

Posters submitted to the “Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework” by meeting participants

Updated as of 19 January 2024

Title: Subnational cooperation across borders - Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Global Biodiversity Targets (GoLS)

Case study by **Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments to the Convention on Biological Diversity**, coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Quebec, on behalf of Aichi (Japan)

Overview:

Dates: 2016 - Present

Scope: Local/Subnational

Category: Mutually beneficial actions in delivering on the targets of GBF

Relevant partners: Regions4, ICLEI, and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity

Keywords: capacity building; cooperation; networking; subnational contribution

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

Through the sharing of information and actual cases and the exchange of opinions based on appropriate international momentum, each member is able to recognize mutual similarities and differences and understand their own position. This has enabled them to clarify their respective goals.

Summary of the case study:

GoLS members have shared experiences and insights through regular meetings and joint projects, including the publication of booklets.

Each member has promoted a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, along with the implementation of practical local initiatives to contribute to the Kunming-Montreal Biodiversity Framework.

Challenges:

It takes time and effort to understand the differences in administrative structure and culture, which is necessary for getting a picture of other members' measures.

Lessons learned:

Making output in writing reduces misunderstandings and gaps caused by linguistic barriers, allowing members to have a deeper understanding.



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AC SNG Coordinators

Title: The multidisciplinary Hub of expertise on sustainable management in the littoral zone of Lake Saint-Pierre, a UNESCO Biosphere reserve

Case study by the **AC SNG**, Coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Quebec, on behalf of Quebec (Canada)

Overview:

Dates: JUL 2018 – MR 2024

Scope: Subnational

Category: Examples of mutually beneficial actions at the subnational level in delivering on the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

Relevant partners: Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ), Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, Faune et Parcs (MELCCFP), Université Laval, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, McGill University

Keywords: Agriculture, Environment and wildlife protection, socioeconomic impacts

Summary of the case study:

To develop sustainable agriculture and protect the rich and diverse ecosystems of Lake Saint-Pierre, the Government of Québec announced the creation of a multidisciplinary Hub in July 2018. Its objectives are threefold:

1. Develop crops and agricultural practices adapted to the specific context of Lake Saint-Pierre (and its floodplain and littoral zone) that have a positive impact on the quality of its ecosystems.
2. Assess the performance and social, economic, environmental, and wildlife impacts of agricultural activities and ecosystem restoration projects.
3. Propose an agricultural management approach that fosters the implementation of sustainable agricultural practices.

Following a stakeholder consultation, the Hub presented its 2019-2022 research program, comprising 25 projects led by almost 30 researchers from participant universities. Twenty-five agricultural producers were actively involved in scientific work by making farmland available and, in some cases, by conducting field operations. The Hub is managed by a Steering Committee composed of three government representatives and three from participating universities. The Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières is responsible for administrative management. A Partners' Discussion Table supports the Hub's Steering Committee through its knowledge of the agricultural, socio-economic, wildlife and environmental issues related to Lake Saint-Pierre and its littoral zone, which includes 5,000 ha with a history of intensive agriculture that impacts biodiversity and the environment. The Partners' Table facilitates the sharing of expectations and concerns of the community and stakeholders. The Hub has been supported by a four-year funding period initiated in July 2018 and then extended until March 2024 with a total investment of CA\$6.9 million from the Government of Quebec.

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

The involvement of all stakeholders right from the Hub's beginning facilitated cooperation with actors such as agricultural producers and will help the implementation of more sustainable agricultural practices.

Without the synergies between researchers themselves from different disciplines, and between researchers and practitioners, stakeholders and government officials, the results would have been of lower quality, confined to individual projects' results. This cross-cutting approach will ensure access to the big picture and wide-ranging policy recommendations.

The interactions between the ministries, universities and agricultural stakeholders are leading to results that are tangible and replicable.

Challenges:

The research program constantly needed adaptation and re-evaluation due to climate and flood conditions as well as the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions.

Securing voluntary participation from agricultural producers in order to conduct the research projects represented a challenge at the beginning.

Facilitating interactions among researchers from different universities, academic expertise and covering different Hub objectives required significant efforts to ensure multidisciplinary collaboration and cross-cutting results.

Lessons learned:

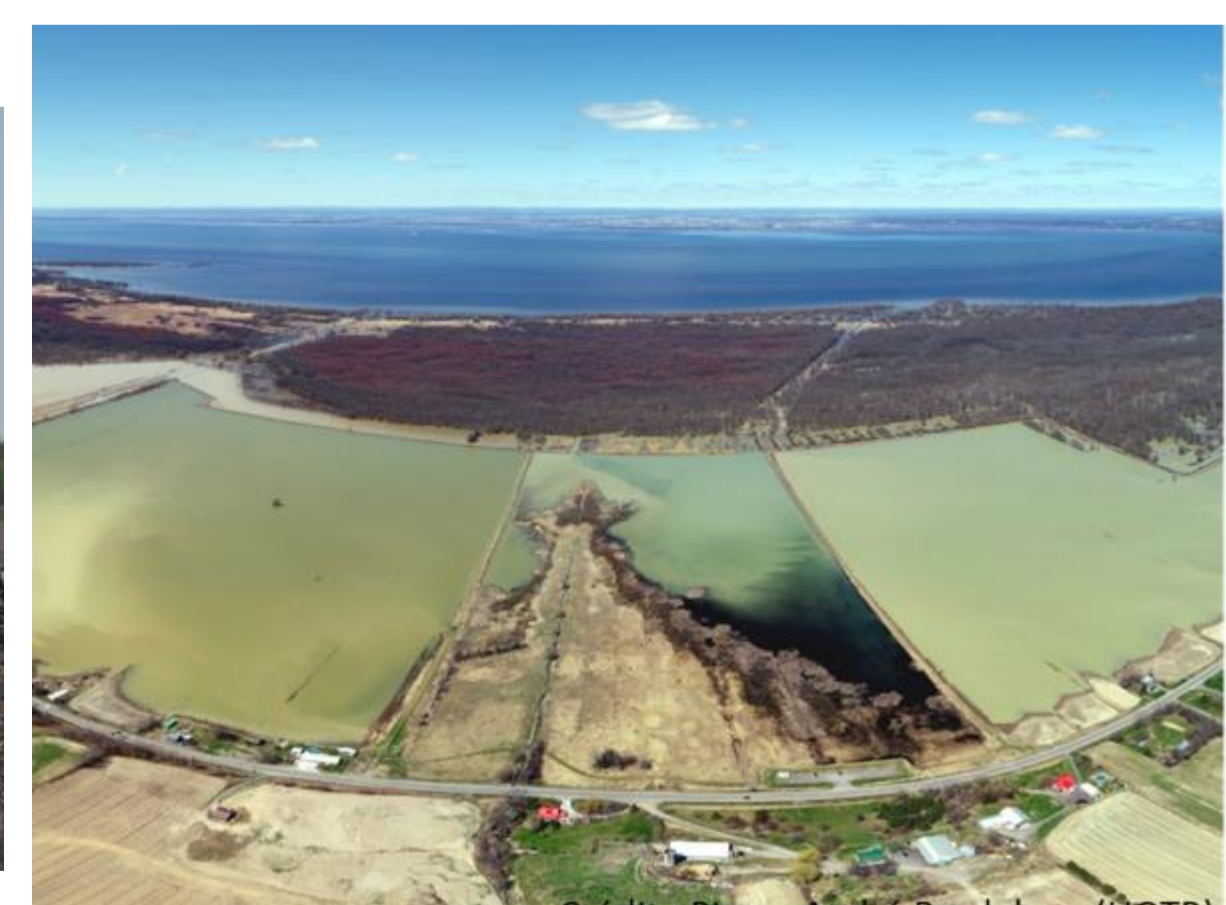
The multidisciplinary approach of the Hub facilitates the consideration of environmental issues from a sustainable development perspective.

Involving agricultural producers and the farming industry right from the creation and development process of the Hub facilitated their involvement and cooperation.

Managing close and active collaboration between coordinating researchers and government proved to be key to guarantee the rigorous monitoring of the Hub's many projects and assess their success.



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Crédit: Pierre-André Bordeleau (UQTR)
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Québec's Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs

Title: Biodiversity conservation interventions in Lombardy Region (Italy) through the involvement of private sector: Bioclima initiative

Case study by **Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments to the Convention on Biological Diversity**, coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Quebec, on behalf of Lombardy (Italy)

Overview:

Dates: Feb 2022 – Sep 2025

Scope: Local/Subnational

Category: Examples of cooperation in the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Plans (NBSAPs)

Relevant partners: Managing bodies of protected areas in Lombardy, Municipalities, ERSAF (Regional body for agriculture and forestry services), Etifor (spin off the University of Padua) and Private companies.

Donors: Cariplo Foundation

Keywords: Capacity building; Cooperation; Private funding; Ecosystem services; Habitats; Conservation

Summary of the case study:

Lombardy Region, with the “Bioclima initiative”, through a public call, has granted non-repayable funding for interventions to conserve biodiversity, adapt to climate change, and enhance forest ecosystems services, protected areas and regional ecological networks through the involvement of the private sector. Regional funding was euro 3.5 million. The objectives pursued are:

- Improve the conservation status of habitats and species consistently with the Regional PAF (Priority Actions Framework) 2021-2027.
- Increase the surface area of habitat useful for biodiversity conservation.
- Implement the ecological network on a regional and local level.
- Enhance the green infrastructure in the region.
- Increase the provision and economic valorization of Ecosystem Services.
- Make habitats and human communities more resilient to climate change.
- Enhance Ecosystem Services by involving the private sector.

The call allows the creation of 12 forestation and biodiversity strengthening projects, which are certified thanks to the FSC® standard and must necessarily guarantee the co-financing of private funds to the minimum extent of 10%. Thanks to the contribution of the Cariplo Foundation and the technical support of Etifor, private companies are contributing to the realization of the projects, also through the crowdfunding platform “wownature!”; so far, a budget of around 1 million euros has been made available from private funding. The following are the main outcomes of the initiative:

- Third-party certification for responsible forest management for more than 3,000 hectares.
- Forest improvements of more than 300 hectares.
- More than 27 hectares of specific biodiversity interventions.
- Over 66,000 trees were planted in reforestation, creation of linear systems, and ecological enrichment.
- Interventions for the conservation of 16 protected habitats and over 20 protected species.
- Resources worth €5.6 million mobilized to finance interventions.
- More than 150 people trained on responsible forest management standards and procedures for verifying impacts on ecosystem services.

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

The action contributed to the implementation of a partnership between the public and private sector in biodiversity conservation interventions and measures and was the basis for planning the birth of the Italian business and biodiversity working group.

Challenges:

The most significant challenges consist of the involvement of the private sector to finance interventions that do not have a clear and immediate economic return and on a topic that is not yet sufficiently known.

Lessons learned:

The involvement of the private sector on biodiversity conservation is essential, in terms of co-financing, implementing and increasing awareness of the importance of this topic.



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Title: *Conexão Mata Atlântica* in Rio de Janeiro

Case study by **Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments to the Convention on Biological Diversity**, coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Quebec, on behalf of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Overview:

Dates: 2017 - 2024

Scope: Subnational

Category: Mutually beneficial actions in delivering on the targets of GBF

Relevant partners: Educational Institutions, Universities, Associations, Cooperatives, and Local Municipalities, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, Grupo Boticário Foundation, The Nature Conservancy

Donors: GEF and IDB

Keywords: sustainable rural development; payments for environmental service; conservation and restoration

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

The project holds significant relevance for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Paris Agreement. The conservation and restoration actions, along with the support for implementing agroforestry systems, directly contribute to meeting the conservation targets for ecosystems and the restoration of degraded areas in high biodiversity importance zones. These efforts play a crucial role in offsetting emissions, providing co-benefits such as safeguarding watersheds, ensuring food security, soil conservation, and generating employment and income.

Summary of the case study:

Conexão Mata Atlântica, a collaborative effort among the Brazilian states of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Minas Gerais, along with the Federal Government's Ministry of Science, Technology, and Innovation (MCTI), is an initiative of payments for environmental services (PES) that recognizes priority actions for conservation and restoration in the Atlantic Forest.

MCTI oversees the project through the Central Coordination Unit, employing systematic monitoring and greenhouse gas (GHG) emission protocols. São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Minas Gerais are crucial in increasing carbon stocks in the Paraíba do Sul River Basins, using the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) mechanism. In Rio de Janeiro, diverse activities, from public PES selections to rural assistance, contributed to the conservation and restoration of nearly 2,440 hectares of land, benefiting approximately 240 farming families. Agroforestry systems catalyzed the conversion of 542 hectares of degraded pastures into environmentally beneficial agroforestry and silvopastoral systems. PES investments totaling US\$1.7 million transformed landscapes and supported farming families economically, stimulating the local economy and creating synergies of economic, social, and environmental benefits.

Challenges:

The context involves a low technological level in productive systems with low average productivity per hectare in rural areas, leading to increased pressure on resources and natural areas. The innovative aspects, including technological advancements and productive conversion, introduce greater execution complexity, requiring coordinated action from rural extension and environmental conservation and restoration teams.

Lessons learned:

- Integration of training, technical assistance, and dissemination efforts.
- Positive response from rural owners.
- Emphasizes the importance of tailored support for successful adoption of sustainable practices.
- Payment for Environmental Services (PES) as a critical lever for scalability.
- Enables direct implementation at a reduced cost, fostering widespread participation.



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Title: Mediterranean Climate Action Partnership (MCAP)

Case study by **Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments to the Convention on Biological Diversity**, coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Quebec, on behalf of Catalonia (Spain)

Overview:

Dates: Dec 2023 – Dec 2026

Scope: International

Category: Examples of capacity building and development across multiple multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

Relevant partners: Baja California Sur, Biobio, California, Catalonia, Emilia-Romagna, Maroc Oriental, New South Wales, Occitanie, Rabat-Salé-Kenitra, Region of Central Greece, Santiago, Tanger-Tetuán-Al Hoceïma, Victoria, Western Cape, Resilient Cities Catalyst, Regions4

Donors: The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Keywords: capacity building; climate resilience; nature-based solutions; cooperation; biodiversity loss

Summary of the case study:

1. Expand public awareness of climate impacts and solutions in the Mediterranean regions and around the world, with innovative communications amplified through a common voice
2. Learn from each other and build capacity around what does and does not work to confront shared climate threats through member convenings, study tours, and expert exchanges
3. Exchange approaches on policies, programs and governance, investment, and economic development strategies, and foster research collaboration that advances shared knowledge on trends and impacts
4. Accelerate concrete actions in Mediterranean regions to protect communities from climate change impacts while reducing greenhouse gas pollution, conserving ecosystems, halting biodiversity loss, implementing nature-based climate solutions, increasing nature restoration, and accelerating the clean energy transition
5. Track and report progress to the global community in appropriate settings.

mcap mediterranean
climate action
partnership

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

Common voice, implementation of common solutions and its peer review

Challenges:

Identifying common priorities and implementing solutions with different time horizons (emergency actions vs medium and long prevention and adaptation actions).

Lessons learned:

- In progress.



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Title: Subnational governments in support of national policies

Case study by Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments to the Convention on Biological Diversity, coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Quebec, on behalf of Aichi (Japan)

Overview:

Dates: 2023 - Present

Scope: Local/Subnational

Category: Examples of cooperation in the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Plans (NBSAPs)

Keywords: cooperation; multilevel governance; business involvement; 30 by 30; OECMs

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

As a leading subnational government, Aichi is complementing Japan's national efforts to achieve the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's objectives, in specific Target 3 and its 30 by 30 ambition, by coordinating the private sector engagement.

Summary of the case study:

In order to support the national certification system, Aichi Prefecture is providing companies with information about the system and encouraging corporate efforts to conserve biodiversity.

Aichi prefecture aims to secure and increase the number of Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the prefecture through this program.

Challenges:

- Insufficiency of financial support for subnational/local governments that work on complementing national policies.
- Insufficiency of provision of capacity-building opportunities by central government.

Lessons learned:

For sub-national and local governments to fully complement national policies, broader and closer collaboration with the central government, including funding and information sharing, is essential.



Photo: Rice terrace in Yotsuya. In Aichi, you can see a variety of landscapes, including mountains, forests, satoyama*, farmlands, urban areas, wetlands, marshes, rivers, and coasts.

* Area between mountain foothills and arable flat land that has been developed through centuries of human activities, including agricultural and forestry use.

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Title: Ecological ICMS - Paraná State's Environmental Tax Revenue Sharing Program

Case study by Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments to the Convention on Biological Diversity, coordinated by Regions4 and the Government of Quebec, on behalf of Paraná (Brazil)

Overview:

Dates: 1991 - Present (ongoing)

Scope: Subnational

Category: Mutually beneficial actions in delivering on the targets of GBF

Relevant partners: Government of Paraná, Brazil (Instituto Água e Terra), Public Water Supply Companies, FUNAI, ICMBio and Municipalities

Keywords: Payment for Environmental Services; Protected Areas; Ecosystem Restoration; Multilevel Governance; Water Supply Management

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

The program significantly enhanced synergies and cooperation by fostering collaboration among diverse stakeholders, including government entities (IAT, SEDEST, SEFA), public water supply companies, FUNAI, ICMBio, and municipalities. The program promotes subnational state-municipality collaboration for sustainable development in ecologically significant regions, serving as a catalyst for environmental progress and social upliftment. Partners collaborated on data verification, inspections, and project implementation. This collaboration increased protected areas, benefited municipalities, and gained international recognition for effective multilateral cooperation in environmental conservation.

Summary of the case study:

The "Ecological ICMS" was established in Paraná, Brazil, in 1991 to distribute ICMS tax revenues to municipalities based on predetermined environmental conservation criteria. It aims to compensate municipalities hosting protected areas or serving as water sources, encouraging protected area expansion and sustainable resource management. The Paraná government, through the Water and Land Institute (IAT), uses tools like Evaluation Tables and Technical Investigative Inspection Reports, employing ArcGIS Survey123 for calculations. An interactive dashboard enhances transparency, and a simulation tool estimates transfer amounts.

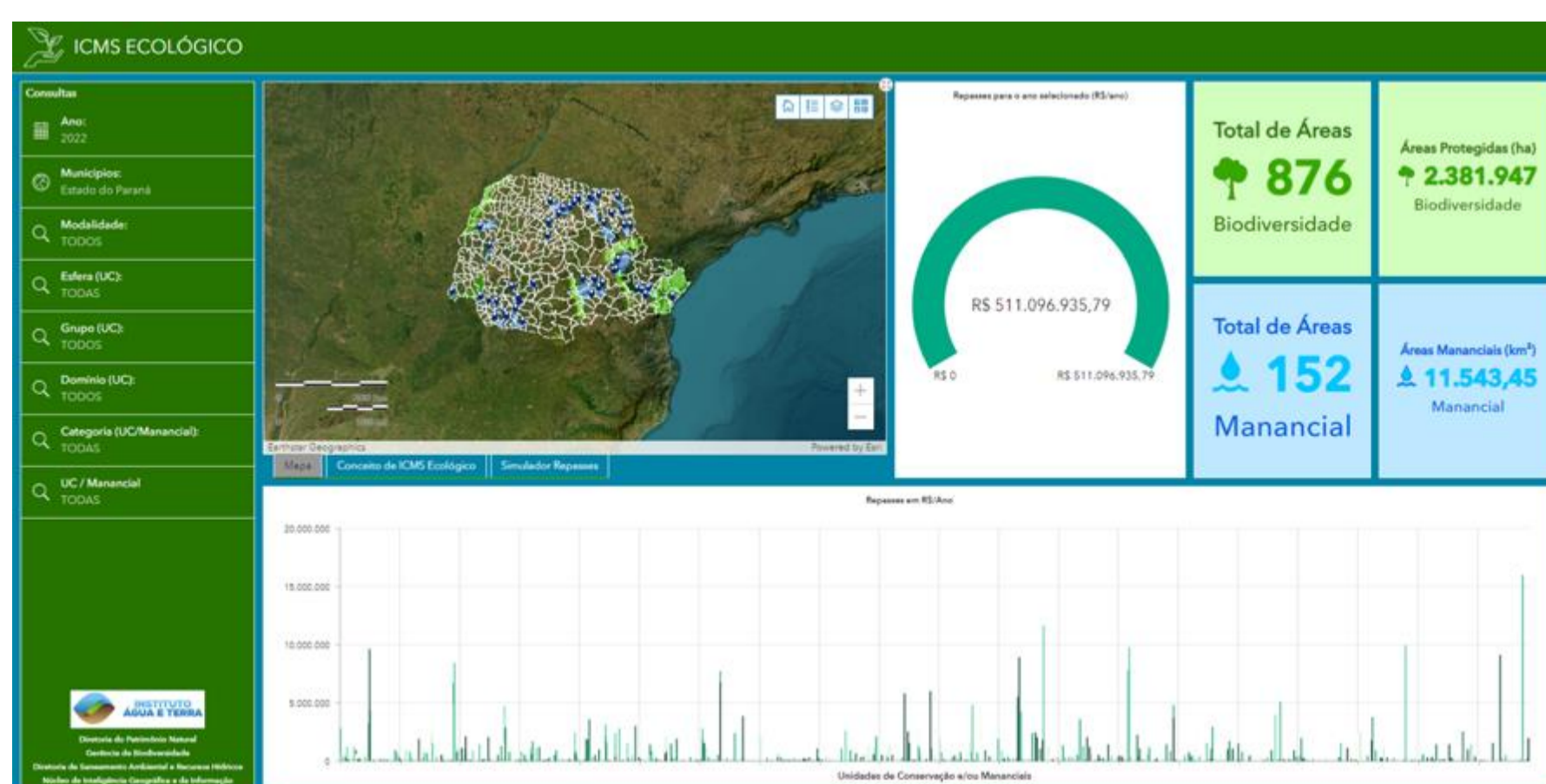
Positive impacts include a significant increase in protected areas, from 8,485.50 to 395,412.05 hectares (1991-2022), connecting fragments for wildlife reproduction, and socioeconomic benefits with a total of \$17 million distributed to 270 municipalities in 2022. Municipalities invest these funds in key areas like education, health, and infrastructure, and the initiative promotes environmental education, restoration projects, and research. Moreover, the program gained international recognition from the United Nations (UN), and it also received the Henry Ford Award for being considered one of the top ten projects in the world in the field of ecology.

