EMG update on the progress of the two UN system-wide Common Approaches on Biodiversity and Pollution

UN Environment Management Group presentation to the 11th Annual Subcommittee meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives

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Why Common Approaches?

These strategic frameworks ensure a cohesive, systematic, and collaborative effort across the United Nations system to address the critical challenges posed by biodiversity loss and pollution.

These approaches aim to integrate environmental considerations into the policies, programs, and operations of various UN entities, leveraging the collective strength of the UN system.

The distinct advantage of the common approach is the ability to leverage the mandates of UN agencies, through the EMG, to foster collective action that strengthens the delivery of the Member States agreed frameworks.
UN Common Approach to Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions

2021
Common Approach to Biodiversity

On 14 May 2020, the CEB underscored the need for a stronger focus on nature across the entire United Nations system and tasked its HLCP with developing a “Common Approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for Sustainable Development into UN policy and programme planning and delivery”.

Through the Common Approach (CA), the United Nations system:

- Expresses a shared recognition of the urgency of acting
- Commitment to mainstreaming biodiversity
- Through better coordinated efforts that will connect and build upon the strategies and programmes of work of United Nations system entities
- Facilitate the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
The CA contributes to and acts as a tool for the delivery of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Common Approach provides a structure to organize collective action and joint delivery to mainstream biodiversity. Resulting in accelerated transformational change.
Impact Areas

The Common Approach is structured to convene the UN system to achieve impact and support the implementation of the GBF in the following areas:

- **Human rights, peaceful societies & planetary stability**
  - Institutional capacity
  - Monitoring & reporting
  - Environmental rule of law
  - Criminal justice
  - Information & communication technologies

- **Biodiversity & nature-based solutions**

- **Green & inclusive economic recovery**
  - Valuing nature
  - Sustainable food systems
  - Sustainable production
  - Public & private investments
  - Sustainable lifestyles

- **Right to a healthy environment**
  - Leaving no one behind
  - One Health approach
  - Restoration, DRR & climate action
  - Education & cultural diversity
Support for Member States

Through the collaborative efforts of relevant UN entities at the global, regional and national levels, outcomes and outputs are to be observed in the following areas:

**Outcomes:**
- Support for Member States in implementing MEA decisions
- Inclusion of biodiversity and nature-based solutions in integrated national financing frameworks
- Promotion of environmental and intergenerational justice
- Facilitation of inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships

**Outputs:**
- Internal global policy alignment and coherence
- Alignment of current resources and mobilized additional joint financing
- Coordinated outreach and communication efforts
- Knowledge exchanged to identify prioritise, scale up and accelerate action
## Final reporting and evaluation (2030)

- **Biodiversity is integrated in policy and programmes**
- **Final reporting and evaluation**
Role of the EMG in implementation

**Convening**
EMG Members meet regularly to discuss progress and provide inputs

**Advocacy and awareness raising**
Initiation of the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity Webinar Series

**Knowledge Sharing**
Production of an inventory of UN knowledge products on biodiversity for dissemination across UN entities at all levels

**Accountability and Reporting**
Preparation of a Monitoring and Reporting Framework to contribute towards the Mid-Term Report, expected 2025.
Advocacy and Awareness Raising
UN Common Approach to Biodiversity Webinar Series

Urban Spatial Planning for Biodiversity Conservation and Preservation
24 April 2024

Agrifood Systems and Biodiversity
4 June 2024

Human Rights and Biodiversity
June/July 2024

Disaster Risk Reduction and Biodiversity
Coming later in 2024

Financing Biodiversity
Coming later in 2024

Series aims include:
- Promote and support GBF implementation
- Identify opportunities to increase engagement of all actors with the GBF
- Explore how the UN system can collectively better support Member States
- Engage with UN Country Teams
Accountability and Reporting
Cross Mapping: CA and GBF Complementarity

Common Approach to Biodiversity (CA) objectives cross mapped to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) targets and their contribution to GBF Goals.
Potential collective action of UN entities has been mapped to the Common Approach objectives. Connections sourced from “Biodiversity Common Approach: 50+ ways to integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions”
Accountability and Reporting

**Monitoring and Reporting Framework**

Preparation of a Monitoring and Reporting Framework to contribute towards the Mid-Term Report, expected 2025.

The framework will report on areas such as:

- Common Approach outputs and outcomes at global, regional and national level
- The UN systems role in supporting the GBF, through the Common Approach
- UN entities’ strategies, frameworks and activities that cover/integrate biodiversity
- UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that contain actions to implement NBSAPs and MEAs
- UN development system entities that address biodiversity loss
UN Common Approach towards a Pollution-free Planet
2022
Common Approach to Pollution

Through the Common Approach (CA), the United Nations system:

- Expresses a shared recognition of the urgency of acting
- Commitment to mainstreaming pollution
- With adequate resources and the integration of this approach into UN entities’ strategies and work programmes
- The UN Systems shall pave the way for a stronger, more coordinated global response towards a pollution-free planet.

The Common Approach contributes to and supports:

- The Implementation Plan: “Towards a Pollution-Free Planet” (PFP)
- Global Framework on Chemicals (GCF)
Areas of Contribution
Through the Common Approach, the UN system will contribute to the PFP and GCF in the following impact areas:

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<td>10. Man-made &amp; natural hazards</td>
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<td>11. Lead by examples</td>
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Role of the EMG

An implementation plan for the EMG for 2024 – 2025 is in development. The plan will focus on three areas of work, which contribute towards the PFP and GCF.

System-wide Advocacy
Producing materials, webinars and outputs at key events and processes.

Mainstreaming Prevention and Reduction
Across global, regional and national levels.

Monitoring and Reporting
A framework will be established on the UN systems progress towards implementing the CA, and its contributions and support to the PFP and GCF.
Cross Mapping: CA on Pollution, GCF and SDGs

The Global Framework on Chemicals (GCF), left, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), right, have been mapped to the Common Approach.
System-wide Advocacy

Promoting the CA, PFP and GCF across the UN system and all stakeholders

Engaging, for example,

- UN Country Teams / Resident Coordinators
- UNSDCF and UN regional coordination mechanisms
- Human Rights Council Special Procedures
- External Stakeholders of the UN

Mainstreaming Prevention and Reduction

Mainstream pollution prevention and reduction in the UN system

Mainstreaming:

- Across UN entities' strategies, policies and programmes
- Across UN development system, including in CCAs, UNSDCF, and in the UN Sustainability Strategy
- Promote in countries interagency work
Find out more:

Common Approach to Biodiversity | EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity
Common Approach to Pollution | EMG Issue Management Group on Pollution

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