

# Mapping Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

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# Mapping Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

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## List of acronyms

BIP	Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
CEPA	Communication, Education and Public Awareness
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of the Parties
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMG	United Nations Environment Management Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IAS	Invasive alien species
ICCA	Indigenous and community conserved areas
ILC	Indigenous and local communities
IPBES	Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NFP	National Focal Point
OUV	Outstanding Universal Value
PGRFA	Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
PoW	Programme of Work

PoWPA	CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas
SEA	Strategic Environment Assessment
SOC	State of Conservation Information System
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP- WCMC	UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
WHC	Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization

## Executive summary

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, is widely acknowledged as the universal framework for action on biodiversity, and a foundation for sustainable development.

Since its adoption, the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions<sup>1</sup> have adopted more than 1,200 substantive decisions or resolutions. Many of these provide valuable guidance for parties and other governments for achieving various aspects of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, but there is no single, coherent, up-to-date compilation of all of the guidance provided by these decisions and related programmes, plans and support tools.

Global Biodiversity Outlook 4 concluded that achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets requires a coherent and coordinated approach. A clearer identification of how each of the conventions' articles, decisions and activities relates to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets could be a valuable means to respond to this recommendation, with the additional benefit of identifying any potential gaps in the guidance provided.

The Ministry of Environment, Finland, commissioned the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to begin the process of mapping available guidance against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to inform discussions aiming to identify opportunities for alignment, cooperation and collaboration among the various conventions, including where consolidated guidance would be useful. A selection of the opportunities identified are summarised below.

Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) are expected to develop and implement **National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)** that address the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the context of national priorities and capacities, and take into account synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. This mapping exercise notes decisions across the conventions encouraging cooperation on NBSAP revision and implementation.

Most conventions are already working towards strengthened **monitoring** systems and programmes, supporting the purposes of national **reporting**. CBD COP 12 Decision XII/29<sup>2</sup> requested exploring 'the potential for a more coherent reporting framework with other biodiversity-related conventions to improve access to relevant data for the implementation of the Convention and to reduce the reporting burden on Parties'. By identifying decisions across conventions that provide guidance on reporting related to each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets the project results could inform such work by identifying possible shared modules of reporting.

Regarding **awareness raising** so that information related to biodiversity can be more effectively used in the implementation of the conventions, the mapping exercise identified a number of areas for considering coherent outreach, including: engaging agriculture, energy and forestry

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<sup>1</sup> The scope of this work was so that the following conventions were included in the analysis: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention), World Heritage Convention (WHC). We acknowledge that there are now seven members of the Biodiversity Liaison Group and therefore the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) should be considered in similar analyses conducted in the future.

<sup>2</sup> CBD COP 12 Decision XII/29, available online: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-29-en.pdf> [Accessed: 9 September 2015].

sectors, sustainable use of wildlife and combatting wildlife crime, sustainable tourism, and control of invasive alien species.

When considering capacity development requests from parties, convention secretariats and those supporting them could enhance collaboration in the short-term by considering whether the activity could be designed to benefit implementation of more than one convention. Results from this mapping exercise have identified themes where **capacity building** activities could be designed to address the needs and interests of more than one convention. These themes include: enabling environments for business engagement, sustainable tourism, creation of incentives for biodiversity conservation as well as the elimination of harmful policies, and supporting operationalisation of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilisation to the CBD.

Overall, the results of this mapping exercise could support those involved in NBSAP development, revision and implementation by helping them to identify opportunities for addressing each Aichi Biodiversity Target in a manner that enables the objectives of the biodiversity-related conventions to be addressed coherently. Further action is needed to support this use, including: the preparation of summaries for specific user groups of the information provided; making the information available online, searchable and updatable; and increasing the scope of the exercise to make it more comprehensive (e.g. including the International Plant Protection Convention and additional multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) including regional agreements). Furthermore, the results could serve as input to the implementation of CBD COP 12 Decision XII/6<sup>3</sup> on cooperation with other conventions which established a party-driven process to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among the biodiversity-related conventions.

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