Challenges:

- High volume of inquiries from municipalities, particularly about calculations and transfers. Addressing individual queries demanded considerable time and resources from the project teams.
- Managing data for Protected Areas, as most information was in physical processes, limiting accessibility and efficiency. Technological constraints in 1991 hindered precise mapping of area locations and sizes, creating gaps in data management.

Lessons learned:

- Municipal inquiries highlighted the importance of transparency and effective communication.
- The interactive Dashboard addressed clarity needs and aided informed decision-making by municipalities.
- Challenges in managing Protected Areas data emphasized the importance of leveraging technology for efficiency.
- The Ecological ICMS simulator showcased the value of innovative tools for strategic planning and decision-making.
- Collaborative data input in the CEUC System introduced a model for involving stakeholders in timely information entry, analysis, and approval.



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Panama's 30x30 Transformation

Case study by SPACES & Campaign for Nature

Overview:

Dates: Aug 2022 - Feb 2023

Scope: National

Category: Example of developing and implementing national 30x30 plans to achieve Target 3 in the GBF

Relevant partners: Ministry of Environment of Panama, Ministry of Economics and Finances, Center for Conservation and Sustainability, Panama Canal Authority

Donors: Zoma Lab's Global Permanence Fund

Keywords: GBF, financing, NBSAPs, multi-stakeholder dialogue.

Summary of the case study:

Overseen by Campaign for Nature, "SPACES" is a consortium that provides technical support to low and middle-income nations to help them develop fully costed national plans and the related policy and financial strategies needed to achieve Target 3 of the KMGBF and related nature and climate targets relevant to their NBSAPs and NDCs.

Due to a partnership with SPACES, Panama is one of the first countries in the world to develop a comprehensive implementation plan for Target 3 based on integrated spatial planning (Target 1). Panama's plan protects the nation's natural ecosystems and mitigates the effects of climate change while maximizing the socioeconomic benefits of investments in natural capital.

Once implemented, the plan will generate \$700M+ in ecosystem services every year, including creating thousands of new jobs in vulnerable communities. It will also lead Panama to exceed the KMGBF Target 3 of protecting 30% of lands and waters by 2030. The detailed implementation plan and financing needs of the Panama 30x30 program are currently being used to explore a Project for Permanence (PFP) deal.

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- The Panama 30x30 Transformation is perhaps the first systematic attempt at holistic implementation of the KMGBF.
- SPACES brought together government and civil society to define what the country hopes to achieve with the KMGBF, identify hundreds of initiatives that lead to its implementation, and develop detailed business planning for each of those initiatives.
- This process was built on scientific insights, geospatial analytics, and the expertise of local stakeholders—and is implemented with the use of tailored digital tools.

Challenges:

- Internal structures do not always support a continuity of focus on routine work, especially when faced with a crisis.
- Additional skill sets, including planning, project management and evaluation techniques, at the Ministry are needed. Access to global best practices can help.
- Engagement with Indigenous Peoples and local communities could be better organized to ensure regular communication.
- Perceptions at the national level that environmental ministries are more of a cost center than an investment opportunity persist although SPACES helped to address this issue.

Lessons learned:

- Define governance leads and workstreams early.
- Co-design financing mechanisms early on with potential funding partners.
- Standardize data analyses, governance, and other methodological elements.
- Consider establishing a stakeholder coordination committee in a neutral setting.



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SPACES Secretariat/Campaign for Nature

Title: Developing an LBSAP exploring the importance of participatory approaches in Kochi, India

Case study by ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability

Overview:

Dates: Mar 2019 - Nov 2020

Scope: Local

Category: Whole of Society, Whole of Government Approach in engagement

Relevant partners: Implemented by ICLEI and the Kochi Municipality through the Interact Bio Project. Supported by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of India

Donors: German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the International Climate Initiative (IKI)

Keywords: LBSAP, participatory approach, GBF

Summary of the case study:

The Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) is a vital framework for cities to effectively govern and manage biodiversity and ecosystem services. While the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is the primary instrument to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at the national, the LBSAP is its local counterpart, acknowledged in CBD Decision X/22. Kochi, as a pioneering city in India, has developed a scientifically informed LBSAP, aligning with global and national biodiversity policies. It outlines a comprehensive plan for conservation, sustainable use of biodiversity, and equitable benefit-sharing at the local level. Kochi's LBSAP vision emphasizes biodiversity conservation, uninterrupted ecosystem service flow, and climate-resilient development through participatory planning. The city identifies nine focus areas and 29 biodiversity goals, implementing a mix of soft and hard measures. Kochi's LBSAP, derived from extensive consultations, serves as a roadmap for achieving its vision, incorporating strategic objectives and actions for biodiversity conservation. The plan reflects inputs from city and ward-level consultations, discussions with Municipal Corporation councilors, and subject matter experts.

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

Kochi's Local Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (LBSAP) aligns with Global Biodiversity Targets by enhancing urban ecosystems and contributing to Target 12, focusing on Green and Blue Infrastructure increment. The city's emphasis on "Mangroves" within its 9-focus areas reflects a commitment to study and develop a management framework aligning with RAMSAR Convention principles. Implementing LBSAP supports UNFCCC principles for climate resilience, which is vital for protecting Kochi's bird sanctuary status amid rapid urbanization. The plan prioritizes mapping regulations for building construction to conserve migratory paths, linking to the CMS Convention for migratory species conservation across borders.

Challenges:

- Limited human and financial resources at the sub-national government level, also identified as the most constraining factor in biodiversity management.
- Organizational weakness and technical knowledge.

Lessons learned:

- The successful implementation of the LBSAP requires community support.
- The LBSAP will support the city in the short, medium, and long term to understand and unlock the potential of nature to provide services and new or enhanced economic opportunities. At the same time, the LBSAP will aid in protecting biodiversity.
- Kochi's LBSAP will contribute to the achievement of national commitments and the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- This methodology can be used by local governments around the world that are interested in developing a LBSAP.



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Title: The Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda partners with CitiesWithNature to mainstream the whole-of-government approach in reporting and monitoring

Case study by ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

Overview:

Dates: 2018-ongoing

Scope: Local

Category: whole-of-government approach in reporting and monitoring

Relevant actors: ICLEI, CWN partnership initiative, Egyptian and Chinese Governments, CBD Convention

Keywords: CWN Action Platform, Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, post-2020 GBF, cities, reporting and monitoring, whole-of-government approach

Summary of the case study:

The Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda, led by Egypt and China in 2019 with CBD support, urges urgent action for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. To assess integrated actions and enhance vertical integration.

Local and subnational governments committed to supporting the Action Agenda in the Sharm El-Sheikh Communiqué for Local and Subnational Action for Nature and People adopted at the 6th Summit Global Biodiversity Summit of Local and Subnational Governments held as an official parallel event to CBD COP 14.

This support was operationalized through the announcement of CitiesWithNature (CWN), a game-changing global initiative by founding partners ICLEI, TNC, and IUCN. CWN Action Platform has interpreted the 23 Targets of the GBF into actions and commitments that are relatable to the local context. In this space recognized on CBD Decision 15/12, subnational governments can report on and track progress against their commitments to contributing to international biodiversity goals. These include 32 actions taken by Mexico City, 28 actions by the City of Cape Town, 6 actions taken by the Aichi Prefectural Government, and 18 actions by the City of Nagoya.

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

The CBD Convention endorses a whole-of-government approach and recognizes that regions and cities are key to its successful implementation. The CWN Action Platform facilitates the profiling of subnational commitments that contribute to the GBF. This includes helping cities to set their targets, track progress, and compare actions with other cities, both nationally and globally. The platform also supports cities in gathering information on their contribution to their respective countries' national activities.

The Action Platform is also linked to the UNEP-WCMC's platform and the SDGs, as well as the objectives of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, UNFCCC, the Ramsar and CMS Convention Conventions.

Challenges:

- The involvement of different actors adds complexity as each entity has unique capacities, resources, and levels of commitment; coordinating their actions is complex due to diverse regulations and priorities.
- Translating the post-2020 GBF into local actions requires careful consideration of diverse urban contexts, making it challenging to ensure consistency and effectiveness.

Lessons learned:

- The collaboration between the Action Agenda and CWN demonstrated the importance of strong partnerships between governments, international organizations, and NGOs in achieving common goals.
- The development of the CWN Action Platform, interpreting global frameworks into local actions, proved effective. Future initiatives can learn from this and adapt similar localized platforms for different global agendas.
- The acknowledgment of the CWN Action Platform by CBD highlights the importance of gaining official recognition and support from international bodies, which can enhance the credibility and impact of local initiatives.



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Title: IPLCs Capacity Building on NBSAPs

Case study by Indigenous Information Network and International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)

Overview:

Dates: January 2023- December 2023

Scope: Regional- National- Local

Category: Actions in delivering on the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Relevant partners: Ministry of Environment(IUCN, The Nature Conservancy, Wetlands International) and all relevant Ministries, IIFB, the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, The local government, Regional Networks, Forest Peoples Program and partners, Wetlands International.

Donors: Forest People's Program/IKI

Keywords: Indigenous Information Network, NBSAPs, IIFB, IPLCs, KM-GBF, Ministry of Environment and partners.

Summary of the case study:

Indigenous Information Network has worked with various actors in different regions in Africa to ensure capacity building and effective implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Regionally, we have fostered close communication with each other, meeting in caucuses in international meetings and maintaining communication and sharing materials on the KM-GBF and its implementation through online media. At the local level, the whole-of-society approach ensures that men, women, children, youth, and elders build their capacities and have their contributions to conservation recognized and shared.

In Kenya, for example, cooperation in the development and implementation of NBSAPs has been strengthened. We work with the Ministry of Environment and other key partners in Kenya to ensure the full, effective, and meaningful participation of IPLCs.

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- Learning from each other: The process involves different stakeholders working in diverse multilateral environmental agreements. This encourages collaboration and relationships with a mutual understanding of IPLCs issues from the local level to national, regional, and international levels.
- There is increased support now for IPLCs issues and the promotion of the key role they play in biodiversity conservation.

Challenges:

- Accessibility and funding: We have always wanted to reach even more IPLCs to build capacity and, together with all the actors, contribute to the global goal of living in harmony with nature, but it has been difficult to reach other places where IPLCs live due to poor infrastructure and funding. Resource mobilization for the implementation of the KM-GBF has to be a priority and have a tracking mechanism to ensure the funding reaches IPLCs where it is crucially needed.
- There is increased recognition of IPLCs rights at the international level, while implementation at the national and regional levels remains a challenge. Taking part in the development of the NBSAPs with the Ministry of Environment and partners in Kenya and sharing this so that other IPLCs follow the process in their countries is the start. There needs to be mechanisms in place to ensure that we keep following through after the NBSAPs are in place.

Lessons learned:

- Everyone has a unique role to play in the implementation of the KM-GBF. Therefore, men, women, children, youth, and elders have to be fully involved in the decision-making and implementation process.
- We do have our unique ways of doing things, and when we put our efforts together, their implementation will be enhanced.



The Workshop To Review And Align The National Biodiversity Strategy And Action Plan (NBSAP) To K-M Global Biodiversity Framework And Targets Setting At Lake Naivasha Sawela Lodge, 7th-11th August 2023



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Title: Increased coherence in national reporting requires Whole-of-Society, Whole-of-Government Approach

Case study by Marine Ecosystems Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust - Antigua and Barbuda

Overview:

Dates: June 2019 – ongoing.

Scope: National, with upscaling taking place.

Category: Community-Based Adaptation Initiative.

Relevant partners: NSWMA (National Solid Waste Management Authority), the Department of Analytical Services, and the Fire Department.

Donors: Funded by GEF/SGP.

Keywords: waste management, recycling, air quality, groundwater, and wetland ecosystems.

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- MEPA is represented on many national and international committees and a part of several multi-stakeholder forums, so access to information and knowledge is wide, and human rights principles are a priority for our engagement.
- These principles guide the processes for enhanced cooperation and coordination between technical bodies of the three conventions, chemicals and waste and science-policy wider cooperation, transparency, and accountability, and facilitating financial resources for chemicals and wastes

Summary of the case study:

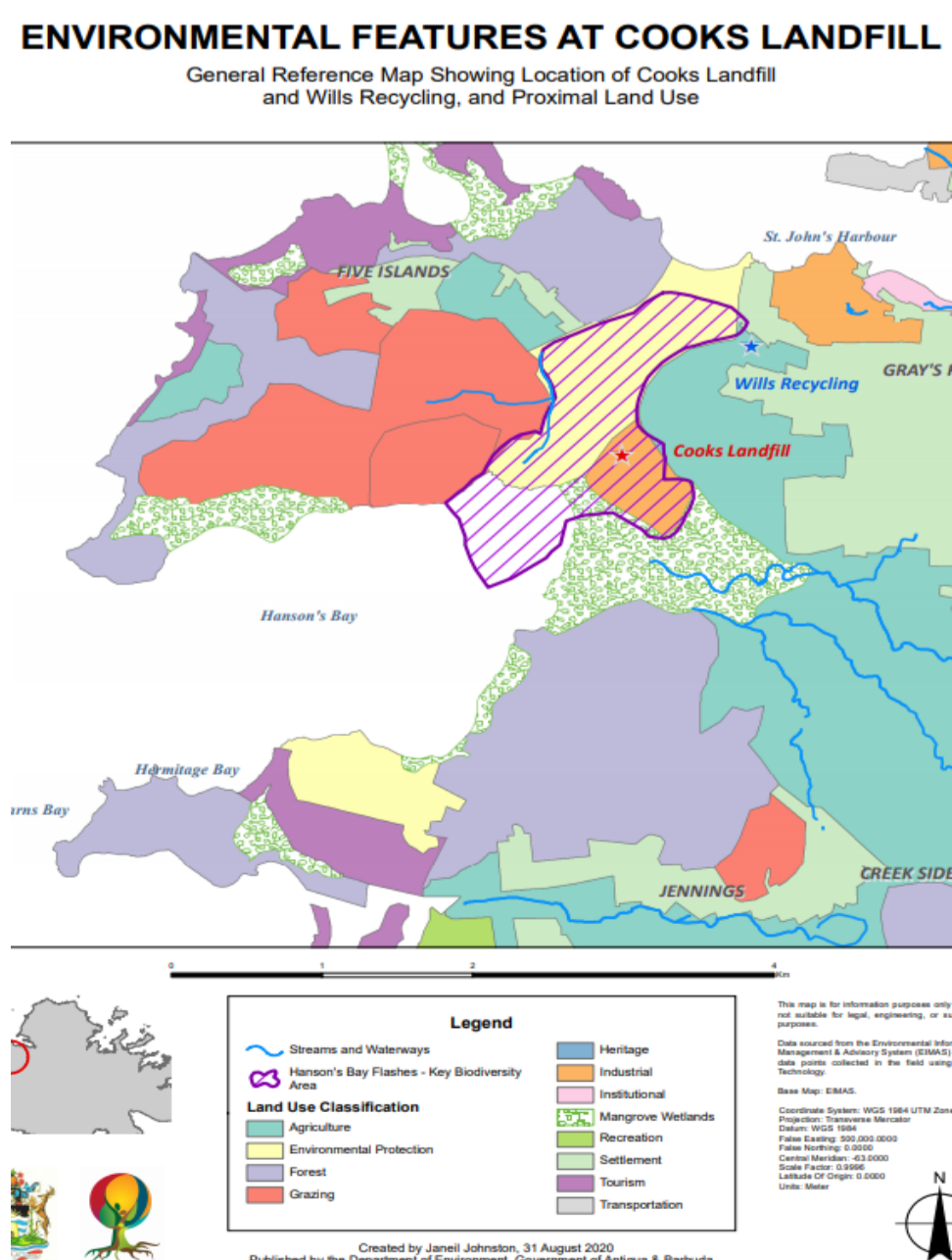
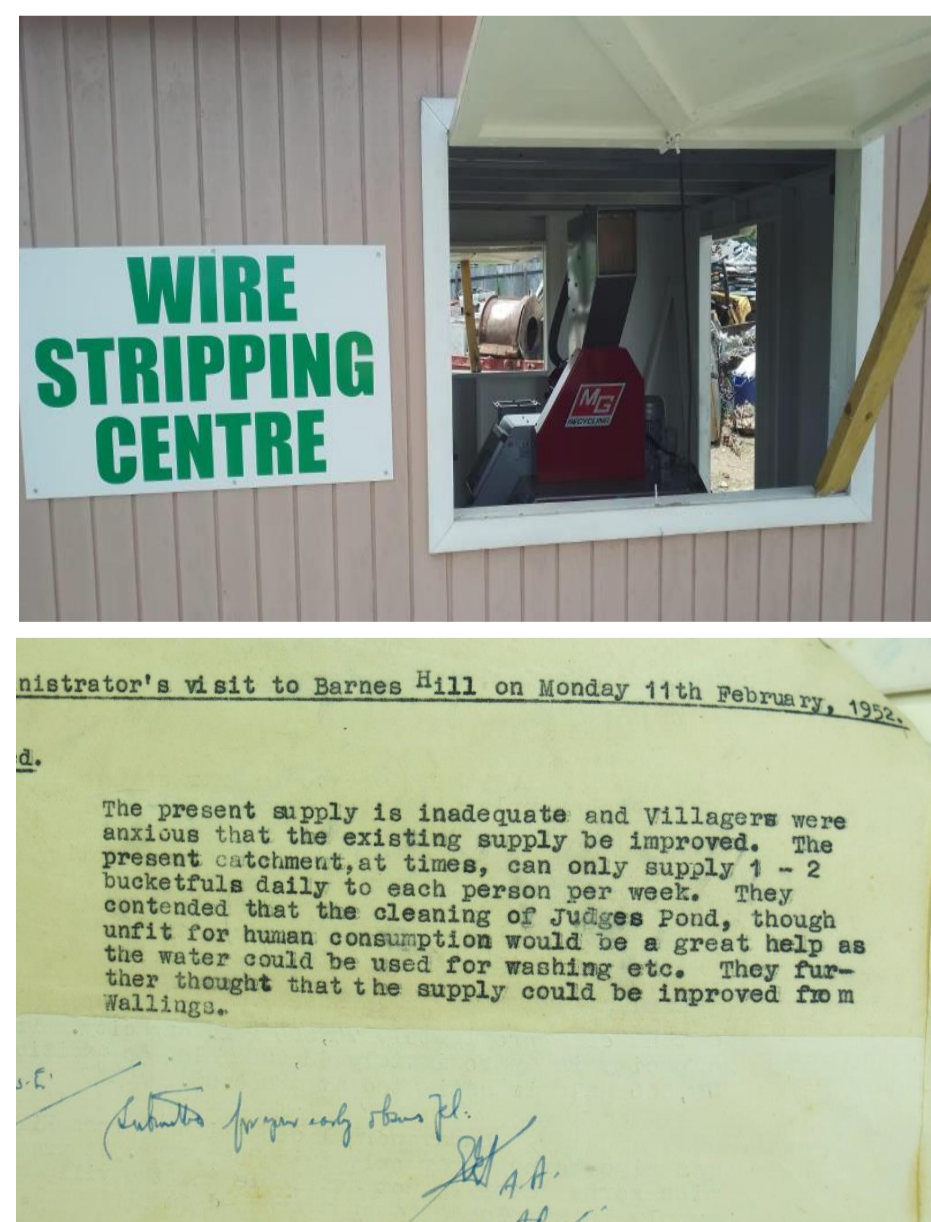
Indiscriminate disposal of hazardous waste in Antigua & Barbuda is a critical issue, exacerbated by the burning of electronic waste, releasing fumes and pollutants, impacting the environment and community health. Will's Recycling, near Cooks Landfill, addressed this by reducing oil leakage, positively impacting biodiversity and wetland ecosystems. The project aligns with Target 7 of the GBF, reducing nitrates in surface and groundwater. Funded by GEF/SGP, it engaged stakeholders, including NSWMA and the Fire Department, following Escazu agreement principles. The construction of a wire stripping facility supports plastic reuse for furniture, aligning with the Plastics Treaty. Interviews with waste pickers informed the use of a granulator, enhancing livelihoods. Educational materials improved public awareness, contributing to a case study in the UN CBD 6th national report. Partnerships with schools, hotels, and utilities demonstrate a commitment to environmental protection. With the granulator operational, 30 tonnes of metal waste annually will be diverted, enhancing air quality by reducing the burning of material to extract metal components. Will's Recycling has efficiently separated and prepared metal for shipping and recycling, further enhancing air quality in surrounding communities.

