



**Strengthening Cooperation among Biodiversity-Related  
Conventions for Implementing the Kunming-Montreal  
Global Biodiversity Framework:  
Reflections and Options from the Bern III Co-Chairs**

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January 2024

**About the Bern III Co-Chairs**

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**About this paper**

This paper presents reflections and ideas from the Co-Chairs for consideration for participants in the Bern III Conference in Bern, Switzerland, on 24–26 January 2024. It was developed by the Co-Chairs in their personal capacity, in order to facilitate discussions. The Co-Chairs wish to acknowledge the contributions of participants in the June 2023 Bogis-Bossey expert meeting, the generous feedback from colleagues within the Bern process, the consultant who supported the writing of the paper, and the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment.

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# 1. Introduction

The adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Diversity Framework (GBF) at the 15th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022 was a pivotal moment for global efforts to conserve, restore and sustainably use biodiversity and move towards the CBD vision of living in harmony with nature.<sup>1</sup>

A core strength of the GBF is its holistic perspective: It explicitly connects nature conservation and the restoration of degraded ecosystems with human well-being, economic prosperity, and social justice, including equity and respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and of local communities. It also stresses the imperative of cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements (collectively referred to as MEAs in this paper). Cooperation among MEAs is crucial to achieving the GBF's four goals and 23 targets, as the drivers of biodiversity loss span all of society, and efforts are already underway to tackle many of them.

The GBF does not just pay lip service to cooperation. The accompanying CBD COP15 decision 15/13 lays out a detailed vision for seeking out and enhancing cooperation and synergies among relevant MEAs and international organizations.

The task at hand is urgent and enormous – about 1 million species face extinction, many within decades, and the biosphere is being altered “to an unparalleled degree”.<sup>2</sup> We need transformative change, and the GBF makes it clear that our best hope for achieving it is to work collaboratively, in line with the respective mandates of the conventions, but cognizant that the objectives are interconnected.

The GBF's language on cooperation and synergies is the result of several years of dialogue initiated by a decision at CBD COP14 in 2018 inviting all stakeholders to actively contribute to developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Working closely with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the CBD Secretariat, the Government of Switzerland hosted two consultation workshops to facilitate the engagement of other MEAs: the first in Bern in June 2019, the second online in early 2021.<sup>3</sup>

These consultations, known as the Bern Process, contributed to the development of the GBF and the accompanying CBD COP15 decisions – among others, decision 15/13, which invites the governing bodies of other MEAs to formally endorse the GBF and to contribute to operationalizing the GBF and to monitoring and reporting of progress. Parties, in turn, are encouraged to implement the GBF and other MEAs “in a complementary manner”, including when drafting and updating their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).

Decision 15/13 also invites UNEP to build on the Bern Process to continue to strengthen collaboration among the MEAs, and encourages the CBD Secretariat and the Parties to get involved. Various MEAs have recognized the Bern Process in similar ways.<sup>4</sup> The purpose of

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/> for the full text of the GBF as well as related decisions.

<sup>2</sup> IPBES. 2019. *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Summary for Policymakers* (version summary for policy makers). Edited by S. Díaz et al. Bonn: Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. doi:10.5281/ZENODO.3553579.

<sup>3</sup> For details on the two workshops, see Report of the Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, Bern, 10–12 June 2019 (CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/6/2): <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/de6d/6f08/e6f5ab406bf39019f9d5db62/post2020-ws-2019-06-02-en.pdf>, and Report of the Second Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Bern II) (CBD/SBI/3/INF/29): <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/35906>.

<sup>4</sup> See, for example, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) resolution 13/2022 on cooperation with the CBD; Ramsar COP resolution XIV/2610 on enhancing the Convention's visibility and synergies with other MEAs and international institutions; and the Minamata Convention's COP decision MC-5/17. The first global stocktake under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2023 recognized the GBF in FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.17, para 33.

the Bern III Conference is to further provide a space to share perspectives and experiences, explore opportunities to work together, and come up with specific, actionable recommendations for implementing the GBF, together, by 2030.

Bern III builds on the valuable insights and ideas generated by participants in the Bogis-Bossey Expert Meeting held in June 2023, which was convened by UNEP at the invitation of the Government of Switzerland to help shape the agenda of the Bern III conference.<sup>5</sup> We expect more than 150 people from 70 countries to join us, including Parties to a broad range of MEAs,<sup>6</sup> secretariat staff, UN and other international organizations, and representatives of Indigenous Peoples, women, youth, civil society and the private sector.

