

**WORKSHOP REPORT**  
**ON**  
**EXPLORING POTENTIAL INTERLINKAGES BETWEEN THE BBNJ**  
**AGREEMENT AND BIODIVERSITY, CHEMICALS AND WASTE RELATED MEAs**

**18 & 19 March 2025, 15:00 – 16:30**  
**(East African Time, UTC+3) Online (Zoom)**

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

|                   |                                                                               |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ABMTs</b>      | Area-Based Management Tools                                                   |
| <b>BBNJ</b>       | Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction                                     |
| <b>BRS</b>        | Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions                              |
| <b>CB&amp;TMT</b> | Capacity Building & Transfer of Marine Technology                             |
| <b>CBD</b>        | Convention of Biodiversity                                                    |
| <b>CHM</b>        | Clearing House Mechanism                                                      |
| <b>CITES</b>      | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora |
| <b>CMS</b>        | Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.          |
| <b>CoP</b>        | Conference of Parties                                                         |
| <b>DOALOS</b>     | Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea                             |
| <b>EIAs</b>       | Environmental Impact Assessments                                              |
| <b>MEAs</b>       | Multilateral Environmental Agreements                                         |
| <b>MGR</b>        | Marine Genetic Resources                                                      |
| <b>MTS</b>        | Medium Term Strategy                                                          |
| <b>RSCAPs</b>     | Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans                                    |
| <b>SIDs</b>       | Small Island Developing States                                                |
| <b>UNCLOS</b>     | United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea                               |
| <b>UNEP</b>       | United Nations Environment Programme                                          |

## **LIST OF PRESENTERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **Workshop 1- Tuesday, 18 March 2025**

#### **Theme: Leveraging interlinkages to Address Biodiversity Loss and Enhance the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste**

1. Gracian Banda (Moderator)
2. Stadler Trengove – Opening remarks
3. Chris Mc’ Owen- Synergy and overlay of the BBNJ Agreement with other biodiversity-related MEAs
4. Sinikinesh Jimma- UNEP’s Offer of Support for BBNJ Ratification & Early Action
5. Tita Korvenoja- Opportunities for collaboration and shared objectives among MEAs (Panel discussion comprising Joe Appiott from the CBD Secretariat, Stavros Antoniadis from the CITES Secretariat, Monika Thiele from the Regional Seas Programme, and Jackline Wanjiru from the BRS Secretariat)
6. Gracian Banda – Closing remarks

### **Workshop 2- Wednesday, 19 March 2025**

#### **Theme: Understanding BBNJ Agreement and its interface with related MEAs**

1. Gracian Banda (Moderator)
2. Stadler Trengove – Opening remarks
3. Charlotte Salpin- Objectives, functions and overview of the BBNJ Agreement
4. Dina Hamdy- Steps to ratification: Legal and procedural considerations
5. Kate Wilson- Opportunities and Challenges in the implementation of BBNJ and the role of the BBNJ Agreement
6. Gracian Banda- Question and Answer session
7. Gracian Banda- Closing, Next steps and Coordination of Technical Assistance

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Workshop overview**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (Environmental Rule of Law Branch, Environmental Conventions and Policy Branch (Law Division) and colleagues in the Ecosystems Division) collaborated to host two online workshops on March 18-19, 2025, focusing on the interlinkages between the BBNJ Agreement (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) and various biodiversity, chemicals, and waste-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

### ***Workshop Participants***

The first workshop, held on 18 March, brought together about 70 representatives from UNEP Ecosystems, Law Division, UNEP-WCMC, secretariats of various biodiversity and waste-related MEAs (CBD, CMS, CITES, BRS Conventions, Minamata Convention), RSCAP representatives, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). The second workshop, held on 19 March, brought together about 163 participants drawn from Montevideo National Focal Points and MEA National Focal Points. The two workshops successfully engaged a diverse group of participants from across the globe, including North America, South America, Central Asia, the Caribbean, and select regions of Africa.

### ***Key themes of the workshops***

The workshops had two main themes. The first workshop focused on leveraging interlinkages to address biodiversity loss and enhance the sound management of chemicals and waste while the second workshop focused on understanding the BBNJ Agreement and its interface with related MEAs.

### **First Workshop Highlights**

#### ***Opening remarks:***

- Stadler Trengove emphasized the BBNJ Agreement's significance in global ocean governance and its integration with other environmental frameworks.

#### ***Presentations:***

1. Chris Mc'Owen discussed synergies between the BBNJ Agreement and other biodiversity-related MEAs, highlighting key measures like Marine Genetic Resources (MGR), Area-Based Management Tools (ABMTs), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and Capacity Building & Transfer of Marine Technology (CB&TMT).
2. Sinikesh Jimma outlined UNEP's support for BBNJ ratification and early action, emphasizing areas like marine biodiversity conservation, policy and legal guidance, and capacity building.

3. Panel Discussion led by Tita Korvenoja explored collaboration opportunities among MEAs, with contributions from representatives of CBD, CITES, Regional Seas Programme, and BRS Secretariat.

***Closing remarks:***

- Gracian Banda summarized the day's discussions, stressing the importance of cooperation and collaboration among various sectors and stakeholders.

**Second Workshop Highlights**

***Opening remarks:***

- Stadler Trengove provided a recap of previous discussions and set the stage for an in-depth examination of the BBNJ Agreement's key provisions and implementation strategies for countries.

***Presentations:***

1. Charlotte Salpin gave an overview of the BBNJ Agreement, detailing its objectives, functions, and key provisions related to MGR, EIAs, ABMTs, and CB&TMT.
2. Dina Hamdy discussed the legal and procedural considerations for ratification of Treaties like the BBNJ agreement, emphasizing the importance of becoming a party to the agreement.
3. Kate Wilson highlighted the opportunities and challenges in implementing the BBNJ Agreement, particularly from the perspective of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and recommendations on implementing the BBNJ agreement.

***Question & Answer session:*** Addressed topics such as the relationship between climate change mitigation and the BBNJ, implementation and enforcement of the BBNJ, benefits sharing within BBNJ, and ocean governance exploitation by private corporations.

***Closing remarks:*** Gracian Banda summarized the day's discussions and highlighted UNEP's ongoing support for the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement, emphasizing technical legal assistance, capacity building, and funding support.

***Next steps-*** Continued collaboration and dialogue among stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.

**Conclusion**

The workshop served as a pivotal platform for advancing discussions around the interlinkages between the BBNJ Agreement and various biodiversity, chemicals, and waste-related MEAs. The workshop identified opportunities for UNEP and selected MEAs to coordinate technical assistance to countries and improve their legal frameworks through ratification and implementation. It also highlighted synergies between chemicals and waste management MEAs and RSCAPs to support BBNJ implementation.

## **Workshop 1- Tuesday, 18 March 2025**

### **1. Theme: Leveraging interlinkages to Address Biodiversity Loss and Enhance the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste.**

#### **1.1. Welcome and objectives of the workshop by Stadler Trengove (Chief, Environmental Rule of Law Branch, UNEP Law Division)**

Stadler Trengove opened the discussion by expressing gratitude to participants for their engagement in supporting the implementation of the BBNJ (Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction) agreement. He underscored that the BBNJ, a result of 17 years of negotiation, represents a global consensus dedicated to protecting our oceans and marine ecosystems, highlighting its significance in relation to various MEAs that address biodiversity, chemicals, waste, and regional seas. In outlining the session's objectives, Stadler noted that the first part would delve into how the BBNJ can create synergies with existing environmental frameworks, particularly in combating pollution and waste detrimental to ocean health. He informed participants about UNEP's ongoing initiatives linked to the BBNJ and illustrated how these efforts integrate with broader environmental strategies and the agency's efforts to address challenges and enhance ocean governance. Stadler noted that second session would focus on how UNEP and its partners can assist countries in creating synergies for effective international agreement implementation. He stressed the importance of equipping participants to tackle cross-cutting issues and collaborate to safeguard marine biodiversity for future generations. In conclusion, Stadler encouraged active participation, inviting questions and shared expertise to develop actionable solutions. He then introduced Chris Mc'owen from UNEP-WCMC, who would present on the synergies between the BBNJ agreement and other biodiversity-related MEAs.