Challenges:

- National Focal Points lack information about local community groups and their activities.
- The NBSAP and other convention targets are unfamiliar to Community-Based Organizations (CBOs), despite their significant contributions.
- Non-reporting of local community-based adaptation initiatives exposes weaknesses in data management systems across Biodiversity, SDGs, Climate, Land, Desertification, Mercury, Chemicals, Waste, and Pollution conventions.
- Platforms are needed for local groups to showcase work, link it to NBSAP and convention targets, and discover synergies.
- As conventions shift to science-policy processes, integrating local knowledge is imperative.

Lessons learned:

The power is in the people, and the government cannot do it alone, so access to information and local consultation processes must be prioritised to bring new voices into environmental decision-making processes and science-policy processes.



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Marine Ecosystems Protected Areas (MEPA) Trust, Antigua and Barbuda

Title: Indigenous Peoples, especially indigenous youth and women Capacity Building on NBSAPs

Case study by the Indigenous Women Biodiversity Network for Latin America and Caribbean Region (RMIB-LAC) and the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)

Overview:

Dates: Oct 2023 - Dec 2023

Scope: Regional/International

Relevant partners: University Tres de Febrero, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Foro Indígena de Abya Yala (FIAY)

Donors: NiaTero

Keywords: NBSAPs, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Indigenous Women, Indigenous Youth

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- The project facilitated the strong Indigenous Peoples, especially women and youth, to understand the KMGBF and the NBSAPs processes to enable them to fully and effectively participate in that process.
- Some participants were indigenous who work in the environment Ministries which will contribute to the planning for the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the revision and updated processes.
- A network was established to continue the exchange of information on the NBSAPs process in the LAC region.

Challenges:

- We got the interest from Indigenous Peoples representatives who speak only English, and the course was in Spanish. This was addressed by informing them that another course would be organized for English Speakers.
- Some participants had problems connecting to classes due to internet connectivity problems. This was addressed by recording the classes.
- Most professors were indigenous leaders who led the KMGBF negotiations and connected from different time zones, ensuring no internet connectivity problems.

Lessons learned:

- Having 8 targets from 23 of the KMGBF with explicit commitments related to IPLCs. IPLCs contributions in NBSAPs revisions and updates are key for KMGBF achievement, and the most difficult is to engage IPLCs in the process.
- Online or virtual University courses could be a tool to inform IPLCs on KMGBF as a first step with an in-person meeting.
- Establish a process for reinforcing IPLCs' capacity and providing the opportunity to support their own initiatives is a great approach to engage them in the KMGBF and NBSAPs process

Summary of the case study:

The Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) recognises the roles, rights, and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities and indigenous women in Section C, Goal C, Targets 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 13, 14, 15, 19, 21, 22 and 23, among others. Therefore, indigenous peoples and local communities, especially indigenous women and youth, are key actors in the NBSAP revisions.

Based on this, the IIFB-RMIB-LAC aims to promote the full and effective participation of IPLCs, especially indigenous women, in Latinoamerica and the Caribbean region (Spanish-speaking countries) in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) updates and revisions. Thanks to the financial support by NiaTero Foundation, and in partnership with the Instituto del Mundo del Trabajo de la Universidad Tres de Febrero (Buenos Aires, Argentina), Foro Indígena de Abya Yala (FIAY) the **Latina America and Caribbean University Virtual Course for Indigenous Peoples, especially women and youth on the CBD and KMGBF** was organized.

The project was implemented in 2023, from October to December, and participants could learn about the NBSAPs process and the GBF goals, targets, and monitoring framework. 6 participants received funding to implement at the local level small projects "advocacy plan" to work on NBSAPs in their communities.

As a result of the project, 113 Indigenous Peoples representatives from 16 countries from the LAC region could attend the course and 62 approved it with the successful presentation of an advocacy plan. Among them, 6 advocacy plans got funding to work on NBSAPs at the local level. The outcome of the process is that Indigenous Peoples, especially women and youth, are ready to make contributions for their participation in the NBSAP's national update or revisions.



[IIFB co-chair Mullenkei Lucy](mailto:iifbindigenouspeoples@gmail.com)

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<https://rmib-lac.org/2023/comenzo-la-diplomatura-sobre-el-convenio-de-la-diversidad-biologica-y-el-marco-mundial-kunming-montreal/>

Title: Enhancing National Coordination to Implement Brazil's Commitments with all Global Biodiversity Conventions and to Update and Implement Brazil's NBSAP and the GBF

Case study by the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MMA)

Overview:

Dates: March 2023 - January 2024

Scope: Subnational/National

Category: Examples of cooperation in the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Plans (NBSAPs)

Relevant partners: Federal Ministries, MMA National Departments, State Environmental Agencies (ABEMA)

Keywords: national coordination, NBSAP, State Environmental Agencies engagement

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

The new CONABIO, the new MMA Permanent Task Force for NBSAP Coordination, the Biodiversity Technical Committee established in March 2023 by the National Association of the State Environmental Agencies (ABEMA), and an informal Partnership Task Force for the organization of national sectoral consultations (with TNC Brazil, WWF Brazil, CI Brazil, the National Biodiversity Research Program (PPBIO) and the Brazilian Branch of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development – CEBDS), together with partnerships with UNEP and the Brazilian National Accounting Agency (the Union's Accounts Tribunal – TCU) are supporting the updating of Brazil's NBSAP and implementation of the GBF in Brazil

Summary of the case study:

Brazil is updating its National Biodiversity Committee (CONABIO) to expand its mandate to coordinate the implementation of all global biodiversity conventions and protocols, restore its parity composition (government and civil society organizations), and restore its deliberative power.

MMA is establishing a Permanent Task Force to coordinate the updating and implementation of its NBSAP, distributing the responsibility to coordinate each new National Biodiversity Target among some 20 of its departments according to their mandates.

The State Environmental Agencies in all 26 Brazilian States and the Federal District have agreed to contribute to the updating of Brazil's NBSAP and have decided to contribute to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by developing and implementing State Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in all states.

MMA, in partnership with ABEMA (The National Association of State Environmental Agencies), organized a consultation workshop in November 2023 in Brasilia, where some 80 experts from all States participated, sponsored by MMA, to discuss all the 23 GBF Targets and made proposals for their amendment for adoption of National Targets.

Challenges:

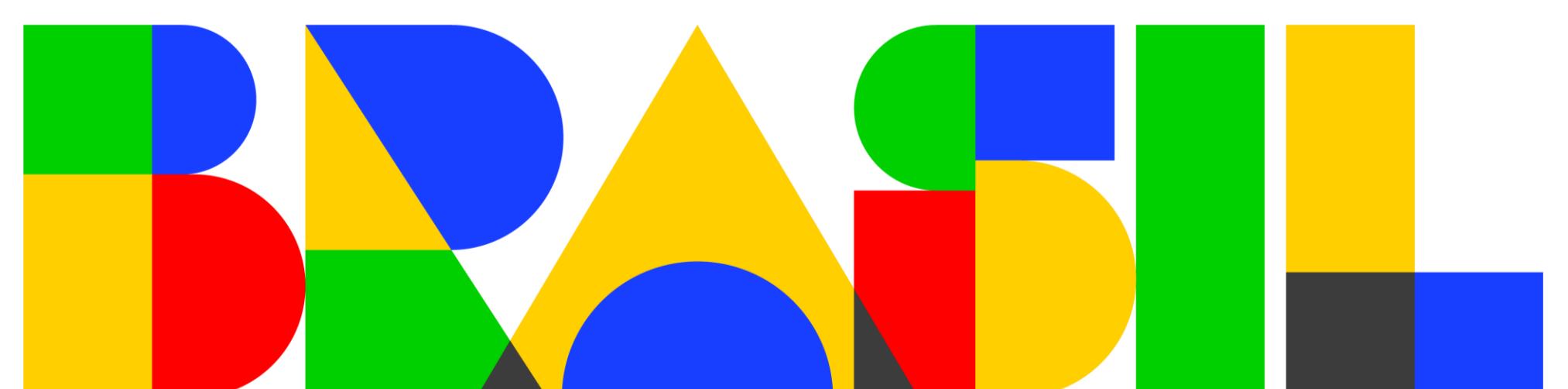
- As always, we face challenges in bringing everyone on board, but Brazil has been working on these issues since the Rio92 UN Summit, and still, some groups resist integration. But overall there is a good willingness for cooperation in all sectors.
- Other challenges include the lack of communication materials in Portuguese and in the main Indigenous languages and the insufficiency of funding in general and for several specific agendas, such as the mobilization of botanic gardens to help implement the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation, among others.

Lessons learned:

It is too early to assess the effectiveness of these new coordination mechanisms and to extract lessons learned.

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GOVERNO FEDERAL



UNIÃO E RECONSTRUÇÃO

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Brazil, Brazilian Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MMA)

Title: Strengthening of the regional governance on transboundary ecosystems using international designation mechanisms in Central America

Case study by eight Member States of the Central American Integration System (SICA)

Overview:

Dates: Mar 2019 - Mar 2024

Scope: Regional

Category: Capacity building and development across multiple multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

Relevant partners: Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) of the Central American Integration System (SICA)

Donors: Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Keywords: Regional approach, transboundary ecosystem conservation, land governance, Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC), MEAs

Summary of the case study:

The objective of this case study is to identify the tools and mechanisms that can strengthen transboundary land governance based on the concept of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (MBC). The findings of the study are used to develop recommendations for CCAD via its regional technical committee to upgrade the Regional Environmental Strategy as a policy framework.

Our focus is on four types of ecosystems: Selva Maya (Belize and Guatemala), Fonseca Bay (El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua), La Amistad (Costa Rica and Panama), and Monte Cristi (Dominican Republic). Pilot activities are implemented in a selected community from each country to raise awareness of integrated land management over shared ecosystem services with neighboring countries (except Monte Cristi). Since most of the pilot ecosystems contain internationally designated areas, including a Biosphere Reserve (BR), Ramsar site, and World Natural Heritage site (WNHS), existing spatial plans with land governance mechanisms are analyzed for possible elaboration. In particular, the study indicates that the peripheries of legally protected areas hold great potential for collaboration with indigenous and local communities, enhancing local land governance, which can promote the recognition of OECMs in supporting the 30 by 30 of the GBF.

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

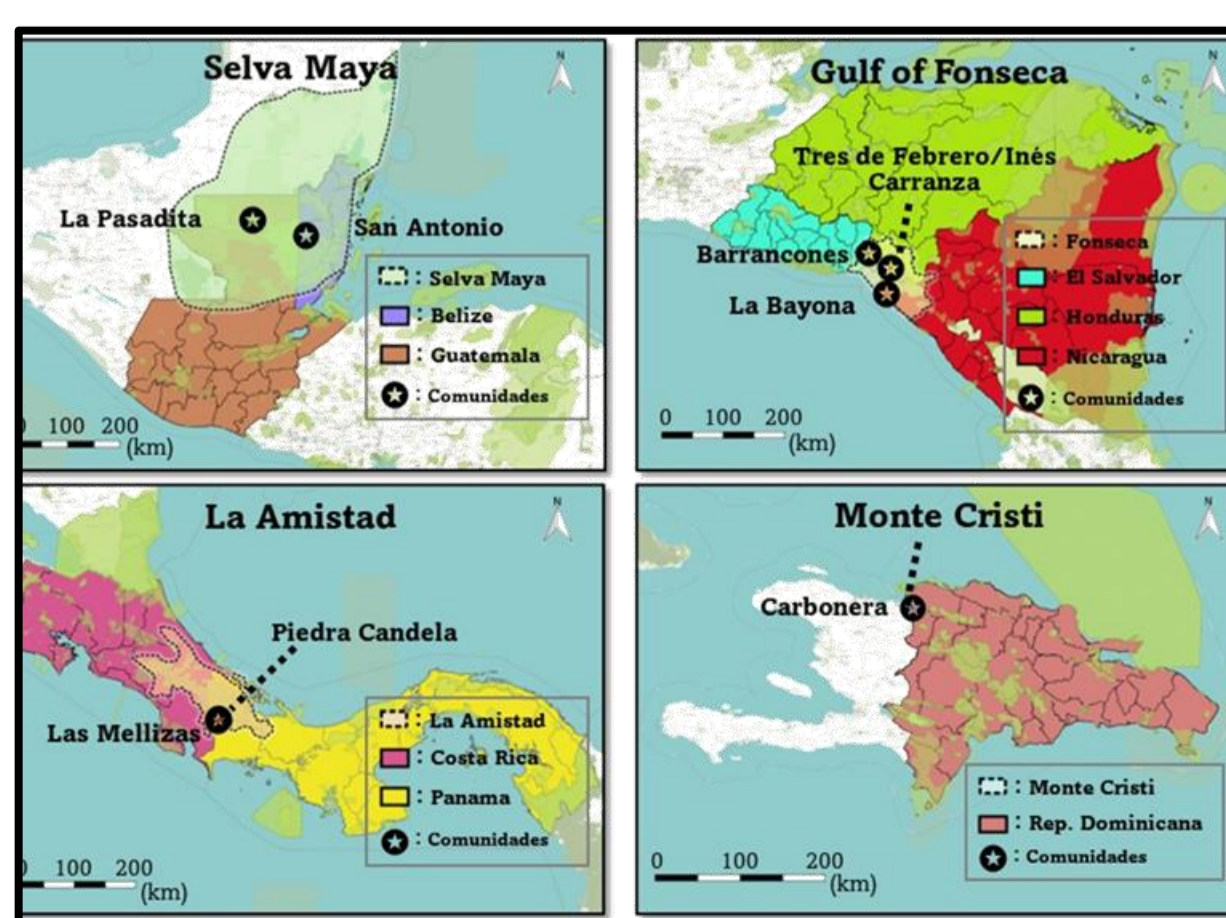
- Demonstrated the ability of international designations, including the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme, the WH Convention, and the Ramsar Convention, to create synergies in strengthening transboundary land governance covering Targets 1, 2, and 3 of the GBF.
- Enhanced the recognition of shared ecosystems that require transnational collaboration within the region.
- Promoted a better understanding of the critical roles of the regional intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), including the development of Regional Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (RBSAPs), facilitating opportunities for multiple countries and MEAs to collaborate in the implementation of the GBF.
- Strengthened the regional data exchange platform on biodiversity conservation to support systematic monitoring and communication.

Challenges:

- Promote site-specific and workable transnational collaboration, which requires effective interagency cooperation across sectors in each country.
- Enhance CCAD's leadership role in environmental diplomacy, contributing to regional peace and stability.
- Achieve realistic and feasible links between local livelihood improvement and biodiversity conservation.
- Translate parts of BRs (*i.e.*, buffer and transition zones) as OECMs to expedite the 30 by 30 registration.
- Promote synergies between biodiversity conservation and climate actions with continuous and long-term funding.

Lessons learned:

- Peripheries of legally protected areas, such as buffer and transition zones of BRs, offer great opportunities for collaboration with indigenous and local communities toward biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation (*i.e.*, implementation of the *Satoyama* concept).
- Since transboundary BRs have the capacity to initiate non-political dialogues to ease political tensions over national border issues, they can be an effective diplomatic tool as one of the policy options.
- It is crucial to understand the different motivations of the key stakeholders for biodiversity conservation.
- More action research is desirable.



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The NBSAPs Accelerator Partnership: Enabling countries to live in harmony with Nature by 2050

Case study

Overview:

Dates: Inception phase: 2022=2023, Phase I: 2023-2024

Scope: International

Category: Cooperation in the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Plans (NBSAPs).

Relevant partners: over 40 members from governments, institutions, and non-state actors.

Donors: Governments of Germany and Norway.

Keywords: NBSAP, Biodiversity, implementation, ambition, nature, action, acceleration

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- **Integrated Approach through NBSAPs** by acting as a catalyzer to incorporate national commitments under various MEAs.
- **Mainstreaming Biodiversity Across Sectors** that helps countries fulfill their obligations under MEAs related to biodiversity, as it becomes an integrated tool for aligning sectoral policies and activities with overarching biodiversity conservation goals.
- **Advances in a matchmaking mechanism** that facilitates countries to identify solutions for achieving ambitious NBSAPs that includes MEAs considerations as climate, pollution or desertification.

Summary of the case study:

As a country-led initiative, the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership advances the Global Biodiversity Framework by acting as a neutral broker, accelerating access to financial and technical support, providing knowledge and advocacy services and offering support via in-country and regional facilitation.

By collaborating with a wide range of stakeholders, promoting knowledge exchange, and translating national priority needs into actionable plans, the Accelerator raises the political profile of NBSAPs and accelerates action for nature-positive development.

The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership plays a pivotal role in coordinating actions across the Rio Conventions, at global and national levels, to raise countries' ambitions to deliver the Global Biodiversity Framework. This ensures alignment of financial and technical support, capacity building, and streamlining country efforts to deliver on Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

By fostering a conducive environment for collaboration, the Accelerator streamlines efforts and amplifies the impact of biodiversity, climate and other initiatives, that helps deliver on governments' global environmental commitments, and raise the profile of NBSAPs.

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Challenges:

- Ensure implementation of NBSAPs that are ambitious, country-specific, integrating goals of biodiversity-related MEAs on conservation, restoration, and management of biodiversity.
- Incorporate the goals of biodiversity-related MEAs such as illegal trafficking, invasive species, pollution, and climate change in a comprehensive way.
- Coordinate and articulate country efforts to deliver on MEAs and raising ambition for nature, considering the implementation of comprehensive NBSAPs.

Lessons learned:

- NBSAP implementation involves active engagement and ownership by diverse stakeholders, including countries, governments, and NGOs including south-south cooperation, IPLCs participation and gender approach.
- Emphasis on the importance of mainstreaming goals from other MEAs into national development plans and policies promotes a holistic approach that addresses interconnected environmental challenges.
- NBSAP Accelerator Partnership plays a key role in incorporating gender approach, IPLCs views, and country-focus needs into a new generation of ambitious NBSAPs.
- The COP28 Joint Statement on Climate, Nature and People, recently announced in Dubai, offers opportunities to align NDCs and NBSAPs under integrated strategies to promote accelerated joint action for climate, nature and sustainable development.



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NBSAP Accelerator Partnership

Title: Working across ministries to explore Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT)

Case study by China

Overview:

Dates: 6-8 Sep 2023

Scope: National

Category: Examples of support at the national, regional, and international levels for synergies in countries; Examples of enhanced dialogue amongst focal points at the national level

Relevant partners: Biodiversity-related MEA focal points, Institutions closely involved in the preparation of national reports

Donors: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP Environmental Governance Subprogramme)

Keywords: synergies, multistakeholder dialogue, MEAs

Summary of the case study:

Nanjing Institute of Environmental Sciences, Ministry of Ecology and Environment of People's Republic of China (NIES), and UNEP successfully convened a DaRT National Workshop in China. The workshop invited representatives from China's national focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification in Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification (UNCCD), and the Protection of World Culture and Nature, the Heritage Convention (WHC), as well as expert representatives from supporting departments closely involved in the preparation of national reports to biodiversity-related conventions.

These supporting departments included the National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation of the MEE, the National Climate Center, the Chinese Academy of Forestry, the Institute of Zoology, the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Third Institute of Oceanography, the Ministry of Natural Resources, Renmin University of China, etc.