This paper proposes specific options for consideration by Bern III participants on:

- Recommendations to the CBD COP16 on how to further facilitate and promote cooperation among MEAs to support the effective implementation of the GBF;
- Highlighting how different MEAs' governing bodies are engaging with the GBF, encouraging further engagement, and providing ideas on how to find and build on mutual interests;
- Advice to governments on how to identify and pursue synergies at the national level through their NBSAPs and foster collaboration across units and with stakeholders on biodiversity-related issues;
- A message to the environment ministers who will coalesce at the Sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) about synergies in the global fights against pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss.

Our aim is to come out of Bern III with a roadmap for action at the global, regional and national levels, with timelines and a shared vision for how we wish to move forward. In line with the Bern Process to date, discussions in Bern will start with a clear recognition of the respective mandates, goals and strategies of the MEAs represented at the conference. At the same time, we believe it is important to have a shared sense of purpose as champions of collaboration on biodiversity. We commit to being open, flexible and solutions-oriented; avoiding hierarchies and welcoming diverse perspectives; and enabling everyone at Bern III to fully participate.

In the next section, we lay out some of the main challenges to collaboration identified so far. We also explore some of the synergies we see between specific GBF targets and other MEAs, selected as illustrative examples and because they are close to the hearts and expertise of the Co-Chairs, but not intended to preclude the discussion of any others. Section 3 then examines specific opportunities for action at the global level, through ongoing work to operationalize the GBF as well as through the governance processes of other MEAs and other platforms for dialogue and collaboration. Section 4 does the same from a national perspective, exploring opportunities around the NBSAPs, stakeholder engagement and regional platforms, among others. Section 5 concludes with a brief discussion of the value of shared narratives and language, as well as potential messages for UNEA-6 and reflections on the future of the Bern Process.

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<sup>5</sup> A detailed report on the workshop is available at <https://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/43140>.

<sup>6</sup> The conventions and institutions that will be represented at Bern III, along with the CBD, are the UNFCCC, ITPGRFA, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), the Ramsar Convention, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the World Heritage Committee, the Basel Convention, the Carpathian Convention, the Rotterdam Convention, the Stockholm Convention, the Minamata Convention and the Montreal Protocol.

## 2. Key challenges and entry points to collaboration on the GBF

As noted above, the Bern Process has already yielded significant results, providing suggested language and ideas on cooperation in the GBF for consideration at CBD COP15. From nature's perspective, of course, the synergies between biodiversity and protecting wetlands, combatting desertification, tackling climate change, ending different forms of pollution, and other MEAs' objectives are obvious. Yet in practice, they are rarely acknowledged so explicitly, and sometimes efforts to advance the objectives of different MEAs can work at cross-purposes.

Paragraph 6 of the GBF says it “promotes coherence, complementarity and cooperation” between the CBD and other MEAs “and creates opportunities for cooperation and partnerships among diverse actors” to enhance implementation. Paragraph 7(q) says enhanced collaboration and synergies would contribute to “more efficient and effective” implementation of the GBF. Conversely, we infer that engaging with the GBF could be similarly beneficial for other MEAs. There is much to gain through coherence, complementarity and cooperation, and much to lose in their absence.

CBD COP decision 15/6 on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review for the GBF also notes how other MEAs may contribute to specific elements, in line with their own mandates and priorities, and it encourages Parties to promote synergies and collaboration at the national level. Decision 15/13 then devotes over four pages to the roles of different actors in fostering cooperation among MEAs and with international organizations.

Several other MEA governing bodies have adopted decisions and resolutions of their own calling for engagement with the GBF – some directly informed by Bern I and Bern II outputs – and several secretariats have expressed support for collaboration as well. There is a great deal of work still to be done, however, which is why, as noted, several MEA governing bodies have encouraged the continuation of the Bern Process.