#### **1.2. Interlinkages between the BBNJ agreement selected biodiversity-related Conventions by Chris Mc' Owen – (Lead Marine Scientist, UNEP-WCMC)**

Chris Mc' Owen delivered a comprehensive overview of the interlinkages between the BBNJ Agreement and selected biodiversity-related conventions, identifying valuable opportunities for coordination, cooperation, and coherence. He emphasized the transformative potential of the BBNJ Agreement in ocean governance, addressing governance gaps while enhancing synergy among global, regional, subregional, and sectoral organizations focused on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdictions. Chris' presentation outlined critical measures within the agreement, including Marine Genetic Resources (MGR), Area-Based Management Tools like Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and Capacity Building & Transfer of Marine Technology (CB&TMT). Central to the BBNJ Agreement is the emphasis on coordination, cooperation, and coherence, as highlighted in provisions such as Article 5.2, Article 6(c), and Article 8.2.

On coordination, cooperation, and coherence, Chris emphasised how they are central to the BBNJ agreement, as reflected in provisions like Article 5.2, Article 6(c), and Article 8.2. He used a diagram to visually represent the interconnected relationship between IFBs and the

various elements of the BBNJ agreement. Chris also highlighted the work of UNEP-WCMC, in collaboration with colleagues in Nairobi, to maximize impact by:

- a) Understanding the interlinkages between the BBNJ agreement and selected MEAs,
- b) Identifying lessons learned to build on existing knowledge and avoid duplication, and
- c) Enhancing cooperation with relevant IFBs.

Regarding next steps, Chris mentioned that UNEP-WCMC is developing a brief outlining the relationship between the BBNJ agreement and selected MEAs. A draft of this document will be circulated for feedback by the end of March, with input due by mid-April. The finalized document will be made available at the UNOC in June.

Chris further highlighted how Area based management tools (ABMTs) including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have several objectives under Article 17. These include Article 17 (a) on developing comprehensive systems of ABMTs with ecological representative and well-connected networks of MPAs, strengthened coordination and cooperation among States, relevant IFBs (Article 17(b), Protect, preserve, restore and maintain biological diversity and ecosystems (Art 17(c), Support food security and other socioeconomic objectives and protect cultural values (art 17 (d) and support developing States (article 17 (e)

Chris then proceeded to emphasize the multifaceted objectives of ABMTs, particularly in MPAs, as outlined in Article 17. These objectives include the development of comprehensive ABMT systems that feature ecologically representative and well-connected networks of MPAs (Article 17(a)), strengthened coordination and cooperation among states and relevant international fishery bodies (Article 17(b)), and the protection, preservation, restoration, and maintenance of biological diversity and ecosystems (Article 17(c)). Additionally, Chris underscored the importance of supporting food security and socioeconomic objectives while safeguarding cultural values (Article 17(d)) and the necessity of assisting developing states (Article 17(e)).

Chris further emphasized the importance of developing proposals grounded in available scientific data under Article 19(3) of the BBNJ agreement. He also highlighted key elements of ABMT, including MPA proposals outlined in Articles 19(4)(b), (c), (d), (e), and (f). He then went on to illustrate various ongoing initiatives under other MEAs. For the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Chris pointed out both past and ongoing efforts to identify ecologically and biologically significant areas, the criteria for selecting sites to create a representative network of MPAs, and the integration of biodiversity into economic sectors. He also discussed the incorporation of MPAs and efforts to address thematic issues such as underwater noise, marine debris, and ocean acidification.

Regarding the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), Chris shared information on identifying species listed under both agreements, important marine mammal areas, and key shark and ray habitats. He also covered an atlas on animal migration, strategies to reduce wildlife collisions, and the mechanisms in place to monitor violations established under CITES. Using illustrative arrows, Chris demonstrated the numerous linkages and opportunities

between the, BBNJ and related MEAs such as CBD, CITES, and CMS in the development of proposals.

On MGR, in addition to highlighting the objectives outlined in Article 9 of the BBNJ, Chris provided examples from the CBD and the Nagoya Protocol, particularly focusing on the access and benefit-sharing clearing house mechanism and its associated advisory committee. Additionally, he discussed the multilateral mechanism for ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of Digital Sequence Information (DSI), including the establishment of a global fund.

On EIA, Chris emphasized the objectives outlined in Article 27 of the BBNJ Agreement, which establish standardized EIA processes under Articles 27(a) and (d). He further outlined how the agreement aims to create a coherent and effective EIA framework for activities in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) (Art. 27(e)), ensuring that activities are designed to prevent, mitigate, and manage significant adverse impacts (Art. 27(b)). Chris also pointed out the need to account for cumulative impacts across both ABNJ and national jurisdictions (Art. 27(c)), as well as strengthen capacity-building efforts, particularly for developing states (Art. 27(f)). Chris went on to provide illustrative examples from the CBD, such as the voluntary guidelines for EIAs and Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs), which align with the sequential process of BBNJ. He also discussed how guidance on Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and sectoral pressures (such as underwater noise, marine debris, and ocean acidification) can inform the thresholds required for cumulative impact assessments under BBNJ. Under the CMS, Chris highlighted significant work done to develop species- and sector-specific guidance, such as EIAs related to marine noise from shipping, seismic surveys, and offshore renewables. He further noted that resolutions from the latest CMS Conference of the Parties (COP) have emphasized the importance of conducting cumulative impact assessments in the marine environment. Regarding CITES, Chris pointed out that while there is no direct EIA framework, the concept of non-detriment findings could offer valuable insights for species risk assessments in BBNJ EIAs.

Finally, on CB&TMT, Chris emphasized the objectives of assisting parties, particularly those in developing states, in implementing the agreement (Art. 40); enabling inclusive, equitable, and effective cooperation and participation (Art. 41); developing marine scientific and technological capacity (Art. 44, Annex II); and increasing, disseminating, and sharing knowledge on the conservation and sustainable use of ABNJ (Art. 44).

Chris provided various illustrative examples from the CBD, CMS, and CITES. For the CBD, he highlighted the development of the clearing-house mechanism (CHM) to facilitate scientific and technical cooperation, capacity building, and development. This mechanism also promotes a gender action plan and supports sustainable ocean initiatives. Under CMS, Chris pointed to capacity building through Party-to-Party support under the Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species, such as Goal 4. For CITES, Chris noted that capacity building efforts in the fisheries sector have improved legal and technical understanding through regional workshops and guidance materials.

### **1.3. UNEP's Offer of Support for BBNJ Ratification & Early Action by Sinikinesh Jimma – (Head, Marine and Freshwater Branch, UNEP Ecosystems Division)**

Sinikinesh Jimma presented on UNEP's support for the ratification and early action of the BBNJ Agreement. She highlighted how part of UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy and Programme of Work is integrated into the existing ocean governance workstream. She also emphasized UNEP's collaboration with various partners, including DOALOS, UNDP, FAO, IUCN, the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs), GRID-Arendal, and WCMC.

Regarding UNEP's areas of support, Sinikinesh outlined four critical areas in which UNEP is contributing to the BBNJ Agreement's success:

- a) **Marine Biodiversity Conservation Expertise:** UNEP brings deep knowledge and experience in marine biodiversity conservation, as well as expertise in ecosystem-based and area-based management.
- b) **Linking BBNJ with MEAs and the SDGs:** UNEP plays a key role in linking the BBNJ objectives with other biodiversity-related MEAs and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring coherence across different international frameworks.
- c) **Policy and Legal Guidance:** UNEP is providing policy and legal guidance, particularly through the RSCAPs, to ensure that the BBNJ Agreement is implemented coherently at regional levels.
- d) **Information Sharing and Capacity Building:** UNEP is facilitating capacity-building efforts, enhancing knowledge sharing, and supporting member states in their efforts to implement the BBNJ Agreement.