Constructive feedback was received regarding opinions and suggestions for using and developing DaRT. In order to enhance and improve DaRT, further exchanges and discussions are required to gather views from a wider range of stakeholders. Additionally addressing policy mechanism issues is recommended before implementing DaRT at a national level to achieve its goal in supporting MEAs reporting progress towards biodiversity-related environmental treaties.

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- The project connected national focal points from different multilateral environmental agreements, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, etc.
- The project strengthens national and regional collaboration and capacity in the preparation, management, and maintenance of knowledge, information, and data in support of multiple reporting requirements, such as for biodiversity-related conventions.
- The project gathered feedback on the use of DaRT by practitioners, in order to further develop DaRT according to the needs of the country.

Challenges:

- DaRT has excellent functions as a data knowledge base, but there is still room for improvement and improvement as a tool for developing collaborative efficiency plans for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and environmental conventions.
- Many experts at this workshop have expressed their interest in using DaRT as an elastic and flexible tool. But in order to promote the implementation of DaRT at the national level, the implementation mechanism is a primary issue.

Lessons learned:

- The implementation of DaRT at the national level requires more high-level meetings to be convened within the framework of the United Nations Convention to discuss and determine. Only then can the DaRT be truly implemented at the national level.
- Meanwhile, if possible, it is possible to consider connecting DaRT with the Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM), which will be more useful for the preparation of compliance reports not only for China but also for many countries.



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Title: The CITES process for alignment with CBD-KMGBF and IPBES Sustainable Use Assessment

Case study by the CITES Scientific Authority of Mexico, National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO)

Overview:

Dates: Ongoing
Scope: International
Category: Mutually beneficial actions in delivering on the targets of KMGBF
Relevant partners: Parties, observer organizations, CITES Secretariat
Keywords: resolutions, decisions, committees, MEAs

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- New implementation report format: developed to collect information that enables CSV indicators to be monitored. Relevant data that can contribute to the KMGBF Monitoring Framework may be shared with CBD Secretariat.
- IPBES' Sustainable Use Assessment: PC/AC established an intersessional working group to review technical-scientific aspects, while SC established another group to review political aspects. Both groups will identify elements from the Assessment that are relevant for CITES implementation, and Resolutions/Decisions that require amendments to ensure full alignment within CITES mandate.

Summary of the case study:

CITES regulates international trade of endangered species as defined in the Convention text and through a dynamic set of Resolutions and Decisions that can be formally updated. Where Resolutions have a more permanent nature, guiding implementation over longer periods of time, Decisions are time-bound concrete actions. Resolutions and Decisions on scientific matters can be proposed/amended by the Plants (PC) and Animals Committees (AC) for consideration by the Standing Committee (SC) and the CoP. Likewise, the SC can also propose/amend Resolutions and Decisions to the CoP. If needed, the Committees may establish working groups with specific terms of reference.

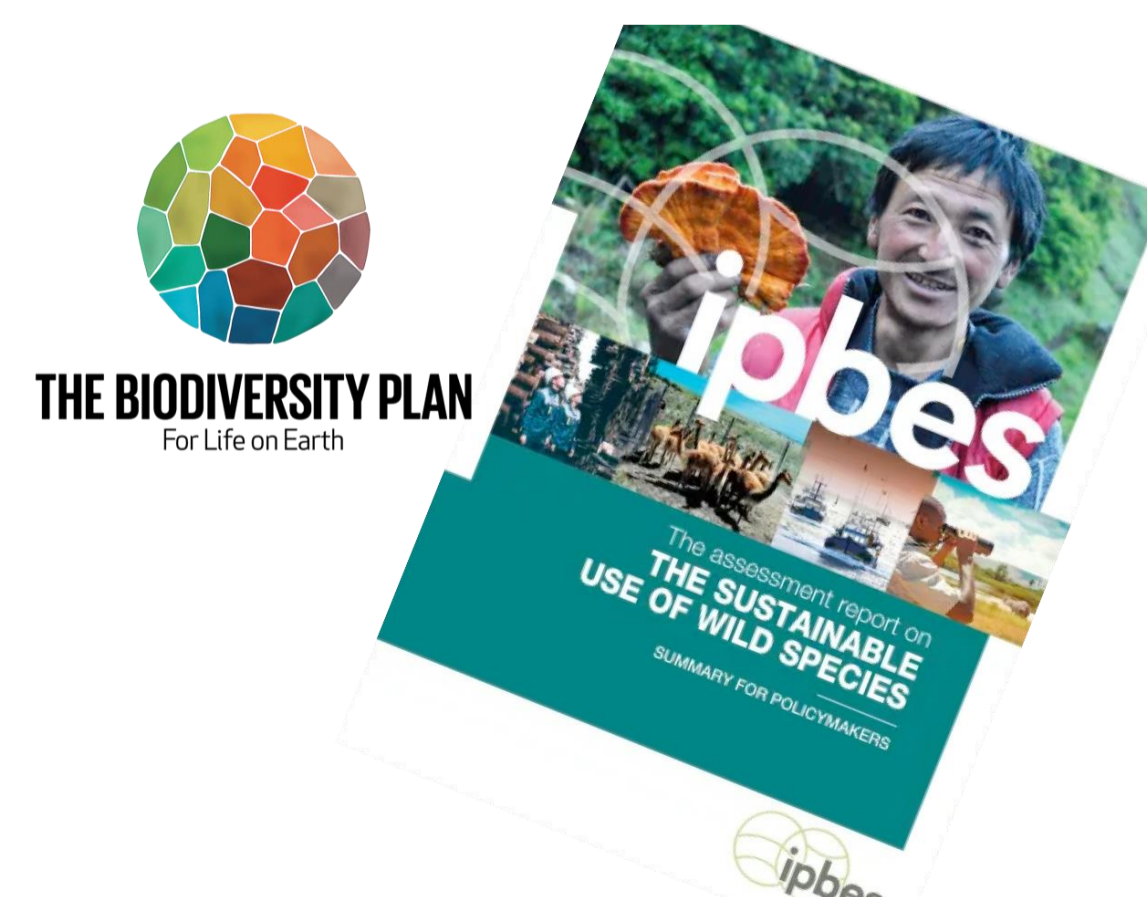
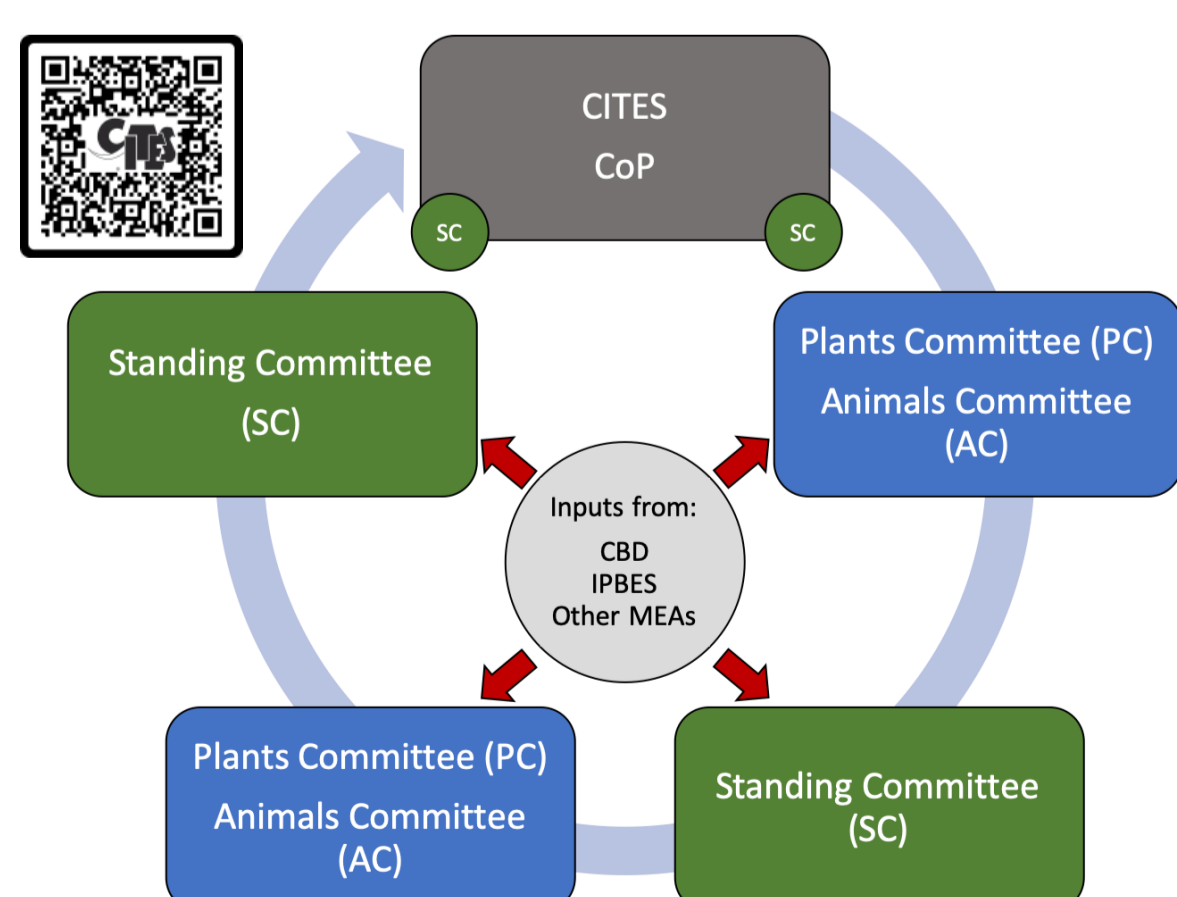
Over various CoPs, Resolutions, and Decisions have been adopted/amended to promote and strengthen cooperation, coordination and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions. Recently, CoP19 (2022) instructed the Secretariat to undertake a comparative analysis to illustrate linkages and highlight areas of alignment between the CITES Strategic Vision 2021-2030 (CSV) and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), as a starting point for an assessment of how CITES can contribute to KMGBF implementation and its monitoring framework; and to this end, if Resolutions and Decision need amendments.

Challenges:

- Different time frames between Conventions.
- Not all Conventions have processes to amend Resolutions or Decisions like in CITES.
- The difficulty to define appropriate indicators and, therefore, weak analysis at the indicator level between MEAs.
- Ensure added value of the process and minimize duplication.
- Using different methods to monitor the same aspect, making it hard to compare or systematize information.

Lessons learned:

- CITES showed political will and took time to formalize and conduct the analysis needed for alignment.
- CITES allows to revise and amend Resolutions and Decisions to internalize relevant elements of KMGBF and IPBES Assessments into soft law.
- Have a well-developed process to keep work updated in relation to the work of other Conventions.
- Updates should be Party-driven.
- Make better use of the science-policy interface. IPBES information should be analyzed and integrated as appropriate to identify consistencies and gaps.



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National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), Mexico

Title: The KAZA Carnivore Conservation Coalition - A Case Study for Transboundary Conservation

Case study by Lusizi M Mwale – Zambia

Overview:

Dates: January 2015 to Date

Scope: Regional

Category: Whole of Society, Whole of Government Approach in engagement

Relevant partners: Governments, Civil Society, NGOs, Local Communities

Donors: WWF Namibia, Range Wide Conservation Program for Cheetah and African Wild Dogs, Panthera

Keywords: KAZA, Trans frontier, Carnivore, Conservation, Collaboration, Synergy

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- A clear outcome-focused vision and goal at scale with SMART actions.
- Formalisation of the KAZA Carnivore Coalition as a sub-working group of the KAZA Treaty Structures providing government support for projects.
- Collaboration and coordination of activities among government and non-government partners.
- Focal Working Groups lead by Focal Working Group Leader(s) to progress, implement and report on, on the ground engagement and action and outcomes.
- Clear Strategy providing a roadmap and framework for actions and activities.

Summary of the case study:

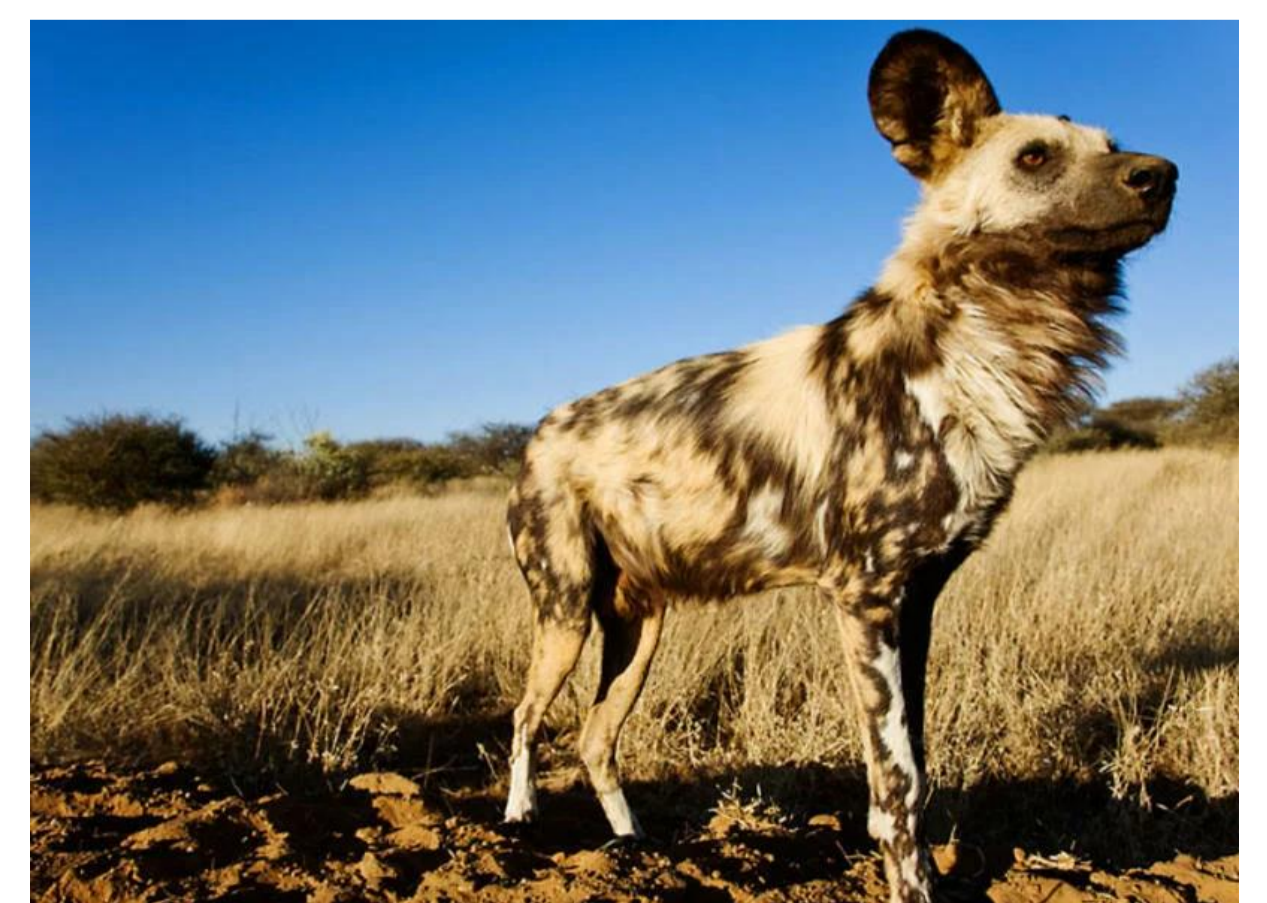
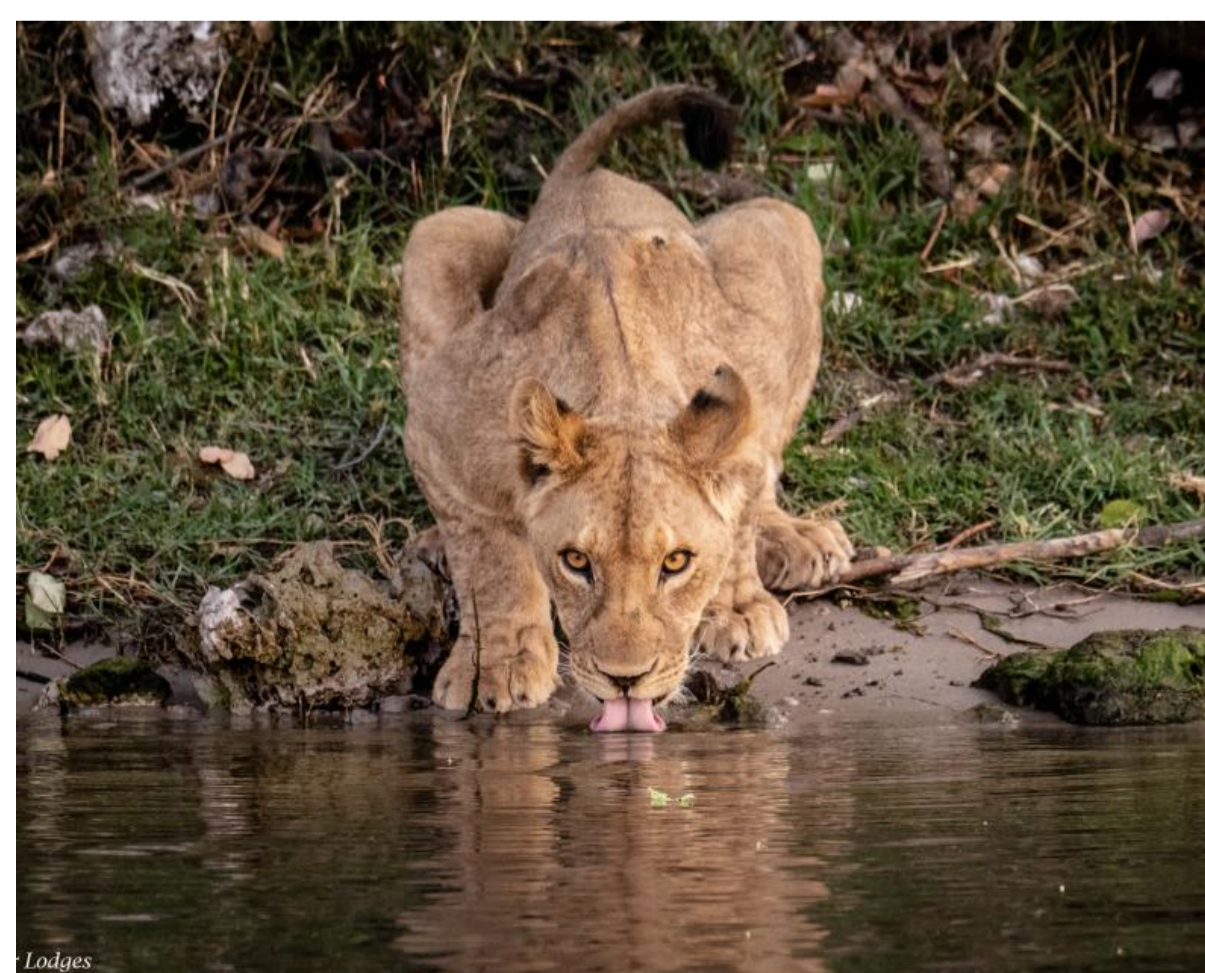
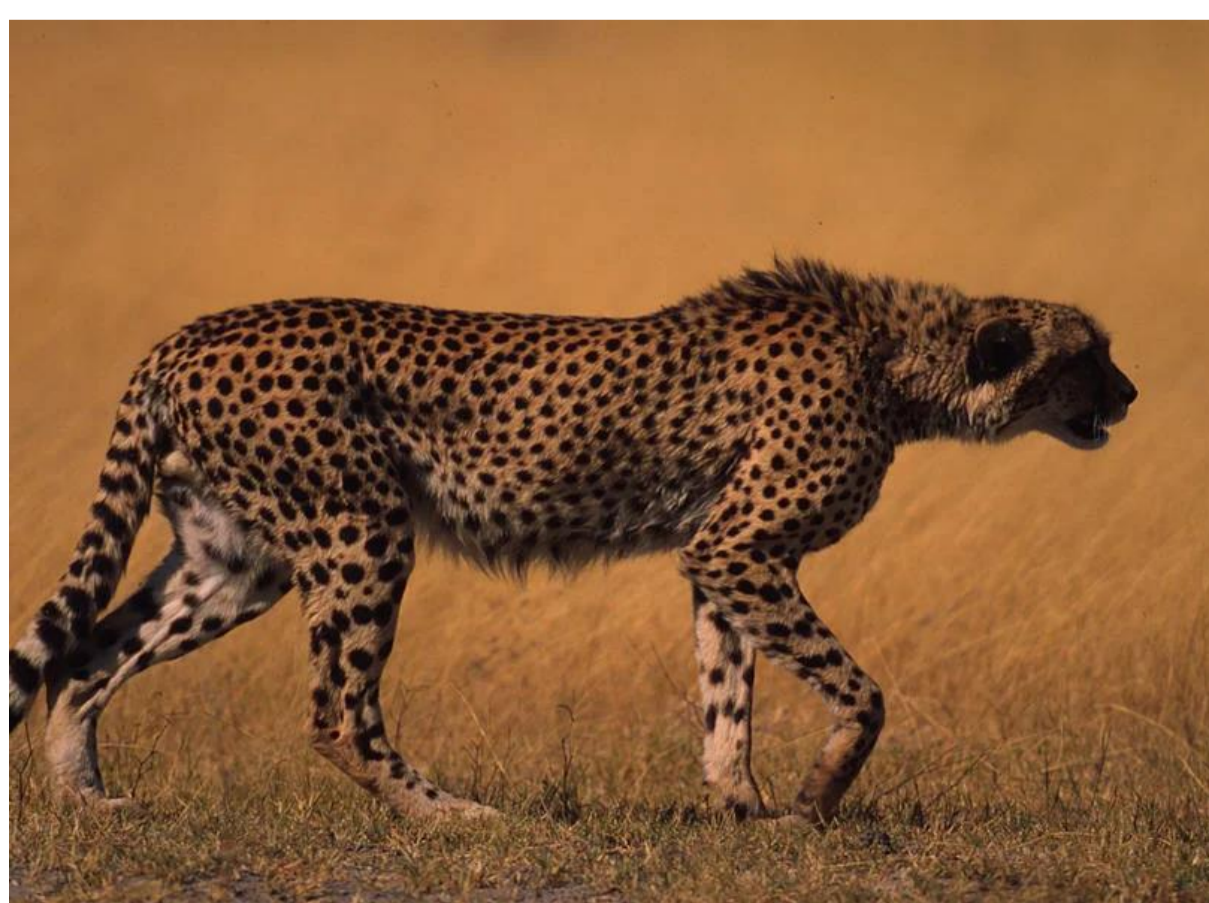
- KCC aims to establish a collective understanding of KAZA's importance for large carnivores and identify key habitats and connectivity pathways with an overarching goal to sustain a large carnivore habitat network across KAZA, enabling wildlife to thrive and fostering a wildlife economy. The strategy outlines a vision to create a network of habitats and connectivity pathways, stabilizing carnivore populations and empowering communities. KCC is committed to developing comprehensive conservation programs across borders, agencies, and sectors, uplifting communities in the process. The coalition focuses on 5-year plans for 18 priority projects within the five focal areas aiming to protect core habitats, secure connectivity pathways, and engage communities as active partners in conservation.
- The collaborative approach involves 177 participants from over 100 organizations and integrated government wildlife authorities from KAZA states. The strategy provides a clear roadmap for informed project planning and funding prioritization, guiding a cohesive and collective conservation effort across organizations and sectors in securing carnivore populations at scale