One key challenge is **ensuring sustained, meaningful engagement with all relevant MEAs**. For example, climate change is a key driver of biodiversity loss, and there is large potential for synergies through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, though, without appropriate safeguards, some actions to tackle climate change – such as tree plantations for bioenergy and large-scale hydropower plants – can further harm biodiversity.<sup>7</sup> Further engagement with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) would thus be very valuable. The global stocktake at COP28 explicitly recognized links to the GBF,<sup>8</sup> and some climate negotiators have participated in the Bern Process,

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<sup>7</sup> Resolution 5/5 of the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) in 2022, “Nature-based Solutions for supporting sustainable development”, explicitly made this connection. See <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/unea5/unea-5.2/outcomes-resumed-session-unea-5-unea-5.2>.

For a succinct and accessible overview of climate–biodiversity linkages, see Dunne, D. 2022. “Explainer: Can Climate Change and Biodiversity Loss Be Tackled Together?” *Carbon Brief*, June 16. <https://www.carbonbrief.org/explainer-can-climate-change-and-biodiversity-loss-be-tackled-together/>.

See also IPBES, 2019, *Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Summary for Policymakers* (version summary for policy makers); and: Parmesan, C. et al. 2022. “Terrestrial and Freshwater Ecosystems and Their Services.” In *Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, edited by H.-O. Pörtner et al., 197–377. Cambridge, UK, and New York: Cambridge University Press. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg2/>.

<sup>8</sup> Paragraph 33 of the COP28 decision on the global stocktake directly refers to the GBF, emphasizing “the importance of conserving, protecting and restoring nature and ecosystems”, enhancing natural carbon sinks and “conserving biodiversity, while ensuring social and environmental safeguards, in line with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework”. Paragraphs 55 and 56 highlight the value of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, and paragraph 61 again touches on the issue in the context of global solidarity. The call to action for all Parties to raise ambition, in paragraph 63, also includes a dedicated item on “reducing climate

including one of the Bern III Co-Chairs, but much broader collaboration is needed.

Those MEAs already engaged with the GBF face **structural challenges, such as mandates** that constrain the substantive issues (e.g. mercury, migratory species, whales) which they can address, or procedural rules and norms that prescribe how a body under one MEA may communicate with its counterpart under another (often through the COP or equivalent body, not all of which meet frequently). The focal points for different MEAs may work in separate government agencies or departments, and even if they are in the same unit, they may not speak regularly.

Closely related to this, **there may be few venues for the kinds of dialogue and collaboration needed**, at the national, regional or global levels. The Bern Process might be understood as an *ad hoc* or emerging institution to bridge part of this gap. CBD COP decision 15/13 identifies some options at the global level, discussed further below. Similar challenges arise at the regional and national levels: new venues may be needed to connect people whose mandates do not already overlap and enable them to learn from one another, build trust, and then collaborate on promoting synergies in working towards GBF goals and targets.

Even if individuals and institutions want to collaborate, **time, resources and “bandwidth” are already tight**. From MEA secretariats to national government offices, heavy workloads are the norm, punctuated by frequent and disruptive travel. As a result, even impassioned advocates of cooperation on the GBF may struggle to find the time and mental space. Some may also worry that work on the GBF will come at the expense of their primary mandate.

**Monitoring and reporting demands are already burdensome**, even before considering the GBF. Across biodiversity-related conventions, Parties have to devote significant resources to gathering, analysing and submitting data, which can be a burden for governments and MEA focal points in all countries, and even more in those with fewer resources. Global monitoring systems are also highly fragmented, so tracking and reporting on the same issue under the SDGs and an MEA, for instance, may be different. There is a need for a more coherent and simpler reporting scheme to reduce the burden on countries while ensuring transparency and accountability.<sup>9</sup> Indeed, negotiating a monitoring framework for the GBF based on existing methodologies is proving a challenge.

Moreover, it is **still unclear how other MEAs’ contributions will be recognized** in reviews of the implementation of the GBF. Given the efforts that will be required – no matter how valuable and worthwhile – it will be important to ensure that those contributions are visible and acknowledged.

Lastly, **collaboration could be hindered by the cultures and ways of working of the institutions involved**. This is an outgrowth of the structural issues noted above, as well as of the way global environmental governance has evolved. Building synergies as envisioned in the Bern Process requires not only legal and subject-matter expertise and diplomacy, but also advocacy skills: championing a cause, rallying support, and communicating engagingly and effectively about the value of holistic and collaborative approaches.

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impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity and accelerating the use of ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions”.