Sinikinesh went on to highlight several ongoing UNEP-driven initiatives to support the BBNJ Agreement's implementation:

- The UNEP website update, in collaboration with the Communications Division, which serves as a front-facing repository of information and UNEP-driven BBNJ tools.
- The UNEP-WCMC policy brief on the synergy between MEAs and the BBNJ Agreement.
- The Montevideo Environmental Law Programme.
- The UNEP-WCMC assessment on the implementation of Area-Based Management Tools (ABMTs) under the BBNJ Agreement, which identifies ABMTs that can be adopted to address ABNJ.
- The development of ABMT tools under the GEF International Waters (IW) Global/Regional MSP.
- The science-policy interface, including UNEP's Early Warning and Assessment Division (EWAD) through initiatives such as GESAMP and GEMS-Oceans.

- UNEP's Regional Seas BBNJ Capacity Needs Assessment, conducted by GRID-Arendal.
- An assessment of Member States' ratification readiness to guide UNEP's next steps.

She also illustrated UNEP's Interactive Tracking Tool for Member States, a comprehensive interface and database that provides country-specific information, including the status of ratification, requested support, and UNEP's action capacity initiatives (such as legal support and awareness building).

Regarding ongoing GEF projects, Sinikinesh highlighted several initiatives UNEP is supporting, including:

- The GEF-8 BBNJ Enabling Fund (a collaboration with UNEP, UNDP, and FAO), which has engaged 25 countries so far.
- The GEF-8 Global/Regional Medium-Sized Project (MSP).
- The GEF-7 Common Oceans Global Project, which supports 14 Pacific Island countries and 5 Latin American countries.

Sinikinesh also highlighted various upcoming events, *inter alia*: The African Ocean Governance Workshop (1-4 April in Dar Es Salaam), UNEP's side event at the BBNJ PrepCom 1st Cooperative meeting and several programs during UNOC3 in June, including the One Ocean Congress Town Hall and two side events.

Additionally, she discussed various key agendas to be addressed by Member States during the first COP of the Preparatory Commission for the BBNJ Agreement in April. She outlined how UNEP could make significant contributions to these discussions, including the establishment of subsidiary bodies and providing technical advice through SBSTTA (Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical, and Technological Advice).

On the Secretariat of the Treaty, Sinikinesh emphasized UNEP's readiness to support the establishment and functioning of the Secretariat. She highlighted UNEP's capacity to enhance synergies across multilateral commitments and assist in resource mobilization for the effective implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.

Regarding the Clearing House Mechanism (CHM), she elaborated on how UNEP member states should consider UNEP to drive the establishment of the BBNJ-CHM. She provided various examples where UNEP has successfully administered similar CHMs, including:

- UNEP's Global Environment Monitoring System (GEMS) – World Environment Situation Room.
- The Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML).
- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Access and Benefits Sharing Clearing-House Mechanism (ABS-CHM).
- The joint CHM for the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions.

- The Nairobi Convention CHM.
- National Biodiversity and Biosafety CHMs.

Sinikinesh emphasized these examples to demonstrate UNEP's expertise and experience in managing and facilitating clearing-house mechanisms that support international environmental agreements.

#### **1.4. Panel discussion on Opportunities for collaboration and shared objectives among MEAs by CBD – By Tita Korvenoja (Chief, Environmental Conventions and Policy Branch, UNEP Law Division)**

Tita Korvenoja facilitated a panel discussion focused on opportunities for collaboration and shared objectives among Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). The panel featured contributions from:

- **Joe Appiott** from the CBD Secretariat,
- **Stavros Antoniadis** from the CITES Secretariat,
- **Monika Thiele** from the Regional Seas Programme, and
- **Jackline Wanjiru** from the BRS Secretariat.

The panellists discussed how their respective organizations can work together to enhance synergies, share knowledge, and align efforts to achieve common environmental goals. They explored collaborative approaches to the conservation of marine biodiversity, the sustainable use of ocean resources, and the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.

Joe Appiott emphasized how the CBD currently addresses marine biodiversity and identified areas of alignment with the BBNJ Agreement, specifically Articles 4, 5, and 22 of the CBD. He highlighted the work being done under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, emphasizing its relevance to ocean issues. Joe also illustrated how the BBNJ's key components—MGR, ABMT, EIA, CHM—are closely linked to the CBD's objectives. He provided examples of Ecologically and Biologically Significant Areas (EBSAs) and pointed out various existing tools and technical expertise within the CBD that can be utilized to support the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement.

Stavros Antoniadis shared valuable insights on existing collaborative mechanisms that could serve as models for cooperation under the BBNJ Agreement. He highlighted various provisions of CITES that are relevant to BBNJ, emphasizing areas of important synergies, such as requirements for EIA, MGRs, ABMTs, including MPAs in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ). Stavros also discussed upcoming CITES events that are relevant to BBNJ, including the 20th Conference of the Parties (CoP 20) and documents from the Standing Committee (SC78) regarding the introduction from the sea, which includes a review of synergies with the BBNJ Agreement. Regarding cooperation, Stavros stressed the importance of utilizing existing mechanisms, such as the UN Oceans led by DOALOS, and keeping parties informed of developments within the agreements or MEAs. This ensures that efforts are aligned and that all relevant stakeholders remain engaged in the ongoing work of the BBNJ.

Monika Thiele illustrated the crucial role of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as key linkages between global MEAs and the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement. She emphasized how these regional frameworks can facilitate the effective coordination and integration of BBNJ objectives at the regional level. Monika also highlighted various opportunities for collaboration, noting that the shared objectives among MEAs provide a solid foundation for synergistic action. She stressed the importance of aligning regional efforts with global frameworks to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ. By leveraging the strengths of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, the BBNJ Agreement can be more effectively implemented, fostering collaboration across different levels of governance.

Jackline Wanjiru discussed the preventive role played by the BRS Convention in addressing land-based pollution, hazardous wastes, and chemicals, all of which significantly impact marine biodiversity in ABNJ. She also emphasized how the BRS Convention's work is closely related to the objectives of the BBNJ Agreement, particularly in the context of preventing and mitigating the environmental risks posed by these pollutants. Jackline further highlighted various networking and collaboration platforms where the BRS Secretariat is actively engaged, underscoring the importance of these platforms for fostering cooperation and sharing knowledge among MEAs. These platforms play a critical role in aligning efforts across different environmental agreements, helping to address the complex challenges facing marine biodiversity in ABNJ.

In closing, Tita Korvenoja provided a brief recap of the panel discussion, emphasizing the crucial role of MEAs in supporting the BBNJ Agreement through their processes, experience, and practical tools. She underscored the importance of aligning the implementation of MEAs with BBNJ objectives, particularly in relation to MPAs, EIAs, and MGRs), which are vital for fostering cooperation at the national level.

Tita also highlighted how the panel presentations illustrated various opportunities for collaboration, particularly in enhancing joint monitoring and reporting mechanisms that will support coordinated actions. She stressed the need for continued dialogue and the importance of bringing these discussions closer to Member States as soon as possible. Tita encouraged ongoing engagement and collaboration at the national level between MEAs and the BBNJ Agreement to ensure effective implementation and shared goals.

#### **1.5. Closing, Next steps and Coordination of Technical Assistance by Gracian Banda (Head of Unit, Montevideo Coordination and Delivery Unit, Law Division, UNEP)**

Gracian Banda concluded his remarks by expressing gratitude to all presenters and participants for their valuable insights regarding the BBNJ Agreement and its path to implementation. He highlighted a crucial aspect of the discussions: Article 5 of the agreement, which aims to enhance cooperation among various sectors and stakeholders that operate outside specific national control. Gracian pointed out the insightful opening remarks from Stadler Trengove, who underscored the importance of the BBNJ Agreement in bolstering global ocean governance and the critical role of legal and institutional collaboration for effective implementation. He also acknowledged the contributions of Chris Mc'Owen and Sinikinesh

Jimma in their presentations and emphasized the fruitful panel discussion led by Tita Korvenoja, which provided further examples of existing cooperation, collaboration, and future opportunities to strengthen cooperative arrangements. Gracian particularly noted Tita's summary, which stressed the essential tools and mechanisms needed, such as joint programming and shared databases developed by conventions that remain underutilized among stakeholders. In closing, Gracian invited all participants to attend the next days' upcoming event targeting national stakeholders engaged with the Montevideo Programme and MEAs implementation. He reiterated the importance of this event to offer perspective and support for national stakeholders in the implementation of the BBNJ Agreement once it comes into force.

