

Workshop Report

Capacity building workshop on the implementation of biodiversity and chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements

26-28 November 2024

Dakar, Senegal



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1 Background and purpose of the workshop

Relevant steps have been taken over the past decade to foster collaboration, cooperation, and synergies in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) from the biodiversity and the chemicals & waste regulatory regimes. At the global level, these steps included various exploratory studies,¹ decisions and guidance from MEA governing bodies and other intergovernmental processes promoting collaboration within and across areas of common interest,² and international meetings and other consultative and experience-sharing events. For example, the so-called ‘Bern Process’ has been facilitating synergies among MEAs in the development and implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (‘Global Biodiversity Framework’) in various ways. In 2019, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) hosted a consultation workshop for biodiversity-related conventions on the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework (‘Bern I Conference’)³ following a request from the CBD Conference of the Parties (COP) in its fourteenth meeting.⁴ A second workshop, including representatives from MEAs from other regulatory regimes, was convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in 2022 to further identify areas of work and cooperation (‘Bern II Consultative Workshop’).⁵ In 2024, a third meeting was convened to explore the role of environmental conventions – including those addressing various aspects of chemicals & waste – in supporting the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (‘Bern III Conference’). At the regional and national levels, such steps also included a wide range of good collaborative practices taken by countries in the implementation of MEAs, ranging from innovative legal and institutional frameworks to whole-of-society approaches in implementation, and tailored meetings and events. For example, in 2023, UNEP and the Rwanda Environment Management Authority convened a capacity-building workshop for focal points to MEAs and the Fifth Montevideo Environmental Law Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law (‘Montevideo Environmental Law Programme’). The workshop aimed to provide a practical understanding of how entry points for collaboration between biodiversity and the chemicals & waste MEAs could be promoted at the national level to enhance and facilitate the implementation of such instruments.⁶

Building on this momentum, the implementation of the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework and the operationalization and subsequent implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste⁷ (‘Global Framework on Chemicals’) under the aegis of the International Conference on Chemicals Management (‘International Conference’) provides a unique opportunity to galvanize action on biodiversity and chemicals & waste, as well as to enhance coordination, collaboration, and cooperation in the implementation of relevant MEAs and intergovernmental processes at all levels. This opportunity for integrated implementation is demonstrated in a number of decisions from the governing bodies of biodiversity and chemicals & waste conventions. By way of illustration, the COPs to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions (BRS

¹ For instance, see UNEP/CHW.15/INF/44–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.10/INF/29–UNEP/POPS/COP.10/INF/48 and Nordic Council of Ministers, *Strengthening collaboration and coordination between biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters* (Copenhagen, 2022).

² For instance, see CBD/COP/16/10/Rev.1., or for the BRS conventions, see recent decisions such as BC-15/25, RC-10/14 and SC-10/21, BC-16/22, RC-11/9, and SC-11/21.

³ CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/6/2.

⁴ CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/6/2.

⁵ UNEP, *Second Consultation workshop of biodiversity-related conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Bern II)* (Cambridge, 2021).

⁶ UNEP, *Workshop Report Capacity building workshop for national focal points of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law to facilitate implementation of biodiversity and chemicals and waste MEAs, 29–31 August 2023, Bugesera, Rwanda* (Cambridge, 2023).

⁷ SAICM/ICCM.5/4, Resolution V/1: Adoption of the Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.

Conventions), at their meetings in 2023, welcomed the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework and reiterated the call to parties to these conventions to take into account the objectives of the Global Biodiversity Framework in their actions to implement the BRS Conventions.⁸ They also recognized the need to strengthen coherence and synergies across the chemicals and waste agenda at the global level, calling on parties to the BRS Conventions to consider the strategic objectives and targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals in their actions to implement the BRS Conventions.⁹ On a similar note, the COP to Minamata Convention considered in its fourth meeting interlinkages between the chemicals & waste MEAs and biodiversity and put in place a process to prepare a report on how the Minamata Convention could contribute to the Global Biodiversity Framework.¹⁰ In its fifth meeting, the Minamata Convention COP welcomed the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals and called on parties to this convention to consider the Global Framework on Chemicals in their actions to implement the Minamata Convention.¹¹

UNEP has been providing, as appropriate, substantive input and technical support to countries in strengthening coordination and cooperation in the implementation of MEAs and other instruments, particularly in the context of both the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals. UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy and, in particular, its environmental governance subprogramme provide a strong foundation for actions to enhance programmatic cooperation with the secretariats and governing bodies of the fifteen MEAs administered by UNEP and other conventions, including through the development of practical tools and working methods to support coherent and effective implementation of MEAs at all levels.¹² Collaboration with MEAs is "central to all actions across the UNEP subprogrammes to secure stronger synergies and enhance impact."¹³ Furthermore, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), in its sixth session, adopted resolution 6/6 through which it requested the Executive Director of UNEP to strengthen and promote capacity-building activities to facilitate coherence and effective implementation of MEAs on a Member State-driven basis, including through its Montevideo Environmental Law Programme.¹⁴ Within the framework of the Programme, UNEP has been working with countries in the promotion of environmental rule of law globally¹⁵ and the development of adequate and effective environmental legal frameworks, particularly at the national level.¹⁶ The 10-year programme commenced in January 2020 and is guided by three thematic areas for implementation, including "legal responses to address the pollution crisis" and "legal responses to combat the biodiversity crisis."¹⁷

In this context, UNEP and the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre located in Senegal (BCRC-SCRC Senegal) convened the 'Capacity Building Workshop: Implementation of biodiversity and chemicals and waste multilateral environmental agreements' (*the workshop*) from 26 to 28 November 2024. The event aimed at strengthening the implementation of global environmental commitments and goals – such as those in the context of the Global Biodiversity Framework and Global Framework on Chemicals – through the coherent and effective implementation of MEAs at the national level. It provided an opportunity for participants to exchange information on collaborative practices and experiences in implementation in the West and Central Africa sub-regions. It focused on strengthening whole-of-government approaches through enhanced collaborative efforts among convention focal

⁸ UNEP/CHW.16/30–UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.11/25–UNEP/POPS/COP.11/31, decisions BC-16/22, RC-11/9 and SC-11/21 on international cooperation and coordination with other international organizations.

⁹ *Ibidem*.

¹⁰ UNEP/MC/COP.4/Dec.12, decision MC-4/12 on international cooperation and coordination.

¹¹ UNEP/MC/COP.5/25/Add.1, decision MC-5/18 on enhanced international cooperation and coordination.

¹² UNEP, *For people and planet: The United Nations Environment Programme Strategy for tackling climate change, biodiversity and nature loss, and pollution and waste from 2022-2025* (Nairobi, UN Environment Programme, 2022).

¹³ *Idem*, p.21.

¹⁴ UNEP/EA.6/Res.6.

¹⁵ See UNEP, *Environmental rule of law: First Global Report* (Nairobi, UN Environment Programme, 2019).

¹⁶ UNEP, *Delivering for people and the planet: Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law* (Nairobi, UN Environment Programme, 2021).

¹⁷ UNEP/Env.Law/MTV/GNFP2.6.

points and other experts working across biodiversity and chemicals & waste. Additionally, it emphasized the role of knowledge products and national legal frameworks in supporting the implementation of MEAs, highlighting opportunities for obtaining support through the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme.

The present report provides an overview of the organization, presentations, discussions, and outcomes of the workshop. It is organized as follows:

- [Section 2](#) introduces the organization and attendance of the event. It includes an overview of meeting participants, a snapshot of participants' responses to the pre-workshop questionnaire, a summary of the provisional programme, and a description of the background document made available for the meeting.
- [Section 3](#) comprises the proceedings from the opening session, focusing on the opening remarks from the hosts and the donors' representative.
- [Section 4](#) provides a summary of the presentations from the first day of the workshop (25 November 2024), with a focus on the contribution of environmental conventions to the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals, as well as nexus areas for collaborative action.
- [Section 5](#) enumerates and makes available hyperlinks to knowledge management products, tools, and approaches presented on the second day of the workshop (26 November 2024). This includes requirements and platforms for reporting in the context of several MEAs, as well as examples of initiatives that can facilitate collaboration, cooperation, and synergies in MEA implementation.
- [Section 6](#) provides a summary of the session on the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme and its linkages with the implementation of environmental conventions.
- [Section 7](#) presents the outcomes from the plenary discussions and breakout group sessions, focusing on the views expressed by participants on approaches and examples for consideration in the coherent and effective implementation of MEAs and intergovernmental processes relevant to biodiversity and chemicals & waste at the national level.
- [Section 8](#) presents an overview of the key takeaway messages shared by participants in the 'synthesis and way forward' session, with emphasis on follow-up actions and thematic priorities.
- [Section 9](#) comprises the proceedings from the closing session.

The report also comprises four annexes, namely: the list of participants ([Annex I](#)), the list of background documents ([Annex III](#)), the provisional programme ([Annex IV](#)) for the workshop, as well as the analysis of responses to the pre-workshop questionnaire ([Annex II](#)).

2 Organization and participation

The workshop took place from 26 to 28 November 2024, online and in person, at the Hôtel Fleur de Lys Point E in Dakar, Senegal. Organized by UNEP's Law Division and BCRC-SCRC Senegal, the workshop was made possible thanks to the financial support from the Government of Finland, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and resources from the Environment Fund.¹⁸

2.1 Attendance

The event brought together thirty-one representatives nominated by countries. These included MEA focal points, Montevideo Environmental Law Programme National Focal Points, and other government experts working across biodiversity and chemicals & waste from eight countries in West and Central Africa, two from the Central African Forests Commission (COMIFAC) and six from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Participant countries comprised Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal. An invitation was also extended to a representative of BCRC-SCRC Senegal and to the Government of Finland, who participated virtually by delivering opening remarks.

In addition to country representatives, the Secretariat of the Basel,¹⁹ Rotterdam,²⁰ and Stockholm Conventions²¹ (BRS Conventions), the Secretariat of the CBD, the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) (virtually), the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Minamata Convention) (virtually), the Secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals (virtually), the Secretariat of the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme, and UNEP representatives and resource persons also participated in the workshop. *Annex I* of the present report includes the final list of in-person participants.

2.2 Pre-workshop questionnaire

In the weeks preceding the workshop, the organizers circulated a survey containing four questions relating to participants' roles and experience in implementing biodiversity and chemicals & waste MEAs and the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme at the national level. The questionnaire also inquired about participants' views on challenges, good practices, and existing approaches to collaboration and cooperation, including on reporting, as well as their expectations and goals for the workshop.

UNEP developed an analysis of the responses to this pre-workshop questionnaire (*Annex II*), which assisted organizers in identifying needs and priorities and in tailoring the plenary sessions and breakout group discussions accordingly. In total, twenty-four responses were received. The majority of respondents identified themselves as focal points to the Basel Convention (22.7%), followed by the Rotterdam Convention (13.6%) and the Minamata Convention (13.6%). The CBD (9.1%), the Stockholm Convention (9.1%), the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme (9.1%), and the Global Framework on Chemicals (4.5%) were likewise featured in the responses. The roles of respondents, as described, included acting as a focal point to the respective conventions or processes, monitoring and guiding implementation, ensuring coordination in the implementation of MEAs, designing capacity-building initiatives, and promoting stakeholder engagement, among other things.

¹⁸ For further information about the Environment Fund, see <https://www.unep.org/about-un-environment-programme/funding-and-partnerships/environment-fund>.

¹⁹ Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

²⁰ Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

²¹ Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants.

In general terms, respondents indicated a moderate to high level of familiarity with the CBD, BRS Conventions and the Minamata Convention. They also indicated some degree of familiarity with the CMS, the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals. In contrast, approximately eighty-two percent of respondents identified that they were not yet familiar with the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme. Among the respondents, seventy-seven percent confirmed that, at the time of the workshop, they coordinated and collaborated with focal points to other conventions and/or processes, and sixty-four percent stated that they had accrued benefits from the adoption of a whole-of-government approach in the preparation of national reports and/or action plans. Benefits referenced included the improvement of data collection and information sharing; increased stakeholder consultation, participation and buy-in; development of robust environmental laws that transposed MEAs' obligations; increased institutional coherence; and enhanced access to training. Participants further described formal and informal mechanisms through which coordination takes place at the national level, their involvement in the development and/or implementation of biodiversity and pollution-related environmental laws, as well as key components of comprehensive national reporting systems and their thoughts on areas within reporting that may require special attention (see [Annex II](#)).

In addition, respondents shared their expectations and goals for the workshop, which included enhancing their understanding of MEAs and related tools and approaches for MEA implementation, improving capacities for reporting, fostering collaboration between MEAs and Montevideo Environmental Law Programme focal points, and strengthening their ability to integrate interdisciplinary expertise, identify technical and financial partners, and secure project funding for coherent implementation of MEAs and the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme.

2.3 Background document and supporting materials

Participants had access to a background document and a number of other supporting materials, which were circulated via email and posted on the event webpage²² in advance of the workshop ([Annex III](#)). The background document was intended as a living document and aimed to provide information on key entry points and options for collaborative action that had been previously discussed in other forums and initiatives. It was divided into two substantive sections. The first section highlighted options and opportunities for action identified in the past in the field of cooperation and coordinated approaches in the implementation of MEAs at the national level, particularly through the Nordic Council of Ministers report on 'Strengthening collaboration and coordination between biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters'²³ and the report of the 'Capacity building workshop for national focal points of MEAs and the Montevideo Programme V to facilitate implementation of biodiversity and chemicals and waste MEAs' – a workshop jointly organized by UNEP and the Rwanda Environment Management Authority. The second section provided an introduction to the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals and outlined a preliminary consideration of key entry points for mutually supportive action in the context of the implementation of both frameworks. The annexes comprised a table illustrating the cross-mapping of MEA goals and targets with the Global Biodiversity Framework and a table illustrating key areas and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework where chemicals and waste management could significantly contribute to implementation.

2.4 Provisional workshop programme

The main workshop programme included plenary and breakout group sessions, allowing for a combination of specialized presentations with substantive discussions over the course of three days (see [Table 1](#)). The goals of the first day (26 November 2024) were to provide an overview of the environmental governance landscape, to introduce participants to nexus areas relevant to biodiversity

²² See <https://www.unep.org/events/workshop/implementation-biodiversity-chemicals-and-waste-meas-and-montevideo-programme-v>.

²³ Nordic Council of Ministers, *Strengthening Collaboration and Coordination Between Biodiversity and Chemicals and Waste Clusters*, Copenhagen (Secretary of the Nordic Council of Ministers, 2022).

and chemicals & waste, with an emphasis on the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals, as well as to facilitate the exchange of experiences and good practices on whole-of-government approaches for implementation of MEAs and related instruments. The second day (27 November 2024) centered around fostering institutional synergies and cooperation. It focused on presenting and identifying knowledge management tools and platforms that support collaboration in MEA implementation, as well as on how collaboration in reporting could support delivering on global biodiversity and chemicals & waste commitments. It also aimed to discuss the relevance of the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme to the implementation of environmental conventions and provide an opportunity for participants to share lessons learned and good practices in the coherent implementation of MEAs through the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme. Lastly, the third day (31 August 2023) sought to provide a summary of the key inputs provided by participants during the first two days, including general messages, approaches, and examples for consideration, and to convene a tour-de-table of follow-up actions and thematic priorities. The full version of the provisional workshop programme is available in [Annex IV](#) of the present report.

