

Committee of Permanent Representatives
Subcommittee Meeting
Nairobi, 14 November 2024
9:00 – 12:00 (GMT+3)
Hybrid meeting
Conference Room 4 (in person)
and Microsoft Teams (online)

Chair's Summary

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

1. H. E. Mr. Arnaud Suquet, Vice Chair of the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR), Ambassador of France to Kenya and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Environment Programme, opened the meeting.
2. The [agenda](#) was adopted.

Agenda item 2: Review of UNEP thematic programmes.

3. The Secretariat provided a review of the following three UNEP thematic programmes: "[Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services across Sectors and Systems](#)", "[Governance and Accountability for Biodiversity](#)" and "[Science for Policy and Action](#)".
4. Delegations¹ that took the floor welcomed the presentations and provided the following comments in summary:

Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services across Sectors and Systems

- a. Inquired how UNEP can support Member States in enhancing coherence across Ministries, particularly in the context of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
- b. Highlighted the importance of the [Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures \(TNFD\) Framework](#) in encouraging the private sector to factor nature into their decision-making processes.
- c. Requested further clarification on:
 - i. How the Programme provides data, knowledge, policy, and financial support to both private and public sector to support pro-nature economic systems.
 - ii. Impacts of the implementation of the Programme in the areas of health, food systems and financial systems sector, to help guide potential priorities for the development of the 2026-2029 Medium-Term Strategy (MTS).
 - iii. Whether UNEP received any feedback and suggestions of lessons learned from the countries benefitting from the Programme.
 - iv. Which international initiatives will be supported to integrate environmental aspects into the [One Health Approach](#) .
 - v. Referring to the lessons learned, requested more details regarding the proposed biodiversity and ecosystem service dialogues.
- d. Suggested a stronger focus of the Programme on the linkages between biodiversity and pollution.

¹ Colombia, United Kingdom, Japan, European Union, Norway, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Portugal, Uganda, France, Egypt, Children and Youth Major Group

Governance and Accountability for Biodiversity

- a. Emphasized on the need to leverage both public and private funding to meet global biodiversity targets and further noted the ongoing efforts to build financial mechanisms for biodiversity.
- b. Sought further clarification on:
 - i. How recommendations from the [Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal \(GBF\) held from 23 to 25 January 2024](#) have been integrated into the programme to promote synergies in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).
 - ii. Strategies put in place within the Programme to close the funding gap for implementing the GBF, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other related Multilateral Environmental Agreements targets.
 - iii. Incentives for leveraging the UN-Common Approach.
 - iv. Plans to address biodiversity and conservation in transboundary ecosystems in regions lacking strong institutions and cooperative frameworks.
 - v. Measures taken by UNEP to manage ecosystems within their functional limits while ensuring their sustainable use.
 - vi. How UNEP will integrate the outcomes from the [sixteenth Conference of the Parties \(COP\) of the Convention on Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#) on mainstreaming biodiversity, indigenous peoples, and marine biodiversity into the Programme.
- c. Welcomed the [resolution on enhancing measures to prevent and combat crimes that affect the environment falling within the scope of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime](#) adopted at UNTOC COP12 and inquired about UNEP's efforts to address such crimes within biodiversity governance.
- d. Encouraged all Member States to submit their updated NBSAPs to align with the outcomes of CBD COP 15.
- e. Encouraged the implementation of performance indicators to improve management, attract finance, and enhance resilience measurement.