See UNFCCC. 2023. “Matters Relating to the Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement.” Decision CMA.4, advance unedited version. Dubai: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. <https://unfccc.int/documents/636584>.

<sup>9</sup> The Bern II outcome highlighted this issue in its Conclusion 2: “When developing the post-2020 monitoring framework, it is important to use relevant indicators already being used by other conventions and processes including the SDGs. This will avoid duplication and promote synergies, in particular as data are already being gathered. Use of common indicators, and building knowledge management and capacity building around them, will help to drive cooperation at appropriate levels, and help promote a common message.”

With all this in mind, the next two sections focus on the flip side of these challenges: opportunities to create true synergies. This means not just “how can we contribute to operationalizing the GBF?” but “how can this help us advance the objectives of other MEAs?”

Given the diversity of Bern III participants, the ideas are framed in general terms, so they could be widely applicable. In practice, however, we know that some of the synergies to be achieved are quite specific, involving a single target or even an element within a target. For example, GBF targets 2 and 3, involving the protection and restoration of ecosystems, respectively, are relevant to the Ramsar Convention, but also go well beyond the latter’s scope.

As an input to Bern III, UNEP has prepared a detailed and comprehensive mapping of potential synergies between the GBF and different MEAs, and linked them to indicators in the GBF monitoring framework. At the conference, we will also have a collection of case studies submitted by participants on practical experiences of cooperation and collaboration at the national, regional, and global levels. By exploring examples of potential synergies together, we can learn from one another and from the diverse perspectives at the table.

### 3. Opportunities for action: Global level

A key takeaway from our review of challenges to collaboration is that if other MEAs are to actively contribute to achieving the goals of the GBF, doing so must help them advance their own objectives as well by leveraging synergies, and it cannot add significant new burdens. Their efforts should also be recognized and valued.

With this in mind, we suggest focusing our discussion on four objectives at the global scale:

- **“Win-wins”/mutual interests** – supporting the achievement of GBF targets enables all MEAs involved to achieve their own goals more effectively and efficiently;
- Engaging with the GBF contributes to **enhanced collaboration** among clusters of MEAs and other relevant agencies with shared concerns/priorities;
- **Effective monitoring and reporting processes** for the GBF use the same indicators, data sources and systems as other relevant MEAs to the extent possible, enhancing transparency and efficiency;
- **The roles of all relevant MEAs** in supporting the GBF are **clearly recognized**, both in preparing for implementation, and in periodic reviews of progress towards the 2030 targets.

We will work in groups to explore, for each objective, who needs to do what, what resources need to be in place, how each of us can contribute, the timeline, and how we will know whether we have succeeded. Drawing on the discussions at the Bogis-Bossey Expert Meeting, we propose considering the following ideas (numbered not hierarchically, but just for easy reference):

**3.1 Align joint work programmes on specific topics across MEAs** with the goals and targets of the GBF, or develop new ones as needed to facilitate dialogue and collaboration. These work programmes may focus on specific GBF targets or technical topics under the participating MEAs’ mandates (for example, restoring degraded ecosystems, invasive alien species, climate change and biodiversity, tourism, health, impact assessment – the list of overlap in existing work programmes is extensive). They can also focus on GBF targets that reflect shared priorities, such as ensuring participation, justice and rights for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, youth, people with disabilities, and environmental defenders (GBF target 22). Existing coordination mechanisms such as the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (JLG) could encourage such approaches, though both groups unite secretariats, not Parties.<sup>10</sup>

**3.2 Identify “custodian conventions” for GBF targets that overlap with specific MEAs** (for example, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) for target 5, “Use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal”). Analogous to the idea of custodian institutions for various SDGs, this would ensure a champion for specific GBF goals or targets beyond the CBD.

**3.3 Develop a mechanism for input to the CBD on further work on the GBF monitoring framework.** This could include suggestions for indicators for targets relevant to the different MEAs that still lack indicators, but pay particular attention to operationalizing the agreed headline indicators.<sup>11</sup> To the extent that indicators for GBF targets coincide with those for

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<sup>10</sup> Something very similar to this was proposed in Conclusion 7 of the Bern II workshop. See also the recommendations in CBD SBSTTA decision 25/3, “Approaches to identifying scientific and technical needs to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including its implications for the programmes of work of the Convention”: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-25/sbstta-25-rec-03-en.docx>.