Challenges:

Securing adequate funding is the primary challenge in addressing critical aspects of the large carnivore conservation strategy. The funding gap has hindered the provision of essential resources, including the necessary capacity for focal area leaders and the steering committee to fulfill their work programs. Additionally, insufficient financial support has impeded efforts to provide administrative assistance for meetings and cover associated costs. Some member Countries have capacity constraints highlighting the need for targeted strategies to overcome barriers and ensure full regional participation.

Lessons learned:

- Achieving landscape scale goals through in situ activities requires implementing practical measures at feasible scales but within the context of an overarching conservation strategy.
- The shared risk to carnivore populations as TFCA residents underscores the real and vital need to maintain connectivity across protected area boundaries and country borders.
- The role and maintenance of Wildlife Dispersal Areas is pivotal to sustain viable populations.
- Funding of coordinating structures like the KCC is key to the success and progress of a collaborative program.



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Title: Reviewing the UK Biodiversity Indicators for the KM-GBF

Case study by Joint Nature Conservation Committee, United Kingdom

Overview:

Dates: Mar 2022 - Mar 2024

Scope: National / Subnational

Category: Example of increased coherence in national reporting

Relevant partners: UK Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Keywords: Indicators, Monitoring, MEAs, Outcomes

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- Indicators can present evidence of change in the environment; focusing on outcomes which are common across Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).
- Re-using the same indicators in different MEA reports encourages coherence in policy implementation.
- Refocusing the indicators on the new global targets ensures their relevance is maintained; once the review is complete the indicators will be used across MEA reports.

Summary of the case study:

The UK Biodiversity Indicators are official statistics, produced to high standards and published independently of the Government.

JNCC and Defra are reviewing the UK Biodiversity Indicators in the light of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and associated Monitoring Framework. The review started in advance of CBD CoP15 by looking at potential improvements to existing indicators and dataflows, and by seeking views from stakeholders and data providers. The review is ongoing.

Progress so far:

- Consultation with each of the UK's four country administrations (England / Scotland / Wales / Northern Ireland).
- Deconstruction of the complex KM-GBF Goals and Targets into discrete 'components' / 'component-targets' and identification of relevant headline, component, and complementary indicators.
- Mapping of existing UK and country-level indicators to the deconstructed framework to identify gaps.
- Joint workshop for the four countries to discuss a shortlist of indicators and priorities for development and gap-filling.
- Considering the alignment of existing indicators, and what new indicators will be needed as a result of the work by the CBD Indicators Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group.

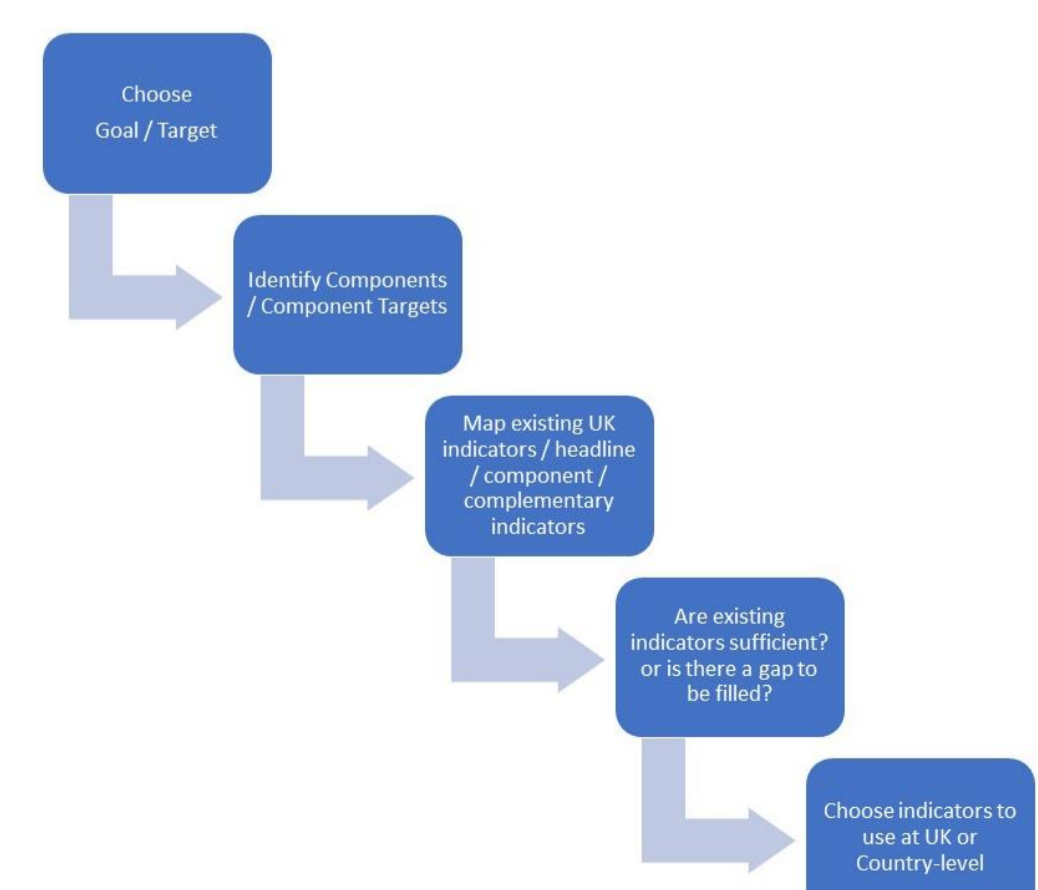
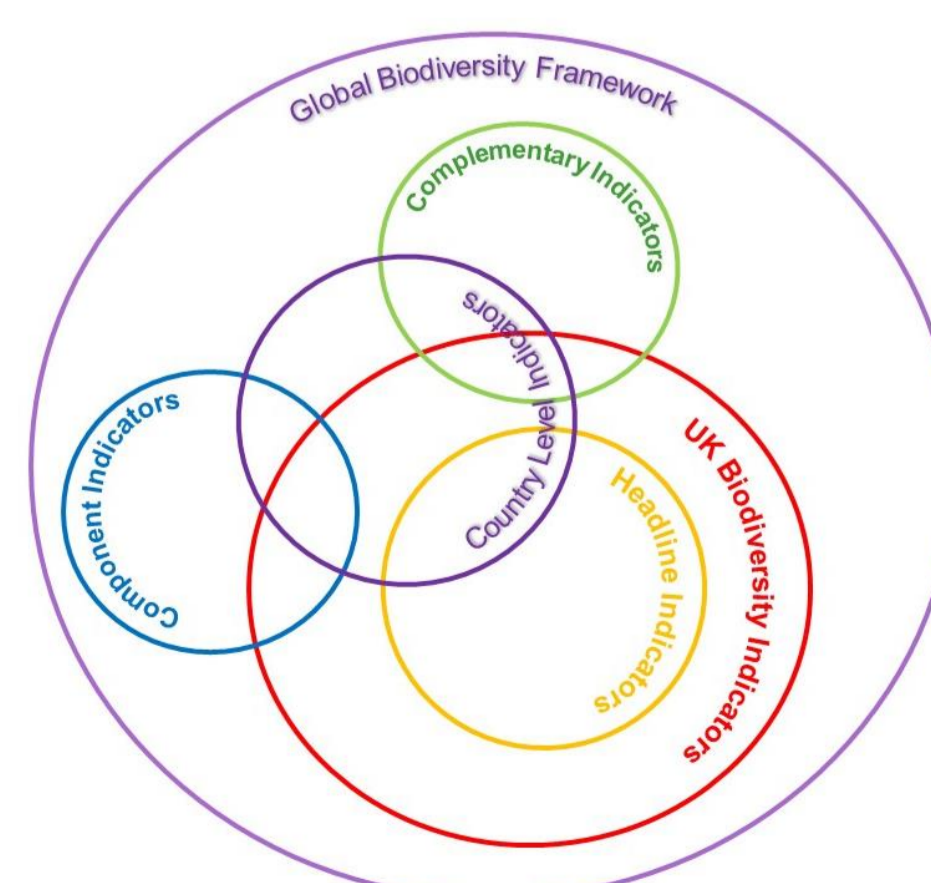
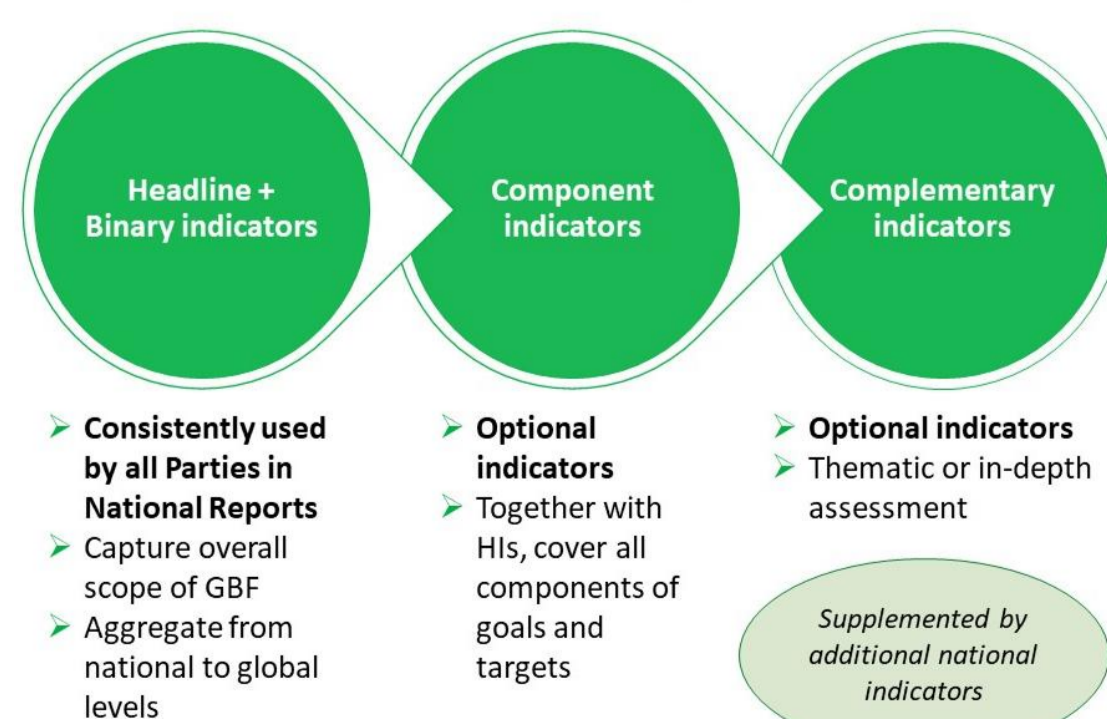
Challenges:

- The complexity of the KM-GBF targets makes it difficult to measure all components equally.
- Doing the review has taken significant effort in parallel with the existing publication process.
- Not all of the UK indicators can be disaggregated to a smaller country-scale to directly measure the success of devolved policies.
- A low level of coherence of reporting across MEAs.

Lessons learned:

- Deconstructing complex GBF goals and targets into discrete 'components' and 'component targets' helped to identify what needs to be assessed by indicators and what the current gaps are.
- All indicators can be improved
 - be pragmatic; don't wait for perfection before publication,
 - be transparent about changes made over time.
- Engagement with stakeholders and data providers is essential to ensure indicators are fit for purpose, but publication should be independent.
- Publish regularly, ideally annually, to build dataflows.

Indicators in the Monitoring Framework



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Title: Carpathian Biodiversity Framework – regional instrument for implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework

Case study by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Overview:

Dates: Nov 2020 – ongoing

Scope: Regional, the Carpathian Region

Category: Examples of support at the national, regional, and international levels for synergies in countries

Relevant partners: Ministries of Environment of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Ukraine

Donors: Carpathian Convention

Keywords: synergies, GBF, MEAs, NBSAPs, regional implementation

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

The development process of the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework:

- established continual dialogues between the CBD and Carpathian focal points;
- enabled closer cooperation and regular exchange between the Secretariats of CBD and the Carpathian Convention;
- increased awareness among Carpathian stakeholders of the KM-GBF process and the need for joint actions.

Thus, the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework can serve as an example for other regional instruments.

Summary of the case study:

The **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework**, adopted at the Carpathian Convention COP7 in 2023, serves as a comprehensive instrument supporting implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF) within the Carpathian region. This regional framework translates global biodiversity goals and targets into tangible actions, encouraging diverse stakeholders to contribute to transformative initiatives in the region. By adapting the KM-GBF to the regional level, the Carpathian Convention **emphasizes the importance of mountain biodiversity and enhances implementation processes across biodiversity-related conventions.**

The envisioned integration of the **Carpathian Biodiversity Framework into revised National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)** of Carpathian countries aims to synergize efforts of both the Carpathian Convention and CBD by preventing isolated approaches and optimizing limited resources. This ensures a more impactful conservation strategy that mainstreams the Carpathian Convention into global reporting mechanisms and national strategies.

Additionally, a **trilateral Memorandum of Cooperation** between CBD, the Alpine and Carpathian Conventions further supports KM-GBF implementation, reinforcing collaborative efforts in the pursuit of global biodiversity targets with a focus on precious mountain ecosystems.

Challenges:

- The KM-GBF process imposes a significant workload on CBD Focal Points, constraining their capacity to actively participate in other related processes despite the relevance of these processes to KM-GBF implementation.
- The implementation of the Carpathian Biodiversity relies on external funding and the Parties' commitment.
- Mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors requires enhancing interest from and capacities of non-environmental sectors. This is crucial for effective conservation, transformative governance, and overcoming conflicting interests.

Lessons learned:

- Securing an official mandate for developing an instrument to facilitate the implementation of the KM-GBF at the Carpathian regional level proved crucial (Ministerial Declaration and COP Decisions).
- Establishing and facilitating a collaborative platform by the Secretariat for consistent exchange, information flows, and cooperation between focal points from the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework and the Carpathian Convention was critical in advancing the overall process of developing the Carpathian Biodiversity Framework.



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Title: International cooperation on a Lynx Initiative to generate joint conservation actions under the Convention on Migratory Species

Case study by the Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention

Overview:

Dates: January-October 2023 (initiative to be voted on the upcoming CMS COP14 in Uzbekistan in February 2024)

Scope: International

Category: Cooperation and joint conservation actions

Relevant partners: Ministries of environment/Nature protection entities of CMS range countries, scientists, CSOs, national parks and other protected areas

The IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group and the UNEP Vienna Programme Office/Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention are cooperating on the initiative

Keywords: Lynx, conservation actions, awareness raising

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- Increase range-wide awareness of the conservation status of the Eurasian Lynx species and, especially, the Balkan lynx subspecies;
- Contribute to fulfill the national biodiversity and nature protection strategies, GBF, CBD, EU Biodiversity policy, commitments from CMS, Bern Convention, and other MEAs;
- Integrate conservation of the lynx by establishing transboundary cooperation within the protected areas networks and Range States for joint conservation activities;
- Identifying green infrastructure to ensure the invaluable dispersing of the lynx, especially through bio-corridors, protected areas and ecological networks.

Challenges:

- Necessity to increase the support for national and range-wide lynx conservation programmes, especially regarding ecological connectivity;
- Lack of awareness on the conservation of threatened species, especially among the general public;
- Emphasis on connectivity and law enforcement for the southern subspecies (*L.l.balcanicus*, *L.l.dinikii*, *L.l.carpathicus*, and *L.l.isabellinus*).

Lessons learned:

- The process already helped to bring national authorities, scientists and conservation organizations together at national and international level to review the present status of the Eurasian lynx and discuss possible ways forward;
- Governmental agencies of the Parties were motivated to submit the initiative and to improve the transboundary cooperation under the auspice of the CMS;
- The acceptance of the listing and the CA will further strengthen the commitments of the partners and to improve the cooperation in monitoring, research, and conservation.