## **Workshop 2- Wednesday, 19 March 2025**

### **2. Theme: Leveraging interlinkages to Address Biodiversity Loss and Enhance the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste**

#### **2.1. Welcome and Objectives of the Workshop by Stadler Trengove (Chief, Environmental Rule of Law Branch, UNEP Law Division)**

Stadler Trengove opened the follow-up workshop with a warm welcome, emphasizing the importance of continuing the dialogue on the BBNJ Agreement. He provided a concise recap of previous discussions and outlined the objectives for the upcoming sessions, showcasing the significant milestone the BBNJ agreement represents in global efforts to protect marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdictions. He proceeded to set the stage for an in-depth examination of the agreement's key provisions and implementation strategies for countries highlighting two segments of the workshop: the first of which would feature legal experts from the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, discussing the BBNJ agreement's key provisions and their impacts on regulatory frameworks across various sectors while the second segment would concentrate on expectations of States and stakeholders, underscoring the BBNJ agreement as a crucial tool for addressing significant challenges related to biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. In conclusion, Stadler encouraged participants to reflect on the implications of the BBNJ agreement for their work and sectors. He then introduced Charlotte Salpin, Senior Legal Officer at the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), to present on the "Objectives, Functions, and Overview of the BBNJ Agreement."

#### **2.2. Objectives, functions and overview of the BBNJ Agreement by Charlotte Salpin- (Senior Legal Officer, DOALOS)**

Charlotte Salpin gave an overview of the BBNJ Agreement, providing essential insights into its context, content, and future steps. She effectively positioned the agreement within the larger framework of ocean governance and the Law of the Sea, emphasizing its significant ties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). By detailing the geographical scope encompassed by the BBNJ agreement, Charlotte highlighted critical maritime zones, including the High Seas and the International Sea Bed Area. Furthermore, she underscored the roles of various global and regional organizations that are instrumental in sectoral activities, while clarifying the overarching policy guidance role of the UNGA, despite its lack of management authority. Charlotte went on to highlight the BBNJ timeline, starting from June 2004 when the UN informal consultative process on oceans and the law of the sea began discussing BBNJ, culminating in the adoption of the agreement in June 2023.

On what is in the BBNJ agreement, Charlotte outlined highlighted the four key mechanisms for the overall conservation and sustainable use of BBNJ agreement, namely MGR), Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA), Area-based Management Tools (ABMTs) and Capacity-building and transfer of marine technology. She also addressed several cross-cutting issues which included:

- a) The relationship with UNCLOS and other relevant legal instruments, as well as global, regional, and sectoral bodies, emphasizing international cooperation.

- b) Institutional arrangements to include bodies like the Conference of Parties (COP) and the Clearing House Mechanism.
- c) Funding arrangements, where institutions will be supported by assessed contributions, voluntary trust funds, special funds, and the GEF trust fund, with the COP able to establish additional funding mechanisms.

Charlotte further highlighted the significance of the BBNJ agreement through four key issues. First, she pointed out how it provided a pathway toward a more level playing field in international negotiations. Second, she emphasized how it represented a vital step forward for the planet, addressing the pressing triple planetary crises. Third, it marked a significant advancement in ocean affairs and the law of the sea. Finally, it served as a crucial contributor to global ocean-related goals and targets, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

She further emphasized the importance of becoming a party to the agreement, as States would benefit individually from its provisions. This included sharing in the benefits from activities related to MGRs) and digital sequence information, as well as gaining increased access to information through capacity building and the transfer of marine technology. She however emphasized that only parties to the agreement will be allowed to participate in the COPs and benefit from the sharing of these resources.

Regarding the status of the agreement, Charlotte highlighted that it was opened for signature two years from 20 September 2023, with entry into force set to occur 120 days after 60 instruments of ratification, approval, acceptance, or accession. She also re-emphasized the UN Secretary General's position, urging all States to sign and ratify the agreement without delay. She went on to elaborate on the current status, noting that as of March 2025, 112 signatures had been received, and 20 of those signatories had ratified the agreement by 12 March 2025.

Regarding the next steps, Charlotte highlighted that 40 ratifications were required for the agreement to enter into force. She however noted that preparations were already underway, with the BBNJ PrepCom working on preparations for the agreement's entry into force and the convening of COP-1, which was expected to take place within a year of the agreement's entry into force. She briefly mentioned the key issues being addressed by the PrepCom, including governance issues, the operation of the CHM, financial rules, and the development of financial resources and mechanisms. Leading up to the PrepCom (scheduled for 14-25 April), she encouraged participants to review the documents shared on the BBNJ agreement's website.

In closing, Charlotte recalled the mandate of the DOALOS Legal Division in relation to the BBNJ agreement, noting that it currently performs secretariat functions under the agreement until the official secretariat is established and begins its work. She further highlighted that the division provides assistance to the Preparatory Commission and helps promote a better understanding of the agreement as preparations for its entry into force continue. She also elaborated on various activities being undertaken by DOALOS to support this, such as the development of a toolkit, side events, and online courses created in collaboration with UNEP InforMEA, all aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of the agreement.

### **2.3. Steps to ratification: Legal and procedural considerations by Dina Hamdy- (Legal Officer, Treaty Section, UN Office of Legal Affairs)**

Dina Hamdy began her presentation on the "Signature, Ratification, and Accession to Treaties, including the BBNJ Agreement," with a brief recap of the events following the adoption of the BBNJ agreement. She highlighted how certified true copies (CTC) of the BBNJ agreement, in all six official languages, were prepared and uploaded to the United Nations Treaties Collection Website and how the information can be located.

She further elaborated on how States can become a party to the BBNJ agreement, emphasizing that a state's consent to be bound by the agreement must be expressed through signature, exchange of instruments constituting a treaty, ratification, acceptance, approval, or accession, or by any other means if so agreed (Article 11 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties). Dina also stressed that under international law, signature must be done by the Heads of State, Heads of Government, or the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Article 7(2) of the Vienna Convention). Proxies must possess an instrument of full powers signed by one of these three authorities, granting them the authority to sign on behalf of the State. She went on to demonstrate a model instrument that States could use for this purpose. Dina also highlighted that after signature, a State must ratify the BBNJ agreement through the Heads of State, Heads of Government, or Minister for Foreign Affairs, demonstrating that the State has established its consent to be bound by the treaty—in this case, the BBNJ agreement.

Dina went on to elaborate that once a State has deposited its instrument of ratification for the BBNJ agreement, a depository notification is issued and circulated. She further re-emphasized the number of ratifications required for the BBNJ agreement to enter into force. Dina also explained that the United Nations Treaties Collection Website lists all countries that have ratified treaties to become parties, along with any declarations made. She highlighted another valuable resource on the UN Treaty Collections Website: the Treaty Handbook, which explains the processes of signature, ratification, and accession, and includes model instruments for use by States. Additionally, Dina pointed out the annual Treaty Event held every September, which provides an opportunity for States to sign and ratify treaties. In closing, Dina emphasized that after the BBNJ agreement is no longer open for signature, any State can become a party by depositing an instrument of accession, which holds the same value as ratification under international law.

### **2.4. Opportunities and Challenges in implementing BBNJ agreement and the role by Kate Wilson- Legal Officer/ National Focal Point MVP5, St Lucia; LAC representative Steering Committee, MVP5**

Kate's presentation focused on the opportunities and challenges in implementing the BBNJ Agreement, particularly from the perspective of a Member State. She began by discussing the key objectives, scope, and essential elements outlined in Articles 2, 3, and Parts II, III, IV, and V of the agreement. She emphasized the significance of BBNJ for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), noting its role in biodiversity protection, climate regulation, food security, livelihoods, and the protection of self-determination and sovereignty over natural resources.

Kate also highlighted several opportunities BBNJ offers to SIDS, including capacity building and technology transfer, benefits sharing, regional cooperation, strengthening the implementation of UNCLOS, support for the 2030 SDGs Agenda, and the conservation and sustainable use of resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction, all of which directly benefit SIDS.