<sup>11</sup> The headline indicators for the GBF are a minimum set of high-level indicators meant to capture the overall scope of the goals and targets of the GBF.



other MEAs, it is important to ensure that they are used and interpreted in similar ways.<sup>12</sup> As part of this input, Bern III participants could also share insights from experience about the use of specific indicators (for example, about methodologies or data-gathering challenges). Lastly, encouraging the use of the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT) for reporting on the GBF could help maximize efficiencies and reduce reporting burdens for Parties while continuing to respect each MEA's mandate and focus.

**3.4 Provide written input to the CBD on the global review of collective progress,** recommending that a potential global report specifically include a section focused on collaboration with other MEAs and the extent to which it has advanced the goals of the GBF as well as those MEAs. Bern III participants can highlight specific benefits that can be achieved through such a section, and also suggest options for concrete procedures for gathering the relevant materials and developing the section. If “custodian conventions” are also designated for some targets, as suggested above, this would also be reflected in the global review.

**3.5 Develop model decision language** – a succinct paragraph – on engaging with the GBF that can be introduced by Parties at every upcoming MEA governing body meeting, such as CMS COP14, UNFCCC COP29, UNCCD COP16. These governing body meetings represent key entry points for Parties to endorse the GBF and decide how each MEA can contribute to the GBF's implementation.

**3.6 Explore the possibility of appointing a special UN rapporteur (or similar role) on synergies between MEAs** and cross-cutting biodiversity issues. This role could include, for example, monitoring and reporting on progress in cross-cutting issues between MEAs, addressing requests by MEA governing bodies to research and issue special reports on cross-cutting challenges and solutions, and monitoring developments in the Bern Process.

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<sup>12</sup> Indicators inform communication, and the use of common indicators can help to align messaging on progress towards specific biodiversity-related objectives.

## 4. Opportunities for action: National and regional levels

National biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) are the main instruments for CBD implementation at the national level, framing how biodiversity issues will be taken into account in national decision-making and mainstreamed into sectoral policies.<sup>13</sup> In the GBF, Parties are asked to update their NBSAPs, following guidance provided in an annex,<sup>14</sup> before CBD COP16. If a full update is not possible, Parties were asked to at least submit new national targets aligned with the GBF.

As noted in the introduction, CBD COP decision 15/13 explicitly encourages Parties to implement the GBF and other MEAs in a complementary manner, including in reviewing and updating their NBSAPs. It encourages them to implement the GBF “in a spirit of cooperation and mutual support” from the global to the local level, working together with all stakeholders.

Since the adoption of the GBF, several dialogues and workshops have been held to support Parties in their NBSAP updates, and this has created opportunities for cooperation and mutual learning at the regional level and among countries facing similar issues. For example, in August, an NBSAP forum was held for members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Timor Leste.

The NBSAP Forum 2.0, launched in May 2023, is another crucial avenue for collaboration. A joint effort by the CBD Secretariat, UNEP and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), it provides a dedicated community of practice and a wealth of resources to support policy-makers and other stakeholders focused on biodiversity issues.<sup>15</sup> The NBSAP Accelerator Partnership aims to accelerate ambition and efforts for biodiversity action and the implementation of GBF-aligned NBSAPs.<sup>16</sup>

This is the context for discussions about cooperation on the GBF and other MEAs at the national and regional levels. The NBSAP update process is by no means the only avenue for enhancing cooperation on biodiversity-related issues, but it presents a particularly valuable and timely opportunity. As evidenced by the NDC-NBSAP Ministerial in December 2023,<sup>17</sup> it may also provide a more natural avenue for connecting climate- and biodiversity-related efforts than more abstract discussions might. In other words, NBSAPs could provide an entry point for much broader cooperation.

At our Bern III session on national-level opportunities, we suggest focusing on four objectives:

- **Enhance cooperation in the development and implementation of NBSAPs**, ensuring that focal points for other relevant MEAs and all relevant government units are engaged, and that the plans for achieving the targets of the GBF include mutually beneficial actions;
- **Create avenues for ongoing dialogue, collaboration and capacity-building** on biodiversity-related issues, both within governments and with a broad range of stakeholders;

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<sup>13</sup> For an overview of NBSAPs, see <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/>

<sup>14</sup> See Annex I of decision CBD/COP/DEC/15/6: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-06-en.pdf>.