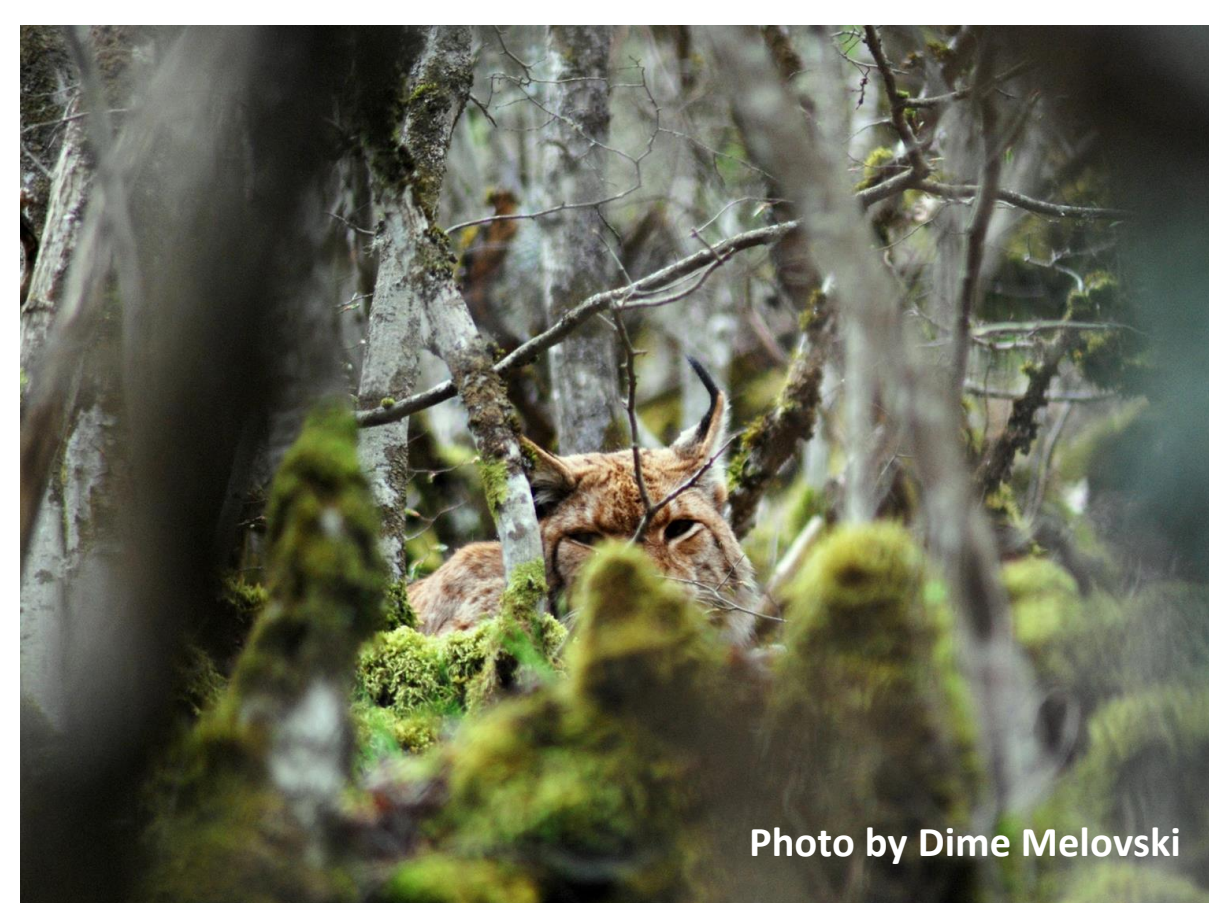
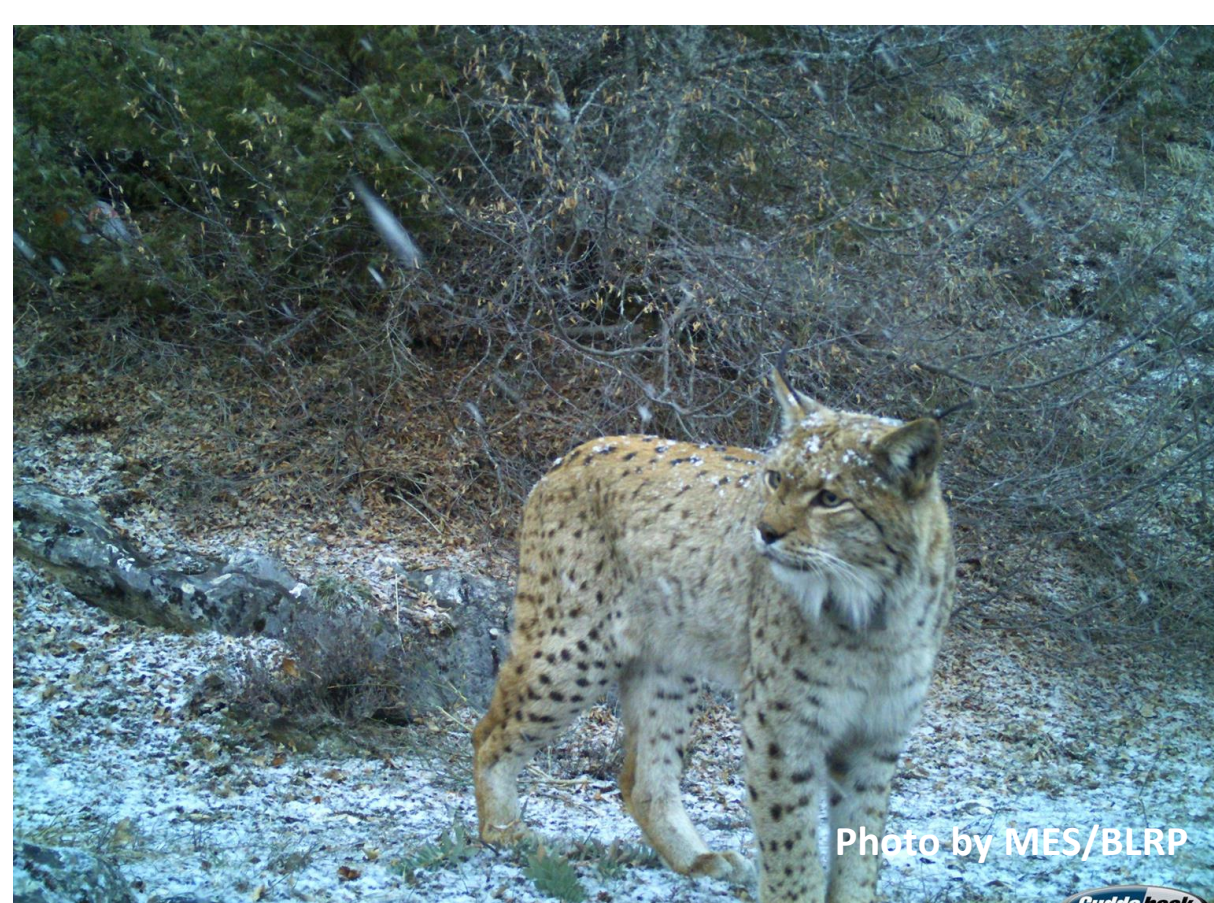
Summary of the case study:

Early 2023, the Macedonian Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, together with the relevant environmental ministries of Albania, Bosnia and Hercegovina, and Uzbekistan, submitted a proposal for a possible listing of the Eurasian Lynx in Appendix II and the Critically Endangered subspecies Balkan Lynx in addition in Appendix I to the Convention for Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

If accepted, it is expected to contribute greatly to the conservation of this species, especially on the policy level, and has the potential to attract more funds to implement further conservation measures, as well as improve transboundary cooperation between neighboring range countries.

The listing proposal has received (so far) positive feedback and will be dealt with at the CMS COP in February 2024 in Uzbekistan.

The Secretariat of the Carpathian Convention together with the IUCN/SSC Cat Specialist Group have furthermore submitted a supporting Concerted Action (CA) proposal. The listing and the CA should facilitate international and inter-institutional cooperation across the species' range, bringing together national authorities, scientists, conservation organizations and the public to support the conservation of the four southern subspecies of the Eurasian lynx.



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Title: ABS Tandem Workshops for National Focal Points

Case study by the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol

Overview:

Dates: 3-day workshop with dates, TBD

Scope: Regional and interregional

Category: Examples of enhanced dialogue amongst focal points

Relevant partners: ITPGRFA and CBD Secretariats in collaboration with various regional and global partners: e.g. the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, the African Union, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, etc.

Donors: Several extrabudgetary resources

Keywords: NFPs, NBSAPs, planning, monitoring, reporting, coordination, capacity development

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

The workshops help to demystify perceptions of 'grey area issues' by providing the national focal points opportunities to work through practical problems related to these issues together, arriving at clear, operable solutions. They also provide participants with the opportunity to consider options for coordination mechanisms and practices 'back home' to be able to address such issues on an ongoing basis. In general terms, the dialogue of the national focal points can translate into a common plan with milestones and monitoring mechanisms or on implementing joint pilot projects and activities.

Summary of the case study:

These workshops involve forming pairs or small teams of national focal points for the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol. Working together during the previous workshops, the teams have proved effective in increasing the understanding of the respective instruments' focal points roles regarding the challenges. They also raised the importance of ensuring coherence and mutual supportiveness in the implementation of both instruments at the national level. Previous workshops have also been an excellent platform to connect and foster dialogue among the focal points.

The workshops can include presentations by independent experts and stakeholders whose daily activities are affected by ABS regulations and discussions in small working groups on hypothetical scenarios that have highlighted overlaps and possible issues in implementing both the International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol, like the update of the NBSAPs.

The workshops previously organized helped to develop a strong spirit of collaboration among the lead agencies and facilitated the revision of the ABS regulations for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA.

Challenges:

In some countries, it is difficult to get both official focal points to participate while in others there are multiple officers in charge of the implementation, and it might be challenging to get the right level of participation. In some regions, the new national focal points have indicated a general lack of knowledge of genetic resources that fall under each instrument, or there is restricted access to PGRFA due to some countries not acceding yet to the ITPGRFA or a lack of resources for capacity building and coordination. In some cases, there could be a preference for implementing one of the instruments instead of both in a mutually supportive manner.

Lessons learned:

It is useful to circulate an online survey before the meeting to be able to tailor the design of the workshop to meet the outstanding needs of the participants. The information is key to getting in-depth feedback about implementation challenges and successes, coordination mechanisms, factors contributing to the current state of coordination in the countries concerned, and so on. It is helpful to develop hypothetical scenarios and cases to be presented to the participants in the introductory session. The use of interpretation is key in the regional workshops.



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Title: IWC Conservation Management Plans - a framework for transboundary conservation

Case study by International Whaling Commission



Overview:

Dates: Ongoing since 2016

Scope: Regional

Category: Examples of support at the national, regional, and international levels for synergies in countries

Relevant partners: Government representatives from the range states, IWC Scientific and Conservation Committee, universities, NGOs and industry partners.

Donors: Voluntary contributions from IWC member governments

Keywords: Management, Endangered, transboundary, collaborative, framework, range-states

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- Bringing countries together to achieve common conservation goals, co-ordinated monitoring, and mitigation.
- CMPs work to meet the objectives of several MEAs:
 - Data gathered by IWC and CMS feed into assessments for IUCN and CITES.
 - Other organisations, such as ACCOBAMS, are now using the IWC- CMP framework for work on species under their mandate.
 - CMPs contribute to KM- GBF Targets 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 20 and 21.

Summary of the case study:

Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) are an important conservation initiative of the IWC. They provide a framework for countries within the range of vulnerable cetacean populations to work together, and in collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, to protect and rebuild those populations. The CMP program provides a mechanism for IWC member governments to co-operate towards the conservation of their shared cetacean species by addressing transboundary gaps in existing conservation measures.

Each CMP sets a workplan where priority actions are identified and includes public awareness and capacity building from research through to mitigation. Currently, the IWC has five active CMPs in twelve countries and three regions.

CMPs are science-driven and focus on practical management actions that have the greatest chance of achieving improvements in the recovery of cetacean populations.

A CMP handbook with instructions and a map outlining the stages of the CMP process and a CMP template are available for consultation online.

Challenges:

- Creation of a new CMP involves several interrelated stages: nomination, development, implementation, monitoring, and review. The process for the creation and endorsement of a CMP can be long.
- Bringing countries together to agree on common goals can take time.
- Finding funds for ongoing implementation.

Lessons learned:

- The success of a CMP depends on its effective adoption and implementation by stakeholders. Early and continued engagement is beneficial. It is key that the process is fully supported by relevant governments, with the IWC providing support and guidance when and where needed.
- Regular reporting and reviewing to measure success in meeting objectives.
- There was a need for clear instructions/templates to outline the process, and the CMP handbook was developed.



Picture credits (Left to right): Fernando Trujillo-Fund Omacha, MRI Whale Unit Uni of Pretoria, Leo Russo Lacerna & Mauricio Failla.

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International Whaling Commission

Title: Practical Support for Sustainable Whale Watching - an International Partnership

Case study by International Whaling Commission



Overview:

Dates: Ongoing since 2018

Scope: International

Category: Examples of capacity building and development across multiple multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)

Relevant partners: IWC and Convention for Migratory Species (CMS), member countries, universities, NGOs (local and international) and industry partners

Donors: Voluntary contributions from IWC member governments, Convention for Migratory Species (CMS)

Keywords: partnership, handbook, science-based, educational, evolving, online

Summary of the case study:

As the inter-governmental organisation charged with the conservation of whale stocks, the IWC is well-placed to provide the expertise needed to understand and manage the potential impacts of whale watching. These foundations have been strengthened by a partnership with CMS, resulting in a comprehensive, living, and evolving resource on whale watching, available in three languages.

The Whale Watching Handbook was designed to help the industry develop in a long-term, sustainable way for both the whale populations observed and the economies that depend on their presence.

It supports and educates the tourism sector, policymakers and regulators, and the general public by providing an interactive map with country profiles and case studies outlining both positive experiences and lessons learnt by those involved in the industry and its regulation. It also includes a comprehensive table of regulations, downloadable resources to maximise the educational opportunities, and a summary of the latest scientific information.

Content has been developed in consultation with IWC and CMS-affiliated scientists and managers and is reviewed regularly.

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

IWC and CMS share a goal of cetacean conservation and management. Both organisations have Resolutions related to whale watching that this Handbook helps to meet.

This case study has:

- helped identify common topics of interest /work streams within IGOs, Governments, and other stakeholders;
- Strengthen formal and informal agreements between IWC and CMS and their member governments;
- Provided practical examples of successful partnerships between different stakeholders globally with a tangible product aimed at a diverse audience.

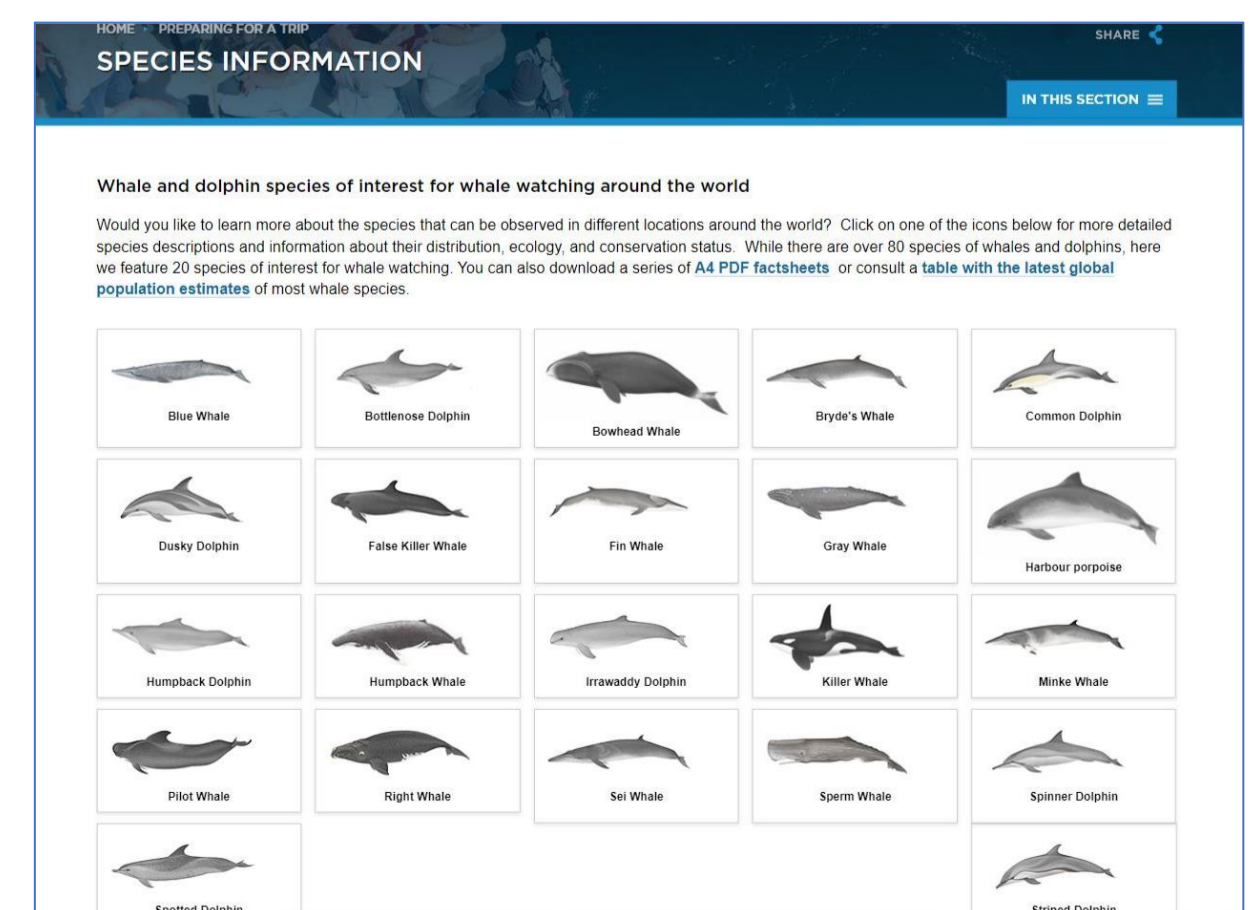
The Handbook encourages countries to communicate and learn from each other for effective management.

Challenges:

- Sourcing funds for development and ongoing maintenance.
- Translation costs and time involved for additional languages to make it more accessible.
- Finding content with geographical representation.
- Ensuring its ongoing relevance.
- Global promotion and user engagement.

Lessons learned:

- Editorial Protocol was developed to ensure consistency and all necessary approvals are in place.
- Need for workshops to raise awareness and capacity development.
- Ongoing work to source new content and the latest research.
- Need for a communication plan, specifically outreach to regions under-represented in terms of both content and audience.



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Title: Capacity building workshop for national focal points of the MEAs and the Montevideo V Programme to facilitate the implementation of biodiversity and chemicals and waste MEAs

Case study by the United Nations Environment Programme

Overview:

Dates: 29-31 August 2023

Scope: Regional/National (East African and Southern African countries)

Category: Examples of enhanced dialogue amongst focal points at the national level

Relevant partners: UNEP, Rwanda Management Authority (REMA)

Donors: Finland, Sweden, Rwanda

Keywords: Interlinkages, biodiversity, chemicals and waste, national focal points, MEAs, Montevideo Programme V

Summary of the case study:

UNEP and the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) organized a capacity-building workshop for national focal points of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic of Environmental Law on 29-31, August 2023 in Bugesera, Rwanda.

In addition to forty-one national focal points (NFPs) and representatives from nine countries in East Africa and the Southern Development Community (SADC), sixteen representatives from CBD, BRS, CMS, Minamata Convention, UNEP, UNEP-WCMC, Finland, and Sweden attended this three-day capacity building training.

The workshop provided a practical understanding of how interlinkages between the biodiversity and waste clusters of MEAs could be promoted at the national level to enhance and facilitate their implementation.

It focused on strengthening coordination and collaboration between focal points from selected MEAs and the Montevideo Programme V, as well as on establishing new partnerships and cooperation modalities at the national and sub-regional levels.

Break-out sessions allowed for significant substantive discussions and exchange of information among national focal points, who identified key takeaways, messages, and concrete actions they would take following the workshop.



Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

Key messages from participants:

- Sharing experiences is crucial to improving national synergies, and environmental rule of law is the “glue” that links MEAs to national-level implementation,
- Revising NBSAPs to align it with the KM-GBF provides an opportunity to foster national synergies,
- Chemicals and waste is a priority for the African region, but financing is lower than for biodiversity and climate,
- Need for UN to streamline tools that support national MEAs reporting and for increased support from UN agencies and secretariats.

