>.
- (c) Mapping Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, UNEP, 2015. Available at http://www.unep-wcmc.org/system/dataset_file_fields/files/000/000/332/original/MEA-Aichi_Target_Mapping_Report_REVISIED_20151102.pdf?1447164258.

- (d) “Guidelines on the integration of migratory species into national biodiversity strategies and action plans” (NBSAPs) (UNEP/CMS/ Conf.10.27). Available at http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/doc_27_guidelines_nbsap_e_o.pdf.

- (e) Contributing to the Development, Review, Updating and Revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs): A Draft Guide for CITES Parties, CITES, 2011. Available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/nbsap/CITES-NBSAP-Module.pdf>.

Photo: Jamil Bitar/Reuters ▶
Photo: Photo: Tim Freccia ▼







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