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EMG UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE UN COMMON APPROACHES ON BIODIVERSITY AND POLLUTION

11th Annual Subcommittee meeting of UNEP CPR



UNITED NATIONS

ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

EMG



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INTRODUCTION










This short paper provides information on the work of the UN Environment Management Group's (EMG) Issue Management Groups on Biodiversity and Pollution. It provides details on the progress by the UN system in delivering on the Global Biodiversity Framework, UNEA resolution 4/21 entitled "Implementation plan Towards a pollution-free planet" as well the Global Framework on Chemicals. The note intends to support the discussion of the CPR under item 3 (d) entitled "Coordination within the UN system on the environment, including through the Environment Management Group".



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ABOUT EMG

The United Nations (UN) Environment Management Group (EMG) is a system-wide coordination body on environment and human settlements. It was established in 2001 pursuant to the General Assembly [resolution 53/242](#) in July 1999. The resolution supported the proposal of the Secretary-General to establish an environmental management group contained in his report on the [Environment and Human Settlements \(A/53/463\)](#). The [EMG membership](#) consists of the 52 specialized agencies, programmes and organs of the United Nations including the secretariats of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements. The group is chaired by the Executive Director of UN Environment (UNEP) and supported by a secretariat provided by UN Environment. [The Secretariat](#) is located in Geneva, Switzerland. The EMG identifies issues on the international environmental agenda that warrant cooperation, and finds ways of engaging its collective capacity in coherent management responses to those issues. In accordance with its [Terms of Reference](#) the EMG works through technical meetings, [Issue Management Groups](#) and task forces. Representatives of intergovernmental bodies, civil society and international non-governmental organizations can be invited to contribute.

										
BRS	CBD	CITES	CMS	DOS	ECA	ECE	ECLAC	ESCAP	ESCWA	FAO
										
GEF	IAEA	ICAO	IFAD	ILO	IMF	IMO	IOM	ITC	ITU	Minamata
										
OCHA	OHCHR	Ramsar	UNCCD	UNCTAD	UNDESA	UNDP	UNDRR	UNEP	UNESCO	UNFCCC
										
UNFPA	UN-Habitat	UNHCR	UNICEF	UNIDO	UNITAR	UNODC	UNOOSA	UNOPS	UNU	UN Women
										
UNWTO	UPU	WFP	WHO	WIPO	WMO	WB	WTO	IUCN	WWF	Youth
									Observers	

EMG Members

ISSUE MANAGEMENT GROUP ON BIODIVERSITY

The **EMG Issue Management Group (IMG) on Biodiversity** has continued its work to serve as a platform for UN entities to share information on biodiversity, discuss and provide coordinated inputs to the development of Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework^[1] (GBF) and collaborate on the operationalization of the UN Common Approach to Integrating Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions for Sustainable Development into United Nations Policy and Programme Planning and Delivery^[2] (the 'Common Approach'). **The IMG is constituted by two Working Groups:**

Working Group1 (Chaired by UNDP and UNESCO)

Awareness-raising and Knowledge Sharing

Working Group2 (Chaired by UNEP)

Accountability and Global-level Reporting



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[1]<https://www.cbd.int/gbf/>

[2]https://unseeb.org/sites/default/files/2021-09/CEB_2021_1_Add.1%20%28Biodiversitt%20Common%20Approach%29.pdf

ISSUE MANAGEMENT GROUP ON BIODIVERSITY



Working Group 1

Awareness-raising and Knowledge Sharing

Working Group 1 has initiated the Common Approach to Biodiversity Webinar Series^[3], which will delve into a wide range of biodiversity-related cross-cutting issues throughout the year. The first events in the series include:

- *Urban Spatial Planning for Biodiversity Conservation and Preservation*, in collaboration with UN-Habitat (April 2024)
- *Mainstreaming Biodiversity in Agrifood Systems*, in collaboration with IFAD and FAO (June 2024)
- *Human Rights and Biodiversity: a UN inter-agency and multi-stakeholder dialogue for incorporating human rights-based approaches to the conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity*, in collaboration with UNDP and OHCHR (to be held on July 9th)

Additional events later in this year will focus on topics such as Disaster Risk Reduction and Biodiversity, Biodiversity Financing, and more. In addition, Working Group 1 is collating an inventory of UN knowledge products on biodiversity and contributing to the development of a knowledge sharing platform, hosted by the EMG Secretariat. Working Group 1 also seeks to play a role in coordinating inputs and actions for CBD COP16, to be held in Cali, Colombia.

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[3]<https://unemg.org/un-common-approach-to-biodiversity-webinar-series/>

ISSUE MANAGEMENT GROUP ON BIODIVERSITY



Working Group 2 Accountability and Global-level Reporting

- Working Group 2 is progressing towards the finalization of the Common Approach to Biodiversity Monitoring and Reporting Framework. This year, an in-depth analysis into the indicators and data sources was conducted. The IMG members identified the need for the framework to better align to and report on the implementation of both the Common Approach and the GBF. As a result, the IMG members have produced a revised draft which will include two elements: (1) a quantitative component consisting of indicators^[4] from existing reporting mechanisms (QCPR and Greening the Blue); (2) a qualitative narrative, using information gathered through an EMG survey, on UN entities' strategies, frameworks and activities that cover and integrate biodiversity.
- Current individual and joint *flagship* programs, projects, and other UN initiatives.
- Case studies, lessons learned, best practices, and other actions that exemplify the UN-system key role in supporting the GBF through the Common Approach.

The Working Group plans to provide a finalized version of the framework by the end of June. Once approved by the IMG, the EMG Secretariat will produce a draft Mid-Term Report to be published early in 2025, to reflect the UN's commitment and contributions to advancing the implementation of the Common Approach and the GBF.

