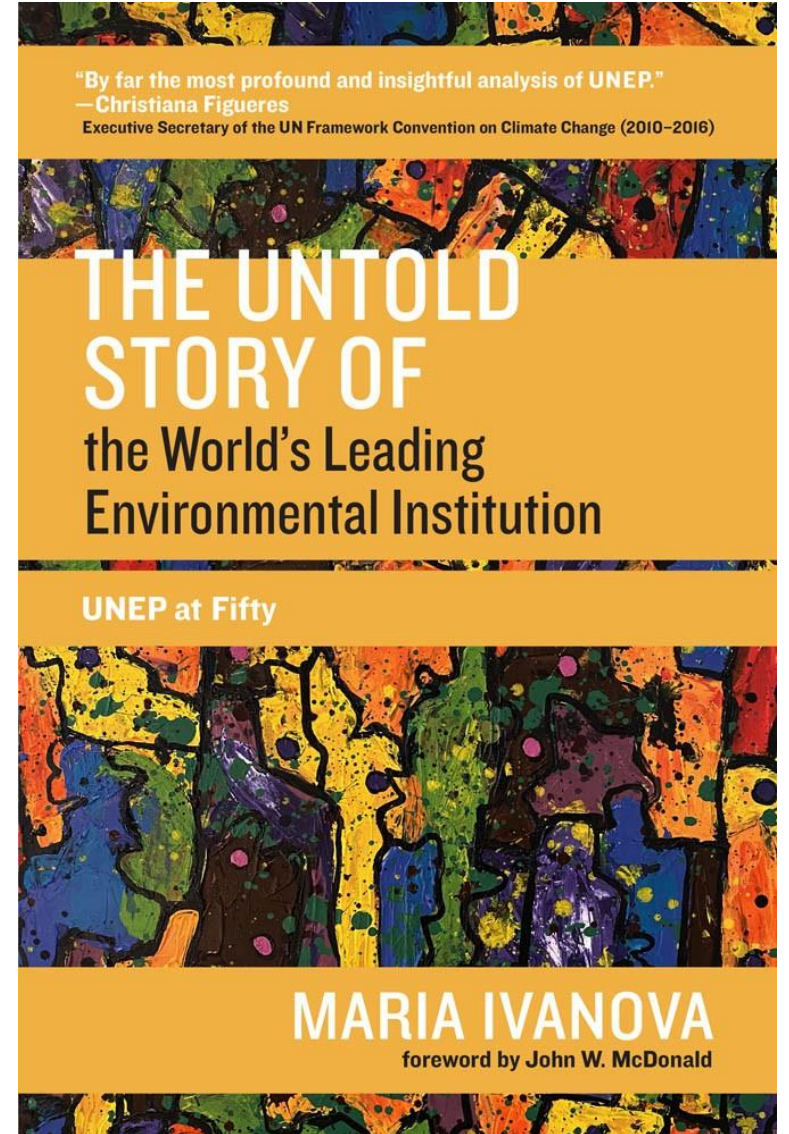




Reflections on Institutional Structures in Existing Multilateral Environmental Agreements

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Key Governance Elements in MEAs

Scope and Objectives:

Define the scope of the treaty and its main objectives in addressing plastic pollution.
Provisions for evolution.

Regulatory Framework: the regulatory framework that the treaty will establish to govern plastic production, use, and disposal.

Compliance and Enforcement Mechanisms: the mechanisms that will ensure adherence to the treaty's provisions and how non-compliance will be addressed.

Monitoring and Reporting: the mechanisms that will track progress and effectiveness of the treaty.

Collaboration and Inclusivity

- **International Cooperation:** among countries, stakeholders, and organizations to combat plastic pollution.
- **Engagement of Civil Society:** treaty mechanisms to involve civil society, NGOs, and the private sector in its implementation.

Science-Policy Interface

- Integration of sound scientific evidence, data, and expertise into the development, implementation, and evaluation of environmental policies.

National Reporting Requirements Conservation Conventions



Frequency: Every three years, ahead of the Conference of the Contracting Parties.

Content: Information on new designated wetlands, wetland conservation, and management efforts.