Overview of the provisional workshop programme		
Day 1 26 November 2024	Day 2 27 November 2024	Day 3 28 November 2024
<i>Objective:</i> Identification of nexus areas between the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals and how the MEAs can contribute to their implementation	<i>Objective:</i> Fostering institutional synergies and cooperation	<i>Objective:</i> Wrap up - Outcomes of the workshop and the way forward
<i>Opening Session</i> <i>Plenary Session 1.1:</i> The landscape of MEAs and introduction to the synergies across biodiversity and chemicals & waste clusters <i>Plenary Session 1.2:</i> Introduction to the Global Biodiversity Framework and Global Framework on Chemicals <i>Plenary Session 1.3:</i> Practical entry points for nexus implementation <i>Plenary Session 1.4:</i> Coordination mechanisms for MEA implementation to enhance whole-of-government approaches <i>Plenary Session 1.5:</i> Introduction to the first breakout group session <i>Breakout group session I:</i> Integrated and whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to implement Global Biodiversity Framework and Global Framework on Chemicals (country responses)	<i>Plenary Session 2.1:</i> Knowledge management supporting implementation <i>Plenary Session 2.2:</i> Introduction to the second breakout group session <i>Breakout session I:</i> Platforms and tools for cooperation and collaboration when preparing national reports and action plans for implementation of MEAs, the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals <i>Plenary Session 2.4:</i> Montevideo Environmental Law Programme and Environmental Rule of Law <i>Plenary Session 2.5:</i> Introduction to the third breakout group session <i>Breakout group session III:</i> Montevideo Environmental Law Programme and linkages to MEAs	<i>Plenary Session 3.1:</i> Wind up Days 1 and 2 <i>Plenary Session 3.2:</i> Synthesis and way forward <i>Closing Session</i>

Table 1. Overview of the provisional workshop programme.

3 Opening session

Ms. **Tita Korvenoja**, *Chief of the Environmental Conventions and Policy Branch at UNEP's Law Division*, welcomed participants to the capacity-building workshop. Ms. Korvenoja began by thanking the co-organizer, BCRC-SCRC Senegal, for their support and hospitality and the Government of Senegal for hosting the event. She extended their gratitude to the Government of Finland and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency for its financial support. She further acknowledged the presence of MEA secretariats, including representatives of the BRS Conventions, CBD, CMS, and Minamata Convention. Ms. Korvenoja underscored that MEAs had emerged as one of the best mechanisms for institutionalizing intergovernmental cooperation, triggering national action on environmental matters. Despite the large number of MEAs negotiated at the time, data showed that the state of the environment continued to deteriorate at an unprecedented rate, negatively impacting global development objectives and the achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs). She stressed that biodiversity loss and pollution were intertwined challenges, and there was a need to move away from siloed approaches and enable innovative solutions to strengthen collaboration and cooperation across thematic clusters of MEAs. Synergies at the regional and national levels were emphasized as particularly crucial as it was at this level where chemicals and waste were managed, and the impacts of biodiversity degradation were mostly directly felt. In the ensuing discussion, Ms. Korvenoja emphasized the importance of implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals as vehicles for transformational change. As reflected in both frameworks, a whole-of-government approach and collaboration, cooperation, and synergies could contribute to their implementation in a more effective and efficient manner. Ms. Korvenoja noted that the workshop, the second of its kind organized by UNEP, aimed to build a practical understanding of how interlinkages between biodiversity and chemicals & waste could be achieved at the national level. She stressed the role of the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme in supporting countries to develop and implement environmental law and, consequently, to meet their commitments and obligations under various MEAs. Biodiversity and pollution were priority areas for the Programme, and collaboration between the Programme's focal points and MEA focal points was important for ensuring effectiveness. Ms. Korvenoja concluded by underscoring UNEP's role and commitment to support countries, as appropriate, in strengthening institutional frameworks, building capacities in the field of environmental law and policy, and developing tools to implement MEAs.

Ms. **Marjaana Kokkonen**, *Ministerial Adviser at the Ministry of the Environment of Finland*, extended her warm welcome to meeting participants on behalf of the Government of Finland. Ms. Kokkonen highlighted Finland's longstanding commitment, along with Nordic countries, to support synergies between MEAs. She stressed their common understanding that coherence and efficiency in implementing environmental agreements were crucial to successfully addressing existing and emerging environmental problems and to achieving the SDGs. Ms. Kokkonen recalled Finland's role in supporting the preparation of the Nordic Council's study titled 'Strengthening collaboration and coordination between biodiversity and chemicals & waste clusters,' which outlined a number of recommendations to enhance cooperation in implementation. As a follow-up to that work, Finland also supported UNEP in convening capacity-building workshops for focal points to biodiversity and chemicals & waste conventions. She expressed satisfaction with the progress made since the previous year's successful workshop in Rwanda and noted the importance of the continued dialogue taking place that day in West and Central Africa. The task of the workshop would be to discuss practical ways and means to strengthen coordination between both thematic clusters. Furthermore, Ms. Kokkonen referred to the United Nations Environment Assembly session that had taken place earlier in the year, where a MEA Day was organized, and two important resolutions relating to MEAs were adopted, namely UNEA resolutions 6/4 and 6/6. She highlighted that both resolutions encouraged Member States to promote and enhance positive collaboration and cooperation opportunities for the implementation of MEAs,

including exchange between focal points. The present workshop would be an example of the implementation of both resolutions. Particularly, Ms. Kokkonen highlighted the urgency of an integrated approach in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and encouraged participants to consider including MEA-related contributions in their voluntary national reviews for the High-Level Political Forum, thereby raising the visibility of the contribution of MEAs. She also mentioned current discussions under the CBD COP-16 cooperation agenda item regarding enhanced collaboration between biodiversity and climate clusters. She noted that participants could consider, as appropriate, mainstreaming such collaboration into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs). Ms. Kokkonen concluded by expressing her keen interest in hearing the outcomes of the workshop and wished participants success in their discussions.

Mr. **Abdoulaye Sy**, *Deputy Director at the Directorate of Environment and Classified Establishments of Senegal*, provided opening remarks on behalf of the host country. Mr. Sy welcomed participants to Senegal, the land of hospitality, and thanked them for their participation in the capacity-building workshop. He extended greetings from the Minister of Environment and Ecological Transition and expressed his interest in the themes to be discussed over the next few days. He expressed his appreciation to the meeting conveners, particularly UNEP, for their role in organizing the event. Mr. Sy reiterated Senegal's strong commitment to the implementation of MEAs as a means to address the interconnected triple plenary crises of pollution, climate change, and biodiversity loss. He highlighted that Senegal had reaffirmed its international commitment to address environmental challenges by ratifying conventions on biodiversity and chemicals & waste. The biodiversity crisis was identified as a major challenge at the time, including deforestation, species extinction, and nature loss. Emphasizing the urgency of such a crisis and the importance of taking action, he shared statistics from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) related to the unprecedented decline in nature and its drivers. In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Sy stressed the importance of achieving sustainable production and identified the workshop as an opportunity to share experiences, particularly in relation to chemicals & waste management. He acknowledged the vulnerability of the region to ecological crises and underscored the importance of sharing such lessons learned and best practices. By way of conclusion, Mr. Sy thanked UNEP and the participants for their attendance, conveying the message that their presence demonstrated their commitment to the implementation of MEAs. He declared the workshop officially open by wishing participants success at the meeting.

Ms. **Fatoumata Barry**, *Project Execution Officer at the Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre located in Senegal (BCRC-SCRC Senegal)*, delivered introductory remarks on behalf of Mr. Ablaye Diao, the BCRC-SCRC Senegal Director. Ms. Barry warmly welcomed the meeting participants. She emphasized the relevance of the implementation of global commitments at the national level and extended her gratitude to country-level stakeholders, acknowledging their critical role in the implementation of MEAs. Moreover, Ms. Barry drew attention to the crucial role of the sound management of chemicals & waste throughout their lifecycle in preserving biodiversity. The environmentally sound management of chemicals & waste was highlighted as one of the key missions of the BCRC-SCRC Senegal, which supported Parties to the Basel and Stockholm conventions in implementing national plans and programmes for the management of chemicals & waste. She underscored that the synergies process between the BRS Conventions was an excellent example of cooperation to safeguard human life and the environment. Ms. Barry concluded by thanking the organizers for the capacity-building workshop and wished participants success in the meeting.

4 Contribution of MEAs to the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals and nexus areas for collaborative action

The presentations during the first day of the workshop (26 November 2024) introduced the landscape of MEAs, the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals, and interlinkages across the biodiversity and chemicals & waste clusters. They also provided background information on practical and thematic entry points for nexus implementation, as well as existing coordination mechanisms for MEA implementation at the national level. This section provides an overview of the main points addressed by these presentations. Participants' views and input provided during the plenary discussions are integrated into [Section 7](#) of the present report, which includes action-oriented 'approaches and examples for consideration.'

Landscape of MEAs and introduction to the synergies across biodiversity and chemicals & waste clusters

Ms. **Tita Korvenoja** provided an overview of the environmental governance landscape. Ms. Korvenoja highlighted the historical evolution of environmental governance, tracing its roots back to the environmental movement and the publication of Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* and the subsequent emergence of focused MEAs. Over the past forty years, the number and membership of MEAs had significantly expanded, with diverse scopes, objectives, institutional arrangements, reporting requirements, compliance mechanisms, funding mechanisms, and timelines for the implementation of relevant global strategies and action plans. These particular characteristics and arrangements were identified as important considerations in the context of promoting programmatic cooperation across instruments. In this landscape, she highlighted that fifteen MEAs were administered by UNEP at the time, including global conventions (such as the CBD, CMS, the BRS Conventions, and the Minamata Convention), regional conventions, regional seas conventions and action plans, and other entities. UNEP also had been working with these and other conventions in the promotion of programmatic synergies. She underscored that synergies could be administrative and programmatic, and as mandated by governing bodies of the MEAs through decisions on collaboration. Ms. Korvenoja concluded by stressing the importance of a whole-of-government approach to address the interconnected challenges of pollution and biodiversity loss. She highlighted UNEP's commitment to strengthening institutional frameworks and facilitating cooperation to implement MEAs effectively.

Mr. **Olivier Rukundo**, *Head of the Peoples and Biodiversity Unit at the CBD Secretariat*, introduced the Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in 2022 under the CBD, as an instrument for addressing biodiversity loss and related challenges such as pollution and climate change. Mr. Rukundo underscored the mission of the Framework, that is, to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery by 2030 for the benefit of people and the planet. He further described the vision, goals, mission, and targets of the Framework. The targets could be clustered around those related

to reducing threats, meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing, and enabling tools and solutions for implementation. Furthermore, the Framework promoted whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. Its Section C comprised cross-cutting considerations for implementation, such as different value systems, a human rights-based approach, the contribution and rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, gender equality, and the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment. The implementation of every target in the Framework should be approached in light of such considerations. Mr. Rukundo concluded by introducing the Monitoring Framework for the Global Biodiversity Framework, which comprised a set of indicators for tracking progress toward the goals and targets of the framework.

In the ensuing discussion, Mr. Rukundo provided an introduction to synergies between chemicals & waste conventions and biodiversity conventions and their associated global strategies and plans, including the Global Biodiversity Framework. On behalf of the **Secretariat of the Minamata Convention**, he presented on the contribution of the Minamata Convention to the Global Biodiversity Framework. He noted that mercury was a highly hazardous chemical that built up in food chains and impacted humans and wildlife. Particularly, Indigenous Peoples and local communities were disproportionately affected by mercury pollution – and, therefore, should be major partners in the solution to this environmental challenge. He shared that gold mining accounted for nearly half of all mercury released into the environment by humans, often happening in areas of high biodiversity importance. Based on an in-depth analysis prepared by the Secretariat of the Minamata Convention, Mr. Rukundo underscored that twenty-one targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework offered entry points for coherent and effective implementation with the Minamata Convention. In addition, decision 5/17 from the fifth meeting of the COP to the Minamata Convention welcomed the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework, invited the Parties to that convention to reflect mercury reduction and control targets in their revised or updated NBSAPs, and provided guidance for further collaborative action.

On behalf of the **Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions**, and based on input from the Secretariat, Mr. Rukundo presented interlinkages across biodiversity and chemicals & waste MEA clusters. He noted that pollution was one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss and that the mismanagement of hazardous chemicals & waste had several adverse impacts on biodiversity. He underscored that the BRS Conventions addressed some of the most significant chemical & waste pollutants that had been identified over the past decades. Their main goal was to protect human health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous chemicals and waste. There were multiple streams of work under the conventions through which interlinkages among the chemicals and waste MEAs and the biodiversity MEAs were promoted, including but not limited to decisions and recommendations by governing and subsidiary bodies, compliance mechanisms, SDGs implementation and monitoring, capacity-building and awareness-raising forums, and knowledge and informational materials. Mr. Rukundo concluded by highlighting online resources available on interlinkages between the BRS Conventions and other MEAs and intergovernmental processes.

Ms. **Marina Demaria Venâncio**, *Programme Officer - International Policy & Conventions at the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)*, provided an overview of the “Capacity building workshop for national focal points of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and the Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law to facilitate implementation of biodiversity and chemicals and waste MEAs” (referred to as ‘Rwanda Workshop’) and its main outcomes. She noted that the Rwanda Workshop was jointly organized by UNEP and Rwanda Environment Management Authority between 29 and 31 August 2023 and brought together forty-one representatives nominated by countries who were working across biodiversity and chemical & waste MEAs. She described that the primary objective of the meeting was to establish a practical understanding of how interlinkages between conventions from these two regulatory regimes could be promoted at the national level to enhance and facilitate their implementation. Key outcomes highlighted included eleven high-level messages and a number of opportunities for action identified by participants. Speaking about the latter, Ms. Venâncio concluded by underscoring that such opportunities could be clustered into those related to institutional mechanisms at the national level,

those concerning strategic planning and implementation, and those regarding regional and international cooperation.

In the context of the Rwanda Workshop, Ms. **Nancy Allimadi**, *Uganda's Focal Point to the Basel Convention*, elaborated on its outcomes and specific actions taken by countries since the Rwanda Workshop in relation to other international developments. Ms. Allimadi started by stressing that business as usual was not an option since exposure to hazardous chemicals & waste was a major threat to human life. She introduced the Global Framework on Chemicals as an important instrument in the promotion of collaborative action on biodiversity and chemicals & waste, as well as in the achievement of related global commitments on both these subject areas. In the ensuing discussion, Ms. Allimadi presented entry points for action under the Global Framework on Chemicals vis-à-vis the recommendations from the Rwanda Workshop, outlining examples of outcomes under various processes that spoke to the implementation of the Recommendations from Rwanda. The latter included the Third Global Meeting of National Focal Points under the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme and the request for technical legal assistance through UNEP's Law and Environment Assistance Platform (UNEP-LEAP), among other things. She further highlighted that indirectly or directly addressing the strategic goals and targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals was a way to tackle the three global challenges of biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change. Ms. Allimadi concluded by stressing that the Rwanda Workshop was helpful and provided a platform for holistic approaches that could be further leveraged and expanded upon.

Introduction to the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals

Ms. **Kay Williams**, *Head of the Global Framework on Chemicals Secretariat*, introduced the Global Framework on Chemicals, adopted in 2023 under the International Conference on Chemicals Management (the 'International Conference'). Ms. Williams highlighted pollution as one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss. Examples of the impacts of unsound management of chemicals and waste on biodiversity were emphasized, including land degradation and deforestation from informal or poorly regulated artisanal and small-scale gold mining and nature loss due to pesticide use. Addressing such impacts through the sound management of chemicals and waste would contribute to combatting pollution and ensuring ecosystem integrity. Ms. Williams shared that the Global Framework on Chemicals was backed by a political declaration. The Framework included five strategic objectives and twenty-eight targets, many of which were particularly relevant for collaboration and cooperation across clusters, such as those covering aspects relating to legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms, and capacities. The Framework also incorporated a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, emphasizing collaboration and partnerships between all sectors of society, including governments, non-governmental organizations, industries, and civil society. Additionally, it had a fund that was open for the first round of applications until 31 January 2025. Ms. Williams stressed the importance of working together across MEAs and processes, including in the implementation of both the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals, noting that there were many opportunities for increased cooperation and synergy between the chemicals & waste and biodiversity clusters. She mentioned Resolution V/6 from the International Conference on 'international cooperation and coordination' and Resolution V/8 on 'implementation arrangements.' Through the latter, the International Conference had urged stakeholders to comprehensively implement the framework and had invited the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) and its organizations to collaborate on and develop proposals for global implementation programmes. IOMC organizations were, at the time of the workshop, working on approaches and terms of reference for such programmes, which covered areas such as the integration of sound chemicals and waste management in sustainable development decision-making processes. She also identified other areas of work where there was connection and interlinkages between the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals. These included the measurability of progress and indicators that are being used to measure and assess progress, noting ongoing efforts under the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators. Ms. Williams concluded by describing the next steps for the Global Framework on Chemicals Secretariat in terms of collaboration and cooperation.

