

Strengthening collaboration and coordination between biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters:

Synthesis

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Thursday 23 September	
14:00-14:20	<p>Introduction to the workshop by moderator, Neville Ash, UNEP-WCMC</p> <p>Opening remarks by co-organizers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming remarks, <i>Tita Korvenoja, Law Division, UNEP</i> • Project Background, <i>Marjaana Kokkonen, Ministry of Environment Finland</i> • Brief introduction to the study report, <i>Jerry Harrison, UNEP-WCMC</i>
14:20-15:20	<p>Panel discussion: An understanding of the interlinkages between biodiversity and chemicals and waste. Practical action and experiences from the two clusters.</p> <p>Speakers/panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maria Ivanova, the Center for Governance and Sustainability at the University of Massachusetts, Boston • Norbert Baerlocher, Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN), Switzerland • Patrick Umuhoza, Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) • Kerstin Stendahl, UNEP, Regional Seas Programme • Maria Cristina Cardenas-Fischer, Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions
15:20-15:30	Break while moving to the breakout groups
15:30-16:35	<p>Discussion in smaller groups on "options for action": These discussions will draw on the study report and in particular annex 3, but these inputs should provide 'food for thought' for discussion rather than restrict it.</p> <p>Breakout groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening institutional and focal points structures to enhance national implementation (<i>focusing on options 1-3 in paragraph 80 of the study report, and the related part of annex 3</i>) Strengthening national planning and mainstreaming including links to 2030 Agenda (<i>focusing on options 4-6 in paragraph 81 of the study report, and the related part of annex 3</i>) Coordination of cross-cluster collaborative activities and projects in the key areas and resource mobilization (<i>focusing on options 7-8 in paragraph 82 and option 16 in paragraph 84 of the study report, and the related parts of annex 3</i>)
16:35-17:00	Reports back from breakout groups

Friday 24 September	
14:00-14:10	Recap and introduction to the day's work
14:10-14:40	Reflections on the pre-recorded presentations/country submissions on synergies across biodiversity and chemicals clusters (<i>facilitated by Nalini Sharma, the SAICM Secretariat</i>)
14:40-16:10	<p>Discussion in smaller groups on "options for action": These discussions will draw on the study report and in particular annex 3, but these inputs should provide 'food for thought' for discussion rather than restrict it.</p> <p>Breakout groups:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Communication, awareness raising, and education (<i>focusing on option 10 in paragraph 82 of the study report, and the related part of annex 3</i>) Building the knowledge base, scientific cooperation, and science-policy interface (<i>focusing on options 11-13 in paragraph 83 of the study report, and the related part of annex 3</i>) Monitoring, reporting and indicator work (<i>focusing on option 9 in paragraph 82 of the study report, and the related part of annex 3</i>) Advancing key international initiatives providing opportunities for cooperation and collaboration across biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters (<i>focusing on options 14-15 and 17-19 in paragraph 84 of the study report, and the related part of annex 3</i>)
16:10-16:20	Break while moving to the plenary
16:20-17:00	Reports back from breakout groups

Considerations

Broad agreement that...

- MEAs and SAICM play a significant role in triggering national action
- In both biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters goals and targets are not being met
- Further effort is necessary, as evidenced by the post-2020 and beyond 2020 processes
- Increased coherence in implementation across the clusters would be valuable

Considerations

Key characteristics of current situation...

- Work within clusters is well underway but less so between clusters
- Existence of so many MEAs can give a confused impression to those not directly involved
- Increased knowledge and understanding needed of nexus issues so they can be addressed
- Efforts to deliver SDGs illustrate the importance and urgency of an integrated approach
- Some issues are easier to coordinate across MEAs, others are less easy
- There are multiple 'entry points' for seeking to make changes

Considerations

Characteristics of a successful approach...

- Strengthens implementation, and increases coherence, efficiency and cost-effectiveness
- Led from the national level, supported as appropriate internationally
- Breaks down into manageable actions, using pragmatic approaches for addressing identified needs
- Identifies mutual dependencies, common issues and targets in order to focus action more effectively
- Respects legal autonomy of the different instruments, and avoids politically charged discussions

Key issues that may warrant further discussion

- Leveraging the 2030 Agenda to catalyse cooperative action and funding
- Cooperating on communication could be an 'easy win'
- Using a major area of focus relevant to both clusters
- Providing a common framework through aligning targets, indicators and national plans
- Building biodiversity more effectively into existing chemicals/waste activities and vice versa
- Strengthening cooperation needs both technical and financial resources
- Engaging the scientific community
- Addressing key limitations



**What are
your views?**

Potential for international supporting action

- Increasing focus on nexus issues and understanding of interrelationships
- Identifying opportunities and potential modalities, facilitating sharing of experience
- Possibility of shared decisions across governance bodies on issues of common interest
- Potential for using UNEA as the convening universal body to facilitate cooperation
- Regional collaboration as a 'safe space' for discussion and coordinated action
- Importance of the ongoing post-2020 and beyond 2020 negotiations



What is missing?

Practical examples you have brought up

- Regular meetings of all national focal points, whether formally or informally
- National committees or similar bringing together national focal points and key stakeholders
- Coordination of all MEAs from a single office or ministry
- Tools such as DART used to facilitate national reporting to multiple conventions and processes
- Multi-stakeholder platforms and partnerships