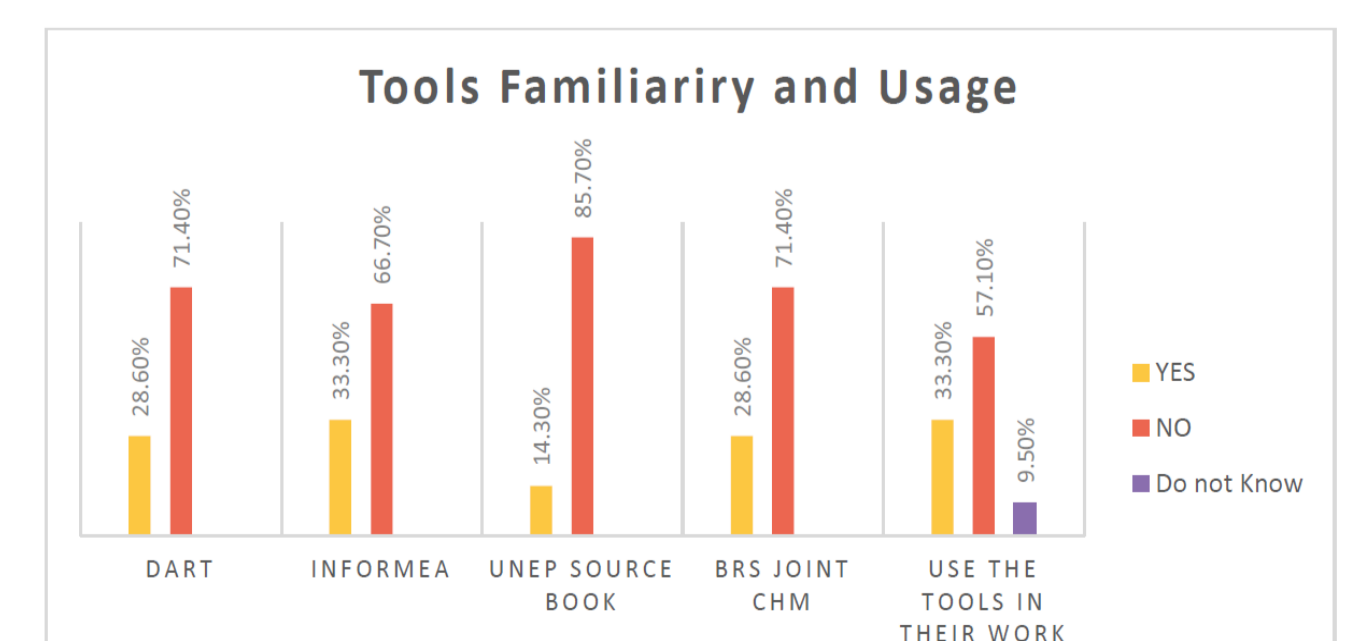
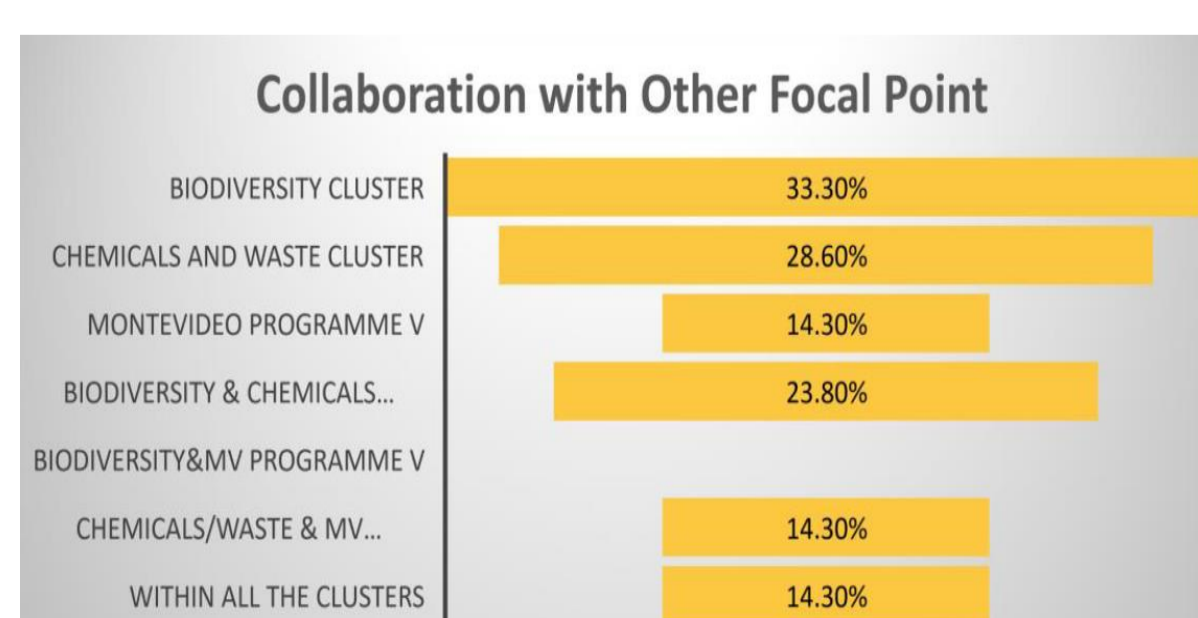
Challenges:

- Challenges to MEA implementation:
 - Low level of MEA mainstreaming, low understanding of overlapping aspects among MEAs, limited synergies among the conventions at national level resulting in limited harmonized implementation, lack of data management structure and data consistency.
- Challenges to national focal points’ involvement in development or implementation of laws:
 - Lack of legal framework or need to update it to deal with emerging issues, lack of inter-agency coordination (NFPs working in isolation), lack of data and lack of awareness.

Lessons learned:

Opportunities for action and next steps for the focal points:

- Ratify and domesticate biodiversity and chemicals and waste MEAs, update national frameworks in an integrated manner, e.g., NBSAPs,
- Convene regular coordination meetings and establish national mechanisms for MEAs focal points and relevant stakeholders, for integrated MEAs implementation,
- Appoint Montevideo Programme V focal points and request technical assistance from UNEP,
- Improve national data collection and reporting, using tools such as [Minamata Convention dashboard](#), [BRS CHM](#), UNEP tools ([DaRT](#), [InforMEA](#), [UNEP-LEAP](#), [Green Customs Initiative](#)), and the [Environmental Conventions Index \(ECI\)](#).



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Title: Artisanal gold mining and biodiversity - restoring the balance

Case study by UNEP

Overview:

Dates: 2021 - 2023

Scope: International

Category: Examples of integrated monitoring and or assessment at the national level for supporting implementation and review of implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

Relevant partners: Minamata Convention, Biodiversity Research Institute

Donors: GEF

Keywords: mercury, deforestation, ecosystem pollution, mining

Summary of the case study:

Pollution, including from the unsound management of chemicals and waste, such as mercury, is one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss. Informal or poorly regulated ASGM, often using mercury and operating around or within the biodiversity hotspots and/or protected areas, has been reported to contribute to deforestation coupled with land degradation, contamination of soil and water bodies, and loss of habitat, eventually resulting in the diminution of ecosystems services.

Development of National Action Plans (NAPs) to eliminate mercury use in artisanal and small-scale gold mining (ASGM) is a requirement under the Minamata Convention. 27 NAPs submitted to date (June 2023) have expressed concern about observed impacts of ASGM on the surrounding environment and biodiversity. The majority of completed NAPs acknowledged various effects of ASGM practices on ecosystems and wildlife, including deforestation, soil degradation, chemical pollution of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, and loss of habitats, among others.

In relation to protected areas, 9 out of 27 submitted NAPs explicitly reported ASGM activities happening inside or in the vicinity of protected areas. For example, the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported ASGM presence in almost 40% of protected areas. Lao People's Democratic Republic noted that hard rock mining and processing with mercury occurs within the boundaries of the Nakai-Nam Theun National Biodiversity Conservation Area. Niger reported that ASGM is practiced in some protected areas, such as in the Reserve Naturelle National de l'Air et du Ténéré. Mali and Mongolia highlighted the link between ASGM activities and excessive poaching of wildlife and disruption of migration routes of protected species in the vicinity of or inside protected areas.

The scale of interaction between ASGM and biodiversity conservation can be estimated by overlaying ASGM mining sites and regions, as reported in NAPs, with the key biodiversity hotspots and protected areas. Such an analysis can be facilitated by the creation of a geodatabase of ASGM locations as documented in the NAPs.

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

Minamata National Action Plans to eliminate mercury use in artisanal gold mining provide an important information source on the impacts of pollution (in this case, mercury) and the extractive sector (artisanal gold mining) on the surrounding ecosystems and biodiversity. The data and information collected and presented in the Minamata NAPs could be used as an important data source for the NBSAPs and review of the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework for countries where ASGM occurs. And vice versa, information from NBSAPs and other relevant strategy documents could feed into Minamata NAPs – this is an example of how cross-cutting issues could bridge the gap between relevant MEAs through information sharing and consultations.

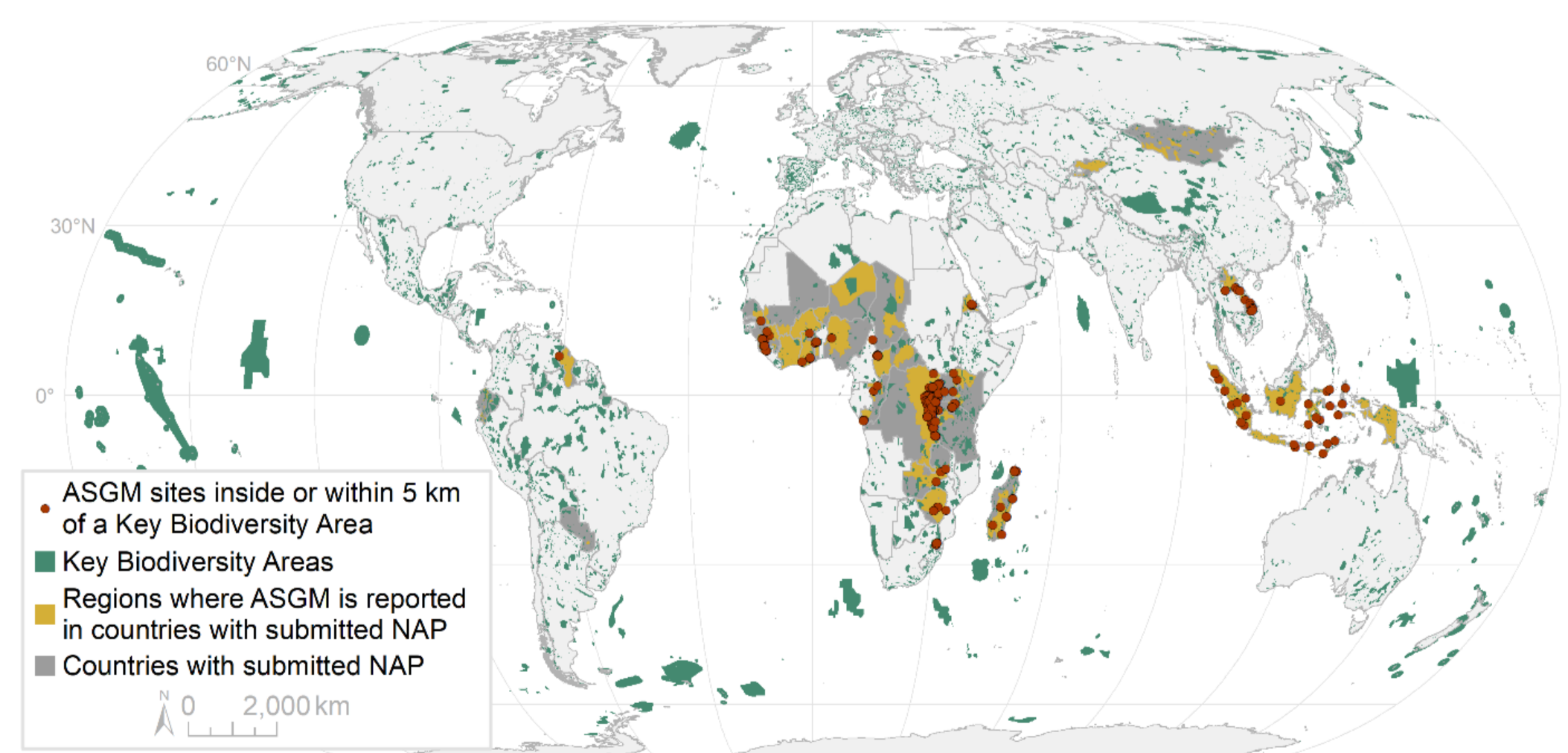
Challenges:

- Informality of the ASGM sector results in challenges with collecting reliable data and information on the sector, including mercury use and its related impacts on biodiversity – which in turn impact the quality of information presented in the Minamata NAPs.
- Lack of or weak engagement of the relevant stakeholders from biodiversity or climate change clusters in the NAP development and implementation at the national level.
- Activities such as land restoration are almost entirely absent from the ASGM sector.

Lessons learned:

- Involve better the focal points from other relevant MEAs in the process of NAP development and implementation.
- Provide guidelines on how to manage ASGM waste – mine tailings so the impacts on biodiversity is reduced.
- Ensure that the last step in the mining cycle – land restoration, and where applicable remediation, are possible to apply in ASGM sector.

Figure : Map of ASGM sites reported in Minamata NAPs that intersect or are within 5 km of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)



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Case study by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Overview:

Dates: June 2018 - ongoing
Scope: National, Regional, International
Category: Example of enhanced dialogue amongst focal points, examples of increased coherence in national reporting
Relevant partners: InforMEA, UNEP-WCMC, CBD Secretariat
Donors: EU, Finland, Sweden, Switzerland
Keywords: Synergies, knowledge management, national reporting, National Focal Points, NBSAPs alignment, cross-mapping

Summary of the case study:

The Data Reporting Tool for MEAs - DaRT is the first tool supporting Parties to effectively use synergies in the field of knowledge and information management for national reporting to biodiversity-related conventions.

DaRT provides Parties to MEAs with a private and secure working space to organize, share, and maintain information, data, and knowledge across conventions and across reporting purposes.

By providing a single national working space to Parties, DaRT facilitates the re-use of information in the spirit of “enter once, re-use several times”, relieves the reporting burden, and fosters communication and cooperation across ministries.

Integrating national biodiversity information in one place is also of value in the context of analyzing information against the SDGs and ultimately demonstrating the contribution of the implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs towards the Agenda 2030.

DaRT is available to parties free of charge.

DaRT hosts the Compendia, an interactive online resource developed by UNEP-WCMC (<https://dart.informea.org/compendia>).

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- The visualization of cross-mapping among strategies of multiple MEAs and the NBSAPs supports managing reporting information and planning at the national level, including the revision of NBSAPs.
- Sharing knowledge in one digital space supports:
 - Increasing cooperation and coordination among Focal Points and experts across ministries and institutions;
 - Systematically building-up institutional knowledge;
 - Reducing the reporting burden by fostering information availability and avoiding duplication of work; and
 - Increases quality of national reports.

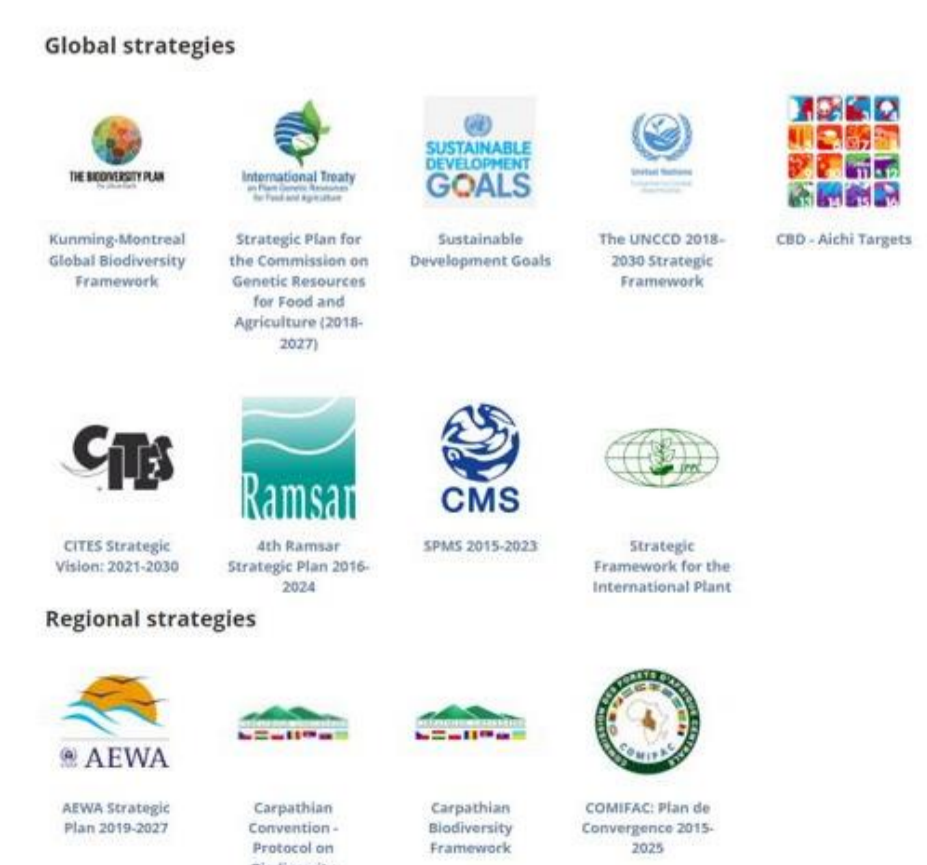
Challenges:

- A strong political will is needed to establish cooperation among National Focal Points across ministries. High-level support is a plus.
- An initial effort is needed to operationalize DaRT in terms of organization/definition of responsibilities as well as for an initial population of the working space.
- Cross-mappings among strategic plans of MEAs need to be established and disseminated.
- Ensuring the DaRT’s interoperability with other reporting tools developed at the national and international levels is essential for parties.

Lessons learned:

- Cameroon conducted a test CBD 7th National Report using DaRT and concluded that DaRT is easy to use, promotes synergies at the national level, provides a one-stop-shop for reporting, and speeds up the production of reports.
- The visualization of cross-mappings provided by DaRT successfully supported the alignment of NBSAPs with the KMGBF in China, Nigeria, and Switzerland.
- Switzerland increased the efficiency of national reporting by using DaRT for the CMS COP-14 and the Ramsar Convention COP-15 (ongoing) national reports.

DaRT users around the world (■ higher number of users)



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UNEP Law Division, Environmental Conventions and Policy Branch

Title: Identifying needs for integrating One Health and NBSAPs

Case study by the Asia-Pacific Region

Overview:

Dates: September 2023

Scope: Regional

Category: Examples of support at the national, regional and international levels for synergies in countries

Relevant partners: Ministries of public health, agriculture and environment of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, FAO, WHO, WOAAH, and UNEP

Keywords: synergy, integration, One Health, NBSAPs

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- Increased awareness among relevant government agencies, from public health, agriculture, and the environment, on the importance of an integrated, cross-sectorial approach in ensuring human and animal health while safeguarding the environment.
- Specific needs were identified in ensuring that One Health is integrated into revised NBSAPs through active engagement of key stakeholders from the public health, agriculture, and environmental sectors.

Summary of the case study:

One Health is an integrated approach aimed at preventing and mitigating health threats at the interface of humans, animals, plants, and the broader environment. It is recognized that 75% of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases originate from animals, with the Asia-Pacific region being a source of a number of concerning zoonotic diseases (diseases that can be transmitted between people and animals). Based on the recognition that human health, animal health, ecosystem health, and food security are inextricably linked, countries in the Asia-Pacific region are increasingly interested and engaged in promoting the One Health approach at the national level. In September 2023, representatives of ministries of public health, agriculture and environment of 17 countries participated in the Asia-Pacific Quadripartite One Health Workshop, held jointly by FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAAH to discuss future plans for rolling out the One Health Joint Plan of Action at the national level. The representatives from some member states, namely Australia, Cambodia, Japan, Philippines and Sri Lanka specifically highlighted their needs for integrating One Health into NBSAPs.

Challenges:

Although the importance and needs for integrating One Health into NBSAPs, practical technical guidance on how it can be achieved, at the level of goals, targets, indicators and stakeholder engagement under the NBSAP revision processes is currently lacking.

Lessons learned:

- Further capacity development and technical support to the national level is needed, with clear technical guidance on how One Health can be integrated into NBSAPs, at the level of goals, targets, indicators and stakeholder engagement.
- Strong partnerships among Quadripartite partners (FAO, UNEP, WHO and WOAAH) is effective and useful for providing capacity building and technical advisory support to countries in integrating One Health and NBSAPs.



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UNEP

Title: Promoting synergies between food systems transformation and MEA implementation

Case study by the Asia-Pacific Region

Overview:

Dates: November – December 2023

Scope: Regional

Category: Examples of support at the national, regional and international levels for synergies in countries

Relevant partners: Ministries of planning, agriculture and environment of countries in Asia-Pacific region, FAO, UNEP, UNDP and other regional partners

Keywords: synergy, integration, food systems, MEAs, NBSAPs

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- Increased awareness among relevant government agencies, from planning, agriculture, and the environment, on the importance of strengthening the environmental dimension of national agrifood systems transformation through fully integrating efforts towards addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.
- Increased understanding among relevant government agency officials on the importance of closely aligning and integrating national pathways and action plans for agrifood systems transformation and strategies and action plans under different MEAs (e.g. NBSAPs, NDCs and NAPs).

Summary of the case study:

Agriculture in Asia and the Pacific region is increasingly challenged to provide enough food to feed the hungriest and most populated region of the world in an environmentally resilient and inclusive way that will benefit all. There is an urgent need for agrifood systems transformation to take place that begins on the farm or at sea, and extends all the way throughout agrifood value chains. Addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution should be placed at the heart of national efforts towards agrifood systems transformation, and in this regard, integrating the environmental dimension into national pathways for agrifood systems transformation through effective implementation of MEAs is essential. FAO, UNEP, in collaboration with the UN Food Systems Coordination Hub and other partners, held technical workshops in November and December 2023, targeted for representatives of planning, agriculture, and environment ministries of countries from Southeast Asia and South Asia. The workshops highlighted the need for further strengthening environmental dimensions of food systems (in both national agrifood systems pathways and action plans) and suggested specific entry points and opportunities to assist such processes (e.g., through connecting with MEA implementation such as NBSAPs, NDCs, and NAPs).