Format: The Convention provides a standardized format for its National Reports. Parties fill out a questionnaire which helps track progress and identify challenges.



Frequency: Both annual (trade reports) and implementation reports due before each COP (formerly biennial)

Content: Data on legislative and regulatory measures, enforcement efforts, and species trade statistics.

Format: Parties submit their biennial reports in a format that is structured but allows some flexibility. There are standardized sections, especially for trade data, but countries have leeway to provide additional information or context.



Frequency: Every three years, before the Conference of the Parties.

Content: Measures to implement the convention, species status, and conservation issues affecting migratory species.

Format: Reports are a combination of standardized questions and long answer report questions.



Frequency: Varies (as decided by COP meetings).

Content: Implementation, status and trends of biodiversity, national strategies, and contributions to global targets.

Format: New, formatted template was used for the 6th National Report in 2018. Previous to that, a concise narrative substantive reporting complemented by tables, figures or graphics was encouraged.

National Reporting Requirements Chemicals Conventions



Frequency: Every year.

Content: Information on the transboundary movements and disposal of hazardous wastes and their reduction.

Format: Parties submit information using a standardized questionnaire provided by the Convention. This helps monitor progress and identify areas of concern.



Parties to the Rotterdam Convention must communicate notifications of final regulatory actions (Article 5) and import responses (Article 10) to the Secretariat, while export notifications must be sent from the exporting Party to the importing Party (Article 12).



Frequency: Every four years.

Content: Data on measures taken to eliminate or reduce the release of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) into the environment.

Format: The Convention offers a standardized reporting format that Parties use to detail their efforts, challenges, and successes in managing POPs.



Frequency: Every four years full report and every two years short report.

Content: Reports detail measures taken to reduce and, where feasible, eliminate mercury use, emission, and release.

Format: A standardized questionnaire is provided by the Convention, ensuring consistent data collection on mercury management across Parties.