<sup>15</sup> See press release on the NBSAP Forum 2.0 announcement: <https://www.undp.org/press-releases/nbsap-forum-20-launched-support-action-and-collaboration-nature> and the Forum’s website: <http://www.nbsapforum.net>. The platform was first established in 2013 but was relaunched after the adoption of the GBF.

<sup>16</sup> See <https://nbsapaccelerator.org>.

<sup>17</sup> See press release on the NBSAP Accelerator Partnership website: [https://nbsapaccelerator.org/news\\_and\\_events/driving-the-integration-of-national-climate-and-biodiversity-frameworks-for-2030-action/](https://nbsapaccelerator.org/news_and_events/driving-the-integration-of-national-climate-and-biodiversity-frameworks-for-2030-action/).

- **Align national monitoring, assessment and reporting systems** that support GBF implementation with those for related MEAs, to create efficiencies and reduce the burden on focal points;
- Seize opportunities for **collaboration at the regional and sub-regional levels** to advance the GBF along with related MEAs, aiming to foster lasting partnerships and mutual learning.

As with global-level opportunities, we will work in groups to explore, for each objective, who needs to do what, what resources need to be in place, how each of us can contribute, the timeline, and how we will know whether we have succeeded. Drawing on the discussions at the Bogis-Bossey Expert Meeting, we propose considering the following ideas:

**4.1 Organize national (or regional) consultations/forums with MEA focal points** to increase understanding of the GBF, how they can be involved, and how this might advance the goals of other MEAs. The cross-mapping of GBF and other MEA targets produced by UNEP can serve as the basis for more detailed, technical discussions; clarify responsibilities; and inform the NBSAP review process.

**4.2** In addition, or as part of the above consultations, **organize workshops on monitoring and reporting for the GBF**, inviting the focal points for the CBD and other MEAs to share ideas for how to create efficiencies and reduce reporting burdens while respecting the specific focus and mandate of each MEA. The use of a modular reporting system such as DaRT should be part of these discussions.

**4.3 Actively engage with civil society on GBF implementation**, including representatives of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, women and youth, to ensure that their perspectives are reflected in the NBSAPs. This is both a matter of justice, and strategically valuable in promoting cooperation, as civil society organizations often have more holistic perspectives than focal points for individual MEAs.

**4.4 Create national- and/or regional-level platforms for ongoing collaboration across MEAs**, bringing together focal points, other government colleagues with relevant mandates, and key stakeholders. These platforms could be informal, focused mainly on dialogue and mutual learning, or provide an avenue for hands-on collaboration on planning, capacity-building, resource mobilization and more.

## 5. Shared narratives, messages for UNEA-6, and the future of the Bern Process

The group of people who will meet in Bern on 23–25 January 2024 will span a wide range of perspectives and technical expertise, but we have two things in common: We already see the value of the GBF and how it fits with our work, and we know that the different MEAs' objectives are interconnected. If we are successful, we will emerge from the conference with a roadmap to 2030 that is concrete and actionable. The question then will be: Can we put our ideas into practice?

Some of the suggestions we have provided can be implemented relatively quickly: For example, by the end of the Bern III session, we could have specific language to share with the CBD COP and other MEA governing bodies that can be incorporated into decisions, as Bern II outputs were (provided that consensus can be reached among the respective Parties).

Many of our proposals, however, will require more sustained efforts to persuade fellow MEA focal points, government colleagues and various stakeholders that this is useful, worthwhile work. That requires overcoming one of the key challenges identified in Section 2: We need to learn to be champions for collaboration, for breaking down siloes, and for holistic thinking and solutions.

With that in mind, we propose that as part of our discussions, we begin to **develop shared narratives and common language** about why collaboration on the GBF is so important, how our missions are interconnected, and the future we aim to build. What we come up with can be put to use immediately in a **communication to the environment ministers who will gather at UNEA-6** in Nairobi from 26 February to 1 March 2024, who need compelling, easily accessible policy messages.

A final task for us will be to **consider the future of the Bern Process**: How can it continue to contribute to the efficient and effective implementation of the GBF? As Co-Chairs for Bern III, we look forward to productive and engaging discussions with all conference participants on next steps and our vision for the future.