Mr. **Olivier Rukundo**, in an interactive presentation, provided an in-depth overview of the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework and issues to be considered at the national level of implementation. Mr. Rukundo explained that the Framework was adopted as part of a package of decisions that also provided for a monitoring framework (CBD COP decision 15/5); mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review (CBD COP decision 15/6); resource mobilization (decision 15/7); and a Gender Plan of Action (decision 15/11), among others. He further elaborated on the Framework's structure, focusing on its section C, goals, and targets. The latter included targets relevant to the chemicals & waste cluster, particularly Target 7, which aimed to reduce pollution to levels that were not harmful to biodiversity. Mr. Rukundo noted that the CBD was a legally binding international agreement that provided for a number of obligations for its parties, including that of reporting and developing national strategies, plans, or programs for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Speaking about what actions countries were anticipated to undertake at the national level in relation to their obligations, he referred to CBD COP decision 15/6 on 'mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review.' He outlined that CBD parties had been requested at COP 15 to revise and update their national biodiversity strategies and action plans by CBD COP 16 and, where not possible, to communicate national targets reflecting, as applicable, all goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Annex I to decision 15/6 provided guidance for revising and updating NBSAPs. While there had been some progress in the revision and update of NBSAPs, he acknowledged that many countries were still working at the time on their NBSAPs. The next steps for parties were to complete their processes to revise and update NBSAPs and submit this information to the CBD Secretariat, as well as to report on progress towards national targets in their seventh and eighth national reports. In the NBSAP revision and update process, parties were encouraged to identify and utilize synergies among NBSAPs and the planning and implementation mechanisms of other relevant MEAs, as prescribed by CBD COP decision 15/6. Mr. Rukundo proceeded to highlight key elements for consideration in the revision and update of NBSAPs, such as the review or establishment of national objectives and their alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework and a whole-of-society approach. Addressing the revised and updated NBSAPs that had been received by the CBD Secretariat to date, he noted that a number of them integrated chemicals & waste and climate considerations. Still, there was room to see further integration. Mr. Rukundo concluded by providing updates from COP 16, noting that it had been suspended and was scheduled to resume in 2025. Outcomes included the establishment of a new permanent subsidiary body on Article 8(j) and other provisions, and progress towards the finalization of the monitoring framework that had been agreed upon at COP-15.

Practical entry points for nexus implementation

Ms. **Haddy Guisse**, *Programme Management Officer at UNEP's Law Division*, introduced the outcomes of the "Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-Related Conventions for the Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework" (referred to as 'the Conference') and the cross-mapping of interlinkages between the Framework and other MEAs. The Conference took place between 23 and 25 January 2024 and brought together representatives from sixteen MEAs across several thematic areas, including biodiversity, chemicals & waste, climate, and desertification. It was organized in the context of the Bern Process, which aimed to strengthen collaboration and cooperation among parties and secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant conventions. Ms. Guisse further highlighted the mapping exercise conducted in the context of the Conference, which identified key entry points for collaboration and cooperation between MEAs vis-à-vis the targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework. In addition, the Conference resulted in the sharing of case studies of good collaborative practice and a set of recommendations on further steps that could be taken to strengthen synergies in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Ms. Guisse concluded by emphasizing that the Conference's recommendations served as a roadmap for fostering cross-cluster collaboration.

In the ensuing discussion, Ms. **Marina Demaria Venâncio** introduced the background document prepared for the meeting (see [Section 2.3](#)). Additionally, representatives from the **BRS Conventions Secretariat** (Ms. **Jackline Wanjiru**), the **CBD Secretariat** (Mr. **Olivier Rukundo**), and the **CMS**

Secretariat (Ms. Laura Cerasi) provided examples of actions taken in the context of their respective conventions to support the implementation of both the Global Framework on Chemicals and Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as entry points for collaboration. Some of these examples are summarized in [Table 2](#) below, which also includes hyperlinks to the presentations delivered by the secretariats.

MEA	<i>Examples of actions taken to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals</i>
BRS Conventions	• Decisions on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations taken by the COPs to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm conventions. Through these decisions, the BRS Conventions COPs had invited Parties to promote synergies with a wide range of instruments and organizations. For example, through decisions BC-16/22, RC-11/9 and SC-11/21, the BRS Conventions COPs welcomed the adoption of the Global Biodiversity Framework and reiterated the call to Parties to take into account its objectives of the Framework in their actions to implement the BRS Conventions. • Preparation of a report by the BRS Conventions Secretariat, including possible recommendations, on how the BRS Conventions could contribute to the implementation of the 2030 targets and 2050 goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (under preparation at the time of the workshop). • Participation of the BRS Conventions Secretariat in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, contributing to its collaborative efforts. • Provision by the BRS Conventions Secretariat of technical assistance, capacity-building, and scientific support to parties to the BRS Conventions. The Global Framework on Chemicals' objectives were complementary to the BRS Conventions. Therefore, many of the activities of the Secretariat had a direct link to the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals. • Development of guidance materials and products by the BRS Conventions Secretariat.
CBD	• Following by the CBD Secretariat of the development of the Global Framework on Chemicals. Target E6 of the Global Framework on Chemicals included key areas for synergies between chemicals & waste and biodiversity. • Decisions on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations taken by the CBD COP, including CBD COP decision 15/3. • Decisions on capacity-building and technical and scientific cooperation taken by the CBD COP, which created entry points for nexus implementation at the national level.
CMS	• Actions to contribute to the development of the Global Biodiversity Framework, which informed the inclusion of relevant priorities in the Framework. • Development of an analysis of the “Relevance of the Global Biodiversity Framework to the Convention on Migratory Species.” • Participation of the CMS Secretariat in the Bern III Conference. • Decisions 14.6 and 14.7 taken by the CMS COP in its fourteenth meeting on the “CMS Engagement in CBD Processes Including Global Biodiversity Framework.” These decisions requested CMS Parties to ensure that migratory species’ needs and concerns are integrated into the revision and update of NBPSAPs and national targets, as well as to consider engaging in the Bern Process.

	• Launch of global initiatives and partnerships such as the Global Partnership on Ecological Connectivity. • Production and dissemination of guidance documents, such as the document titled “Technical Guidance on Systematic Conservation Planning with Connectivity” and the paper titled “NBSAPs and synergies among Biodiversity-related Conventions, with a focus on the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework that address wild species” developed in collaboration with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Secretariat.
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Table 2 - Examples of actions taken by MEA secretariats and entry points to support the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals

Coordination mechanisms for MEA Implementation to enhance whole-of-government approaches

Ms. **Emelyne Wright-Hanson**, *Principal Development Planning Officer and Head of the Biodiversity Unit at the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology, and Innovation of Ghana*, provided a practical example of Ghana’s whole-of-government approach to implementing MEAs, particularly in relation to biodiversity. Following CBD COP 15, Ghana prioritized engaging all relevant parts of government and stakeholders in the process of implementing the Global Biodiversity Framework. According to Mrs. Wright-Hanson, the Government began by identifying the multiple national institutions with distinct mandates that were relevant to the targets in the Framework. At the time, Ghana had thematic focal points for several specialized areas, such as taxonomy and protected areas, and not all of them were hosted within the Ministry of Environment. Ms. Wright-Hanson noted that following CBD COP 15, the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework was discussed at the interministerial National Biodiversity Steering Committee. The Committee developed a table mapping all the targets of the Framework and potential leading and collaborating institutions for implementation. This process facilitated the preparation of an information paper later submitted to Ghana’s Cabinet, which highlighted the importance of working with all institutions identified in the table. Additionally, the Steering Committee engaged the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) in implementation discussions and initiated a process to develop biodiversity mainstreaming guidelines (which were almost finalized at the time of the workshop). Once adopted and in coordination with the NDPC, these guidelines would require development frameworks and all sectors to incorporate biodiversity considerations and the Global Biodiversity Targets into their planning and reporting. Public awareness and stakeholder engagement were described as key priorities in the process of implementing the CBD and the Global Biodiversity Framework at the national level. Ghana utilized events like the International Day for Biological Diversity to foster understanding. These efforts targeted a broad audience, including the media and other non-governmental stakeholders. Ms. Wright-Hanson identified institutional coordination as essential, especially considering limited resources. Collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Finance had been focusing on the development of biodiversity budget codes and tracking biodiversity expenditures. She further highlighted institutional coordination’s role in fostering buy-in from other ministries, ensuring smoother implementation and reporting processes. Speaking about challenges in institutional coordination, Ms. Wright-Hanson underscored fragmented mandates, resource limitations, communication gaps, weak enforcement mechanisms for environmental policies, and the lack of integrated data systems, among other things. She highlighted that Ghana was leveraging opportunities like the NDPC’s working groups, the National Biodiversity Steering Committee technical working groups, international funding, technical assistance, and the use of technology for real-time monitoring and reporting. Knowledge and experience sharing through regional partnerships and initiatives like the Bern Process was likewise emphasized as critical. Ms. Wright-Hanson further underscored a number of best practices from Ghana, which included exploring formal and informal structures for collaboration and cooperation, mainstreaming biodiversity into development planning, strengthening communication and information-sharing channels, and establishing the National Biodiversity Steering Committee, among others. Ms. Wright-Hanson concluded by sharing lessons learned and recommendations. The latter included developing clear, harmonized mandates for

institutions, leveraging digital tools for monitoring and reporting, fostering a culture of collaboration and information sharing and increasing investment in capacity-building.

5 Knowledge management in support of the implementation of MEAs and global commitments

The second day of the workshop (27 November 2024) was focused on national reporting as an entry point for collaboration, cooperation, and synergies, and, more broadly, the role of knowledge management in supporting the implementation of MEAs, the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals. More specifically, it included several presentations from representatives of the BRS Conventions Secretariat, the CBD Secretariat, the CMS Secretariat, the Minamata Convention Secretariat, UNEP's Chemical and Health Branch, and UNEP's Law Division on technical and procedural aspects of reporting, as well as knowledge management initiatives.

In this context, [section 5.1](#) provides a high-level summary of the information shared by MEA secretariats, including reporting requirements, templates, and considerations for collaborative action. In addition, [section 5.2](#) outlines the tools, platforms, and other knowledge management initiatives that were presented.

5.1 National reporting as an entry point for collaboration, cooperation, and synergies

Representatives of MEA secretariats outlined a number of considerations relating to, *inter alia*, reporting requirements, templates, and scope; possible areas of commonality in reporting across MEAs; and entry points for collaboration on knowledge management. [Table 3](#) lists all MEAs with reporting obligations whose secretariats participated in the workshop. It further provides a snapshot of their goals, legal basis for reporting, thematic areas for reporting, reporting platforms and tools, and potential synergies with other processes, as presented at the meeting. Likewise, it provides hyperlinks to the PowerPoint presentations from the secretariat representatives, which contain detailed information about relevant reporting structures, templates, and resources available to parties.

Multilateral Environmental Agreement	Requirements and platforms for reporting
Basel Convention	Objective of the convention: To protect human health and the environment against the adverse effects of the generation, management, transboundary movement and disposal of hazardous and other wastes. Articles 4 and 4a provide for the general obligations under the Basel Convention. Legal basis for reporting: Article 13(3) of the Basel Convention. In addition, Article 5 of the Basel Convention provides for the designation of focal points to receive and submit information. Areas that parties are expected to report on include: Legal, administrative and other measures taken to implement the Basel Convention; detailed information regarding transboundary movements of hazardous wastes or other wastes in which Parties have been involved; information on available qualified statistics on the effects on human health and the environment of the generation, transportation, and disposal of hazardous wastes or other wastes, <i>inter alia</i>. Format of reporting: Parties are required to report annually as per Article 13(3) of the Basel Convention. COP decision VI/27 provides for the adoption of the

	revised questionnaire on transmission of information and its related manual. The questionnaire contains Parts I and II, namely, ‘status of information’ and ‘annual reporting.’ Reporting platform: The Electronic Reporting System (ERS) for the Basel Convention facilitates the submission of reports by focal points. Key features include prefilled questionnaires based on previous submissions, navigation tools such as error-checking, saving, and downloading functionalities, and dashboards for data aggregation and visualization. Potential entry points for interlinkages with reporting under other conventions and processes may include Data sharing on issues relevant to other MEAs addressing chemicals and waste, as well as the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (e.g., data related to plastic waste). ADOPTION: 22 March 1989 ENTRY INTO FORCE: 5 May 1992 PARTIES: 191
Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants	Objective of the convention: To protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs) (Article 1, Stockholm Convention). Legal basis for reporting: Article 15 of the Stockholm Convention. In addition, Parties are invited to nominate official contact points, as per COP decision SC-2/16. Areas that parties are expected to report on include: Qualitative and quantitative data relating to measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention (e.g., legal and administrative measures to reduce or eliminate POPs release); the effectiveness of such measures in meeting the objectives of the Convention; total quantities of production, import and export of chemicals under the Convention; countries from which such chemicals were imported and to which they were exported, <i>inter alia</i>. Format of reporting: Parties must report every four years as per COP decision SC-1/22. Decision SC-1/22 also provides for the format of reporting. The latter is divided into Part A (general information on the party submitting the report, with five questions) and Part B (information on the measures taken and their effectiveness, with thirty-eight questions). Reporting platform: The Electronic Reporting System (ERS) for the Stockholm Convention facilitates the submission of reports by official contact points. Key features include prefilled questionnaires based on previous submissions, navigation tools such as error-checking, saving, and downloading functionalities, and dashboards for data aggregation and visualization. Potential entry points for interlinkages with reporting under other conventions and processes may include: Data sharing on chemical management practices, which relates to target 7 of the Global Biodiversity Framework. ADOPTION: 22 May 2001 ENTRY INTO FORCE: 17 May 2004 PARTIES: 186
Convention on Biological Diversity	Objective of the convention: The conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources (Article 1, CBD). Legal basis for reporting: CBD Article 26. In addition, COP decision 15/6 provides for an enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review, including specific guidance on reporting in alignment with the Global Biodiversity Framework. Areas that parties are expected to report on include: Measures taken for the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and their effectiveness. In terms of national reports, this may include information on headline and binary

	indicators relevant to biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and equitable benefit sharing, <i>inter alia</i>. Format of reporting: Parties are requested to submit their seventh national report by 28 February 2026 and their eighth national report by 30 June 2029 as per COP decision 15/6, in line with the template contained in annex II to COP decision 15/6 and other relevant guidance from the COP. Reporting platform: The Online Reporting Tool (ORT) supports the submission of national targets and will facilitate the submission of national reports in the coming months. Features include multilingual support, a ‘national authorized user’ role that grants access to government officials other than national focal points to draft information on the tool, and robust options for drafting, reviewing, and publishing submissions. Potential entry points for interlinkages with reporting under other conventions and processes may include: Taking advantage of the ‘national authorized user’ role functionality in the ORT to foster collaboration and cooperation between the CBD national focal point and focal points from other MEAs. Data sharing on matters relating to the biodiversity and chemicals & waste nexus. ADOPTION: 5 June 1992 ENTRY INTO FORCE: 29 December 1993 PARTIES: 196
Minamata Convention on Mercury	Objective of the convention: To protect the human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and releases of mercury and mercury compounds (Article 1, Minamata Convention). Legal basis for reporting: Article 21 of the Minamata Convention. Article 17(4) provides that each Party shall designate a national focal point for the exchange of information. Areas that parties are expected to report on include: Measures taken to implement provisions of the Convention, the effectiveness of such measures, and possible challenges Parties have encountered. Provisions of the convention can be divided into control measures (e.g., mercury mining, trade, contaminated sites, waste) and enabling or supportive provisions (e.g., capacity building, technical assistance, information exchange). Format of reporting: COP decision MC-1/8 provides for the full format of reporting (forty-three questions, structured in five parts). Parties must report every four years using the full format and every two years on four questions out of the forty-three. In its fifth meeting, the COP adopted national reporting guidance for use by Parties (COP decision MC-5/13). Reporting platform: The Online Reporting Tool supports National Focal Points in fulfilling their reporting obligations under Article 21. Features include multilingual support, an autosave function, pre-populated sections based on official submissions, and logic-driven navigation for streamlined submission. Reports are integrated into InforMEA, facilitating interoperability and accessibility. Dashboards are produced in an automated way based on submissions, and public data is made available on the Convention’s website. Potential entry points for interlinkages with reporting under other conventions and processes may include: Data-sharing on issues such as trade, waste, contaminated sites, artisanal and small-scale gold mining, emissions, and releases. ADOPTION: 10 October 2013 ENTRY INTO FORCE: 16 August 2017 PARTIES: 151