Kate outlined several key challenges in implementing the BBNJ agreement:

- a) **Capacity Constraints:** Kate highlighted the lack of specialized experts in ocean management and related fields, hindering effective implementation.
- b) **Robust Coordination Mechanisms:** She emphasized the need for better coordination to facilitate networking and engagement with diverse stakeholders, including indigenous people and local communities, who are most affected by ocean-related issues. This is essential for effective public awareness, sensitization, and ownership.
- c) **Absence of Predictable Financial Resources:** Kate highlighted how the reliance on the voluntary trust fund (RES 69/292 and 72/249) creates uncertainty, as it depends on the goodwill of UN Member States, international banks, and donors, which makes financial resources unreliable.
- d) **Lack of a Coordinated Regional Vision:** She also demonstrated how there is no agreed-upon regional framework that collectively aligns and strengthens ocean development efforts across nations.
- e) **Inadequate Technology:** She also highlighted how there is a lack of up-to-date technology needed for ocean access, spatial mapping, and GIS studies of territorial boundaries and baselines.
- f) **Lack of Innovative Data Systems:** She mentioned that there is a deficiency in innovative data systems and coordinated mechanisms for information storage, which makes it difficult to effectively manage and share ocean-related data.

In closing, Kate then outlined several recommendations for moving forward with the implementation of the BBNJ agreement:

- a) **Establishment of a Trust Fund:** She emphasized the need for a dedicated trust fund to ensure reliable financial resources for BBNJ implementation.
- b) **Improved Institutional Opportunities:** Kate recommended strengthening the institutional framework, with an emphasis on having a chair/president in committees to ensure better coordination and leadership.
- c) **Caricom/SIDS Ambassador for Oceans:** She proposed the creation of a Caricom/SIDS ambassador for oceans to support and complement the work of permanent missions to the UN, recognizing the critical importance of oceans to SIDS.
- d) **Greater Political Support and Advocacy:** Kate called for greater political support, particularly through advocacy from Ministers and high-ranking officials, pointing to the example of countries like Barbados, Grenada, and Antigua and Barbuda.

- e) Improved Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Mechanisms: She recommended enhancing ABS mechanisms to increase economic opportunities, specifically referencing initiatives in the Bahamas and Saint Lucia. This would include ensuring prior informed consent from indigenous peoples, local communities, and human rights defenders.
- f) Enhanced Capacity Building and Technology Transfer: Kate stressed the need for improved methods of capacity building, technology transfer, and data analysis to better equip SIDS in ocean management and sustainable use of marine resources.

## 2.5. Question and answer session

**Question 1:** The relationship between climate change mitigation and the BBNJ

- *How can the BBNJ provisions support the integration of ocean-based climate action into NDCs under the Paris Agreement?*
- *Can BBNJ be used to report high seas mitigation and adaptation?*

**Charlotte's Response:**

Charlotte highlighted that the BBNJ recognizes the critical link between ocean, biodiversity, and climate. She referred to provisions, especially those in relation to marine protected areas. These provisions emphasize that the establishment and implementation of ABMTs would enhance the resilience of ocean ecosystems, which in turn would support climate action.

**Kate's Emphasis:**

Kate further emphasized the interconnectedness of the "triple planetary crises" — pollution, biodiversity loss, and climate change — and how the BBNJ agreement addresses these challenges through both mitigation and adaptation measures. She highlighted that the BBNJ offers a framework to support the integration of ocean-based climate actions into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement, and it can be used to report on mitigation and adaptation efforts in the high seas, thus linking ocean health to climate goals.

**Question 2: Implementation and enforcement of the BBNJ**

- *Who will be responsible for enforcing the rule of law in the open and deep ocean areas covered by the agreement, and how would compliance be effectively ensured?*

**Charlotte's Response:**

Charlotte noted that while the BBNJ agreement does not include a specific provision directly addressing enforcement, it does require parties to take appropriate measures to implement and comply with the obligations set out in the agreement, which implicitly includes enforcement. She pointed out that for states facing difficulties in enforcement, the agreement provides capacity-building initiatives to help address these challenges. In terms of monitoring and enforcement of marine ABMTs and protected areas, Charlotte highlighted that one option for

addressing these concerns would be the COP (once operational), which could play a role in ensuring compliance.

**Kate's Addition:**

Kate added that when negotiating treaties like the BBNJ, implementation committees are typically set up to develop implementation roadmaps, including compliance and enforcement mechanisms for member states that ratify the agreement. These committees would help coordinate actions and ensure that states are adhering to the provisions of the agreement, providing a framework for enforcement.

**Question 3: Benefits sharing**

- *How will the benefits sharing under BBNJ differ from that in the CBD, and how can double payment be avoided?*

**Charlotte's Response:**

Charlotte acknowledged that there is no direct answer at the moment regarding how benefits sharing under the BBNJ will differ from that in the CBD or how double payment could be avoided. She emphasized that the issue of benefit-sharing will be addressed by the Conference of the Parties once it becomes operational. The decisions made by this body will provide clarity on how benefits sharing will be structured and how issues like double payment will be prevented. Therefore, stakeholders will need to wait for these decisions before a concrete approach can be established.

**Question 4: Ocean governance exploitation**

- *Does the BBNJ agreement have sufficient safeguards to prevent private corporations from exploiting legal loopholes in high seas governance and strengthening private sector accountability frameworks?*

**Charlotte's Response:**

Charlotte acknowledged that the BBNJ agreement may not solve all the issues related to ocean governance, but she highlighted that it provides greater legal and regulatory certainty where there may have been gaps in the past. Specifically, the agreement addresses the utilization of MGRs in areas beyond national jurisdiction, the establishment of marine protected areas, and the implementation of EIAs. These provisions contribute to a stronger regulatory framework, which can help prevent private corporations from exploiting legal loopholes. However, she indicated that more detailed mechanisms for ensuring private sector accountability might emerge as the agreement is implemented and further clarified.

## **2.6. Closing, Next steps and Coordination of Technical Assistance by Gracian Banda**

Gracian delivered a comprehensive summary of the day's discussions, dividing it into three main parts:

1. **Basic Summary:** Gracian recapped the key points of the presentations, emphasizing the importance of the BBNJ agreement and the collaborative efforts needed for its successful implementation. He highlighted the focus on collaboration, coordination, and cooperation as central themes throughout the discussions.
2. **Support Available for Implementation:** He discussed the support available for the implementation of the BBNJ agreement, particularly through UNEP's Montevideo Environmental Law Programme and UNEP as a whole. This support is crucial for helping Member States navigate the complexities of the agreement and build the necessary capacities for effective execution.
3. **Key Messages:** Gracian reiterated the key message from the three presentations: the importance of cooperation in addressing the challenges and maximizing the opportunities presented by the BBNJ. He also recapped the specific challenges and opportunities that different member states might face, as well as the procedural requirements that states must follow to ensure the agreement comes into force.

Gracian continued by highlighting the key areas where UNEP's Montevideo Environmental Law Programme can contribute to supporting the implementation of the BBNJ agreement. He elaborated on several critical elements of the Montevideo Programme, such as:

1. **Technical Legal Support:** UNEP's Montevideo Programme provides technical legal support to UN member states, particularly in developing legislation related to thematic areas like Biodiversity, (essential to this topic) Pollution, and Climate Change. These areas are essential for the implementation of the BBNJ agreement, which focuses on protecting biodiversity and regulating ocean-based activities.
2. **Capacity Building:** The programme plays a significant role in capacity building, helping countries develop the skills and knowledge necessary for the effective implementation of the BBNJ. This includes enhancing legal and regulatory capacity to manage marine resources beyond national jurisdiction.
3. **Knowledge Products:** UNEP's Montevideo Programme also focuses on creating knowledge products that support BBNJ implementation. These include legislation and legal toolkits, E-learning resources, publications, webinars, and targeted support where countries request assistance on the BBNJ. These resources are designed to help states navigate the complexities of the agreement and build the necessary legal and technical frameworks.

Finally, Gracian invited Sinikinesh Jimma from UNEP's Ecosystems Division to provide an overview of UNEP's broader support to member states, further emphasizing the organization's role in assisting countries with implementing the BBNJ agreement.