Policy Components across MEAs



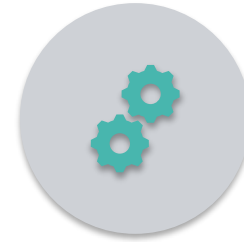
LEGISLATION/
REGULATION



MANAGEMENT/
INSTITUTIONS



INFORMATION/
REPORTING



TECHNICAL
PROCESSES



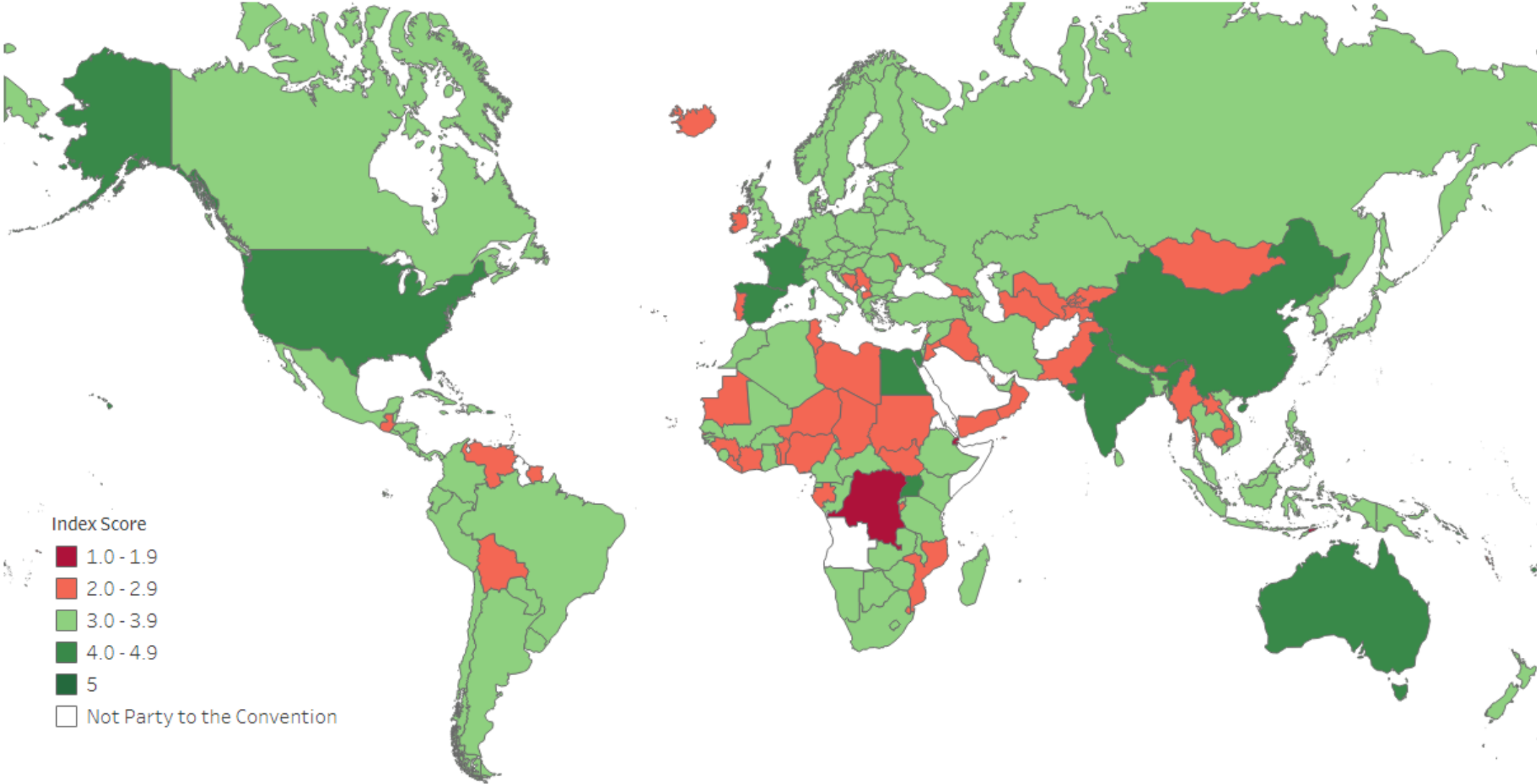
FINANCIAL
ASPECTS

The Environmental Conventions Index

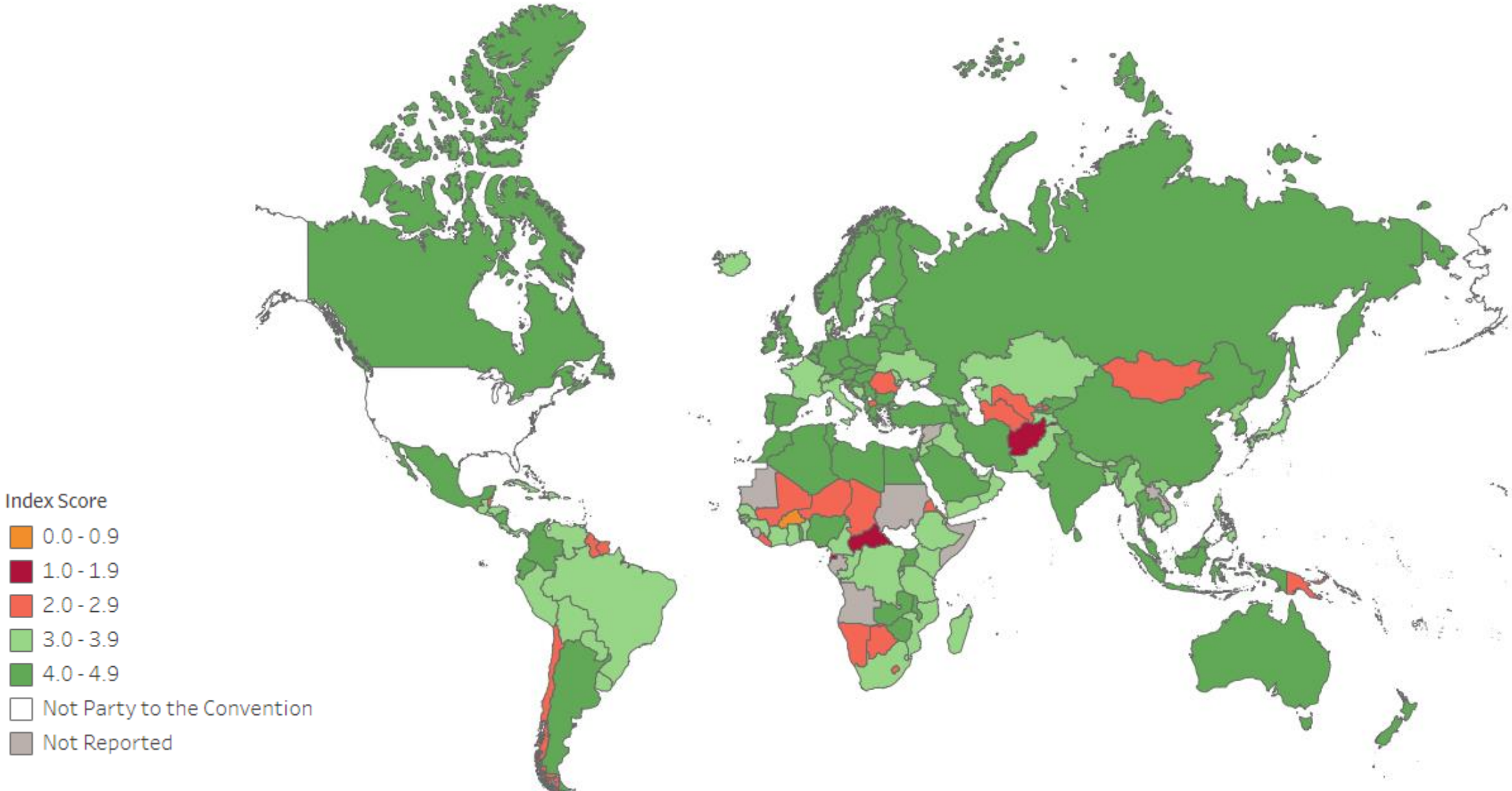
Indicator	Question	Variable	Convention
Management	Is a National Wetland Policy (or equivalent instrument) in place?	Existence of a national wetland policy	Ramsar

Options for reported data	Yes	5
	In preparation	3
	Planned	2
	No / Information not available	1
	No response	0
	Not applicable	

