

Identifying and Exploring Synergies among MEAs through NBSAPs

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NBSAPs & MEAs

- NBSAPs review offers a critical opportunity for countries to begin a national dialogue on the best way to tackle weak implementation of MEAs;
 - collaboration of all MEAs focal points at the national level
- Implementation of the NBSAPs, which serve as key element in national and sub-national policy development and planning processes, should result in demonstrable mainstreaming of biodiversity issues, especially those related to other MEAs.
- Holistic approach in the management of biodiversity which can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.
- NBSAPs should be seen as mutually supportive processes that can strengthen synergies within the biodiversity MEAs on one hand, and among the Rio conventions on the other hand.



Common issues in MEAs

MEAs have provisions related to:

- Planning in the management of biodiversity species, protected areas and other issues.
- Legislative and policy measures.
- Institutional framework.
- Exchange of information.
- Public education and awareness.
- Public participation.
- Reporting obligations.



Challenges to implement MEAs at national level

- Number of MEAs has increased substantially over the past decades, bringing implementation and reporting burden for contracting parties.
- Coherent and effective implementation of MEAs at the national level is impaired due to lack of coordination.
- National focal points (FPs) sit in different offices and sometimes different organizations or ministries (e.g. agriculture, forestry, environment, natural resources, tourism, trade, etc.).
- National FP for one MEA may not have the mandate or technical expertise to deal with other MEAs, which makes it difficult to follow and represent their countries' interest in several intergovernmental processes.
- Different reporting format creates burden.



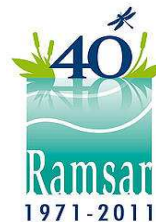
Specific challenges to implement NBSAPs

- Poor coordination structures to oversee implementation
 - Placing biodiversity in a broader development policy context **is still a challenge**
 - Very few NBSAPs include measures to implement the other global biodiversity-related MEAs
 - Funding



Why do we need to enhance synergies among MEAs?

- **To strengthen the governance, programmatic and administrative support for more efficient and effective national implementation**
- **Subjects covered by different MEAs are intricately linked and thus a coordinated approach is essential.**
- **The need for improved coherence.**
- **Many cross cutting issues: full engagement of all stakeholders and MEAs is crucial.**
- **Compliance: there are concerns about possible redundancies and duplications in MEA reporting.**
- **Saving on resources both financial and human.**
- **Align relevant national policies.**



Which are biodiversity-related MEAs?

- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar)
- World Heritage Convention (WHC)
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

Cooperation through the Biodiversity Liaison Group



Specific focus of biodiversity-related MEAs

- Species, genetic diversity: CBD, CMS, CITES, ITPGRFA
- Ecosystem: CBD, CMS, Ramsar, WHC
- Services: CBD, CITES, ITPGRFA, Ramsar, WHC
- Sustainable use: CBD, CITES, ITPGRFA, Ramsar
- Economic incentives: CBD, CITES, ITPGRFA, WHC



CBD COP-10 Decision related to NBSAPs

Outcomes of CBD COP-10 in Nagoya, Japan, October 2010

- *Decision X/II* - Review NBSAPs in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 by setting national and regional targets within the global flexible framework in accordance with national priorities and capacities, **and adopt NBSAPs as a policy instrument for biodiversity.**



NBSAPs can help synergies among biodiversity related MEAs

COP-10, Decision X/II para. 3 (f)

Support the updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans as effective instruments to promote the implementation of the Strategic Plan and mainstreaming of biodiversity at the national level, taking into account synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in a manner consistent with their respective mandates.



Aichi Targets are relevant to all biodiversity-related MEAs

...in particular, Strategic Goal B (Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use)
...meeting Aichi Targets is crucial for all Biodiversity MEAs, for example:

- CMS (Targets 11, 12)
- CITES (Target 12)
- Ramsar (Target 11, 14)

See Hand-out 1: List of MEA Parties in the workshop

Hand-out 2: List of Aichi Targets vs MEAs



Work by biodiversity-related MEAs

COP 10, Decision X/II para. 16 (a)

Parties and other Governments at the forthcoming meetings of the **decision-making bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions** ... to consider appropriate contributions to the collaborative implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Targets.



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- CMS and CITES have already developed guidelines on NBSAPs for effective integration of their programs in NBSAPs measures.
 - CITES Guideline is available at:
<http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E026A.pdf>
 - CMS guideline is available at:
<http://www.cms.int/about/nbsap.htm>
- Ramsar COP next year will incorporate CBD COP-10 outcomes in its deliberations.



Strengthening synergies among Rio Conventions

- The three Rio Conventions (CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC) already cooperate at the secretariat level through the Joint Liaison Group.
- Greater collaboration is needed among the national focal points of the three Conventions.
- The three conventions address sustainable development issues and a common implementation could generate faster results and higher benefits.



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- Since GEF is now the financing mechanism for all the Rio conventions, it is important that focal points of these MEAs collaborate with GEF operational focal points to develop integrated projects that address all cross-cutting issues.
- Consider NBSAPs as umbrella framework for supporting implementation of all MEAs by identifying commonalities and synergistic programs/actions.
- There is a need for harmonization of NBSAPs, NAPs & NAPAs.

See Hand-out 3: Analysis of these national action plans



Recommendations to CBD NFPs

- Establish contact and collaborate with NFPs of other MEAs to strengthen synergies, avoid duplication and promote effective use of information/resources.
- Identify possible linkages with specific programs/cross-cutting issues (e.g., Ramsar, inland waters, coastal biodiversity, or CITES trade implications with endangered species, etc).
- Integrate issues related to other MEAs into NBSAPs to enhance the ability of countries to use existing resources more efficiently.



Institutional mechanism conducive to synergies

- Establish synergy mechanism for national MEA Focal Points, including regular information exchange, regular meetings, and shared information management facilities.
- Support to responsible ministries in the development and implementation of joint work plans to enhance collaboration that can lead to increased efficiency in resource use and in reporting.



UNEP promoted synergies at various fora

- The issue of synergies among MEAs was discussed in different fora such as:
 - UNEP Governing Council meeting in Bali, Indonesia in February 2010 (Nusa Dua Declaration).
 - Helsinki meeting on synergies organized by the Government of Finland in November 2010.
- Report of the Environment Management Group (EMG) in 2010, which was launched at CBD COP10 in Nagoya.



UNEP delivering on Biodiversity Synergies

- Continued political and substantive support to synergies under international environmental governance (IEG) process.
- Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (DELIC) established the Information Knowledge Management (IKM) Portal.
<http://inforMea.org/>
- TEMATEA Project on Issue-Based Modules supports a better and more coherent national implementation of biodiversity-related conventions. <http://www.tematea.org/>
- With the encouragement of many MEA secretariats, UNEP/DELIC, in collaboration with UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center has launched knowledge management projects aimed at promoting the integration of MEAs information and harmonization of national reports.





United Nations Environment Programme

Thank you