Sinikinesh Jimma provided a comprehensive overview of UNEP's Ecosystems Division ongoing and future support for the implementation of the BBNJ agreement, emphasizing the organization's global mandate and capacity:

1. **Global Environmental Review and Oversight:** Sinikinesh explained that as a globally mandated UN organization, UNEP will continue to monitor and review environmental issues, ranging from the Ozone layer to the deep sea. UNEP's role in overseeing environmental progress extends across various global environmental challenges.
2. **Leveraging Existing Capabilities:** Sinikinesh mentioned that UNEP has extensive experience managing over 50 Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). She highlighted how UNEP can help bring synergies and foster collaboration between different MEAs related to biodiversity, such as the CMS, CBD, and CITES, to support the implementation of the BBNJ agreement.
3. **Science and Policy Support:** She highlighted that UNEP could provide science and policy support to countries, helping them integrate scientific data and policy frameworks into their national strategies for marine and biodiversity protection. This includes capacity building in technical areas, awareness-raising on the importance of ocean governance, and offering policy and legal support.
4. **Funding Support:** Sinikinesh mentioned that UNEP is able to provide funding through mechanisms such as the GEF funding and the UNEP Critical Enabling Fund, which are key resources for supporting the implementation of environmental agreements like BBNJ.
5. **Regional Seas and Global Governance:** Sinikinesh mentioned UNEP's ongoing work in the regional sea's programs, emphasizing the importance of regional and global governance in ocean and marine biodiversity conservation, including the implementation of ABMTs.
6. **Building Marine Expertise:** She highlighted that UNEP could assist countries in establishing marine experts by providing scholarships and helping countries with resource mobilization to build local expertise and strengthen capacity for effective marine governance.
7. **UNEP Divisions:** Sinikinesh concluded by highlighting the various UNEP divisions that are involved in supporting environmental governance and policy implementation, including the Law Division, Chemicals and Waste Division, Climate Change Division, Biodiversity Division, and Economy Division, among others. She emphasized how these divisions work together to provide comprehensive support to countries in their efforts to implement the BBNJ agreement.

In closing, Gracian Banda re-emphasized the role of UNEP's Montevideo Environmental Law Programme in providing technical legal assistance to countries. He provided a link and email address to the UNEP LEAP (Law and Environment Assistance Programme) <https://leap.unep.org/en/support-request>, where countries can submit requests for assistance in implementing the BBNJ agreement.

Gracian then thanked all the presenters for their insightful presentations on the BBNJ agreement, as well as the participants for their active engagement through questions and comments, which contributed to a rich and productive discussion. He concluded by expressing gratitude for everyone's contributions and reiterated the importance of continued collaboration to ensure the success of the BBNJ agreement.

### 3. ANNEXURES

#### 3.1. Annex 1- Workshop 1- List of Participants

|     | 18 March 2025            |                               |                |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
|     | Webinar ID               | 962 1593 8567                 |                |
|     | Username (Original Name) | Organization                  | Country        |
| 1.  | Stadler Trengove         | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 2.  | Tita Korvenoja           | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 3.  | Gracian Banda            | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 4.  | Sinikinesh Jimma         | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 5.  | Chris Mc' Owen           | UNEP-WCMC                     | United Kingdom |
| 6.  | Irene Llabrés Pohl       | UNEP-WCMC                     | United Kingdom |
| 7.  | Daniela Guara            | UNEP-WCMC                     | United Kingdom |
| 8.  | Monika Thiele            | Regional Seas Programme       | Kenya          |
| 9.  | Jackline Wanjiru         | BRS Secretariat               | Switzerland    |
| 10. | Joe Appiott              | SCBD                          | Canada         |
| 11. | Stavros Antoniadis       | CITES                         | Switzerland    |
| 12. | Alvin John Gachie        | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 13. | Paxon Maina              | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 14. | Maryann Kuria            | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 15. | Erick Khayota            | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 16. | Angélique Muhavani       | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 17. | Anna Lefrancois          | UNEP                          | Belgium        |
| 18. | Valeriia Vakhitova       | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 19. | Aylin McNamara           | SCBD                          | United Kingdom |
| 20. | Georgina Lloyd           | UNEP                          | Thailand       |
| 21. | Yara Alchamma            | UNEP West Asia                | Lebanon        |
| 22. | Gaelle Seif              | UNEP                          | Lebanon        |
| 23. | Yara El Habre            | UNEP ROWA                     | Lebanon        |
| 24. | Yonghan Xiang            | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 25. | Immaculate Mwololo       | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 26. | Manon Seyssaut           | UNEP/BRS Secretariat          | Switzerland    |
| 27. | Moses Wangari            | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 28. | Minsun Kim               | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 29. | Rocío Fernández          | UNEP                          | Spain          |
| 30. | Anna Blanpain            | UNEP GEF IW/CW                | Kenya          |
| 31. | Yolanda Cachu            | UNEP                          | United Kingdom |
| 32. | Jiasheng Liu             | UNEP                          | Kenya          |
| 33. | Bingzhuo Li              | UN                            | United States  |
| 34. | Lauren Sampson           | EPA                           | Guyana         |
| 35. | Gregory Diaz             | Company                       | United States  |
| 36. | Christopher Barna        | Ministry of Energy Hungary    | Hungary        |
| 37. | Katri Varis              | University of Eastern Finland | Finland        |
| 38. | Ana Colaço               | UAC                           | Portugal       |
| 39. | Kristyn Gilliis          | UN Foundation                 | United States  |
| 40. | Florence Galletti        | IRD                           | France         |

|     |                             |                                          |               |
|-----|-----------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 41. | Angelique Pouponneau        | AOSIS                                    | United States |
| 42. | Bart Smit Duijzentkunst     | UN                                       | United States |
| 43. | Yun Kim                     | United Nations                           | United States |
| 44. | Veronique Lozano            | United Nations                           |               |
| 45. | Yrhen Bernard Balinis       | Office of the Youth in Maritime (YIMO)   |               |
| 46. | Peace Dziedzom Gbeckor-Kove | Environmental Protection Authority       | Ghana         |
| 47. | Tomoe Watashiba             | Mofa                                     | Switzerland   |
| 48. | Samwel Adawo                | UNEP                                     | Germany       |
| 49. | Aidan McKean                | UNEP                                     | Kenya         |
| 50. | Sanduni jayanetti           | OLA                                      | United States |
| 51. | Solveig Olafsdottir         | Marine and Freshwater Research Institute | Iceland       |
| 52. | Jean-Remi Lopez             | Xotl                                     | Hong Kong SAR |
| 53. | Bindu Sulochana             | ICAR-CMFRI                               | India         |
| 54. | Sylvia Bankobeza            | UNEP                                     | Kenya         |
| 55. | Pia Goldschmidt             | Danish Ministry of Environment           | Denmark       |
| 56. | Sandra Hellen Omondi        | United Nations                           | Kenya         |
| 57. | Murage Maina                | UNEP                                     | Kenya         |
| 58. | Michael Atogoh              | UNEP                                     | Kenya         |
| 59. | Sora Yun                    | UNEP RSB                                 | Kenya         |
| 60. | Charlotte Salpin            | United Nations                           | France        |
| 61. | Emilie Vauchel              | UNEP                                     | Kenya         |
| 62. | Yannik Friedli              | UNEP                                     | Kenya         |
| 63. | Diane Klaimi                | UNEP                                     | Kenya         |
| 64. | Aphrodite Smagadi           | UNEP                                     | Kenya         |
| 65. | Yassin Ahmed                | UNEP                                     | Kenya         |
| 66. | Angela Kariuki              | UNEP                                     | Switzerland   |
| 67. | Timothy Murimi              | UNEP                                     | Kenya         |
| 68. | Andrea Brusco               | UNEP                                     | Mexico        |
| 69. | Eduardo Visuete Osorio      | UNEP                                     | Panama        |
| 70. | Eric Nzomo                  | UNEP                                     | Kenya         |

