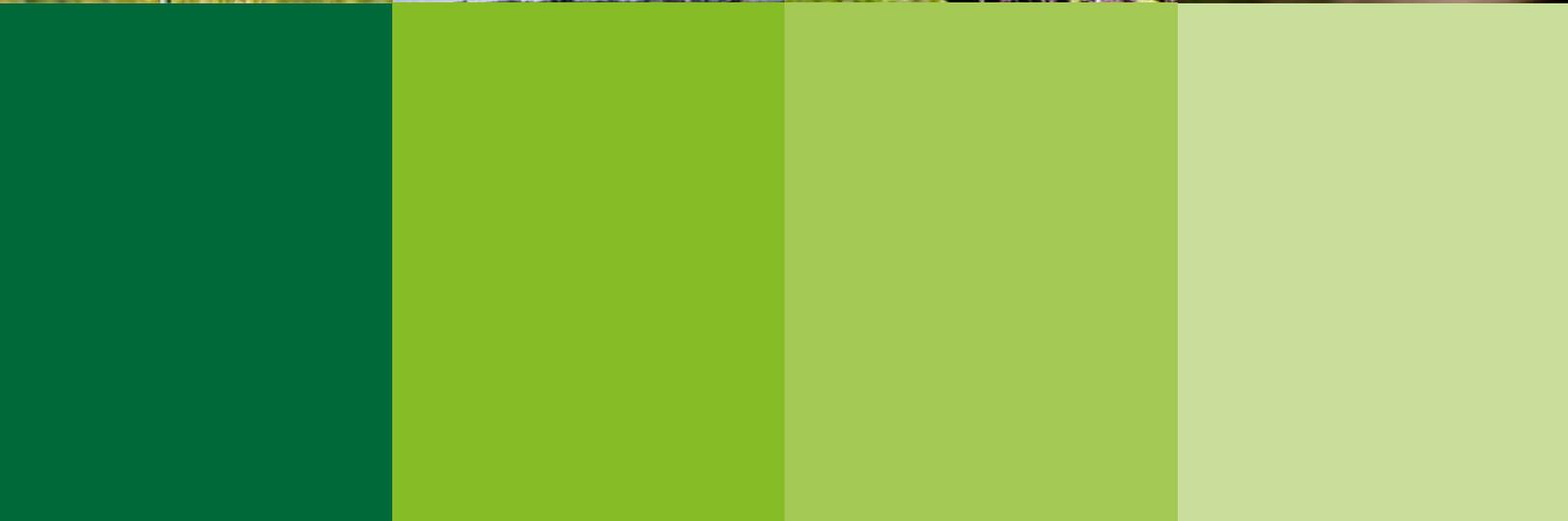




# Understanding synergies and mainstreaming among the biodiversity related conventions

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



**Publication:** Understanding synergies and mainstreaming among the biodiversity related conventions: A special contributory volume by key biodiversity convention secretariats and scientific bodies.

Published in September 2016

**ISBN No:** 978-92-807-3571-0

**Job No:** DEL/1993/NA

Produced by UN Environment, Law Division

**Director of Publication:** Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, UN Environment, Law Division

**Editor :** Balakrishna Pisupati, UN Environment, Law Division

#### Disclaimers

Mention of a commercial company or product in this document does not imply endorsement by UN Environment. Trademark names and symbols are used in an editorial fashion with no intention on infringement on trademark or copyright laws.

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of UN Environment concerning the legal status of any country, territory or city or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers and boundaries.

We regret any errors or omissions that may have been unwittingly made.

#### Reproduction

This publication may be reproduced in whole or in part and in any form for educational or non-profit services without special permission from the copyright holder, provided acknowledgement of the source is made. UN Environment would appreciate receiving a copy of any publication that uses this publication as a source.

No use of this publication may be made for resale or any other commercial purpose whatsoever without prior permission in writing from the UN Environment. Applications for such permission, with a statement of the purpose and extent of the reproduction, should be addressed to the Director, DCPI, UNEP, P. O. Box 30552, Nairobi 00100, Kenya.

The use of information from this document for publicity or advertising is not permitted.

#### Citation

UN Environment (2016) Understanding synergies and mainstreaming among the biodiversity related conventions: A special contributory volume by key biodiversity convention secretariats and scientific bodies. UN Environment, Nairobi, Kenya. Pp: 67.

