

UN Common Approach to Biodiversity

Monitoring and Reporting Framework

August 2024

Background

1. In May 2021, the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed the [UN Common Approach to Biodiversity](#) (hereafter 'Common Approach'), a UN-system commitment to mainstream biodiversity in policies, programmes and operations and to create opportunities for collective action for nature.
2. The Common Approach foresees that the [Environment Management Group](#) (EMG) "identifies a limited number of measurable targets and related indicators on the basis of existing reporting mechanisms and compiles a mid-term and final report on the implementation of the Common Approach at the global level"¹.
3. Furthermore, the Common Approach calls on existing UN system reporting mechanisms to increasingly take into consideration biodiversity-related targets and indicators.
4. An EMG [Issue Management Group](#) (IMG) on Biodiversity was created to coordinate the implementation of the Common Approach at global and regional level.
5. In November 2022, the EMG presented an initial draft Monitoring and Reporting Framework to UN entities at the [28th Senior Officials Meeting of the UN EMG](#) (SOM28) for comments.
6. In 2023, the EMG Secretariat conducted an in-depth review of the initial draft framework, detailed in Annex 1. The outcome of the review, in combination with inputs from members of the IMG and its working group on: *accountability and global-level reporting*, led to the revision of the monitoring and reporting framework in 2024.
7. The framework is to be finalized and presented to the EMG Senior Officials for their endorsement at their 30th Meeting (SOM30) in October 2024.

Content

8. The revised monitoring and reporting framework is structured around the Outputs listed in the Common Approach:

A. Internal policy alignment and coherence

Output 1: The United Nations system can prove its commitment to biodiversity and nature-based solutions through its corporate behaviour.

Output 2: The United Nations system needs to lead by example in its policy, programme planning and implementation.

B. Alignment of current resources and mobilize joint financing

Output 3: United Nations entities can review their current programming and resources to ensure that operations integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions, prevent or account for negative impacts and do not exacerbate and accelerate biodiversity loss.

Output 4: Collaborative efforts can support the creation and capitalization of new pooled funding mechanisms for joint programming needed to restore the relationship to biodiversity and ecosystem services at scale.

C. Exchange knowledge needed to identify, prioritize, scale up and accelerate action

Output 5: Working together, United Nations system data, knowledge and expertise can be leveraged at all levels to provide capacity-building in support of the implementation of Member States' obligations and commitments, post-pandemic recovery plans and the biodiversity-dependent elements of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Output 6: Knowledge-sharing through the United Nations regional mechanisms, notably regional collaborative platforms, regional issue-based coalitions and regional peer support groups.

Output 7: Greater engagement with and visibility of biodiversity in existing global coordination mechanisms.

D. Coordinate outreach and communication efforts

Output 8: United Nations entities can contribute to and use coherent narratives during the decade of action for the Sustainable Development Goals, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the United Nations Decade of Family Farming and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development.

Output 9: United Nations entities can coordinate efforts to capitalize on the political leadership, key outcomes and messages of the summit on biodiversity held in September 2020.

9. In addition to monitoring the UN system's contribution to the implementation of the Common Approach outputs, the framework will monitor and report on contributions made by UN entities that support the implementation of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) (GBF), in the form of biodiversity-related programmes, projects, flagship initiatives, and other actions that reflect the UN-system role in supporting the GBF through the Common Approach..

Approach

10. The revised framework includes quantitative data and qualitative information collated via two mechanisms. Together this data will provide information on progress made towards the outputs of the Common Approach. The data collection mechanisms are:
 - I. **Existing Reporting:** Compiling progress against relevant quantitative indicators from existing reporting mechanisms, mainly the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) and the Greening the Blue Report. Please see Annex 2 for a brief description of such existing data sources.
 - II. **EMG Survey:** Produced by the EMG Secretariat, compiling mainly qualitative information, such as case studies and narratives, biodiversity-related programmes, projects, flagship initiatives, tools, case studies, lessons learned, best practices, and other actions that reflect the UN-system contribution to the Common Approach outputs and the GBF.
11. Data collection and analysis will be performed annually, contributing to the production of the Mid-Term Report, Final Report, and additional annual reporting.
12. Table 1 indicates the revised information and values to be monitored and reported, as well as their data sources.

Production of the Mid-Term Report

13. The EMG Secretariat will coordinate the compilation of relevant information, establish baseline values, and prepare the Mid-Term Report on the implementation of the Common Approach at the global level, which will be published during the first quarter of 2025.

Additional Annual Reporting

14. In addition to the Mid-Term Report, two documents will be produced annually and biannually respectively to highlight the interactions between the Common Approach and other international frameworks, with a specific emphasis on how the UN system is supporting the implementation of the GBF¹. These reports will serve as key input to the final implementation report of the Common Approach at global level, in 2030, and the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the General Assembly Resolution. The additional reports correspond to:
 - I. **A UN internal summary report:** This annual UN internal report will be distributed among all UN entities. The report will provide an annual overview of the current status of the UN collective action on biodiversity, focusing on the data provided by the quantitative indicators within this framework. The EMG Secretariat will propose the content and format for this report during working group and IMG meetings.
 - II. **An external communications report:** To disseminate the Common Approach and stimulate its implementation across a wider audience, this biennial report will provide a synopsis of the main achievements under the Common Approach as well as UN system support to the implementation of the GBF. This report will include information on selected indicators, target a wider audience and the general public, entailing successful case studies, best practices and lessons learned in the UN system at the global, regional and national levels.
15. Further reporting and communication products may be prepared in tandem, based on information gathered. For example, particular knowledge products on biodiversity and the Common Approach, policy briefs, infographics, etc.

