

– Background Note for Session 6: Country Experiences –

Key Actions and Entry Points for National Coordination Across Biodiversity and Climate Change Clusters

1. Introduction and Purpose

The session 6 of the workshop will focus on the country experiences and explore possible synergies at the national level based on a whole-of-government approach in planning, reporting, and implementation, with a view to enhancing policy coherence and identifying integrated solutions across different national focal points and relevant officials to address interlinked environmental challenges.

The Table 1 below consolidates key actions and indicative activities drawn from previous UNEP-led consultations and regional workshops¹. These indicative actions are intended to support national-level collaboration and coherence across MEAs, particularly through, for example, institutional coordination, strategic planning, legal frameworks, data management, and financing. Participants are encouraged to use this table as a practical reference or checklist to reflect on their national circumstances and identify actionable steps toward enhanced synergy between biodiversity and climate change.

Table 1 – Actions for consideration and indicative activities to further encourage and support identified actions

Actions for consideration	Indicative activities to further encourage and support identified actions
ACTIONS RELATING TO INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL	
1. <i>Encourage and facilitate cooperation amongst the national focal points for each of the different MEAs and intergovernmental processes.</i>	• Establish national mechanisms, committees, or similar bodies to facilitate cooperation and collaboration, including convening regular coordination meetings among focal points of the various MEAs and intergovernmental processes. • Identify opportunities and use incentives to encourage the participation of focal points in cross-thematic events and initiatives and bring focal points together to develop cross-thematic project proposals. • Design and implement continuous capacity-building interventions for national focal points and government officials, including on synergistic interpretation and implementation of national legal frameworks and MEAs. • Further collaborate with the focal points of the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme on strategic areas, such as capacity-building for judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials. • Facilitate the establishment of mechanisms that encourage peer-to-peer learning through the compilation and sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

¹ These meetings include consultations between [Nordic council of Ministers in 2022](#) regarding strengthening collaboration and coordination between biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters, as well as UNEP-led Africa regional workshops held in [Bugesera, Rwanda \(August 2023\)](#), [Dakar, Senegal \(November 2024\)](#), and [Gaborone, Botswana \(March 2025\)](#)

Actions for consideration	Indicative activities to further encourage and support identified actions
2. <i>Ensure that appropriate institutional mechanisms are in place to bring together the competent national authorities responsible for implementing each of the different MEAs and intergovernmental processes.</i>	• Define clear mandates and roles for cooperation and collaboration in the context of government agencies and ministries where this is needed. • Enhance the effectiveness of existing national MEA coordination committees and similar bodies, including through establishing topic/issue focused subcommittees. • Couple existing committees of technical experts with steering committees comprised of high-level representatives to enhance political influence. • Establish formal institutional frameworks at the national level, such as task forces and cross-cutting committees, designed to streamline and enhance monitoring and reporting processes. • Improve modalities for data collection and create mechanisms to allow different stakeholders to cross-check information provided by national focal points during reporting processes.
ACTIONS RELATING TO STRATEGIC PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL	
3. <i>Align national work plans and strategies for implementing the various MEAs, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme.</i>	• Consider actions that can be taken at the national level to increase integration when developing plans for implementing each of the MEAs. • Mainstream issues such as collaboration, cooperation, and joint targets and indicators into work plans and strategies, including national development plans. • Integrate awareness-raising initiatives about existing tools to support MEA monitoring and reporting into national work plans and strategies. • Promote and strengthen national programming for the integrated implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. • Implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in line with national circumstances and mindful of the “considerations” in section C of the Framework, including rights-based approaches.
4. <i>Create opportunities for collaboration in developing and implementing national strategies and plans relating to the implementation of MEAs in the biodiversity and climate change clusters.</i>	• Create opportunities at the national level to engage relevant stakeholders from various sectors in reviewing and updating relevant national plans. • Issue open calls and establish official mechanisms to invite stakeholders to nominate representatives for monitoring and reporting task forces and similar bodies. • Review, utilise and improve existing tools to assist in monitoring and reporting. • In updating NBSAPs, prioritize Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets through a consultative process that engages stakeholders from multiple sectors.