This publication is available online at: [www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/](http://www.unep.org/environmentalgovernance/)

**Cover photo credits left to right:** Martin LaBar, Peter Prokosch/Grid Arendal, Peter Prokosch/Grid Arendal, UN Photo/Martine Perret

**Design:** Jinita Shah/ UNON

**Printing:** UNON/Publishing Services Section/Nairobi, ISO 14001:2004-Certified

Job No: D1 - 16-07412/300 copies

UN Environment  
promotes environmentally  
sound practices globally and in its own  
activities. This report is printed on paper from  
sustainable forests including recycled fibre. The  
paper is chlorine free, and the inks vegetable-  
based. Our distribution policy aims to reduce  
UN Environments carbon footprint

# Understanding synergies and mainstreaming among the biodiversity related conventions

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



## Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Summary .....  | 4         |
| Short biographies of the authors .....   | 6         |
| <b>I. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and its role in enhancing synergies between multilateral environment agreements for the protection of biodiversity for sustainable development.....</b> | <b>10</b> |
| A. Introduction .....  | 10        |
| B. Background to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture .....  | 12        |
| 1. The Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing for crops .....   | 13        |
| 2. Benefit-sharing: the Treaty as a pioneer .....  | 14        |
| 3. Spreading valuable rice genes in South-East Asia .....  | 17        |
| 4. Science and technology transfer as a driver for sustainable agricultural development.....   | 18        |
| 5. Farmers' rights .....   | 18        |
| 6. Working in partnership with multilateral environmental agreements.....  | 18        |
| 7. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.....  | 19        |
| <b>II. Mainstreaming biodiversity: ensuring sustainable development .....</b>  | <b>24</b> |
| A. Introduction .....  | 24        |
| 1. National biodiversity strategies and action plans.....  | 25        |
| 2. Integrating biodiversity into specific sectors .....  | 25        |
| 3. Integration of biodiversity into the food and agriculture sector .....  | 26        |
| 4. Integration of biodiversity into forestry .....   | 26        |
| 5. Integration of biodiversity into fisheries and aquaculture.....   | 27        |
| 6. Integration of biodiversity into the tourism sector .....   | 27        |
| B. Mainstreaming biodiversity into cross-sectoral policies and actions .....   | 28        |
| 1. Development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes.....  | 28        |
| 2. Environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments .....  | 29        |
| 3. Incentive measures .....  | 29        |
| 4. Legislative and regulatory approaches.....  | 29        |
| 5. Ecosystem accounting and valuation .....  | 30        |
| 6. Sustainable consumption and production .....  | 30        |
| 7. Resource mobilization.....  | 30        |
| 8. Institutional arrangements .....  | 31        |





|      |  |           |
|------|--|-----------|
| C.   | The relevance of other international processes for biodiversity mainstreaming .....  | 31        |
| 1.   | The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development .....  | 31        |
| 2.   | Climate change.....  | 32        |
| 3.   | The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 .....   | 32        |
| 4.   | The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development.....  | 33        |
| D.   | Conclusion .....   | 33        |
| III. | <b>Mainstreaming CITES and synergies for contributing to the Aichi Targets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.....</b>                          | <b>34</b> |
| A.   | Introduction .....   | 34        |
| B.   | Mainstreaming CITES.....   | 36        |
| 1.   | Law enforcement.....   | 36        |
| 2.   | Trade .....  | 37        |
| 3.   | Natural resource management .....  | 39        |
| 4.   | Livelihoods.....   | 41        |
| 5.   | Financial support.....   | 41        |
| 6.   | Public outreach .....  | 42        |
| C.   | Synergies for contributing to the Aichi Targets and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals .....  | 43        |
| D.   | Conclusion .....   | 45        |
| IV.  | <b>Joining forces for biodiversity: the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals at the forefront of synergies .....</b>  | <b>46</b> |
| V.   | <b>Synergies between the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat and other multilateral environmental agreements: possibilities and pitfalls .....</b> | <b>54</b> |
| A.   | Introduction .....   | 54        |
| B.   | Synergy and expectations.....  | 55        |
| 1.   | UNEP and Ramsar Convention definitions of synergy.....   | 55        |
| 2.   | Ramsar Convention expectations regarding synergy .....   | 56        |
| C.   | Areas of collaboration at the secretariat level.....   | 57        |
| D.   | Areas of collaboration regarding scientific and technical guidance .....   | 59        |
| 1.   | Development of Scientific and Technical Review Panel work plans.....   | 59        |
| 2.   | Joint guidance and technical reports.....  | 60        |
| 3.   | Retrospective harmonization and cross-adoption of scientific guidance .....  | 61        |
| 4.   | Joint missions.....  | 61        |
| 5.   | Emerging issues.....   | 62        |
| E.   | Pitfalls.....  | 64        |
| F.   | Future possibilities .....   | 65        |
| 1.   | Synergies at the international level .....   | 65        |
| 2.   | Synergies at the national level .....  | 66        |
| 3.   | Synergies at the site level .....  | 67        |



## 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.