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[4]

✓ Indicator 1) % of Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) that contain actions to implement: i. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans ii. Other Multilateral Environmental Agreements Implementation Plans (%) (Data source: QCPR1)

✓ Indicator 2) Percentage of Strategic Plans of UNDS entities that substantively address: i. The drivers of biodiversity loss (%) (Data source: QCPR)

✓ Indicator 3) Number of UN agencies that have adjusted their strategies, policies and programmes to align to the Common Approach on Biodiversity (%) (Data source: QCPR)

✓ Indicator 4) Number of UN locations (of any type) which have completed a biodiversity screening of their location within the past 5 years (n) (Data source: Greening the Blue report)

ISSUE MANAGEMENT GROUP ON POLLUTION

Following the endorsement of the Common Approach on Pollution, the EMG Senior Officials Resolved at their 29th meeting in October 2023 to create an Issue Management Group (IMG) to prepare an implementation plan to facilitate a coordinated approach to the implementation of the Common Approach and report on progress achieved. The group comprised 26 members from 18 agencies and 1 observer from the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals(IOMC).

The IMG is finalizing its implementation plan and has disseminated a summary of the Common Approach, which maps the approach with SDGs among agencies and outreaches to key UN entities such as UN-Habitat and UNEP. Upon final approval, the IMG will promote the Common Approach across the UN system, mainstream pollution prevention and reduction, and monitor/report progress back to the EMG. Additionally, the IMG will cross-map the Common Approach with the Global Framework on Chemicals for alignment and will report progress at the next Senior Officials Meeting, ensuring ongoing tracking and enhancement of implementation efforts.

The Implementation Plan acknowledges the need to robustly promote and advocate for the Common Approach through the development of multilingual resources, webinars to educate key members and stakeholders, and outreach at key policy processes such as UNGA, INC, UNEA6, SPP, MEAs COPs, WHA, FAO, GCF^[5]. In addition to the general integration of the Common Approach across EMG members, there is a firm emphasis placed on the need to integrate the Approaches into the UN Development System by promoting the inclusion of Pollution Metrics in the new Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) 2025-2028 and its Monitoring Framework and to facilitate interagency and intergovernmental work, including Joint Programming in countries, on Pollution.

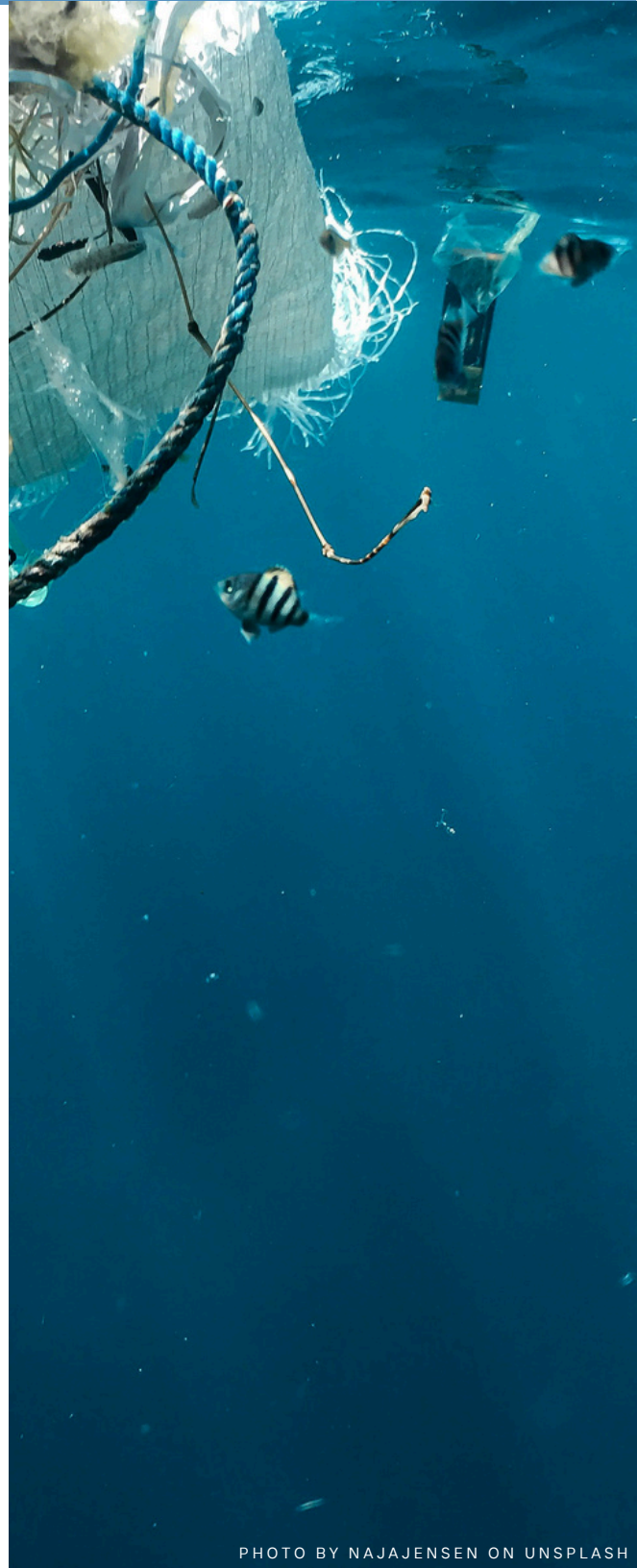


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[5] United Nations General Assembly, Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, United Nations Environment Assembly, Sustainable Public Procurement, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, World Health Assembly, Food and Agriculture Organization, Green Climate Fund