

Synergies and cooperation among biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) through NBSAPs

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Challenges to implement MEAs at national level

- Number of MEAs has increased substantially over the past decades, bring implementation and reporting burden for contracting parties.
- Lack of coordination
- Overlapping mandates and work areas.



Why do we need to enhance synergies among biodiversity-related 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.**
- **Biodiversity is cross cutting: 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.**



Elements that foster synergies

The essence of synergy comes from the need to increase efficiency and effectiveness of the different actors by working together through inter-related actions that:

- Strengthen local capacities.
 - Enhance development of public awareness at all levels.
 - Use of simple integrated message to sensitize decision and policy makers on the needs and advantages of synergies.
- NBSAP is another area of cooperation.
 - NBSAP can also enhance regional collaboration.



NBSAPs & MEAs

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

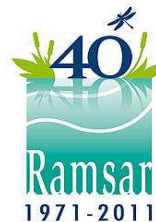
- Decision X/2 - Review NBSAPs in line with new Biodiversity Strategic Plan 2011-20 by setting national and regional targets within the global flexible framework in accordance with national priorities and capacities, **and adopt NBSAPs as a policy instrument for biodiversity**.
- NBSAPs review offer a unique opportunity for West African countries to begin thinking of including other focal points of biodiversity-related MEAs to collaborate at the national level.
- Consider NBSAPs as an umbrella framework for supporting implementation of all biodiversity related MEAs by identifying commonalities and synergistic programs/actions.



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.’



...Cont..

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

‘Promote the generation and use of scientific information, develop methodologies and initiatives to monitor status and trends of biodiversity and ecosystem services, share data, develop indicators and measures, and undertake regular and timely assessments, ... in order to strengthen the science policy interface, thereby enhancing the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.’



Biodiversity-related MEAs

- Are powerful global instruments for environmental governance, towards achieving policies at the national level.
- Are multilateral policy-making mechanisms providing the fora for addressing biodiversity loss in a coordinated manner.
- MEAs have more thematic focus which helps better understanding and awareness.



Common issues in the biodiversity-related MEAs

Biodiversity-related 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.
- Communication, education and public awareness.
- Public participation.
- Reporting obligations.



What 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



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.’



Work by biodiversity-related MEAs (cont...)

- CMS and CITES are drafting guidelines on NBSAPs for effective integration of their programs in NBSAPs measures
- Ramsar COP next year will incorporate CBD COP-10 outcomes in its deliberations



Obstacles to NBSAP implementation

- Better functioning of 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



Recommendations to CBD NFPs

- Establish contact and collaborate with NFPs of other biodiversity-related 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).
- Integrate issues related to other biodiversity MEAs into NBSAPs to enhance the ability of countries to use existing resources more efficiently and effectively.



Importance of synergies among MEAs

- The issue of synergies among MEAs was discussed in different fora where mandates were not given, 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 COP 10 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.
www.infoMea.org
- UNEP/DELIC, in collaboration with IUCN, has established an Issue-based Module for the coherent implementation of biodiversity-related MEA, which is also called TEMATEA.
www.tematea.org
- With the encouragement of many MEA secretariats, UNEP/DELIC, in collaboration with UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Center has launched several knowledge management projects aimed at promoting the integration of MEAs information and harmonization of national reports.



Thank you for listening