Challenges:

Although the importance and needs for integrating and connecting national pathways and action plans for agrifood systems transformation and MEA implementation at the national level, practical technical guidance on how it can be achieved, at the level of setting and identifying goals, targets, indicators and stakeholder engagement is currently lacking.

Lessons learned:

Further capacity development and technical support at the national level are needed, with clear technical guidance on how national pathways and action plans on agrifood systems transformation and MEA implementation can be integrated and aligned at the level of goals, targets, indicators, and stakeholder engagement.



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Title: Regional Dialogue on Biodiversity Beyond Borders and Raptor Monitoring Strategy for West Asia

Case study by the United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office for West Asia

Overview:

Dates: Dec 2023

Scope: Regional / National

Category: Examples of support at the national, regional, and international levels for synergies in countries

Relevant partners: Convention on Migratory Species, Abu Dhabi Office (CMS Abu Dhabi); United Arab Emirates Ministry of Climate Change and Environment (MoCCA); Natural History Museum Abu Dhabi

Keywords: Regional Cooperation, Transboundary Ecosystems, Biodiversity, One Health, Protected Area Network, Animal and Bird Migration, Transboundary Animal diseases

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- Enhanced understanding of Global Biodiversity Framework, NBSAP process, and its implementation among focal points of CBD, CMS, and CITES.
- Key priorities identified for regional cooperation in the next two years are – revision or updating of NBSAP, baseline data, and information sharing, regional Migratory Flyway conservation, and strengthening or establishing regional instruments/platforms for cooperation.

Summary of the case study:

The United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for West Asia (UNEP-ROWA), in partnership with the Convention on Migratory Species, Abu Dhabi Office (CMS Abu Dhabi), convened a dialogue to strengthen regional cooperation to address common and shared challenges relating to biodiversity and ecosystems in West Asia. The regional dialogue brought together national focal points of the biodiversity-related MEAs, namely, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The focus of the dialogue was to:

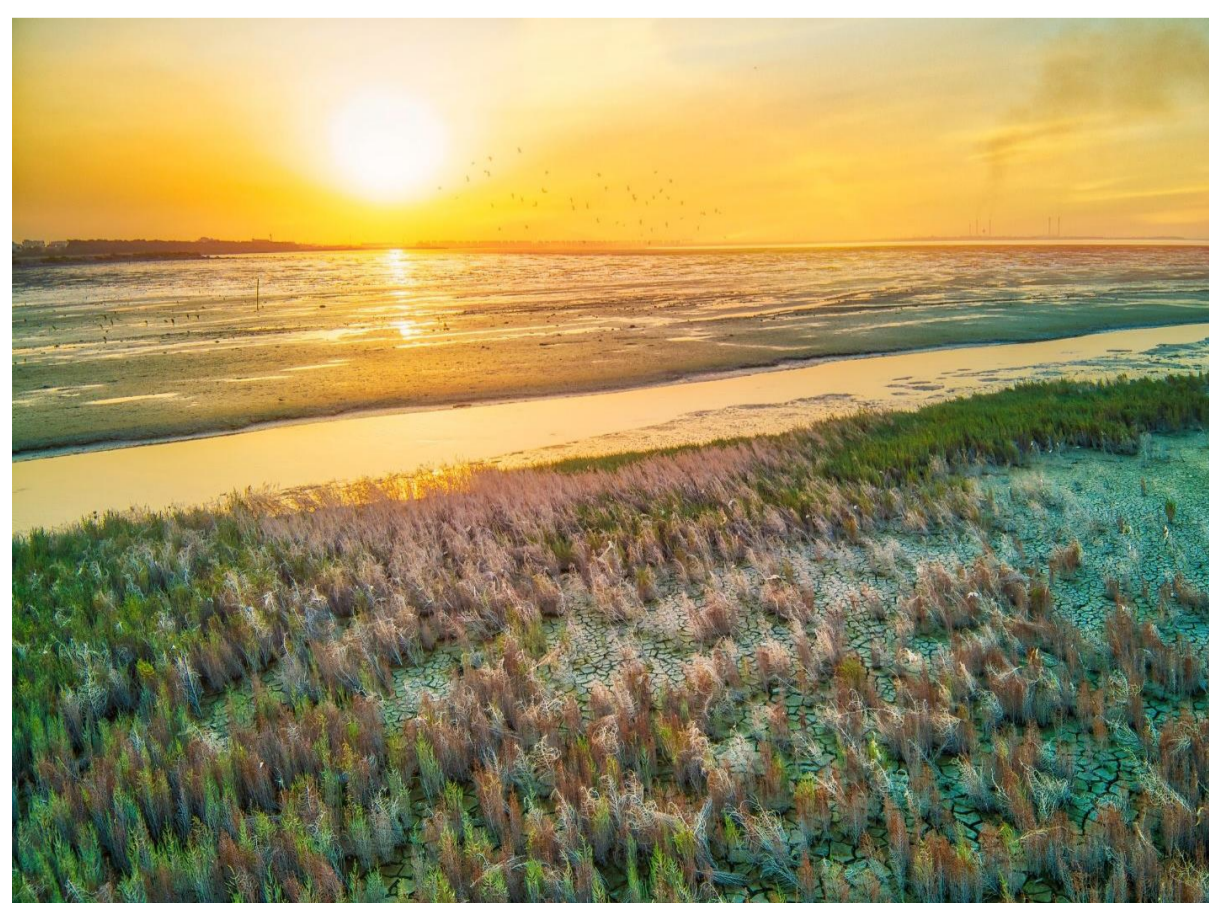
- Identify priorities and opportunities to strengthen regional cooperation for the conservation of biodiversity and effective implementation of MEAs.
- Discussions on global and regional instruments and institutions to foster regional cooperation, including their scope and mandates.
- Identify priority species for raptor monitoring in West Asia.
- Share practical experiences and best practices of regional cooperation and joint initiatives and MEAs implementation.

Challenges:

- Limited cooperation among the focal points of MEAs and countries to address the issues pertaining to biodiversity; Mostly, the focus of cooperation is wildlife that transcended national boundaries, shared water resources, and migratory birds.
- National Focal Points had a limited understanding of the indicators and monitoring framework required under the GBF.

Lessons learned:

- Coordination between regional organizations, MEA secretariats, UN Organizations, Regional Conventions, and International NGOs enhances the effectiveness of the support of the countries in the implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs and financial convergence
- Regular exchange (virtual and in person) between the focal points at regional and national levels is critical and joint efforts are of critical importance to develop mechanisms and technology to address key challenges such as illegal wildlife and trafficking, including close coordination among all relevant national and international organizations.



Contact information:

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Regional Coordinator for Biodiversity and Ecosystems, UNEP-ROWA

Title: Improving access to guidance that supports building of cooperation and synergies in implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs

Case study by UNEP-WCMC

Overview:

Dates: Mar 2023 - Nov 2023, and ongoing
Scope: International
Category: Capacity building and development across multiple multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs)
Relevant partners: UNEP, DaRT
Donors: EU
Keywords: synergies, capacity-building, MEAs, online, knowledge management

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- Support capacity building and assistance to national and regional institutions on the use and uptake of knowledge related to enhancing cooperation among MEAs, especially biodiversity-related MEAs.
- Enhanced access to existing guidance, global data, and other relevant information sources to support national stakeholders in the implementation of various conventions and associated reporting.
- Seeks to improve connections between various MEA national focal points and ministry representatives through a more joined up approach to collaboration and knowledge management.

Summary of the case study:

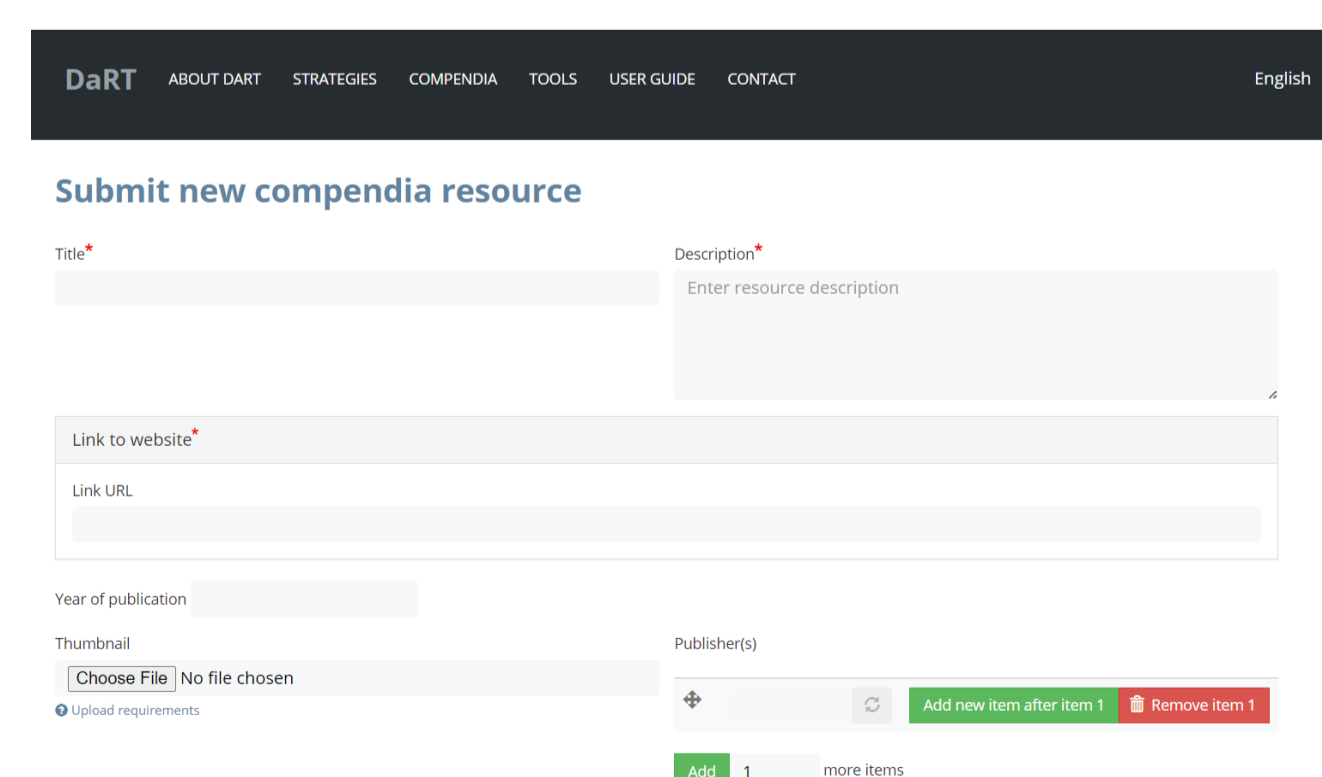
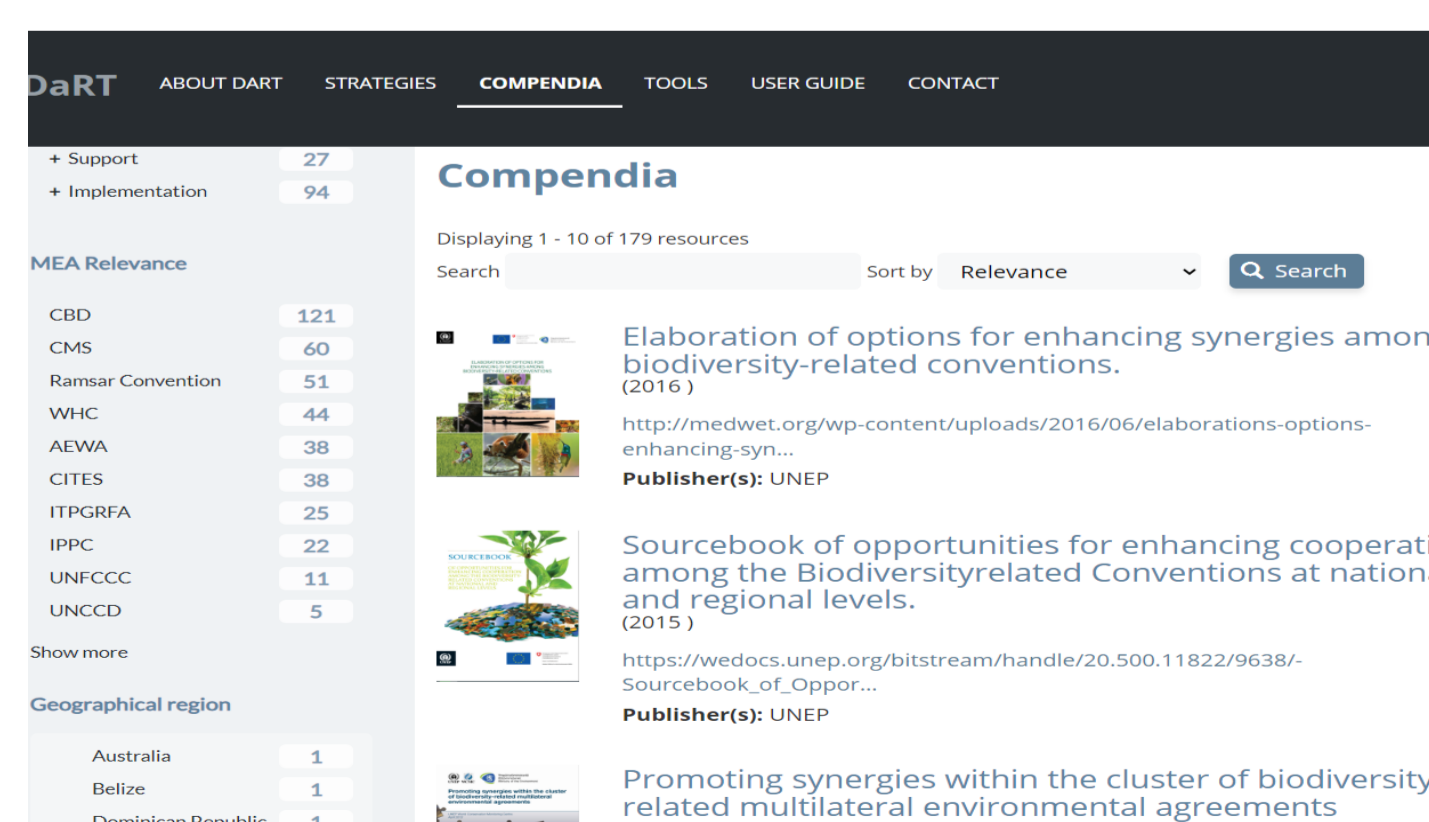
- A series of 'compendia' of guidance was originally published in 2018 as part of a joint UNEP and CBD project to support the implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24 on cooperation. These were made available as PDFs via the [UNEP-WCMC Resources](#) and [InforMEA](#) websites.
- UNEP-WCMC has now developed the compendia into an [interactive online resource](#) within [DaRT](#) in response to user feedback. This has been developed in collaboration with UNEP and with EU support.
- The contents of the three original compendia were updated in 2023, and the new online resource has been set up in such a way that new resources can be added. There is also potential to add resources on other topics so as to extend the value of the tool.
- The site is accessible at [Compendia | DaRT \(informea.org\)](#) and both contribution and feedback are very much welcomed as a basis for increasing the value of the resource.
- The intention is that continuing to invite submissions through the public web form will empower experts, countries, and regional organisations to share knowledge.

Challenges:

- Maintaining the integrity of the original compendia in multiple languages whilst also ensuring the online compendia was updatable and up-to-date.
- Initially, it was not clear how best to engage stakeholders in the planning. This was addressed by collaborating with the DaRT team through DaRT workshops.
- Receiving new submissions from a wide range of contributors presented a challenge initially. To address this, we developed a public web form on the [site](#).

Lessons learned:

- It is necessary to plan regular reviews and updates of the existing three compendia to maintain the integrity of these resources.
- The team could and should collaborate actively with MEA Secretariats, regional organizations, and national focal points to obtain new information on priority topics.



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Title: Promoting synergies in implementing NBSAPs

Case study by Lao PDR and Thailand

Overview:

Dates: August 2016 – March 2017

Scope: National

Category: Examples of cooperation in the development and implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Plans (NBSAPs)

Relevant partners: Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment of Lao PDR, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Thailand, IUCN

Donors: UNEP provided funding

Keywords: synergy, NBSAPs

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- Increased awareness among relevant government agencies in both countries on the importance of synergies in the implementation of the CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions, and the SDG.
- A set of concrete actions for promoting synergies among biodiversity-related conventions and the SDGs in implementing NBSAPs identified and agreed upon among key stakeholders in both countries.

Summary of the case study:

With targeted technical support provided jointly by UNEP and IUCN, the ministries of natural resources and environment of Lao PDR and Thailand led the process of promoting synergies among biodiversity-related conventions in implementing NBSAPs. Through national consultations that brought together national focal points of key biodiversity conventions (e.g., CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, WHC, etc.) and other relevant stakeholders, national action plans for promoting synergies among biodiversity-related conventions and SDGs in implementing NBSAPs were developed and validated, to contribute towards coordinated and coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions at the national level. The action plans on synergies include practical actions that contribute towards increased coordination in monitoring and reporting, a better understanding of the links between NBSAPs and all the relevant strategies and action plans related to biodiversity-related conventions, improved information, and knowledge management, improved awareness and capacity in ensuring synergies in implementing biodiversity-related conventions, and providing incentives to motivate different sectors to conduct synergistic actions. Options for Enhancing Synergies among Biodiversity-related MEAs (UNEP/EA.2/12/Add.1) served as an overall guidance.

Challenges:

- The timing of this technical support was a challenge, as both countries had already completed the revision of NBSAPs by the time the support was provided. This resulted in the situation where it became difficult for action plans to be fully integrated into NBSAPs themselves and fully institutionalized.
- Support should be provided in the future. It is suggested that this type of initiative should be undertaken, and technical support should be provided during NBSAP revision processes.

Lessons learned:

- Identification of concrete actions to promote synergies among biodiversity-related conventions in implementing NBSAPs, through active engagement of national focal points of relevant conventions, key line ministries and other relevant stakeholders is essential to ensure that synergies are fully implemented at the national level.
- Continued awareness-raising and capacity development support with a focus on synergies at the national level is essential. Particularly, targeted technical support should be provided during NBSAP revision processes.



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Title: Synergies between the World Heritage Convention and CITES in protecting the vaquita, flagship species of the UNESCO World Heritage site “Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California” (Mexico)

Case study by CITES and World Heritage Convention Secretariats

Overview:

Dates: Ongoing

Scope: International / various

Category: Examples of support at the national, regional, and international levels for synergies in countries / various

Keywords: CITES, World Heritage Convention, illegal wildlife trade, vaquita, List of World Heritage in Danger, CITES compliance action plan

Main contributions to enhancing synergies and cooperation:

- Excellent case of synergies between CITES and the World Heritage Convention, leveraging the power and specific competencies of both Conventions for the protection of the vaquita.
- Such cooperation assists the concerned Member State to work towards well-defined, mutually supportive and complimentary goals under the different Conventions, increasing opportunities to deliver successfully, achieve viable results and access resources.

Summary of the case study:

The “Islands and Protected Areas of the Gulf of California” UNESCO World Heritage site in Mexico is the only habitat of the vaquita (*Phocoena sinus*), a species listed in CITES Appendix I. The vaquita population has declined rapidly due to entanglement in illegal fishing nets set to catch totoaba, another CITES listed species harvested for its bladder smuggled to markets in Asia. As a result, the World Heritage Committee inscribed the site on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2019, for which Mexico is to develop a set of corrective measures and indicators to guide priority actions, underway with the support of UNESCO World Heritage Centre and IUCN. At the request of the CITES Standing Committee at its 75th meeting, Mexico also prepared a CITES compliance action plan, including milestones and indicators. The two Secretariats are in regular contact to foster coherence between the Decisions of the Governing Bodies, ensuring that recommendations and required actions under the respective Conventions are mutually supportive and complementary. The Secretariats are also jointly supporting the Mexican authorities and local communities on the use of alternative nets, e.g. suriperas, aimed at reducing the use of prohibited gill nets within the vaquita refuge outside of the zero-tolerance area.

Challenges:

- The actions required under each Convention were in the beginning treated separately by Mexico and this created additional work at all levels and decreased the effectiveness of the actions that were implemented in “silos”. Alignment resulting from close dialogue between the Secretariats led to better targeted actions and more effective deployment of resources.

Lessons learned:

- Good communication between Secretariats is important to ensure alignment of recommendations related to common issues.
- Good communication at national level between Convention focal points is important.
- Application of complementary support and monitoring mechanisms across the Conventions results in better targeted actions and more effective deployment of resources.
- Working towards mutually supportive and complimentary goals increases opportunities to deliver successfully and achieve viable results.



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