Science for Policy and Action

- a. Highlighted that inadequate monitoring and lack of knowledge of ecosystems can hamper the full implementation of the GBF and CBD targets.
 - b. Emphasized on UNEP's crucial role in advancing open data and knowledge sharing.
 - c. Requested the Secretariat to:
 - i. Share views on how to enhance knowledge on ecosystem conditions, including through the development of the [Global Ecosystems Atlas](#).
 - ii. Provide details on the Programme's sources of funding.
 - iii. Explain the approach for developing Early Warning Systems for biodiversity and pollution, noting that they already exist for climate-related disasters.
 - iv. Clarify plans for assessing how scientific findings inform policy actions and effect on Global Environmental Outlook (GEO), Adaptation Gap Report and Emissions Gap Report and other flagship programs.
 - d. Expressed support for the establishment of the One Health Panel on Evidence of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and recommended hosting it in Kenya to leverage UNEP's experience and better address Africa's challenges with AMR.
5. In response, the Secretariat thanked delegations for their comments and provided the following clarifications:

Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services across Sectors and Systems

- a. Shared examples of UNEP's collaboration with other agencies such as the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR (QJS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Food System Taskforce and United Nations country teams to support countries in achieving their NBSAPs, NDCs and other biodiversity-related targets through an integrated UN-Common Approach.
- b. Confirmed that the Programme is engaging with the private sector to diversify funding sources through a whole-of-society approach.
- c. Noted pollution as a major driver of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, highlighting UNEP's efforts to link pollution and biodiversity through analyses of pesticide pollution and stubble burning, while emphasizing the role of pro-nature management practices in mitigating these impacts.
- d. Emphasized the interdependence of health, food and financial systems, highlighting the need to ensure their equal prominence in the next MTS.
- e. Clarified that through participation in the QJS and the [Nature4Health](#) initiatives, UNEP and its partners support countries in integrating biodiversity and climate into the One Health initiative and highlighted that UNEP will further mobilize resources for the implementation of the Global Action Plan on Biodiversity and Health.
- f. Noted that UNEP has supported the private sector and more than ten (10) countries to measure and value the costs and benefits of human activities and environmental externalities, including through using the True Cost Accounting Framework, recalling the [State of Food and Agriculture 2023 report](#) in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Governance and Accountability for Biodiversity

- a. Reiterated that UNEP conducts annual programme reviews and holds biannual steering committee meetings to incorporate relevant developments and Member States' recommendations into the implementation of the Programme.
- b. Highlighted UNEP's efforts to engage indigenous peoples, local communities, African descent, and youth, ensuring that their knowledge and voices are integrated in the work of UNEP's Biodiversity and Land Degradation Unit.
- c. Explained that UNEP collaborates with existing governmental systems and regional partners, mainly using available resources, to support transboundary ecosystems management and strengthen regional cooperation.
- d. Elaborated that the development of solutions to combat desertification and land degradation at the national and regional level contributes to global biodiversity agendas.
- e. Mentioned continued engagement with the private sector to mobilize non-traditional resources through its Financing Initiative, including i) payment modalities for ecosystems services schemes, ii) blue and green economies strategies.
- f. Emphasized that UNEP advocates for a unified "One UN" approach, with collaboration across UN agencies and joint programming for a greater impact.

Science for Policy and Action

- a. Recalled [UNEP's 2023 report on AMR](#).
- b. Recognised the potential of new geospatial and digital tools to capture rapid and slow onset signals for biodiversity loss and pollution.
- c. Clarified that the Programme's key adaptation and emissions gap assessments are funded through the regular budget and through the Environment Fund while bilateral donations also support the GEO process.
- d. Elaborated that UNEP will engage with relevant ministries at the national, regional, and global levels to promote a whole-of-government approach and guide policy development.
- e. Acknowledged the need for enhanced knowledge on ecosystem conditions and noted UNEP's ongoing support to countries in addressing this gap.
- f. Emphasised that further to the launch of the seventh edition of the GEO process (GEO-7),

UNEP invests in advocacy and outreach to further encourage scientific assessment uptake in policy actions.

- g. Explained that the current MTS supports the development of robust Early Warning Systems by promoting the use of new geospatial and digital tools to monitor biodiversity loss and pollution.
- h. Noted the need for strengthening policies, regulations, and technological frameworks such as Early Warning Systems to enhance preparedness and boost NDCs ambition.

Agenda item 3: Other matters.

- 6. No other matters were raised.

Agenda item 4: Closing of the meeting.

- 7. The meeting closed at 11:00 (GMT+3).