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals	Objective of the convention: The conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial, aquatic, and avian migratory animals and their habitats. Article II provides for the fundamental principles of the CMS. Legal basis for reporting: CMS Article VI(3). Areas that parties are expected to report on include: Measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention. These may include conservation measures for the migratory species listed in Appendices I and II of the Convention, access and ratification of CMS Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding, <i>inter alia</i>. Format of reporting: COP resolution 12.5 outlines the procedure for national reporting. At least fifteen months in advance of the deadline for submission of the next National Report, the CMS Secretariat presents the draft National Report format to the Standing Committee. Upon approval, the format is made available to parties, and reports are to be submitted to the CMS Secretariat at least six months prior to the next ordinary meeting of the COP. The 'Format and Guidance for the 2023 CMS National Report' comprises nineteen sections, from administrative information to resource mobilization. Reporting platform: The Online Reporting System (ORS) supports the submission of National Reports. The recently updated system features include a user-friendly design, prefilled sections based on Secretariat data and streamlined submission processes to enhance efficiency. Potential entry points for interlinkages with reporting under other conventions and processes may include: the implementation of the CMS Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032 and the development of indicators for its targets, which should draw as much as possible from existing work, such as that ongoing for the Global Biodiversity Framework. In addition, it may include the sharing of data on migratory species' critical habitats. ADOPTION: 23 June 1979 ENTRY INTO FORCE: 1 November 1983 PARTIES: 133
Note:	The information relating to adoption, entry into force, and number of parties contained in this table was extracted from the United Nations Treaty Collection.

Table 3 – Considerations relating to reporting under various MEAs, including requirements, platforms, templates, and potential synergies with other processes.

5.2 Tools, platforms, and other knowledge management initiatives to facilitate collaboration, cooperation, and synergies

Table 4 lists the tools, platforms, and initiatives that facilitate collaboration, cooperation and synergies in the national-level implementation of MEAs that were presented and discussed on the second day of the workshop.

<i>Tool, platform, or Initiative</i>	<i>Description</i>
Basel and Stockholm Conventions Reporting Dashboards	The Basel and Stockholm Conventions Reporting dashboards provide a streamlined and comprehensive way to visualize data and information submitted by Parties in their national reports. The structure of the dashboards is based on the national report questionnaires, and the platform offers various straightforward and comprehensive ways to visualize data. More information (Basel Convention): https://ers.basel.int/eRSodataReports2/ReportBC_DashBoard.html More information (Stockholm Convention):

	https://ers.pops.int/eRSodataReports2/ReportSC_DashBoard.html It is important to note that there is also a joint clearing-house mechanism, a multi-stakeholder global system that facilitates the exchange of information and expertise relevant to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions.
Interactive dashboards on mercury and artisanal and small-scale gold mining	Under the aegis of the Minamata Convention, Parties are requested to develop National Action Plans (NAPs) for artisanal and small-scale gold mining. In the context of the Global Mercury Partnership, NAPs submitted to the Minamata Convention Secretariat were reviewed, and relevant quantitative and qualitative data was extracted and integrated into interactive dashboards. Among other things, the dashboards provide information on baseline figures and worst practices to be addressed. More information: https://www.unep.org/globalmercurypartnership/insights-asgm-national-action-plans
InforMEA	InforMEA is a one-stop portal for information on multilateral environmental agreements. It is hosted by UNEP and consists of an open-access knowledge platform that integrates information from different MEA secretariats, including plans and national reports submitted by parties. It includes country profiles, treaty profiles, a glossary, and an e-learning section with self-paced courses. The information is searchable by key terms across treaty texts, COP decisions, national plans and reports, laws, court decisions, and more. A new tool incorporated into the platform demonstrates the interlinkages between biodiversity and pollution-related MEAs. More information: https://www.informea.org/
Data Reporting Tools for MEAs (DaRT)	DaRT is hosted by InforMEA and is the first global reporting tool that supports parties in sharing, organizing, and maintaining data, knowledge, and information across biodiversity-related conventions. DaRT provides parties to MEAs with a private and secure working space to organize, share, and keep data across conventions for reporting purposes, contributing to preserving institutional knowledge. Furthermore, the tool supports countries in cross-mapping NBSAPs with global and regional strategies, as well as plans of action. More information: https://dart.informea.org/
UNEP's Law and Environment Assistance Platform (UNEP-LEAP)	UNEP-LEAP is the digital backbone of the fifth edition of the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme. It provides information about the Programme and its related meetings. It includes a knowledge base and a country profiles section, where information about Montevideo National Focal Points and examples of national legislation are available. Lastly, it also includes a Clearing House Mechanism through which countries can submit technical legal assistance requests directly to UNEP. More information: https://leap.unep.org/en

Table 4 – Overview of tools, mechanisms, and initiatives for strengthening coherent implementation of MEAs at the national level.

6 The Montevideo Environmental Law Programme and linkages to MEAs

The second day of the workshop (27 November 2024) also included a plenary session dedicated to the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme (the Programme) and how it supported the progressive development of environmental rule law.²⁴ It introduced the Programme and its relevance to MEA implementation, followed by the presentation of a practical case study from Benin on national-level legal frameworks supporting the implementation of several environmental conventions.

Section 6 provides a snapshot of the information shared by the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme Secretariat and the Government of Benin during the session. Participants' views and input provided during the plenary discussions are integrated into *Section 7* of the present report, which includes action-oriented 'approaches and examples for consideration.'

Mr. **Alvin John Gachie**, *Legal Officer at UNEP's Law Division*, opened the session on behalf of the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme Secretariat. Mr. Gachie provided an overview of the Programme and its significance to environmental rule of law. He emphasized the Programme's role as a flagship mechanism to support countries upon request in developing and implementing environmental law to meet various commitments under MEAs. Mr. Gachie introduced the historical background of the Programme, which was first established in 1982 via Decision 10/21 of the Governing Council of UNEP and is now in its fifth iteration. Since the inception of the Programme, UNEP's environmental law activities had been organized and coordinated through ten-year programmes adopted by UNEP's Governing Council and, more recently, UNEA. The Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law's²⁵ core objectives were to support the development of adequate and effective environmental legislation and legal frameworks to address environmental issues, strengthen the effective implementation of environmental law, and support enhanced capacity-building for increased effectiveness of environmental law. Mr. Gachie further provided information about the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Programme, which included a secretariat, a Steering Committee for implementation and National Focal Points. Furthermore, he presented the nine strategic activities of the Programme, which comprised, among other things, providing practical guidance, tools, innovative approaches and resources to countries; developing and promoting information and data exchange among legal stakeholders; promoting public participation, access to information, and access to justice; and promoting the recognition of mutually reinforcing relationship between environmental law and three pillars of the UN charter. In addition, he outlined the priority areas for implementation of the Programme as defined by National Focal Points in their Global Meetings. These included legal responses to address the climate, biodiversity, and pollution crisis. In the context of such priorities, he provided examples of what the Programme had been doing to deliver on the biodiversity and pollution-related areas, such as targeted training for the judiciary, legislative and other legal stakeholders, the development of model laws on biodiversity, and technical legal assistance for the development of environmental legislation. Mr. Gachie underscored that MEAs were central partners in the implementation of the Programme and that activities conducted under the Programme must take into consideration relevant resolutions and decisions of other multilateral processes. He

²⁴ See UNEP, *Handbook for the Fifth Montevideo Programme on the Progressive Development and Implementation of Environmental Law* (Nairobi, UNEP, 2024).

²⁵ See UNEP, *Delivering for the People and the Planet: Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law* (Nairobi, UNEP, 2020).

further invited participants to share information on how to strengthen the links between the Programme and MEAs. Addressing the digital backbone of the Programme, UNEP-LEAP, Mr. Gachie noted that countries were able to submit technical legal assistance requests through the Programme's Clearing House Mechanism (see [Table 4](#)). A wide range of support was available, from advisory services to developing legal frameworks to preparing guidance materials. Mr. Gachie concluded by noting the Programme's recent achievements, including the successful outcomes of the Rwanda workshop, where actionable recommendations were formulated to strengthen legal frameworks and build synergies.

Ms. Marianne Pulchérie Sessito Donoumassou Simeon, *Benin's focal point for the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme as well as the Basel and Rotterdam Conventions*, presented a case study from Benin that reflected on the Programme's contributions to fostering coherence and improving the capacity of national governments to address the obligations under various MEAs. Ms. Donoumassou Simeon presented Benin's framework for MEA implementation. Benin ratified several international agreements and committed to their implementation, including the BRS Conventions, the CBD, and the Minamata Convention, among many others. To facilitate their implementation, Benin had taken several steps to facilitate the nomination of focal points and, as appropriate, secondary focal points for all these agreements. It also grouped conventions into four 'functional groups,' which covered conventions related to the management of chemical products, Rio Conventions, marine and wetlands areas, as well as the trade in flora and fauna species. A supervisor was designated for each functional group, which were all overseen by a coordinator for all conventions, that is, the Director General for the Environment and Climate. The roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder, including national focal points, supervisors, and the coordinator, as well as liaison actors, were set out in a legal instrument. The instrument also included evaluation provisions. The latter comprised an internal reporting process as well as a periodic evaluation of focal points by supervisors and an evaluation of supervisors by focal points from each functional group, as well as an evaluation of the coordinator. She described that the questionnaire prepared for the evaluation process covered activity reports, actions to promote synergies with other conventions, the number of meetings attended, and the number of projects drafted, among other things. This questionnaire captured relevant data relating to collaboration and cooperation between conventions. Speaking about actions taken at the national level by Benin to promote synergies in the implementation of MEAs, Ms. Donoumassou Simeon highlighted that meeting invitations, whenever possible, were extended to all focal points of the relevant functional group. She also underscored that the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme National Focal Point was engaged in relevant activities related to the domestication of MEAs and the development of national environmental legislation. Similarly, several joint awareness-raising and training activities were convened, among other actions. In terms of examples of mechanisms, Ms. Donoumassou Simeon stressed the development of indicators, the training of focal points, the establishment of interministerial committees (e.g., Ozone Committee, Basel Committee, Climate Change Committee), and the creation of a national information system for all convention linked to the government's website. Ms. Donoumassou Simeon concluded by sharing that capacity-building was instrumental in strengthening collaboration and cooperation.

7 Views expressed by participants on approaches and examples for consideration in the coherent and effective implementation of MEAs and processes relevant to biodiversity and chemicals & waste

In the spirit of the Chatham House Rule,²⁶ workshop participants had the chance to engage in various plenary and breakout group discussions throughout the three days of the workshop (see *Annex IV* for the full provisional programme). In this context, *Section 7* aggregates the views expressed by participants during these sessions, with emphasis on the following three thematic areas covered by the meeting programme:

- Thematic area 1: Integrated and whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to implement the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals.
- Thematic area 2: Platforms and tools for cooperation and collaboration when preparing national reports and action plans for implementation of MEAs, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Global Framework on Chemicals.
- Thematic area 3: Montevideo Environmental Law Programme and linkages to MEAs.

The present section comprises three parts. The first outlines general, high-level messages from each one of the three thematic area discussions outlined above. The second part enumerates approaches for consideration identified by participants as key in the coherent and effective implementation of MEAs and other instruments relevant to biodiversity and chemicals & waste. Lastly, the third provides examples of tools, training needs, partnerships, and mechanisms for sharing knowledge at the national level highlighted by meeting participants.

7.1 General Messages

Thematic area discussions took place in breakout groups during Day 1 and Day 2 of the workshop. Eleven general, high-level messages could be identified based on the views shared by participants during these discussions. These are presented below.²⁷ In addition, *box 1* identifies key ‘nexus’ topics identified

²⁶ When part of a meeting is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received during the segment, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of participants and speakers may be revealed. For more information, see <https://www.chathamhouse.org/about-us/chatham-house-rule>.

²⁷ Draft ‘general messages’ were presented in plenary in the third day of the workshop. A streamlined version of the high-level messages is presented in section 7.1 incorporating the feedback received from meeting participants.

by participants where there could be potential for cross-thematic collaboration, cooperation, and synergies at the national level.

7.1.1 *Thematic Area 1 (integrated approaches)*

General message (a): The national-level implementation of global goals and commitments on biodiversity and chemicals & waste require:

- Cross-sectoral collaboration, including the agriculture, energy, finance, health, infrastructure, manufacturing, and tourism sectors, *among others*.
- A whole-of-government approach. This may include identifying relevant parts of government, promoting programmatic synergies at the institutional level, and enhancing coordination.
- A whole-of-society approach. This may include recognizing the role of informal sectors, mapping relevant stakeholder groups, promoting meaningful participation, and developing communication and awareness-raising activities.

General message (b): Innovative institutional frameworks and clearly defined terms of reference can be important allies in establishing multi-sector, multistakeholder mechanisms for a whole-of-government approach.

General message (c): The Global Biodiversity Framework can serve as an umbrella for different parts of government to work together for the implementation of goals under various MEAs and intergovernmental processes, in line with the respective MEAs' mandates. Several areas within the Framework, such as Target 7, provide opportunities for sectors to collaborate and cooperate.

General message (d): There is a need for increased regional collaboration and cooperation for MEA implementation. Such collaboration can take place through similar capacity-building workshops and networks for information-sharing on good practices.

7.1.2 *Thematic Area 2 (platforms and tools)*

General message (e): At the national level, technology transfer, adequate data infrastructure, and comprehensive databases that include information on biodiversity and chemicals & waste can contribute to informed policy and decision-making, as well as coherent national reporting to various MEAs.

General message (f): At the national level, frequent communication, and exchange among focal points to environmental conventions, the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme, and the Global Framework on Chemicals can contribute to bridging knowledge gaps, building cohesion, and fostering cross-thematic collaboration.

General message (g): A number of tools, platforms, and other initiatives for data and information on MEAs are currently available to countries. These include but are not limited to InforMEA, DaRT, and UNEP-LEAP. Nevertheless, there are varying levels of awareness and capacities to uptake these initiatives among convention focal points and other stakeholders. A centralized hub containing information about all the tools, platforms, and initiatives available may be useful for awareness-raising and capacity-building activities around them.