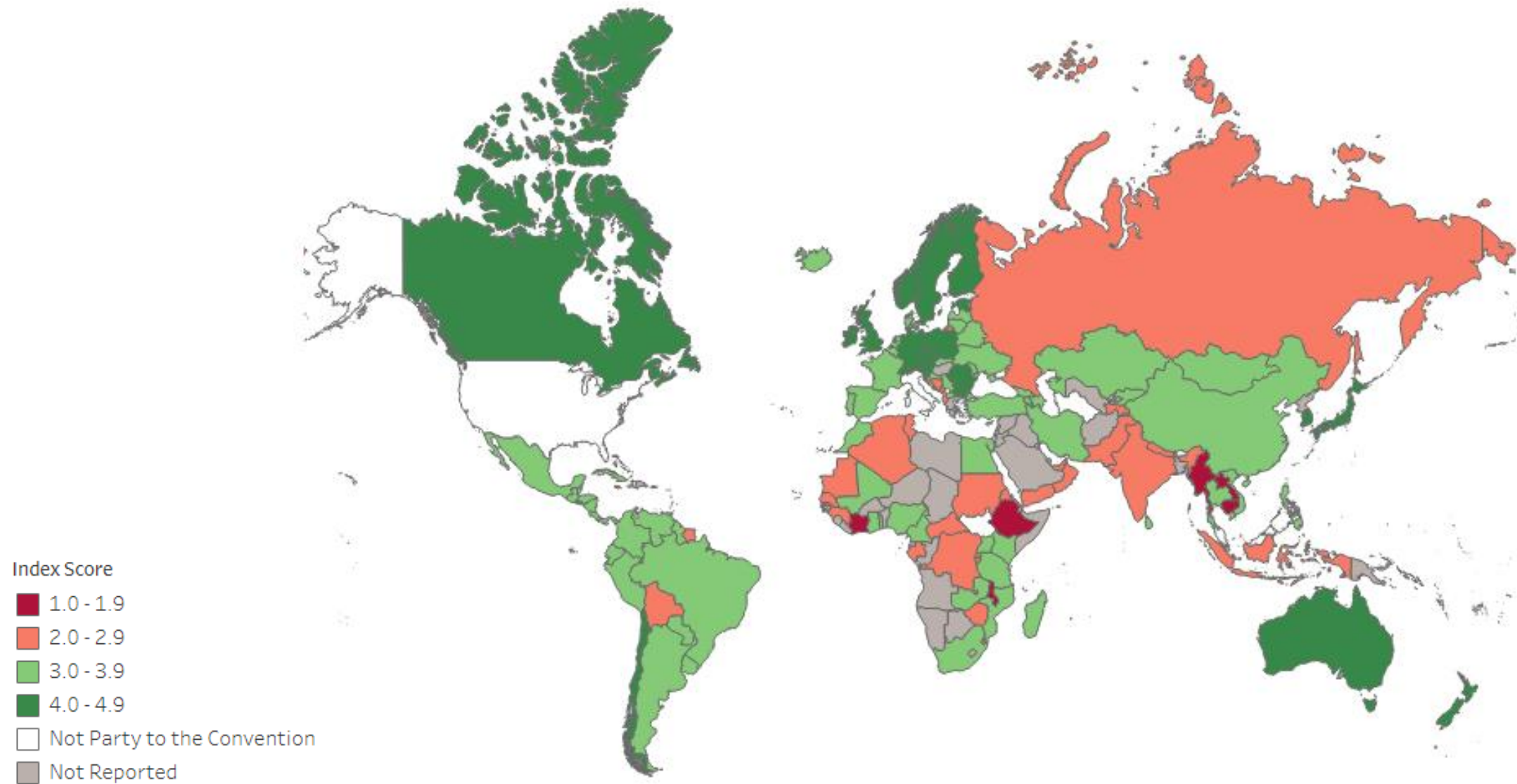
Implementation of the Ramsar Convention: 2005 - 2018