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/related/monitoring/>

Table 1. Finalized quantitative indicators (August 2024)

Tier		Output		Indicator		Data Type	Data Source	Baseline Value	Baseline Year	Mid-Term Value	Mid-Term Year
A	Internal policy alignment and coherence	1	The United Nations system can prove its commitment to biodiversity and nature-based solutions through its corporate behaviour.	1	Number of UN locations (of any type) which have completed a biodiversity screening of their location within the past 5 years (n)	Quantitative	Greening the Blue Report				
		2	The United Nations system needs to lead by example in its policy, programme planning and implementation.	2	Number of UN agencies that have adjusted their strategies, policies and programs to align to the Common Approach on Biodiversity (%) ²	Quantitative	QCPR 2.3.9				
				3	% of Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) that contain actions to implement: i. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans ii. Other Multilateral Environmental Agreements Implementation Plans (%) ³	Quantitative	QCPR 2.3.2				
B	Align current resources and mobilize additional joint financing	3	United Nations entities can review their current programming and resources to ensure that operations integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions, prevent or account for negative impacts and do not exacerbate and accelerate biodiversity loss.	4	Percentage of Strategic Plans of UNDS entities that substantively address. i. The drivers of biodiversity loss (%) ⁴	Quantitative	QCPR 2.3.1				

² Within the scope of QCPR

³ Within the scope of QCPR

⁴ Within the scope of QCPR

Annex

Annex 1

In November 2022, the EMG presented an initial draft Monitoring and Reporting Framework at the 28th Senior Officials Meeting of the UN EMG (SOM28) for comments, entailing 13 indicators⁵.

2023 Review of Draft Framework

During 2023, the EMG Secretariat conducted an in-depth review of the indicators and an inspection of proposed data sources of the draft Monitoring and Reporting Framework. The review aimed to identify concrete data sources for the indicators using existing data sources, and assess the draft framework's suitability to accurately measure progress towards Common Approach implementation.

The review found that out of the 13 proposed indicators, four (4) had clear and reliable data sources, and nine (9) indicators remained data deficient due to a lack of existing reporting on and around the internalization of biodiversity within the UN-System. Additionally, questions were raised around the accuracy to which these indicators would measure the Common Approach implementation.

The key findings of the review were presented to the IMG and Working Group 2 (WG2)⁶ members during a workshop held virtually on February 2024. Members were asked to return to their respective entities for internal discussions around the Framework and provide written feedback, as well as propose new indicators and highlight data sources.

- The EMG Secretariat greatly appreciated the feedback provided by members, that considered:
- The ability of the draft Monitoring and Reporting Framework to speak to the activities of UN agencies in relation to the implementation of the Common Approach and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) goals and targets.
- The suitability of some indicators, considering their scope and existing information sources.
- The relevance of some indicators for UN specialized agencies.

The fact that obtaining data for some indicators would require changes to reporting frameworks that the EMG may not have the ability to influence on a timely manner.

Based on this, a proposal to redesign the Monitoring and Reporting Framework was presented, including the retention of four (4) quantitative indicators that can be reported against using existing reporting mechanisms, and the inclusion of a qualitative component with the purpose of gathering information, best practices, and other elements that can inform Common Approach implementation.

The redesigned proposal was presented to the IMG and WG2 members during a meeting held virtually on May 2024, followed by a final round of written feedback.

⁵ <https://unemg.org/about-emg/senior-officials-meeting-som/som-archive/>

⁶ Working Group 2: Accountability and Global-level Reporting

Annex 2. Brief description of existing reporting mechanisms informing final quantitative indicators

Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR)

The Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) is the mechanism through which the General Assembly (GA) assesses the effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of UN operational activities for development and establishes system-wide orientations for the UN development system. The QCPR process is envisioned as a shared responsibility of the GA and the Economic and social Council (ECOSOC), with ECOSOC conducting a detailed review and the GA issuing the respective resolution that is adopted every four years.

The implementation of the QCPR is reviewed annually through the ECOSOC operational activities for development segment (OAS). The most recent resolution took place in 2023.

- ✓ *Responsible:* GA and ECOSOC
- ✓ *Periodicity:* annual review (ECOSOC) and resolution every four years (GA)
- ✓ *More information available at:* <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/oas-qcpr>

Greening the Blue Report

The Greening the Blue Initiative is a UN-wide initiative to engage and support UN system personnel at all levels in the transition to integrate environmental considerations into UN management decisions and actions.

The Initiative is managed by the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) Sustainable United Nations (SUN) Facility.

An annual Greening the Blue Report is produced with key data on environmental impact areas and management functions identified in the *Strategy for Sustainability Management in the UN System 2020-30*.

- ✓ *Responsible:* UNEP
- ✓ *Periodicity:* annual
- ✓ *More information available at:* <https://www.greeningtheblue.org/>

Annex 3. Sustainable Development Goals biodiversity-related targets

Sustainable Development Goal		Biodiversity – related target(s) ⁷
1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	1.4; 1.5
2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	2.1; 2.2; 2.3; 2.4; 2.5
3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	3.9
4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	4.7
5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	5.1; 5.5
6	Ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	6.3; 6.4; 6.5; 6.6
7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	7.1; 7.2
8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	8.4; 8.9
9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation	9.1; 9.4
10	Reduce inequality within and among countries	10.1; 10.2
11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	11.3; 11.4; 11.5; 11.6; 11.7
12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	12.2; 12.8
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	13.1; 13.2
14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	14.1; 14.2; 14.3; 14.4; 14.5; 14.6; 14.7
15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	15.1; 15.2; 15.3; 15.4; 15.5; 15.6; 15.7; 15.8; 15.9
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	16.3; 16.4; 16.7
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	17.3; 17.6; 17.7; 17.9; 17.14; 17.18

⁷ Based on CBD Technical Note "Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development": <https://www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-technical-note-en.pdf>