General message (h): Capacity-building for the use of MEA information and reporting tools is an enabling factor for cooperation and collaboration in the preparation of national reports. Capacity-building for reporting should be a context-specific, continuous, and iterative process that includes hands-on and practical components.

7.1.3 *Thematic Area 3 (Montevideo Environmental Law Programme)*

General message (i): Domestication of multilateral environmental agreements is key to promoting and advancing environmental rule of law at the national level. Countries are in different stages of

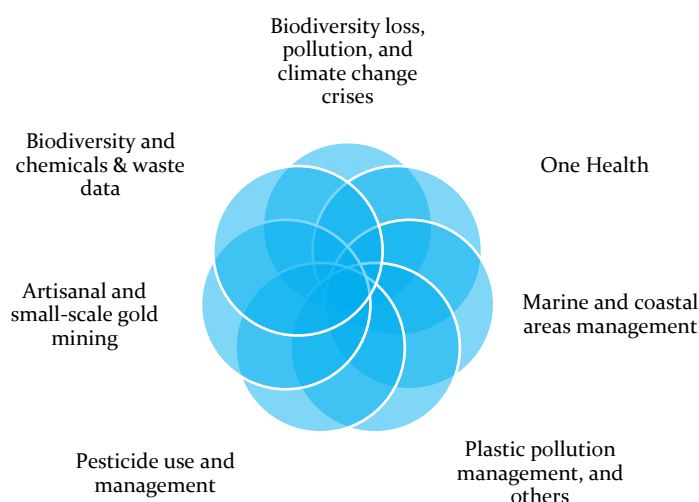
domestication, as well as reviewing and updating national legal frameworks. Translating global environmental goals and commitments into robust and comprehensive environmental laws is crucial for their effective implementation.

General message (j): The 'implementation gap' of national legislation hinders the achievement of global environmental goals and commitments. Initiatives such as the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme can provide support in addressing such gaps and advancing the environmental rule of law.

General message (k): Capacity building, the development of knowledge products, and awareness raising of legal stakeholders are key to enhancing the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws. Target groups for such training may include members of the judiciary, parliamentarians, customs officers, other law enforcement officials, *inter alia*.

Box 1 – Examples of 'nexus' topics for collaboration, cooperation, and synergies

During the workshop, a wide range of 'nexus' topics emerged from the discussions as specific subject-matter areas where there could be potential for cross-thematic collaboration, cooperation, and synergies at the national level. These topics included but were not limited to (a) the three interconnected crises of biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change; (b) biodiversity and chemicals & waste data; (c) One Health; (d) artisanal and small-scale gold mining; (e) marine and coastal areas management; (f) pesticide use management; (g) plastic pollution management; and (h) hazardous waste management, including nuclear waste.



Box 1 - Nexus areas for potential cross-thematic collaboration, cooperation, and synergies at the national level.

7.2 Approaches for consideration in the implementation of MEAs and other instruments relevant to biodiversity and chemicals & waste

During the plenary discussions and breakout group sessions, participants highlighted a range of collaborative *approaches* critical to the implementation of MEAs and other instruments addressing biodiversity and chemicals & waste. These approaches, presented in no particular order, have been organized below into three overarching categories: (a) institutional mechanisms at the national level, (b)

strategic planning and implementation, and (c) regional and international cooperation. While not exhaustive, this section provides an overview of the key approaches identified.²⁸

7.2.1 Institutional mechanisms at the national level

Key approaches for consideration in relation to institutional mechanisms at the national level may include, where appropriate:

- Adopting a combination of formal and informal collaboration mechanisms across government. This may include identifying and implementing practical, cost-effective ways of working together beyond formal structures (e.g., informal meetings and the use of instant messaging platforms).
- Formalizing collaboration and cooperation at the institutional level, including through the development of enabling legal instruments and well-defined terms of reference for institutional frameworks.
- Establishing multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral coordination and technical advice bodies, such as advisory bodies, expert panels, inter-agency committees, steering committees, task forces, technical committees, and working groups. Likewise, ensuring that stakeholders nominated to such bodies can make an impact.
- Creating mechanisms for government officials to report back from intergovernmental meetings and processes and to broadly share information across different government departments and ministries.
- Engaging focal points to the BRS Conventions, Global Framework on Chemicals, and the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme in public consultations and implementation activities related to the biodiversity-related conventions and the Global Biodiversity Framework.
- Engaging focal points to the CBD and its Protocols, other biodiversity-related conventions, and the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme in consultations and implementation activities related to the conventions from the chemicals & waste regulatory regime and the Global Framework on Chemicals.
- Making arrangements and putting processes in place for change and onboarding of focal points to various conventions and intergovernmental processes, ensuring continuity and preservation of institutional knowledge.
- Ensuring that work that is outsourced is linked with on-the-ground implementation.
- Strengthening knowledge and information-sharing mechanisms for national reporting, as well as national databases containing information relevant to biodiversity and/or chemicals & waste.

7.2.2 Strategic Planning and Implementation at the national level

Key approaches for consideration in relation to strategic planning at the national level may include, where appropriate:

- Harmonizing and/or aligning national environmental targets with global goals and targets, including targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals.

²⁸ Draft 'approaches and examples for consideration' were presented in plenary on the third day of the workshop, and input received from participants was incorporated into the approaches identified in section 7.2.

- Developing a process to identify ‘lead’ government stakeholders for specific targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals.
- Acknowledging and promoting the role of focal points to MEAs, the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme, and the Global Framework on Chemicals in ‘championing’ synergies on the ground.
- Working with other focal points, including Montevideo Environmental Law Programme National Focal Points, to develop projects that address priorities from both biodiversity and the chemicals & waste clusters.
- Integrating chemicals & waste considerations into the process of revision and update of national biodiversity strategies and action plans under the aegis of the CBD.
- Integrating biodiversity considerations into the development of relevant plans and strategies to implement the Global Framework on Chemicals.
- Integrating biodiversity and chemicals & waste planning into national budgeting more broadly and into existing development processes.
- Exploring funding and finance sources that support ‘synergy’ projects. These may include, for example, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund, the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, and the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme Clearing House Mechanism. [Box 2](#) outlines a range of funding mechanisms and opportunities discussed at the meeting.
- Securing core funding to ensure the sustainability of coordination mechanisms and structures set up by or for specific projects.
- Raising awareness of the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme at the national level, including by sharing information and facilitating the participation of National Focal Points in technical meetings and workshops related to biodiversity and chemicals & waste matters.
- Developing and strengthening legal frameworks related to biodiversity and chemicals & waste, as well as considering the establishment of environmental courts and tribunals.

7.2.3 *Regional and International Cooperation*

Key approaches for consideration in regional and international cooperation may include, where appropriate:

- In collaboration and cooperation with regional and international stakeholders, designing multi-sector, multi-stakeholder project proposals for implementation of biodiversity and chemicals & waste MEAs at all levels.
- Establishing partnerships and initiatives for capacity building, knowledge exchange, and sharing of good practices and experience.
- Promoting greater coordination and exchange with regional-level organizations, such as the CBD Regional and Subregional Technical and Scientific Cooperation Support Centres and the Basel Convention Regional Centres.

Box 2 – Funding mechanisms and opportunities for nexus projects and initiatives

During the workshop, access to funding and finance for projects and initiatives addressing two or more environmental challenges (e.g., biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change) was a recurrent theme in the plenary and breakout group discussions, where avenues and challenges were raised. This box enumerates some of the available funding mechanisms and opportunities highlighted by participants and presenters over the course of the three days of the workshop. It also provides additional details about each mechanism or opportunity, including, as appropriate, where to find more information about them.

- **Cali Fund for the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits from the Use of Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources ('Cali Fund')**: The modalities for operationalizing the multilateral mechanism for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits for the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources, including a global fund, were adopted at CBD COP16. The Cali Fund was mentioned as one of the mechanisms that would become available, upon operationalization, to developing country CBD Parties for initiatives relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. More information is available at: <https://cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-02-en.pdf>
- **Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund System for Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR)**: The GEF was mentioned as a primary financial mechanism for many MEAs, with STAR as one of the main frameworks for the allocation of resources to countries over a GEF replenishment period. However, some challenges with accessing GEF funds were highlighted by participants. It was also noted that the ninth replenishment cycle (GEF-9) process, beginning in 2026, would focus more on integrated approaches across different environmental sectors. More information is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/who-we-are/funding>
- **Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)**: The fund was discussed as a key mechanism for supporting projects aimed at achieving global biodiversity goals and commitments, particularly in the context of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Ratified and launched at the seventh assembly of the Global Environment Facility, the fund was fully operational at the time of the workshop. More information about eligibility and procedures is available at: <https://www.thegef.org/what-we-do/topics/global-biodiversity-framework-fund>
- **Global Framework on Chemicals Fund**: The fund was highlighted as a mechanism to support countries in implementing activities addressing the lifecycle of chemicals, including products and waste. The fund is administrated by UNEP, and applications might include regional projects mutually supporting areas such as biodiversity and climate. The fund was established in September 2023, and periodic calls for applications would be launched. More information is available at: <https://www.unep.org/global-framework-chemicals/gfc-fund>
- **Montevideo Environmental Law Programme**: The Montevideo Environmental Law Programme and its Clearing House Mechanism for technical legal assistance was discussed as a critical initiative for strengthening environmental rule of law. Within the priority areas for the Programme, including legal responses to address the biodiversity and pollution crises, the Programme delivered assistance for initiatives focused on supporting the development of legal frameworks to address environmental issues, among others. More information is available at: <https://leap.unep.org/en/technical-assistance>.
- **UNEP earmarked funding**: In addition to the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme, UNEP representatives underscored earmarked funding in UNEP that may be available for projects promoting collaboration, cooperation, and synergies in MEA implementation. This includes resources available through multi-donor projects such as the Environmental Treaties Programme. For more information about existing opportunities, participants were encouraged to contact UNEP with their proposals.
- **UNEP Special Programme Fund**: The fund provides support to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to enhance their sustainable institutional capacity to develop, adopt, monitor and enforce policy, legislation and regulation for effective frameworks for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, and the Minamata Convention.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funding from other international organizations: Engagement with other international organizations was highlighted as key, as these organizations could provide additional financial resources and technical support for countries pursuing synergies across MEAs. |
|--|

Box 2 - Funding mechanisms and opportunities for nexus projects and initiatives, as discussed at the workshop.

7.3 Examples for consideration in the implementation of MEAs and other instruments relevant to biodiversity and chemicals & waste

During the plenary discussions and breakout group sessions, participants highlighted a range of *examples* of tools to support a whole-of-government approach (section 7.3.1), training needs (section 7.3.2), partnerships (section 7.3.3), and mechanisms for sharing knowledge at the national level (section 7.3.4). While not exhaustive, this section consolidates the key examples shared by participants.²⁹

7.3.1 *Examples of tools to support a whole-of-government approach*

Examples of tools to support a whole-of-government approach include:

- A one-stop global portal with information and direct links to all relevant tools and platforms supported by UNEP.
- Comprehensive knowledge platforms at the national level.
- Distribution lists on issues relevant to the implementation of MEAs and other instruments on biodiversity and chemicals & waste.
- Guidelines for aligning national targets to the Global Biodiversity Framework and the Global Framework on Chemicals.
- Informal instant messaging groups for real-time communication.
- Legal knowledge products such as legislative guides and model laws on cross-cutting areas.
- Reporting platforms that allow for multiple users at the national level, including providers and receivers of information.
- Shared calendars across multiple levels and sectors of government, including relevant meetings and reporting timelines.
- Tailored communication and awareness-raising materials for stakeholders in various sectors, including other public awareness tools.

7.3.2 *Examples of training needs*

Participants identified several thematic areas where further capacity-building would be beneficial. These include:

- Application and use of existing guidelines, such as technical guidance on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) or other MEA-specific areas.
- Practical entry points for interlinkages between biodiversity and chemicals & waste in MEA implementation, especially for stakeholders outside of the environmental sector.
- Legal obligations, reporting requirements and timelines under various MEAs, particularly those from the biodiversity and chemicals & waste regulatory regimes.

²⁹ Draft 'approaches and examples for consideration' were presented in plenary on the third day of the workshop, and input received from participants was incorporated into the examples listed in section 7.3.

- MEA reporting tools and integrated reporting in the context of the Global Biodiversity Framework and Global Framework on Chemicals, subject to decisions by MEAs governing bodies.
- Project management skills.
- Requirements and the request submission process for the Clearing House Mechanism of the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme

In terms of potential target groups for such training and capacity building, participants identified the following stakeholder groups: members of the judiciary, MEA focal points and alternates, Montevideo Environmental Law Programme and alternates, parliamentarians and legislative drafting experts, and other government officials, including technical officers and law enforcement officers.

7.3.3 Examples of partnerships

Examples of partnerships identified by participants include:

- Partnership with regional economic integration organizations for information sharing and capacity building in the field of environmental law.
- Partnership with secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements to share information and facilitate reporting.
- Partnership with subnational governments for cross-border collaboration and information sharing.
- Partnership with United Nations entities, including UNEP.
- Partnerships across ministries such as environment, agriculture, health, and climate change for reporting and data integration.
- Partnerships with academia for capacity-building on environmental law, including on the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws and the formulation of environmental law curricula.
- Partnerships with civil society organizations that hold data and information relevant for reporting, especially in the context of capacity building and data management and sharing.
- Partnerships with other international and regional organizations, including on technology transfer and information sharing.
- Partnerships with the private sector to enhance data collection, processing, and storage.

7.3.4 Examples of potential mechanisms for sharing knowledge at the national level

Examples of potential mechanisms for sharing knowledge at the national level identified by participants include:

- Communities of practice.
- Country profiles on UNEP-LEAP.
- National and regional focal point networks for data and information sharing.
- Online platforms and tools tailored to respond to the challenges (e.g., those with embedded auto-save functions and offline formats).

- Regular coordination meetings for MEA and other relevant focal points, where participants can provide updates and share information about the conventions and/or processes they follow.

8 Potential follow-up actions and thematic priorities

On the third day (31 August 2023), participants had the opportunity to discuss with their country peers and reflect on two guiding questions proposed by the organizers. The latter focused on what potential follow-up actions participants might wish to undertake after the workshop, and general thematic priorities. Each participating country reported back to the plenary on at least three potential follow-up actions and three thematic priorities, which are summarized and anonymized below.

8.1.1 *Potential follow-up actions highlighted by participants*

- **Strengthening capacity-building and fostering knowledge sharing**, including (a) organizing information sessions to update and brief relevant stakeholders on the outcomes of the workshop, (b) delivering capacity-building support to MEA focal points, the judiciary, law enforcement officers, and other stakeholders to strengthen understanding and enforcement of MEAs, and (c) promoting awareness of knowledge platforms and tools like MEAs' reporting platforms, InforMEA and DaRT to enhance data management and reporting.
- **Strengthening institutional frameworks**, including (a) the designation of focal points where necessary, (b) the creation of committees, platforms, and other bodies for the national implementation of MEAs, which would bring together focal points for MEAs and programmes like the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme, and (c) the establishment of mechanisms to formalize collaboration, cooperation, and synergies among focal points, such as memoranda of understanding (MoUs).
- **Strengthening policy and legal frameworks**, including (a) integrating biodiversity and chemicals & waste considerations into relevant national sectoral strategies, action plans, and targets, and (b) strengthening national legislation and environmental rule of law, (c) exploring the creation of environmental courts or specialized tribunals to expedite environmental cases.
- **Promoting stakeholder engagement and collaboration for whole-of-society approaches**, including (a) conducting stakeholder mapping exercises to identify key actors for inclusion in MEA-related initiatives, (b) hosting national meetings and forums to familiarize stakeholders with MEAs and related provisions, foster collaboration and cooperation, and plan joint activities, (c) reaching out to civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations to break silos and improve coordination, (d) organizing public awareness campaigns on global goals and commitments and associated legal frameworks.
- **Developing action plans and mobilizing resources**, including (a) developing strategies, action plans, and roadmaps to guide collaboration, cooperation, and coordination across MEAs; (b) securing funding for projects for mutual supportiveness of MEAs through partnerships with international organizations and leveraging existing financial resources.
- **Data sharing and monitoring mechanisms for reporting**, including developing national data-sharing platforms to centralize information on MEAs and make it accessible to both stakeholders and the public.

