

UN Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogue

Enhancing Synergies between the Post-2020 Frameworks for Biodiversity and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste

March 23, 2020

International Environment House 2, Geneva, Switzerland

The Rationale

Since their first joint appearance in Agenda 21 (1992), biodiversity and chemicals and waste have progressively matured as critical components within the sustainable development agenda, however there have not been signs¹ of both agendas (i.e. objectives, targets, and indicators) being systematically interlinked and integrated, through a systems-thinking framework².

The 2030 Agenda is characterized by interconnectivity and interdependency, providing an opportunity to move away from the historically siloed approach by substantively relating biodiversity and chemicals and waste. The simultaneous development of the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the development of the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, provides ample room to realize opportunities for collaboration through identifying common drivers of change which can affect issues which are common to both biodiversity and chemicals and waste, and developing a post-2020 indicator framework, anchored by science-based targets ("SBT") for the integrated monitoring of both topics.

An Opportunity to Integrate Biodiversity and Chemicals and Waste Agendas

Combined with an integrated understanding of system interdependencies between biodiversity and chemicals and waste, discussions are encouraged to combine monitoring, evaluation and learning capacities in order to enhance their respective, and more importantly, mutual agendas. The consultative and advisory engagement with multilevel stakeholder groups and supporting institutions should be mobilized to bridge the relationship. Possible avenues include:

¹ Fiona Kinniburgh & Aleksandar Rankovic (2019). IDDRI, *Mobilising the chemical conventions to protect biodiversity - An example with pesticides and the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions. Issue Brief N°07/19.*
<https://www.iddri.org/en/publications-and-events/issue-brief/mobilising-chemical-conventions-protect-biodiversity>

² Sunmin Kim (2012). Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, *Can Systems Thinking Actually Solve Sustainability Challenges? Part 1, the Diagnosis and Part 2, the Solution*
<http://www.fusbp.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Can-Systems-Thinking-Actually-Solve-Sustainability-Challenges.pdf>



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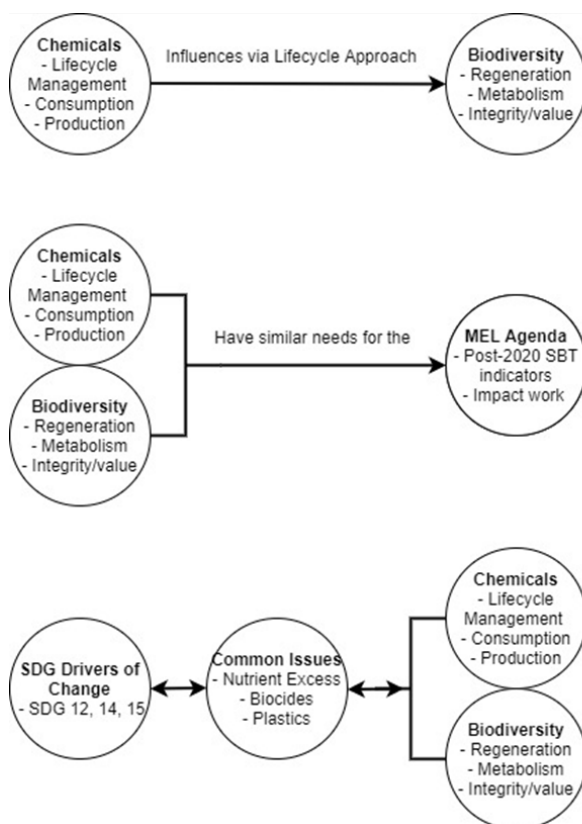
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In collaboration with-

Geneva Environment Network
Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales
International Labour Organization
Secretariat of the BRS Conventions
Secretariat of the CBD
Strategic approach to international Chemicals Management
The Government of Switzerland
The Minamata Convention
UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre
World Health Organization
The United Nations Environment Programme
The Ramsar Convention
The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species

- 1) *The Lifecycle Approach* which establishes a direct relationship between both topics, tracing the successful, sound management of chemicals through their lifecycle, including return to the natural environment thereby affecting the regenerative and metabolic capacity of biodiversity to absorb waste-products from the consumption and production of chemicals.
- 2) *Targets and indicators.* Post-2020 agendas on both biodiversity and chemicals and waste have called for new targets and indicators in order to assess progress. Enhancing science-based targets ("SBT") and monitoring capacities is a direct outcome recommendation from multiple resolutions, most notably by [UNEA-4's Resolution 8](#) for a science-policy interface at all levels. Although the ecological science underlying both the [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#), and the [ICCM4's Overall Orientation and Guidance for Achieving the 2020 Goal](#) both specifically delineated the need for SBT/science-policy interface for sound decision-making, anchored by the precautionary approach.
- 3) *Policy collaboration.* Biodiversity and chemicals and waste agendas are influenced by similar drivers of change which impact issues common to both of them such as nutrient excess, biocides and plastics. The SDGs provide an overarching framework for institutional, political and thematic synergies and contextualizing these issues within the SDG framework would be relevant in the identification of possible areas of policy collaboration.