### 3.2. Annex 2- Workshop 2- List of Participants

|     |                                 |                      |                                                                                                      |
|-----|---------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     | <b>19 March 2025</b>            |                      |                                                                                                      |
|     | <b>Webinar ID</b>               | <b>934 7349 6616</b> |                                                                                                      |
|     | <b>Username (Original Name)</b> | <b>Country</b>       | <b>Organization</b>                                                                                  |
| 1.  | Stadler Trengove                | Kenya                | UNEP                                                                                                 |
| 2.  | Sinikinesh Beyene Jimma         | Kenya                | UNEP                                                                                                 |
| 3.  | Kate Wilson                     | Saint Lucia          | National Focal Point MVP5, St Lucia; LAC                                                             |
| 4.  | Charlotte Salpin                | France               | UN                                                                                                   |
| 5.  | Gracian Banda                   | Kenya                | UNEP                                                                                                 |
| 6.  | Alvin John Gachie               | Kenya                | UNEP                                                                                                 |
| 7.  | Dina Hamdy                      | United States        | UN                                                                                                   |
| 8.  | Paxon Maina                     | Kenya                | UNEP                                                                                                 |
| 9.  | Maryann Kuria                   | Kenya                | UNEP                                                                                                 |
| 10. | Erick Khayota                   | Kenya                | UNEP                                                                                                 |
| 11. | Angelique Muhavani              | Kenya                | UNEP                                                                                                 |
| 12. | Gaelle Seif                     | Lebanon              | UNEP - Regional Office for West Asia                                                                 |
| 13. | Ibrahim Musa                    | Nigeria              | National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA)                         |
| 14. | Ihab Ahmed                      | Greece               | UNEP MAP/Barcelona Convention                                                                        |
| 15. | Manon Seyssaut                  | France               | UNEP/BRS Secretariat                                                                                 |
| 16. | Aidan McKean                    | Kenya                | UNEP                                                                                                 |
| 17. | Victor Njuguna Wainaina         | Kenya                | CYMG                                                                                                 |
| 18. | Muhammed Hydara                 | Gambia               | Gambia Environmental Alliance                                                                        |
| 19. | Haruok Okusu                    | Switzerland          | CITES Secretariat                                                                                    |
| 20. | Kwansma Whitley                 | Kenya                | Kenyatta University Environmental Science Club                                                       |
| 21. | Lisa Place                      | France               | CIDCE                                                                                                |
| 22. | Tamsir Sallah                   | Netherlands          | Oceans and Biodiversity network                                                                      |
| 23. | ZRA SINI                        | Cameroon             | Conseil national des Appelés du service civique du Cameroun, branche Régionale de l'Extreme-Nord Cam |
| 24. | Piera Wanjau                    | Kenya                | CYMG                                                                                                 |
| 25. | Dr. Anirudh Janagam             | India                | SyntHeim                                                                                             |
| 26. | Jin Tanaka                      | United States        | UNISC International                                                                                  |
| 27. | Ana Rita Luís                   | Portugal             | APA - Portuguese Environment Agency                                                                  |
| 28. | Patsy Contardo                  | Chile                | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile                                                                 |
| 29. | Nneka Nicholas                  | Antigua and Barbuda  | Government of Antigua and Barbuda                                                                    |
| 30. | Leila Devia                     | Trinidad & Tobago    | Law Faculty                                                                                          |
| 31. | Georgina Clarke                 | Netherlands          | Government Legal Department                                                                          |
| 32. | Fredrick Kung'u                 | France               | Africa Group of Negotiators Expert Support                                                           |
| 33. | Annette Wangari                 | Kenya                | Independent Consultant                                                                               |
| 34. | Rachel Gaughan                  | Netherlands          | UK Government                                                                                        |
| 35. | Emmah Akware                    | India                | University of Nairobi                                                                                |
| 36. | Juma Michael                    | Kenya                | Kenya Inter-University Environmental Student Association                                             |
| 37. | Christina Fernandez             | Netherlands          | Tilburg University                                                                                   |
| 38. | Agueda Silva                    | Portugal             | Portuguese Environment Agency                                                                        |
| 39. | Ivette Cardenas                 | Chile                | Environmental Assessment Service (Chile)                                                             |

|     |                                           |                |                                                                                                                   |
|-----|-------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 40. | Edward Chipoka                            | Hong Kong SAR  | Zambian Environmental Management Agency                                                                           |
| 41. | Samuel Wireko Junior                      | Ghana          | Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology                                                                   |
| 42. | Sibusiso Kobese                           | South Africa   | Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment                                                              |
| 43. | Audrey Lenga                              | Cameroon       | Greenpeace Africa                                                                                                 |
| 44. | Rajarshi Bandyopadhyay                    | India          | WVUAFS                                                                                                            |
| 45. | Clifford Okeyo                            | Kenya          | GoodwillCBO                                                                                                       |
| 46. | Eliška Rolfová                            | Czech Republic | Ministry of the Environment                                                                                       |
| 47. | Audrey De Coster                          | Netherlands    | Agency for Agriculture and Fisheries - Flemish government                                                         |
| 48. | Barbora Krizova                           | Czech Republic | Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic                                                                 |
| 49. | Md Sharifuzzaman                          | Bangladesh     | Forest Department, Bangladesh                                                                                     |
| 50. | Lavrentios Vasiliades                     | Belgium        | Department of Fisheries and Marine Research                                                                       |
| 51. | Kelly Hertenweg                           | Belgium        | Federal Public Service Health, Food chain Safety and Environment - DG Environment - Biodiversity - CITES unit     |
| 52. | Yianna Samuel                             | Cyprus         | Department of Fisheries and Marine Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment           |
| 53. | Nour Bocquet                              | Italy          | Jeunes Ambassadeurs pour le Climat                                                                                |
| 54. | Jelena Uroš                               | Croatia        | Ministry of environmental protection and green transition                                                         |
| 55. | Carla Silva                               | Portugal       | ICNF                                                                                                              |
| 56. | Karma Dorji                               | United States  | National Biodiversity Centre                                                                                      |
| 57. | Jahidul Kabir                             | United States  | Bangladesh Forest Department                                                                                      |
| 58. | Catherine Blanchard                       | Canada         | Global Affairs Canada                                                                                             |
| 59. | Lechani Motshwarakgole                    | Botswana       | Department of Environmental Protection                                                                            |
| 60. | Yimo Zhang                                | United States  | WWF-China                                                                                                         |
| 61. | Emily Gilman                              | Cayman Islands | Cayman Islands Government                                                                                         |
| 62. | Sandra Altherr                            | Germany        | Pro Wildlife                                                                                                      |
| 63. | Germain Mbock                             | Cameroon       | Ecole Nationale des Eaux et Forêts                                                                                |
| 64. | Korsh Ararat                              | Iraq           | Nature Iraq                                                                                                       |
| 65. | David Veintimilla                         | Ecuador        | Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua y Transición Ecológica                                                              |
| 66. | Vanesa Tossenberger                       | Argentina      | Fundacion Cethus                                                                                                  |
| 67. | Troy Martin                               | Canada         | Environment and Climate Change Canada                                                                             |
| 68. | Carlos Fonseca                            | Brazil         | Brazil - Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change                                                           |
| 69. | Sekou Kourouma                            | Guinea         | Office Guinéen des Parcs Nationaux et Réserves de Faune, Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable |
| 70. | Orlando Verrecchia                        | Ireland        | National Parks and Wildlife Service - Ireland                                                                     |
| 71. | Tricia Lovell                             | United States  | Fisheries Division - Antigua and Barbuda                                                                          |
| 72. | Isabel Contreras                          | El Salvador    | Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales. El Salvador                                                    |
| 73. | Rouhollah Abdi                            | France         | Department of Environment of I.R.Iran                                                                             |
| 74. | Gono Semiadi                              | Indonesia      | BRIN Indonesia                                                                                                    |
| 75. | Simon Nemtsov                             | Israel         | Israel Nature and Parks Authority                                                                                 |
| 76. | Maclave GAENTSA                           | Congo          | Ministère De L'environnement                                                                                      |
| 77. | Gnido Amandine Dr. Colonel Assogba Deleke | Benin          | Direction Generale Des Eaux, Forets Et Chasse Du Benin                                                            |
| 78. | Maureen Wanjiru                           | Kenya          |                                                                                                                   |
| 79. | Adam Briggs                               | Australia      | Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (Australian CITES Scientific Authority)           |
| 80. | Mantė Ramanauskienė                       | Lithuania      | Environmental protection department under MoE                                                                     |
| 81. | Agnes Lusweti                             | Kenya          | National Museums of Kenya                                                                                         |
| 82. | Mpho Wycliffe Phoofo                      | South Africa   | National University of Lesotho                                                                                    |