8.1.2 *General thematic priorities highlighted by participants*

- Restoration, conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity.
- Protection of marine environments.
- Chemicals and waste management, including hazardous waste and plastics.
- Pollution control, including air, land, and marine pollution.
- Climate change and land degradation.
- Nexus between biodiversity, chemicals & waste, and other thematic areas.
- Impacts of urbanization and economic activities such as mining.

9 Closing session

Ms. **Tita Korvenoja** reflected on the workshop's achievements and expressed appreciation to the co-organizers and the Government of Finland for their contributions, and all participants for their active participation. Ms. Korvenoja outlined next steps, including the sharing of workshop presentations and the development of a comprehensive workshop report. She further announced a follow-up webinar in 2025 to discuss pathways for fostering synergies. Ms. Korvenoja concluded by emphasizing UNEP's commitment to consolidating available resources and funding mechanisms and expressing optimism about the progress made in promoting collaboration and cooperation among focal points to MEAs and the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme.

Ms. **Nancy Allimadi** expressed gratitude to UNEP and the workshop organizers for convening a productive event. Recalling the outcomes from the Rwanda Workshop, Ms. Allimadi emphasized the critical need for cooperation and coordination among focal points to MEAs and the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme to ensure the effective implementation of various conventions, the Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Global Framework on Chemicals. Highlighting the outcomes of the present workshop, she noted the importance of exploring interlinkages with the issue of plastics and other processes, as well as of a common reporting format. She also underscored the key relevance of capacity-building and organizing similar workshops in other regions, building networks for sharing and learning. Ms. Allimadi concluded by inviting participants to maintain the momentum generated during the workshop.

Mr. **Alvin Gachie** highlighted the increased awareness of the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme achieved during the workshop, noting the role of the Programme in providing information on environmental law and technical legal assistance to countries. Mr. Gachie underscored the Programme's priority areas, including legal responses to address the biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate crises. Mr. Gachie encouraged participants to utilize the UNEP-LEAP platform to submit requests for technical legal assistance. In addition, he noted the importance of fostering synergies between biodiversity and chemicals-related MEAs and integrating these considerations into requests submitted to the Programme's Clearing House Mechanism. Concluding his remarks, Mr. Gachie expressed UNEP's commitment to supporting countries in strengthening environmental rule of law, and invited participants to follow up with the Montevideo Environmental Law Programme Secretariat.

Ms. **Jackline Wanjiru** expressed gratitude to UNEP and the workshop organizers. She conveyed her key takeaways, particularly the concrete suggestions to enhance coordination shared by participants. Ms. Wanjiru encouraged participants to leverage the expertise and resources available through the BRS Conventions Secretariat, including online platforms and knowledge products, in particular, the upcoming report focused on identifying entry points for national target setting in the context of the Global Biodiversity Framework and Global Framework on Chemicals. Ms. Wanjiru further referenced the upcoming Conference of the Parties of the BRS Conventions, scheduled from 28 April to 9 May 2025, as an opportunity for participants to showcase initiatives illustrating interlinkages between MEAs through side events and exhibitions. Ms. Wanjiru concluded by thanking participants for their participation over the three days of the workshop and encouraged continued collaboration moving forward.

Mr. **Olivier Rukundo** expressed his gratitude to UNEP and the participants for their active engagement throughout the workshop. He commended participants for their collaborative spirit and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration and reaching out to the CBD Secretariat for support, reiterating the secretariat's commitment to assisting countries in achieving their biodiversity goals. Mr. Rukundo highlighted the vital contributions of UNEP's extended team and partners to the success of the

workshop. Mr. Rukundo concluded his remarks by encouraging participants to share insights and follow up with their country teams to maintain momentum and advance MEA implementation.

Ms. **Malgorzata Alicja Stylo**, *UNEP's Chemicals and Health Branch*, expressed gratitude to UNEP's Law Division team, the local experts from the BCRC-SCRC Senegal, and all participants for their active engagement throughout the workshop. She emphasized the importance of creating linkages and commended participants for their work and commitment to leveraging synergies in their respective countries. Ms. Stylo highlighted the UNEP Chemicals and Health Branch's expertise in supporting on-the-ground projects. She invited participants to reach out for assistance in identifying and prioritizing synergetic elements for funding opportunities. Ms. Stylo concluded by stressing the importance of integrating pollution and climate change considerations into broader environmental efforts and reaffirming UNEP's readiness to collaborate in these areas.

Ms. **Haddy Guisse** reflected on the process leading up to the workshop, underscoring many opportunities to build on the outcomes, including the BRS Conventions COPs and UNEA-7. Ms. Guisse emphasized the critical role focal points play in ensuring the effective implementation of MEAs, and invited participants to leverage their networks and channels to maximize their impact at the national level. She underscored the importance of community and collaboration, describing focal points as UNEP's first point of contact for all MEA-related efforts. Ms. Guisse thanked participants for their diligence and contributions, which she noted were vital for UNEP's continued work. She emphasized the need for follow-up actions, including webinars to track implementation progress and evaluate outcomes. Ms. Guisse concluded by expressing gratitude to local partners, interpreters, and technical teams for their support and dedication, wishing participants a safe journey home and encouraging them to maintain communication and engagement.

Ms. **Fatoumata Barry** expressed her gratitude to UNEP, the meeting's organizers, and the focal points of the various conventions and processes for their active participation in the event. Ms. Barry reflected on the three-day workshop, highlighting its success in building capacity for implementing MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals & waste. Ms. Barry welcomed the BCRC-SCRC Senegal's collaboration with UNEP and reiterated its commitment to supporting focal points within its mandate. Speaking on behalf of the Director and the team at the Basel and Stockholm Regional Center, Ms. Barry extended sincere thanks to all participants for their engagement and contributions. She concluded by wishing everyone a safe return to their respective countries and expressed hope for continued collaboration in advancing environmental objectives.

Ms. **Ramatoulaye Diop Marico**, on behalf of the Government of Senegal, expressed gratitude to the technical and financial partners, including UNEP and the Government of Finland, for organizing the workshop. Ms. Marico highlighted the rich and engaging programme, which brought together French-speaking and English-speaking participants in a collaborative spirit. She emphasized the importance of making such workshops sustainable and called on UNEP to continue supporting and guiding countries in implementing biodiversity and chemicals & waste MEAs. Ms. Marico concluded by thanking all participants for their contributions, wishing them safe travels, and officially declaring the workshop closed.

Annexes

Annex I – List of participants

Countries were invited to nominate participants to attend the workshop, and the focal points for the meeting listed in the present annex do not necessarily correspond to the official national focal point or country contact points for the MEAs, instruments and processes outlined below.

Benin
Bertin Bossou, <i>Stockholm Convention focal point</i>
Marianne Pulchérie Sessito Donoumassou Simeon, <i>Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, and Montevideo Environmental Law Programme focal point</i>
Cameroon
Angele Wadou Ziekine, <i>CBD focal point</i>
Estelle Mawal A. Mbassa, <i>Montevideo Environmental Law Programme focal point</i>
Guy Roland Olinga Ngono, <i>Multilateral Environmental Agreements focal point</i>
Jules Christian Ndomo Tsala, <i>Global Framework on Chemicals focal point</i>
Cote d'Ivoire
Eugene Zagre, <i>Montevideo Environmental Law Programme focal point</i>
Kouadio Amenan VI, <i>Minamata Convention focal point</i>
Jeanne N'tain Yemou, <i>CBD focal point</i>
Koutoua Thomas D'Aquin Gnameassou, <i>Basel Convention focal point</i>
Gabon
Carla Eulary Fridnellia Eboulia, <i>Basel Convention focal point</i>
Jean-Christian Mouele Loundou, <i>Montevideo Environmental Law Programme focal point</i>
René Mboza Orumbongany, <i>Stockholm Convention focal point</i>
Gambia
Binta Sanneh, <i>Rotterdam Convention focal point</i>
Kawsu Jammeh, <i>CBD focal point</i>
Mariatou Dumbuya, <i>Minamata Convention focal point</i>
Reneta Rohey Jack, <i>Montevideo Environmental Law Programme focal point</i>
Ghana
Emelyne Wright-Hanson, <i>Principal Development Planning Officer Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation CBD Gender and Biodiversity National Focal Point</i>
Joseph Cantamanto Edmund, <i>Basel Convention and Rotterdam Convention focal point</i>
Kafui Korshiwor Boni, <i>Stockholm Convention focal point</i>
Nigeria
Adeola Oyeladun Omotunde, <i>Stockholm Convention, Minamata Convention, and Global Framework on Chemicals focal point</i>
Dauda Musa, <i>Rotterdam Convention focal point</i>
Harrison Efe Ataraire, <i>Basel Convention focal point representative</i>

Ibrahim Mohammed Musa, <i>Montevideo Environmental Law Programme focal point</i>
Senegal
Abdoulaye Sy, Deputy Director at the Directorate of Environment and Classified Establishments of Senegal,
Ramatoulaye Diop Marico, <i>Rotterdam Convention focal point</i>
Basel and Stockholm Conventions Regional Centre (BCRC-SCRC Senegal)
Ablaye Diao, <i>Director</i>
Fatoumata Barry, <i>Chemicals Product Expert</i>
Ndèye Coumba Diom Ndiaye, <i>Accountant</i>
Ndeye Marame Niang Diouf, <i>Legal Officer</i>
Pierre Bandorayingwe, <i>Head of the Information Technology Division</i>
Seynabou Niang, <i>Assistant CR</i>
Ibrahim Gueye, <i>Office Assistant</i>
Secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements
Anna García Sans, <i>Minama Convention Secretariat (virtually)</i>
Jackline Wanjiru, <i>BRS Conventions Secretariat</i>
Kay Williams, <i>Head, Global Framework on Chemicals Secretariat (virtually)</i>
Laura Cerasi, <i>CMS Secretariat (virtually)</i>
Olivier Rukundo, <i>CBD Secretariat</i>
Richard Gutierrez, <i>Minamata Convention Secretariat (virtually)</i>
United Nations Environment Programme and other participants supporting the organization of the workshop
Tita Korvenoja, <i>UNEP's Law Division</i>
Bethuel Tonui, <i>UNEP's Law Division</i>
Alvin Gachie, <i>UNEP's Law Division</i>
Haddy Guisse, <i>UNEP's Law Division</i>
Malgorzata Alicja Stylo, <i>UNEP's Chemicals and Health Branch</i>
Marina Demaria Venâncio, <i>UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre</i>
Nancy Allimadi, <i>Uganda's National Environment Management Authority</i>
Timothy Murimi, <i>UNEP's Law Division</i>

Annex II – Analysis of responses to the pre-workshop questionnaire (as prepared by UNEP)

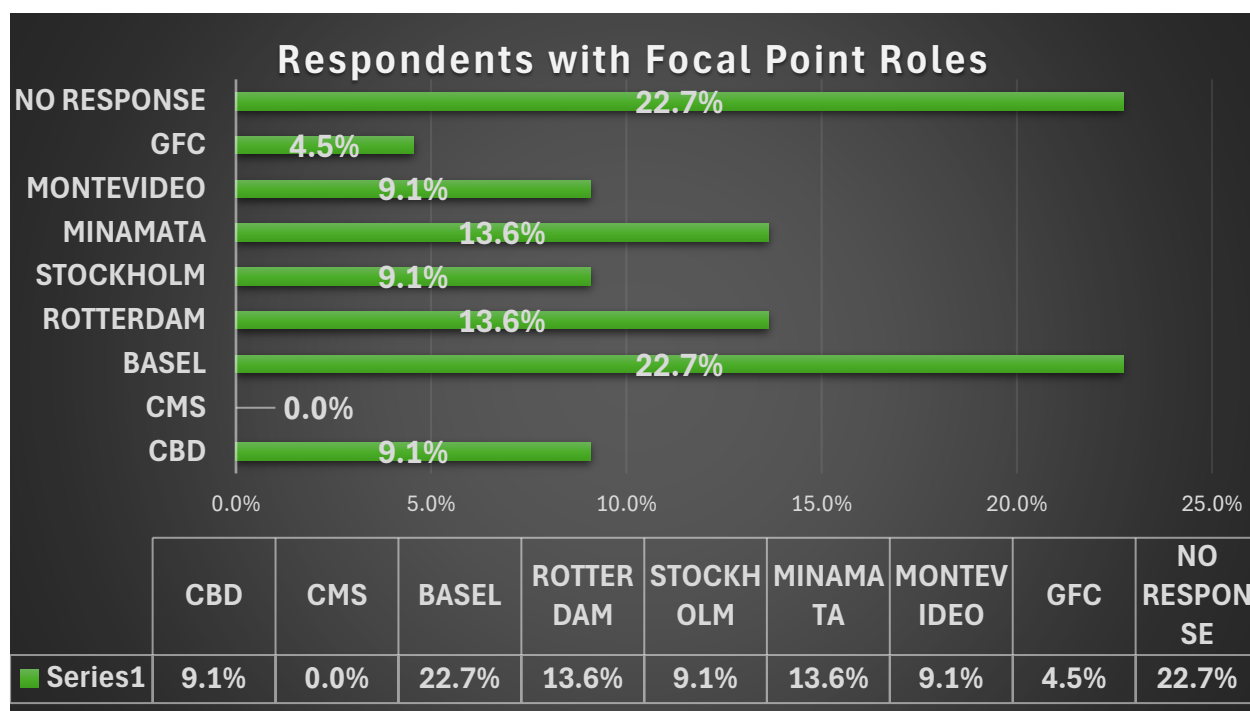
QUESTIONNAIRE ANALYSIS

Invited Participants	35
Received Responses	24 Response rate 69%

Question 1 (I-III): Focal point role and familiarity with MEAs Work

I. Respondents with focal point roles

In terms of focal point roles, most of the respondents are focal points to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, representing 23%, with none of the respondents being focal points to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The responses also include a respondent who oversees multiple conventions.