The Lifecycle Approach

The Natural, Ecological Interlinkages between Chemicals and Biodiversity

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Agenda

Developing a Post-2020 Framework, with science-backed targets (SBT) which integrates both Chemicals and Biodiversity

Addressing SDG Drivers of Change

Recognizing issues (nutrient excess, biocides and plastics) common to both agendas. Non-exhaustive list of SDGs are provided.

Due to the historically siloed approach to biodiversity and chemicals and waste, there is significant value to be gained in generating new collaborative multilateral partnerships across a variety of stakeholders (UN included) for more impactful programmes, and identifying integrated approaches for efficient capacity-sharing mechanisms.

Objectives

This Nexus Dialogue aims to establish a direct relationship between biodiversity and chemicals and waste, including contributing to a systems' understanding of the topics and issues feeding into (and possibly, hindering), the progress beyond 2020. The aim is to foster support by multi-level stakeholders for the application of an integrated approach to the planning and development of post-2020 frameworks. Specifically, the Nexus Dialogue aims to provide a platform to:

- **Exchange best practices & expertise.** Both topics are environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, and have similar development and policy needs. The presentation of best practice will contribute to yielding institutional expertise necessary in developing mutually supportive post-2020 agenda frameworks. *Session 1, 4, & 5*
- **Identify systemic interdependencies & commonalities.** Stakeholders are encouraged to explore interdependencies, for example understanding how the sound management of chemicals and waste may influence biodiversity's regenerative capacity and mitigate the rate of biodiversity loss. Another opportunity lies in identifying overlaps in common SDG drivers of change (i.a. SDGs 12, 14, and 15) which relate to issues such as nutrient excess, biocides, and plastics, relevant to both biodiversity and chemicals and waste audiences. *Sessions 2 & 3*
- **Brainstorm collaborative capacities.** In identifying shared system commonalities (i.e. similar economic sectoral influence, or outcomes), expert practitioners may brainstorm possibilities for additional collaboration, especially as it relates to developing post-2020 science-based targets ("SBT") and mobilizing appropriate monitoring capacities³. – *Session 4*

Outcomes

The Nexus Dialogue is expected to lead to a policy statement outlining key messages facilitating the systemic relationship between biodiversity and chemicals and waste, with careful attention paid to cross-cutting SDGs and collaboration. This outcome document can be fed into currently ongoing processes.⁴

Structure and Content

³ Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2019). Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-Related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, *Annotated Outline of Selected Resources Relevant to the Contributions of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework* <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/8f6c/1e37/b1397c56aa6e20fb7a629ab8/post2020-ws-2019-06-inf-02-en.pdf>

⁴ Bern 2 Consultation Workshop on Biodiversity-Related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Diversity Framework in March 2020, 4th Meeting of the Intersessional Process of SAICM in March 2020, 24th Meeting of the SBSTTA and 3rd Meeting of the SBI in May 2020, 3rd meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in July 2020, 5th International Conference on Chemicals Management in October 2020, 15th Meeting of the COP CBD in October 2020, UNEA-5 in February 2021, and other related events.

The Nexus Dialogue will be a one-day public event consisting of a high-level segment and a technical component. It will start with a high-level opening by UN and other senior officials, followed by technical sessions among UN agencies and representatives of governments and social partners, research and civil society organizations.

Provisional Agenda

March 23, 2020	
9:30	Arrival and Registration Coffee and Tea
09.45-10:00	Welcoming remarks Inger Andersen , <i>Executive Director</i> , UNEP (video message) Felix Wertli , <i>Head of Section "Global Affairs"</i> , Swiss Federal Office for the Environment
10:00-12:30	<p>Session 1: High Level Panel on strategic importance, perspectives and potentials for synergies between the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework and Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste (SAICM) beyond 2020</p> <p>Moderator: John Scanlon, <i>Special Envoy</i>, African Parks Network, Ex-Secretary General of CITES</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Carlos Martin-Novella, <i>Deputy Executive Secretary</i>, BRS Ivonne Higuero, <i>Secretary General</i>, CITES Monika Stankiewicz, <i>Executive Secretary</i>, Minamata Convention Martha Rojas Urrego, <i>Secretary General</i>, Ramsar Neville Ashe, <i>Director</i>, UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre Nalini Sharma, <i>Coordinator</i>, SAICM Maria Neira, <i>Director</i>, Environment and Health, WHO</p> <p><u>Questions:</u></p> <p>In the context of the current intergovernmental processes on post 2020 biodiversity and chemicals, the role of biodiversity and chemicals in implementation of SDGs and the latest biodiversity and chemicals scientific assessments (IPBES, IPCC, GBO):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 – What are the most important features of these two post-2020 frameworks? 2 – How would you seek to integrate both biodiversity and chemicals and waste agendas, going forward? 3 – What are the most critical issues challenging or threatening success for the post-2020 frameworks? 4 – What are the low hanging fruits in creating linkages between the two processes? 5 – What are the opportunities for setting common targets or modalities for future synergies?