Actions for consideration	Indicative activities to further encourage and support identified actions
5. <i>Strengthen <u>legal and policy frameworks</u> for the national-level implementation of MEAs, including through collaboration with the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme.</i>	• Create joint legislative guidelines on different cross-cutting aspects relating to biodiversity protection and climate change. • Develop capacities to review, develop, implement and enforce legal frameworks to tackle biodiversity and pollution crises, including through the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme. • Build the capacity of legal stakeholders at the national and regional levels to address environmental issues, including the judiciary and law enforcement officials. • Review and develop targeted legal frameworks for environmental crime, together with specific national guidance materials and awareness-raising activities. • Adopt multistakeholder approaches in the development and revision of environmental legal frameworks. • Further develop guidance materials and promote existing knowledge products relating to the establishment of specialized environmental courts. • Strengthen partnerships with universities and judicial training academies to offer national and international environmental law training. • Strengthen the provision and receipt of technical legal assistance, including through UNEP's Law and Environment Assistance Platform (UNEP-LEAP).
6. <i>Increase coordination in addressing common needs such as <u>monitoring, reporting, review and the use of indicators</u>, and more broadly the access to and use of knowledge.</i>	• Design mechanisms and tools to connect existing national databases focused on environment-related data and promote cross-fertilization of monitoring efforts across clusters to support and facilitate reporting. • Involve national statistical agencies in the collection and analysis of environmental data, including on topics such as natural capital accounting. • Allocate funding to research and collaboration with universities and research institutions, especially in the context of developing indicators and collecting data. • Improve knowledge management across thematic clusters, including through increasing access to available tools, guidance and knowledge products that are useful for MEA implementation and reporting. • Collaborate in the development of an effective science-policy interface at both national and international levels.

Actions for consideration	Indicative activities to further encourage and support identified actions
7. <i>Identify opportunities for cooperation/ collaboration across clusters, where working together can help achieve common aims and bring clear benefits.</i>	• Cooperate on communications relating to the interconnections between biodiversity and chemicals and waste, including the links to the health agenda. • Collaborate in the identification of risks, and in contingency planning for recognising and mitigating the potential impacts of known risks. • Promote and support research in key areas identified as a priority by both the clusters and facilitate wide access to the results. • Initiate cross-cluster collaborative projects as a vehicle for working together to achieve common interests, to increase efficiencies in resource use, and to optimise opportunities for finance.
ACTIONS RELATING TO REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	
8. <i>Identify opportunities to enhance regional and international cooperation on <u>knowledge management, communications, and joint messaging</u> relevant to both the biodiversity and climate change clusters.</i>	• Develop a regional communication plan and collective key messages on collaboration and cooperation between the biodiversity and the chemicals and waste clusters. • More welcome packages and orientation sessions for new focal points to ensure a smooth transition, which could include information on collaboration and synergies. • Work collaboratively with UNEP and secretariats to make platforms and tools more user-friendly, updated, and tailored to national circumstances. • Design further capacity-building and training on the use of global tools (such as DaRT) and the implementation of international guidelines.
9. <i>Facilitate <u>technical and scientific cooperation</u> on key issues relevant to both the biodiversity and climate change clusters.</i>	• Strengthen bilateral and regional cooperation in priority areas, including transboundary environmental crime. • Share good practices on national-level institutional and legal frameworks established to promote cooperation and collaboration between thematic clusters. • Map, prepare, and broadly share national guidance materials on tackling environmental crime at the regional level. • Utilize calls for submissions under MEAs as an opportunity to coordinate and raise awareness of priority areas for the region. • Work with UN partners to translate guidance documents and guidelines into more languages.

Actions for consideration	Indicative activities to further encourage and support identified actions
10. <i>Encourage financial institutions and mechanisms to support integrated approaches on biodiversity and climate change.</i>	• Collaborate across clusters at all levels in mobilizing resources for capacity-building activities. • Cooperate at all levels to develop cross-thematic project proposals for the Special Programme, the Global Biodiversity Fund, the GEF, and other funding mechanisms. • Connect to GEF national focal points, creating mechanisms for engagement and coordination at the regional level and raising the awareness of GEF focal points concerning regional priority areas and projects. • Broaden the scope of exemplary practices to encompass additional sectors, such as the GEF-funded planetGOLD Programme that includes biodiversity criteria for ASGM.
11. <i>Identify opportunities to raise the profile of cross-cluster collaboration through intergovernmental processes and projects.</i>	• Review and further develop bilateral cooperation agreements and standard operating procedures for the coherent implementation of MEA provisions. • Establish communities of practice at the regional and international levels for focal points and other government officials. • Design sustainability strategies and guidance for projects addressing both clusters. • Convene information sessions and training on how to use existing tools such as InforMEA, DaRT, <i>inter alia</i>. • Convene training workshops that bring together national focal points working on different clusters, allowing for information-sharing, networking, mutual learning. • Review led by UNEP and secretariats to map interlinkages between MEAs and reporting on the Kuming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets, including on how to tie these into coherent NBSAP review. • Consider proposing actions at the international level within each instrument that might support increased cooperation and collaboration across clusters.