



Understanding synergies and mainstreaming among the biodiversity related conventions

A special contributory volume by key biodiversity convention secretariats and scientific bodies



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Summary

Over the past decades, countries have negotiated and agreed to be bound by a number of biodiversity-related conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements. These efforts have put in place a comprehensive governance regime addressing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystem services. However, as the number of obligations under such legal instruments has grown, so have concerns about how to implement them effectively and coherently, ensuring all relevant sectors consider the relevance of their actions to conservation and sustainable use. As a result, significant efforts have already been made to improve alignment among the biodiversity-related conventions, and to identify and build on opportunities for collaboration, cooperation, and coordination as well as promote mainstreaming of biodiversity across agencies and sectors.

Article 6a of the Convention on Biological Diversity calls for countries to develop National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, while Article 6b calls for mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors and agencies at national levels. The Strategies and Action Plans are many times considered key entry points for supporting actions related to mainstreaming and synergies. Currently there is significant focus on promoting synergies among the conventions and effective mainstreaming of biodiversity at various levels supported by the decisions of Governing Bodies of various biodiversity related conventions.

The Second meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 2) in May 2016 resolved to further support work on enhancing synergies and mainstreaming issues through resolution 2/17.

This multi-author volume is an attempt by the United Nations Environment to engage with the Heads of various biodiversity related conventions and Chairs of Scientific Bodies of the conventions to understand the opportunities and challenges related to promoting synergies and mainstreaming issues.

We envisage that this publication will provide further guidance to promoting issues of synergies and mainstreaming from the perspective of individual conventions that have contributed to this volume at various levels and guide our actions into the future.





Short biographies of the authors

Dr Shakeel BHATTI

He is the first Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) at the FAO. Since he took office in 2007, Dr Bhatti managed the launch of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing and the Benefit-sharing Fund. He was the Head of the 'Genetic Resources, Biotechnology and Associated Traditional Knowledge Section' at the United Nations' World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). He has taught international patent law and genetic resource policy at several universities in India, Japan and Sweden.

Carolina CACERES

Carolina Caceres's childhood love of nature has led to a career in wildlife conservation. She studied ecology at McGill University and the University of Calgary, where she researched the private lives of Canadian forest hats

Carolina works for Environment and Climate Change Canada on implementing Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). She has participated in the 13th, 14th and 15th CITES Conference of the Parties as a member of the Canadian delegation and was selected to chair one of the two CITES decision-making Committees during the 16th Conference of the Parties. Carolina has served on the CITES Animals Committee since 2010 and as its Chair since 2013.

She is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in recognition of her contributions to Canada as a representative to CITES. Carolina hopes to use her experience to inspire a new generation of nature lovers, starting with her own two children.

Bradnee CHAMBERS

Dr. Bradnee Chambers is the Executive Secretary of the UNEP Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the acting Executive Secretary of the Gorilla Agreement and the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans in the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS). Bradnee is a well-known expert in international law and governance and has worked in the UN for nearly 20 years in various capacities including in UNEP as Senior Legal Officer and Head of Policy and Synergies between Multilateral Environmental Agreements as well as playing a leading role in the Helsinki Ministerial Consultative Process on International Governance and at the Rio+10 Summit which led to the upgrading and strengthening of UNEP in the outcome document "The Future We Want".

Bradnee has published over the course of nearly two decades on Interlinkages and Synergies between MEAs, International Environmental Governance, and Trade and Investment and the Environment.

Daniella Frantisca de Corres DIAC

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