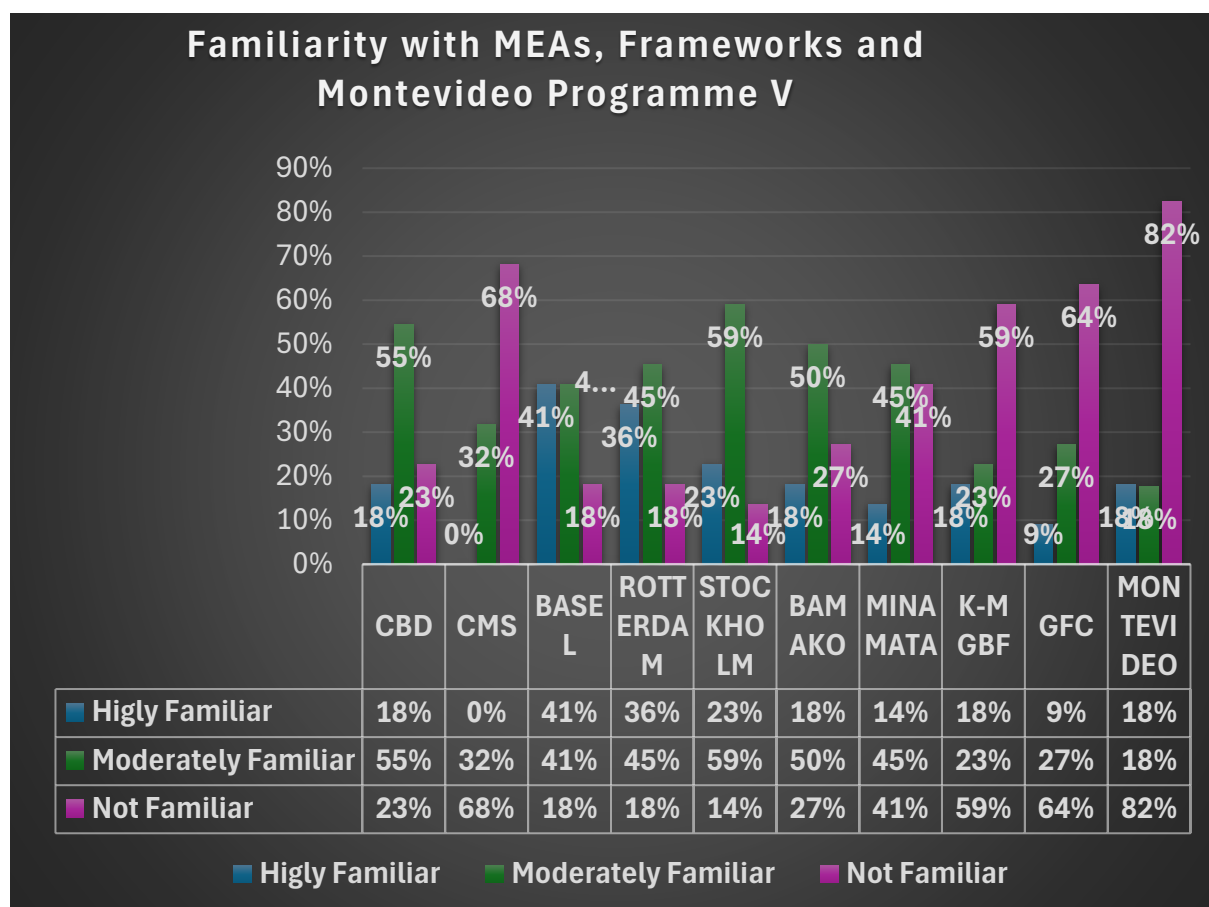
Some roles played by respondents who are focal points to the MEAs above:

- Participating in international negotiations, designing regulations to domesticate MEAs, the management of transboundary waste movements, conducting monitoring and evaluation and holding public awareness campaigns.
- Serving as the National Focal Point to the Montevideo Programme V to ensure the development and periodic review of environmental laws, as well as ensuring the coordination and implementation of MEAs and promoting environmental governance and sustainability through capacity building and networking.
- Coordinating meetings of the National Committee on Chemicals Management (NCCM) to make decisions on chemicals of global concern (Final Regulatory Actions and Import Responses) for the Rotterdam Convention and the development of policies for the sound management of chemicals.

- iv. Organizing stakeholder engagements, creating awareness of new biodiversity frameworks and issues, organizing the celebration of the International Day of Biodiversity, and preparation of NBSAPs and National Reports, and conducting a review of convention documents.
- v. Acting as the Stockholm Convention's national focal point to monitor and guide the implementation of the convention at the national level, as well as coordinating with the convention secretariat and counterparts in other contracting parties to facilitate the reduction and elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) by ensuring the implementation of national plans and facilitating the exchange of information among stakeholders.

Level of familiarity with biodiversity and chemicals MEAs and frameworks and the Montevideo Programme V:

The responses in this section greatly vary, with participants' level of familiarity ranging from moderately high to significantly low. The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal leads with the highest level of familiarity at 41%, which also coincidentally ties with a similar moderate level of familiarity. However, the Montevideo Programme on the Progressive Development and Implementation of Environmental Law (Montevideo Programme V) turned out to be almost unknown to most respondents, with an 82% level of unfamiliarity. This is definitely an area that needs more attention, given its relevance to the synergies discourse. Overall, the level of familiarity of these instruments is below par especially at a time when collaboration and coordination are desperately needed to address the triple planetary crisis.



II. Tools and approaches used by focal points in their work relating to MEAs

Some of the tools and approaches highlighted by the respondents include:

- i. National implementation of provisions of the conventions, preparation of the National Action Plans for the Minamata Convention and the Minamata Initial Assessment, National Implementation Plans for Stockholm Convention.
- ii. The use of the Prior Inform Consent for transboundary movement of hazardous waste and their disposal
- iii. Use of examination dossiers submitted for the transboundary movement of hazardous waste in order to give technical advice on whether or not to grant permission for the procedure.
- iv. Taking part in missions relating to applications for consent to import chemical products in order to see the entries and, in the end, to assess the management of containers and packaging with the importer.
- v. Multi-stakeholders' coordination, e.g., the National Committee on Chemicals Management (NCCM).
- vi. Capacity building through global information sharing and toolkit on the evaluation of Final Regulatory Actions.
- vii. Use of tools (practical guide, for example) developed by the Secretariat of the Basel, Stockholm, and Rotterdam Conventions.
- viii. The application of legal instruments relating to environmental protection and working to ensure that structures comply with environmental requirements.
- ix. Working in accordance with the priority actions set out in the National Implementation Plan (NIP) for the Stockholm Convention.
- x. Communicating activities to all stakeholders. The tools used are workshops, newsletters, and emails.
- xi. Filling out the prior informed consent form as a tool for Information gathering on the said substances/ subject.
- xii. Integration of stakeholders and participatory approach
- xiii.

Approaches	Tools
Integrated Ecosystem Management	Environmental Impact Assessments
Sustainable Development Goals framework	Biodiversity Impact Assessments.
Resilience of populations and ecosystems to the effects of climate change	
Synergies between MEAs.	

III. Benefits Accrued from the “Whole of Government” Approach in the Preparation of National Reports and Action Plans.

The survey clearly shows that, indeed, there are benefits that have been accrued by adopting the “Whole of Government” approach in the preparation of national reports and action plans. 64% of the respondents have experienced the benefits, while 14% haven't. Some of the benefits cited by the respondents include;

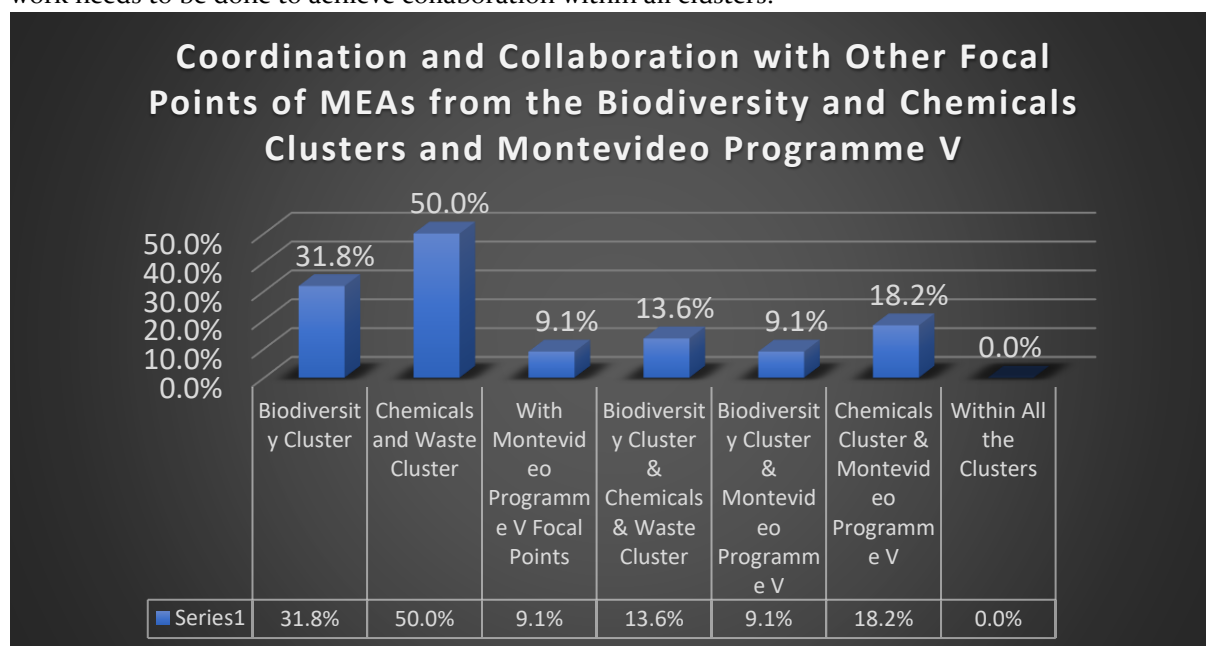
- i. The incorporation of the contributions of various state actors towards the achievement of set targets and to report more realistically, rather than focusing on just what the Ministry or its Agencies do. The approach also gives buy-in for the documents (NR/NBSAP) that are produced. This makes implementation an integral part of the action plans of the relevant sectors and makes collecting feedback for progress much easier.
- ii. National laws that support and complement MEAs that work to protect the fragile environment.
- iii. Ease of data collection and information sharing, multidisciplinary teams to advance the work.
- iv. Has helped in the identification of shortcomings at the national level, thus giving room for internal restructuring to improve processes.

- v. There is more buy-in from stakeholders and support from both the government and non-governmental organizations.
- vi. Greater control over the completion of forms for the submission of final regulatory options.
- vii. Training on National Reporting System, Benefit on Budget Formulation, Benefit on Formulation of Guidelines
- viii. Avoidance of overlaps and contradictions, and strengthened political coherence.

Question 2 (I-IV): Cooperation and coordination at the national level on MEAs

I. Coordination and collaboration with other focal points of MEAs from the biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters and from the Montevideo Programme V.

Participants were asked whether they collaborate with focal points from MEAs from the biodiversity and chemicals and waste and from the Montevideo Programme V, and 77% confirmed there is collaboration. In comparison, 18% were of the contrary opinion. While 77% is an impressive figure, more work needs to be done to ensure there is 100% coordination and collaboration among all focal points. The graph below paints a clear picture of the levels of coordination and collaboration among various focal points. More work needs to be done to achieve collaboration within all clusters.



Mechanisms through which coordination takes place:

To gain more understanding of the whole coordination and collaboration idea, participants were further asked to explain if the coordination follows formal or informal mechanisms, when it does. 73% of the respondents indicated that coordination and collaboration followed formal channels, while 9% indicated that collaboration followed informal channels. Unfortunately, a staggering 18% of the respondents did not answer this question.

Examples of formal mechanisms for coordination:

Here are a few examples of the formal mechanisms cited by the respondents:

- i. National Biodiversity Steering Committees
- ii. Technical Working Groups
- iii. Inter-Ministerial Meetings

Examples of informal mechanisms for coordination:

Here are a few examples of the formal mechanisms cited by the respondents:

- i. Oral arrangements, phone calls.
- ii. Informal meetings and collaborations.

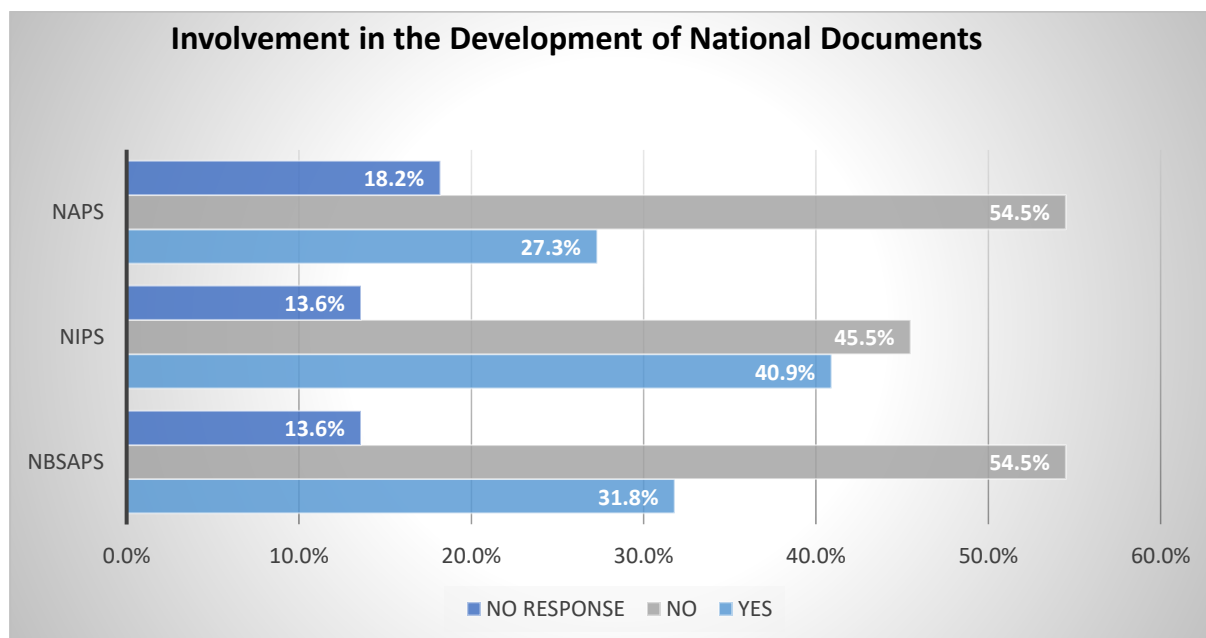
II. Key components of a comprehensive national reporting system

Participants were asked to share their thoughts on the key components of a comprehensive National Reporting System. From the responses, it was evident that the respondents had an idea or rather ideas regarding the essential components of a comprehensive National Reporting System. Below are some of the responses;

- i. The reporting system must include clear objectives/scope, standardized data collection methods, high-quality data sources, and real-time data processing and reporting. Transparency and accessibility, as well as provisions for feedback mechanisms.
- ii. Country Profiles, Number of Illegal Movements, Import / Export Restrictions, National Reports, and National Legislation.
- iii. Legislative framework, data collection, capacity building, risk management, use of new technologies, communication, and accountability.
- iv. A traceability and information system and monthly reports.
- v. Focal Point Information and coordination

III. Involvement in the development process of national documents

The survey delved deeper into the participants' involvement in the development process of national documents to ascertain the level of commitment towards working on national documents. The figure below clearly shows that the majority of the respondents are not involved in the development process of national documents, something that needs to be addressed urgently.



IV. Specific areas within reporting (e.g., biodiversity, chemicals/waste) that require special attention

In a bid to improve reporting, the survey sought to know from the participants whether they personally feel like there are specific areas within reporting that require special attention. The opinion of 27% of the

respondents was that, indeed, there are specific areas within reporting that require special attention. In contrast, the majority, 55%, were of the opinion that there were no specific areas within reporting that required special attention.

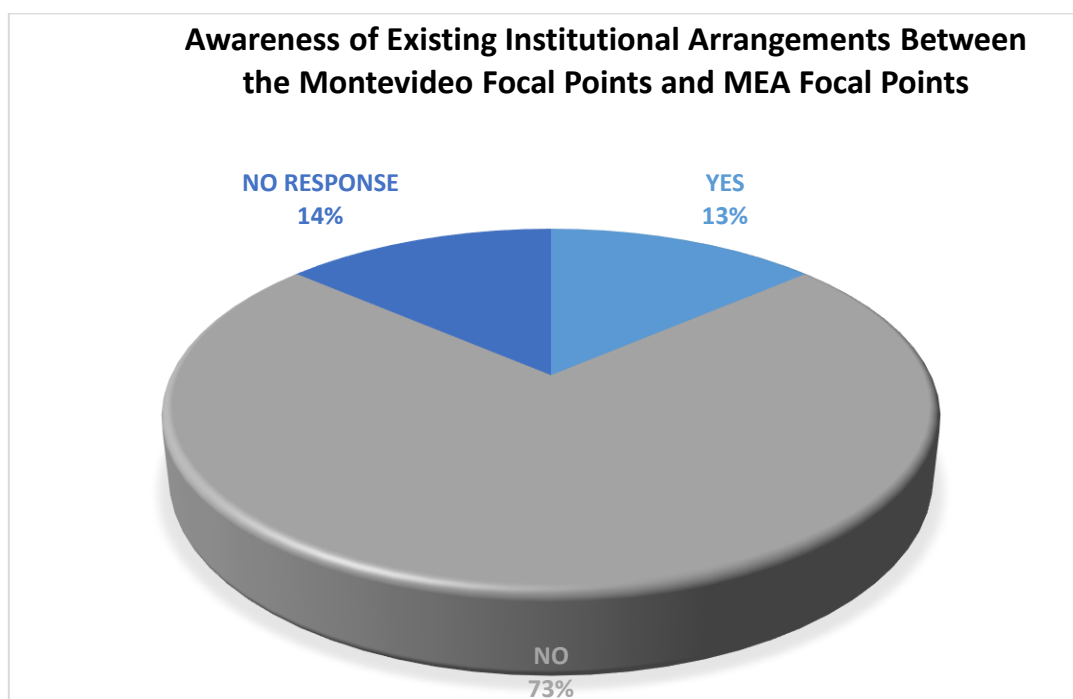
Part of the 27% shared their thoughts on the areas within reporting that require special attention;

- i. For the biodiversity cluster, for the reporting system to the CITES, the relevant agencies need to streamline and harmonize their reporting format.
- ii. Tables 6 and 7 on National Reporting need more training on filling in the form.

Question 3 (I-V): Montevideo Programme V and strengthening legal frameworks

I. Awareness of any institutional arrangements between the Montevideo Focal Point and MEA Focal Points

Participants were asked if they were aware of any institutional arrangements between the Montevideo Focal Point and MEA focal points. The figure below shows their responses.



This is a clear indication that more capacity building and awareness creation needs to happen needs to happen for the 73% to reduce significantly.

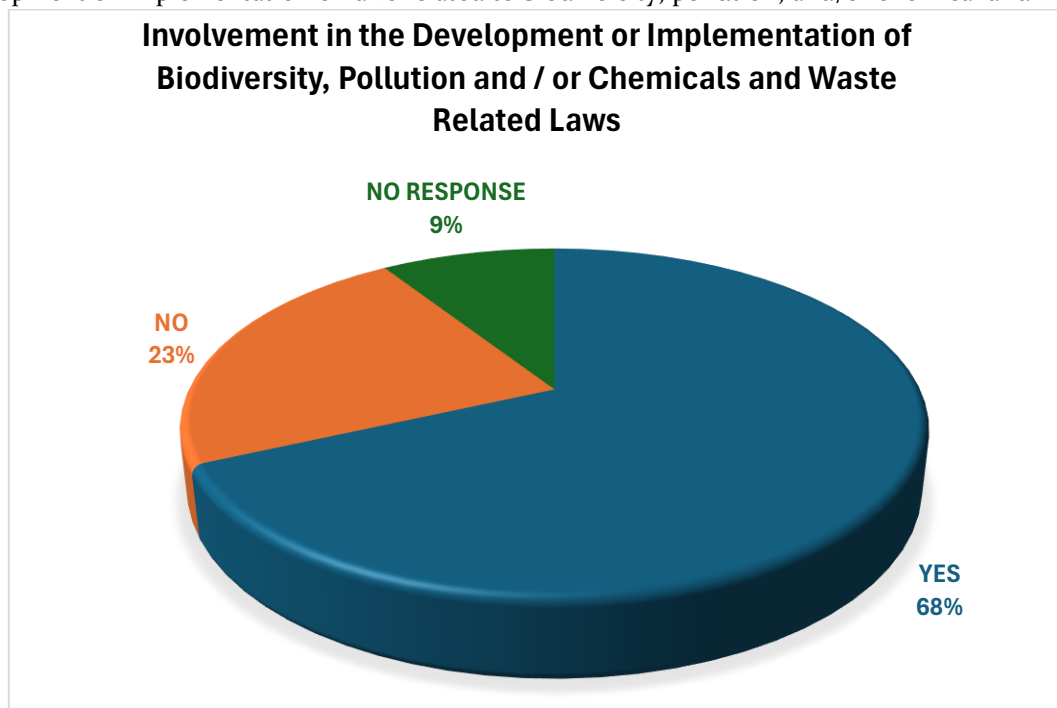
II. Examples of successful cooperation between Montevideo Programme V and MEA focal points

Below are some successful examples of cooperation between these focal points, as highlighted by the respondents:

- i. There is an informal cooperation that helps the various NFPs contact and relate to each other whenever the need arises. The CBD NFP recently organized a training programme for biodiversity-related NFPs and other NFPs on the use of the UNEP-developed DaRT to enable the country to report on the common platform and reduce duplication of efforts.
- ii. BRS and Minamata focal points work together and have the same objectives for chemical risk management.
- iii. Has helped in synergizing the efforts of the various focal points and reduces duplications of inventions towards the same target.
- iv. Cooperation in the preparation of draft decrees and draft implementing texts

III. Involvement in the development or implementation of biodiversity-related laws, pollution and/or chemicals and waste-related laws

In terms of participation in the development or implementation of biodiversity-related laws, pollution and/or chemicals and waste-related laws, about 68% of the respondents had been involved in the development or implementation of laws related to biodiversity, pollution, and/or chemical and waste.



Challenges Relating to the Development or Implementation Biodiversity Related Laws, Pollution and/or Chemicals and Waste Related Laws:

Some of the challenges they experience in their involvement include;

- i. Noncompliance of the citizenry and the lack of strong will to prosecute and deal with some of the infractions.
- ii. The development of legal texts on the management of pollution, chemicals and waste with the multi-sectoral does not cause any problem. The real blockage is the financial support, especially for their achievements.
- iii. The process of enactment into laws is very difficult, and still, the process takes time.
- iv. Accurate and up-to-date information, Data collection, information sharing, testing results, decision-makers and politicians' awareness on issues raised, stakeholders' cooperation, etc.
- v. Poor synergies among the stakeholders. Everyone tries to protect their turf instead of working collectively to address a common issue of biodiversity protection.
- vi. The sharing of information with regard to transboundary waste pollution among countries is low.
- vii. Conflict of mandates among critical stakeholders also hampers implementation.
- viii. Lack of funding
- ix. Lack of capacity building for both Regulators and Recyclers
- x. Resistance to change by both the Private and Public Sector
- xi. Culture and beliefs
- xii. Lack of Political will on the part of the Government

IV. Strategies found to be effective in strengthening institutional arrangements between MEA and Montevideo Programme V focal points

Some of the strategies the respondents found to be effective include:

- i. Adopting the whole-of-government approach, creating a common platform for frequent interactions among the various NFPs; developing joint programmes and project proposals; instituting inter-ministerial committees.
- ii. The various focal points should be communicating effectively and coordinating their activities.
- iii. The Montevideo focal point should support the enactment process of national laws linking to MEAs and should also advocate for enlightening our law drafters.
- iv. Information sharing and joint training
- v. Establishment of NFPs and MEAs working groups

V. How institutional arrangements enhance collaboration and coordination in addressing environmental issues

The following are the respondents' views on how institutional arrangements enhance collaboration in addressing environmental issues:

- i. Promotes complementarity, reduces waste in the use of resources (human, financial) and avoids duplication of efforts.
- ii. Enhancement of the processing of important laws
- iii. Development of joint projects, better management of activities through effective support from other focal points, better development of common steering committees to address questions holistically, ideas and advice sharing, etc.
- iv. Capacity building

Question 4: Specific expectations or goals anticipated to be Achieved by attending this workshop in terms of clear outcomes and/or results

The following are some of the goals the participants anticipate to achieve by attending this workshop:

- i. To strengthen the ability to apply and win project funding and to be able to identify technical and financial partners for submission.
- ii. Improvement in the national implementation of MEAs
- iii. Improved and enhanced capacity in reporting systems
- iv. Improved collaboration amongst MEAs and Montevideo focal points
- v. To understand other MEAs more and how they function.
- vi. Solutions and/or to develop a true collaboration among MEAs and avoid working in a bubble
- vii. Best ways and practices to make work together lawyers, ecologists, chemists, physicists, etc.
- viii. Advice to develop joint projects and activities among biodiversity and chemicals/waste focal points
- ix. Examples of success stories in collaboration between biodiversity cluster and chemicals/cluster
- x. To know about the MEAs and Montevideo V, the National reporting system for the MEAs, tools and approaches to use to work in relation to the MEAs
- xi. More training on National Reporting Systems

Annex III – List of supporting documents and materials

1. Air Pollution Series: Guide on Ambient Air Quality Legislation;
2. Assessment of linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste management and options to coordinate and cooperate on areas of common interest;
3. Delivering for People and the Planet: Fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law;
4. Draft Report of Options for Clearly Defined Priority Areas to Strengthen, Develop, or Implement Appropriate Legal and Institutional Frameworks at the National or Sub-national level to Implement Biodiversity-related Goals and Commitments: Legal Responses to Combat the Biodiversity Crisis - Leveraging the Montevideo Programme;
5. Global Climate Litigation Report: 2023 Status Review;
6. Implementation Of Multilateral Environmental Agreements Interactive Online Course;
7. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;
8. Regulating Air Quality: The First Global Assessment of Air Pollution Legislation;
9. Second Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (Bern II);
10. Strengthening collaboration and coordination between biodiversity and chemicals and waste clusters.

For more information, including the background document prepared for the workshop, please check the event page at <https://www.unep.org/events/workshop/implementation-biodiversity-chemicals-and-waste-meas-and-montevideo-programme-v>.

Annex IV – Provisional workshop programme

PROVISIONAL WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Capacity Building Workshop: Implementation of Biodiversity and Chemicals and Waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Hôtel Fleur De Lys Point E

November 26-28, 2024 – Dakar, Senegal

DAY 1 – November 26	
Objective: Identification of nexus areas between the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and Global Framework on Chemicals (GFC) and how the MEAs can contribute to implementation	
7:30-08:00	Registration
8:30-9:15	Opening session A) Opening and welcoming remarks B) Brief introduction of the program and participants
09:15-11:00	Session 1.1: Landscape of MEAs and introduction to the synergies across biodiversity and chemicals/waste clusters A) General overview of the MEA landscape B) Introduction to the existing and ongoing work on synergies across the thematic clusters of MEAs for biodiversity, chemicals, and waste, including the Rwanda workshop recommendations
11:30-11:15	Coffee Served
11:15-13:00	Session 1.2: Introduction to GBF/GFC A) Overview of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including reporting to the CBD B) Overview of the Global Framework on Chemicals C) Discussion: Interlinkages and mutual benefits in implementing the two frameworks coherently
13:00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Session 1.3: Practical entry points for nexus implementation Panel Discussion: How GBF and GFC frameworks support and enhance the implementation of MEAs A) Keynote introduction: Bern III Conference mapping on interlinkages with GBF and MEAs B) Keynote introduction: Analysis of the GBF and GFC nexus areas (based on the UNEP-WCMC work) Moderated Discussion: C) Actions taken by MEAs to support the implementation of the frameworks and how these actions support synergies at the national level. 5 min interventions from the Secretariats. D) Discussion: Identifying national-level entry points for nexus implementation, GBF and GFC
15:30-15:45	Coffee Break
15:45-16:30	Session 1.4: Coordination mechanisms for MEA implementation to enhance whole-of-government approaches Moderated Discussion: Challenges and opportunities in institutional coordination Best Practices in Institutional Synergies from a Country Representative. Case study (Ghana)
16:30-16:40	Session 1.5: Introduction to the first break-out session
16:40-17:40	Session 1.6 Break out Session I: Integrated and whole of government and whole of society approaches to implement GBF and GFC - Country responses

	A) How can the MEA implementation contribute to the implementation of the GBF and the Global Framework on Chemicals?
17:40-18:15	Reports back from the breakout groups Session 1.6 Session 1.7: Interactive Session: A) Sharing Experiences and lessons learned among participants.
18:15-18:30	Wind up discussion from day 1
18:30-20:00	Cocktail reception hosted by UNEP
DAY 2 – 27 November Objective: Institutional Synergies and Cooperation	
9:00-10:30	Session 2.1: Knowledge Management supporting implementation A) Introduction to the theme of the session: How national reporting to MEAs can support the implementation of the two frameworks (including through formulation of National Action Plans). What could be the areas for collaboration among the focal points? B) What questions/topics are parties required to report on: understanding what kind of data is being managed and possible nexus/horizontal area and commonality of data across MEAs? A presentation on the templates, their formats, and the thematic areas in which countries are reporting. Showcase the similarities among reporting templates to bring out the synergies. Presentation of the new NBSAP templates from countries that have updated/ revised theirs to see what type of information they are providing.
10:30-10:45	Coffee Break
10:45- 12:30	Session 2.1 Continuation A) Snapshots on information platforms and reporting tools that promote coherent implementation across conventions: B) A: InforMEA/ DaRT/ LEAP platform (Montevideo Programme V) C) Minamata secretariat presentation on its online reporting tools D) Other platforms/tools that promote coherent implementation
12:30-13:00	Lunch
13:30-13:40	Session 2.2: Introduction to the second break-out session
13:40-14:40	Session 2.3: Break-out session II: Platforms and tools for cooperation and collaboration when preparing national reports and action plans for implementation of MEAs, GBF and Global Framework on Chemicals A) How can complementarity across national action plans and reporting be enhanced to safeguard biodiversity from chemicals of global concern? B) Opportunities and gaps in the nexus areas, such as targets 7 and 23 of the GBF. C) Tools and approaches that support cooperation and coordination among the focal points. Need for improvements or new tools to facilitate cooperation.
14:40 –15:20	Reports back from break-out session 2.3
15:20-15:50	Coffee Break
15:50-16:50	Session 2.4: Montevideo Programme and Environmental Rule of Law A) Overview of Montevideo Programme V B) Discussion: Relevance of the Montevideo Programme to MEA Implementation, including the recommendations from the Rwanda workshop and other similar processes C) Country Case Study: Legal Frameworks Supporting MEAs (Benin)
16:50-17:00	Session 2.5 Introduction of the third break-out session
17:00-18:00	Session 2.6: Break-out session III - Montevideo Programme and linkages to MEAs A) Identification of ways to enhance coherent implementation of MEAs through the Montevideo Programme. Domestication is an important aspect of the implementation of MEAs. Interlinkages with the GBF and Global Framework on Chemicals B) Collaborative strategies/approaches and potential entry points at the national level.
18:00-18:35	Session 2.7: Reports back from the breakout session 2.6

	Wind up discussion from Day 2
DAY 3 – 28 November Objective: Wrap up - outcomes of the workshop and the way forward	
9:00-11:00	Session 3.1: Wind up of Day 1 and 2 A) Summary of the key elements of the discussions B) Discussion on possible nexus areas, approaches, and tools to enhance the whole of government approaches in advancing implementation of the MEAs, GBF and the GFC. C) Identification of specific training needs, potential partnerships, and mechanisms for sharing knowledge and best practices.
11:00-12:00	Coffee break – country reflections
12:00-13:00	Session 3.1. continued: Sharing the country perspectives: based on discussion during the coffee break - tour de table on the country feedback and takeaway (identification of common interests and further action)
13.00-14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Session 3.2 Synthesis and Way Forward A) Synthesizing the results of the discussions and the way forward B) Identify specific follow-up points and actionable steps for implementation. C) What are the remaining unanswered questions, and what could be the next steps and follow-up action points to address these? D) Recommendations on the main findings providing a basis for further discussions and activities.
15.30-16:30	Closing Session