Implementation of the Basel Convention: 2001 - 2019

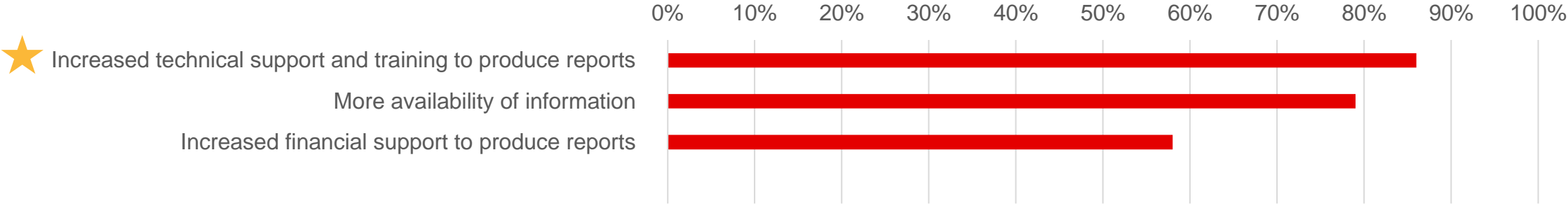


Implementation of the Stockholm Convention: 2002 - 2018

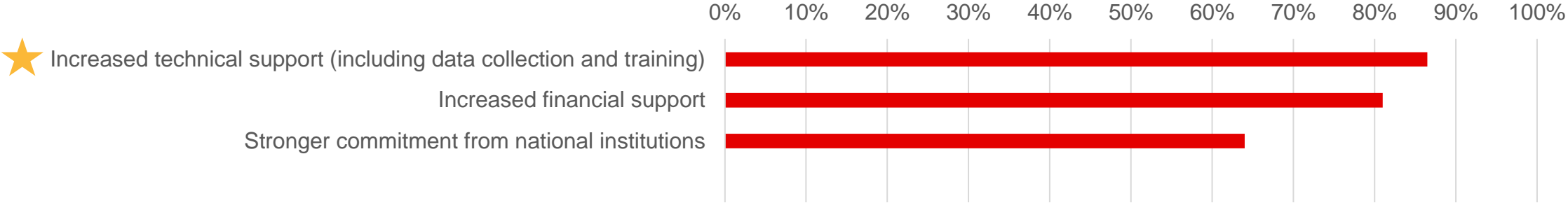


National Reporting Feedback

Main Factors Needed to Facilitate Increased Reporting



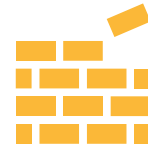
Main Factors Needed to Improve Implementation



Key Findings



Reporting is a key factor in understanding and improving compliance and implementation



Consistent, continuous capacity building is an essential component of improving implementation and reporting



Collaborative processes create more effective, sustainable MEAs

Suggestions for Science-Policy Bodies



Independent Scientific Committee: The treaty could establish an independent Scientific Committee on Plastic Pollution, similar to the IPCC or IPBES. This committee would conduct assessments, gather scientific evidence, and provide policy-relevant recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.



Plastic Pollution Observatory: Inspired by the work of the "Group of Experts on Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection" (GESAMP), the treaty could create a Plastic Pollution Observatory. This observatory would monitor plastic pollution trends, conduct research, and regularly report on the state of plastic pollution in various regions.



Global Plastic Database and Clearinghouse: Building on the "Clearing-House Mechanism" of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the treaty could establish a global Plastic Pollution Database and Clearinghouse. This platform would collate scientific data, research findings, best practices, and policy recommendations related to plastic pollution in various environments.



Scientific Advisory Panels for Impact Assessments: The treaty could require parties to establish scientific advisory panels for assessing the environmental, social, and economic impacts of plastic pollution interventions. These panels would guide evidence-based decision-making.



Advisory Group on Plastic Waste Management Innovation: Following the model of the "Advisory Group on Green Economy and Trade" of UNEP, the treaty could establish an advisory group focused on promoting innovative solutions and technologies for plastic waste management.

10 Guiding Principles for the Plastic Pollution Treaty

- 1. Clear and Achievable Objectives / Clear and Feasible Targets:** Define clear, specific, and achievable objectives for the treaty. Ensure that the objectives address various aspects of plastic pollution, from production to disposal, to create a comprehensive approach. Set realistic and measurable targets for plastic pollution reduction. Targets should be ambitious yet attainable and able to inspire action.
- 2. Flexibility and Adaptability:** Design the treaty to be flexible and adaptable to evolving scientific understanding and technological advancements. The ability to adjust policies based on new evidence is crucial for effective implementation.
- 3. Enforcement and Compliance:** Include mechanisms to ensure enforcement and compliance with treaty provisions, such as penalties for non-compliance and cooperation on cross-border enforcement.
- 4. Inclusive Participation:** Encourage participation from a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, civil society, businesses, academia, and local communities. Involving diverse perspectives increases buy-in and effectiveness.
- 5. Science-Policy Integration:** Establish a robust science-policy interface by incorporating scientific assessments, independent expert panels, and mechanisms for integrating evidence into policy decisions.
- 6. Capacity for Treaty Implementation:** Plan for effective treaty implementation by considering administrative and technical capacities required by member states. Provide technical and financial support to developing nations to build their capacity for effective plastic waste management and implementation of treaty measures.
- 7. Sufficient Financial Support:** Allocate resources for implementing the treaty's provisions, including capacity-building efforts, technology transfer, and infrastructure development for plastic waste management.
- 8. Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms:** Establish robust monitoring and reporting requirements to track progress, hold parties accountable, and identify areas needing attention.
- 9. Public Awareness and Engagement / Private Sector Engagement:** Emphasize public awareness campaigns and education to mobilize behavior change and reduce plastic consumption. Collaborate with industries and businesses to promote innovation, sustainable production practices, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).
- 10. Long-Term Vision:** Develop a long-term vision that accounts for potential changes in political landscapes, technological advancements, and emerging challenges.