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| 83.  | Agnès RAHERIMALALA        | Madagascar          | Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable                               |
| 84.  | Eric schauls              | Luxembourg          | Ministry of Environment, Climate and Biodiversity                                      |
| 85.  | Tsepo Johannes Lebitsa    | Lesotho             | Ministry of Environment and Forestry                                                   |
| 86.  | Lester Lane               | United States       | Company                                                                                |
| 87.  | Anahit Aleksandryan       | Armenia             | Ministry of Environment Republic of Armenia                                            |
| 88.  | Ntiea Letsapo             | United States       |                                                                                        |
| 89.  | Freydis Vigfusdottir      | Netherlands         | Ministry of the Environment, Energy and Climate                                        |
| 90.  | Jackline Wanjiru          | Switzerland         | UNEP                                                                                   |
| 91.  | Jean KOUADIO              | Côte d'Ivoire       | MINEDDTE                                                                               |
| 92.  | RALIVELO Lynah            | Madagascar          | MEDD Madagascar                                                                        |
| 93.  | Reneta Jack               | Gambia              | Ministry of Justice                                                                    |
| 94.  | Gandhi Ponce              | Guatemala           | CONAP                                                                                  |
| 95.  | Liana Papakhchyan         | Armenia             | Ministry of Environment                                                                |
| 96.  | Paulina Stowhas           | Chile               | Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores - Chile                                            |
| 97.  | Saravanan Raju            | India               | ICAR-CMFRI                                                                             |
| 98.  | Voskehat Grigoryan        | Armenia             | MIN ENV                                                                                |
| 99.  | Shaina Ferron             | Jamaica             | Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation (Jamaica)                                   |
| 100. | Nonophile Mavuso          | Eswatini            | Ministry of Tourism and Environmental Affairs                                          |
| 101. | Jorgelina Oddi            | Argentina           | Subsecretaría de Ambiente                                                              |
| 102. | Débora Winter             | Argentina           | Subsecretaría de Ambiente                                                              |
| 103. | Anthony Headley           | Barbados            | Environmental Protection Department                                                    |
| 104. | Domingo Melenciano        | Dominican Republic  | Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic                                  |
| 105. | Solveig Olafsdottir       | Iceland             | Marine and Freshwater Research Institute                                               |
| 106. | Bingzhuo Li               | United States       | UN                                                                                     |
| 107. | Ana Maria Gonzalez        | Colombia            | ministerio de ambiente                                                                 |
| 108. | Xiaoqiang lu              | China               | nies, mee                                                                              |
| 109. | Ying Liu                  | China               | MEE                                                                                    |
| 110. | Thenmozhi V               | India               | Wildlife Crime Control Bureau                                                          |
| 111. | Latifa Alkoheji           | Bahrain             | Supreme Council for Environment                                                        |
| 112. | Bindu Sulochana           | India               | ICAR-CMFRI,                                                                            |
| 113. | Resetselemang Pitso       | United States       | Ministry of environment and forestry                                                   |
| 114. | Guoxiang Liao             | China               | National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center of China                               |
| 115. | Motoo Kaneko              | France              | Japan Mission in Geneva                                                                |
| 116. | Rahulkumar Tailor         | India               | Fishery Survey of India                                                                |
| 117. | Nashad M                  | India               | Fishery Survey of India                                                                |
| 118. | Rantonirina Rakotoaridera | Madagascar          | Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable                               |
| 119. | Madhivanan Asupathy       | India               | Wildlife Crime Control Bureau                                                          |
| 120. | Juwaher bunajma           | Bahrain             | supreme council for environment                                                        |
| 121. | Widhia A                  | Netherlands         | UvA                                                                                    |
| 122. | Dr. Vinod Mudumala        | India               | Fishery Survey of India                                                                |
| 123. | Sebastian Zeng Mba Nfumu  | Equatorial Guinea   | Ministère de l'Agriculture, Elevage, Pêche, Forêts et de l'Environnement environnement |
| 124. | Araceli Ndoho Miko Nchama | Equatorial Guinea   | Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería, Bosque, Pesca y Medio Ambiente                   |
| 125. | Lauren Sampson            | Guyana              | Environmental Protection Agency                                                        |
| 126. | Marver Woodley            | Antigua and Barbuda | Department of the Blue Economy                                                         |

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| 127. | Nancy Chawawa           | Lesotho            | World Food Program                                                     |
| 128. | ThuLan Pham (She/Her)   | United States      | The Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University                    |
| 129. | Fadila AlSalameen       | Kuwait             | Kuwait institute for scientific research                               |
| 130. | Ruijun Sun              | China              | National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, MEE, China            |
| 131. | AJAY Nakhawa            | India              | ICAR-CMFRI                                                             |
| 132. | Qingfei Li              | China              | Solid waste and chemicals management center, MEE                       |
| 133. | Husain Mohamed          | Bahrain            | Supreme Council for Environment - Kingdom of Bahrain                   |
| 134. | Juliette Babb-Riley     | Ghana              | High Commission of Barbados in Ghana                                   |
| 135. | Beatrice Khayota        | Kenya              | National Museums of Kenya                                              |
| 136. | Anne Amin               | Kenya              | UN-Habitat                                                             |
| 137. | Elaine Violet           | China              | China institute for marine affairs                                     |
| 138. | Maboi Mahula            | Lesotho            | Ministry of Environment and Forestry - Lesotho                         |
| 139. | Anna Blanpain           | Kenya              | UNEP GEF CW/IW                                                         |
| 140. | Julia Steffen           | Germany            | World Future Council                                                   |
| 141. | Tamas Kovacs            | France             | National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy                         |
| 142. | Viktor Nyitrai          | Hungary            | National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy                         |
| 143. | Anulekshmi Chellappan   | India              | ICAR-CMFRI                                                             |
| 144. | Onja Robson             | Madagascar         | MEDD Madagascar                                                        |
| 145. | Narine Hakobyan         | Armenia            | Min Environment                                                        |
| 146. | Rita Varga-Turos        | Hungary            | Hungary_Ministry of Agriculture                                        |
| 147. | Axel Hein               | Austria            | WWF Austria                                                            |
| 148. | Barasa Wanyonyi         | Kenya              | PEST CONTROL PRODUCTS BOARD                                            |
| 149. | Maureen Kihoro          | Kenya              | Wildlife Research and Training Institute                               |
| 150. | June Aluoch             | Netherlands        | PCPB                                                                   |
| 151. | Ruthy YAHIEL            | Israel             | Israel Nature and Parks Aauthority                                     |
| 152. | Aixa Rodriguez Avendaño | Brazil             | Subsecretaría de Ambiente                                              |
| 153. | Sylvia Bankobeza        | Tanzania           | UNEP                                                                   |
| 154. | Nima Om                 | Bhutan             | Ministry of energy and natural resources                               |
| 155. | Miriam Sreeram          | India              | ICAr-Central Marine Fisheries research Institute, Kochi, Kerala, India |
| 156. | Mona Schweizer          | Germany            | Pro Wildlife                                                           |
| 157. | Irene Llabres Pohl      | Spain              | UNEP-WCMC                                                              |
| 158. | REKHA NAIR              | India              | Icar cmfri                                                             |
| 159. | J.S.Datuama Cammue      | Liberia            | Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia                             |
| 160. | Domingo Melenciano      | Dominican Republic | MOFA-DR                                                                |
| 161. | Leonardo Salgado        | Brazil             | Instituto de Pesquisas Jardim Botânico do Rio de Janeiro               |
| 162. | Emily Doe               | Lesotho            | World Food Programme                                                   |
| 163. | Matseliso Machai Ndumo  | Lesotho            | Ministry of Environment and Forestry                                   |