	<p>6 – What's need to be done at the national level to support biodiversity and chemicals stakeholders to promote synergies?</p> <p>Discussion and Q&A</p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-15:00	<p>Session 2: Diving deeper on potentials for synergy- opportunities for interlinked target setting in response to SDGs and to enhance science-based targets (SBTs) and monitoring capacities</p> <p>Moderator: Neville Ashe, <i>Director, UNEP- WCMC</i></p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Carlos Martin-Novella, <i>Deputy Executive Secretary of the BRS Conventions, BRS</i> Jacqueline Alvarez, <i>Head Knowledge and Risk Unit, Chemicals and Health Branch, UNEP</i> Manal Azzi, <i>Senior Specialist on Occupational Safety and Health, ILO</i> Mito Tsukamoto, <i>Chief, Development and Investment Branch, ILO</i> Sonia Peña Moreno, <i>Coordinator, Global Biodiversity Policy and Governance, IUCN</i> Claudia ten Have, <i>Senior Policy Coordination Officer, Minamata Convention</i></p> <p>a) Synergies in target setting to address nexus areas of SDGs</p> <p><u>Questions:</u></p> <p>1 – How can synergy in target setting can contribute to SDGs targets and indicators?</p> <p>2 – Given the SDGs overlap, what are the issues that might affect both chemicals and biodiversity communities and thereby could provide areas for collaboration?</p> <p>3 – Given the SDGs overlap, what are some targets and indicators which are pertinent to both biodiversity and chemicals and waste communities?</p> <p>4 – What can synergy support monitoring process under SDGs?</p> <p>Discussion and Q&A</p> <p>b) Synergies to enhance science-based target setting (SBTs) and improve monitoring capacities</p> <p><u>Questions:</u></p> <p>1 – How could the synergy help the two processes to set credible science-based and inclusive targets?</p> <p>2 – What are the opportunities for synergy is science and policy between the two processes?</p>

	<p>3 – How could the lifecycle approach help strengthen the knowledge-base of biodiversity and sustainable management of chemicals and wastes?</p> <p>4 – How can synergy help enhancing monitoring and reporting capacities of the processes?</p> <p>Discussion and Q&A</p>
15:00-15:15	Coffee Break
15:15-16:45	<p>Session 3: Thinking deeper on synergies - Potentials of synergies between the two intergovernmental processes</p> <p>Moderator: Jonathan Krueger, <i>IOMC Secretariat</i>, WHO</p> <p>Panellists:</p> <p>Aleksandar Rankovic, <i>Coordinator, Post-2020 International Biodiversity Governance</i>, IDDRI Jacqueline Alvarez, <i>Head Knowledge and Risk Unit, Chemicals and Health Branch</i>, UNEP Neville Ashe, <i>Director</i>, UNEP- WCMC</p> <p>This session could address possible and concrete bridges built between the two worlds of Biodiversity and Chemicals, including the following: Joint work between the multi-stakeholder dynamics, e.g. between SAICM and CBD. Potential cooperation between the CBD and BRS conventions, in the form of action plans targeting the most harmful pollutants for biodiversity. The SDG Process and the HLPF playing a role of political oversight.</p> <p><u>Questions:</u></p> <p>1- In your experience, what are the knowledge, technical, implementation, and execution gaps you have or are currently experiencing when it comes to integrating both biodiversity and chemicals and waste agendas?</p> <p>2-What are 2-3 concrete and actionable next steps we can take in the next 6-12 months in order to further integration?</p> <p>3- What are some recommendations you would like heard in the next stages of intergovernmental meetings, e.g. at Bern 2, ICCM5 and on the road to CBD COP15?</p> <p>Discussion and Q&A</p>
16:45-17:00	Summary and Closing: Hossein Fadaei , <i>Head of office</i> , EMG Secretariat



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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra



Convention on
Biological Diversity



SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS