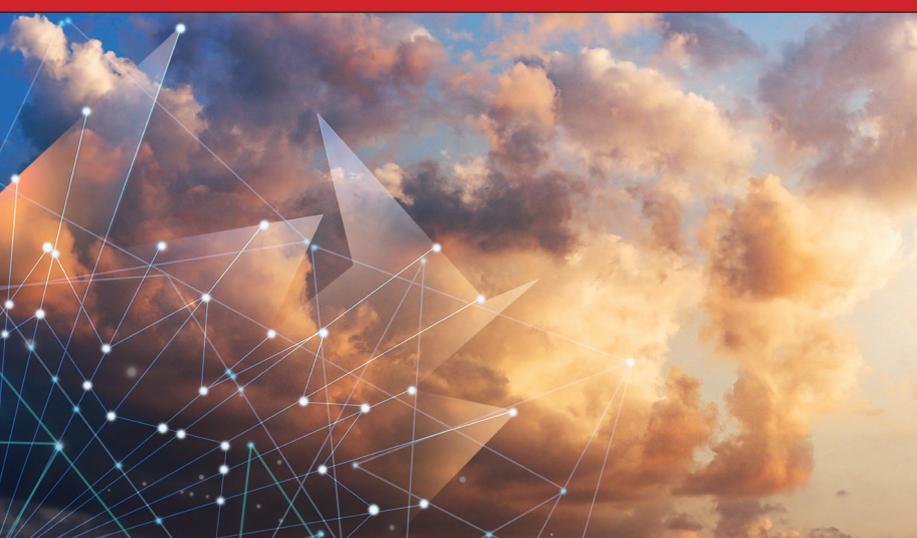




TOWARDS POST-2020 EXPERTISE ON #21

A PATH TO A COHERENT BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SYSTEM



Andreas Obrecht

Expert for biodiversity and sustainability, Bern, Switzerland

Getting the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to deliver on its goals and targets requires a monitoring and review mechanism to enable regular progress assessment and identify the need for additional or more ambitious action where necessary ¹. A coherent and comprehensive Biodiversity Information System ² should support countries in fulfilling their commitments and obligations for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use under a range of MEAs ³. This is where the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT) can help.

The post-2020 GBF aims to be encompassing, overarching, and guiding for all actors in fields related to biodiversity and beyond, such as health, food security, climate, and trade. The proposed monitoring, reporting, and review mechanism would embody this vision and promote transparency, information sharing, mutual learning, and exchange of experience. The analysis of progress towards the global goals and targets of the post-2020 GBF and respective contributions from Parties is proposed to be done at global stocktaking sessions, building on information gathered from multiple sources. A gap report is also foreseen to assess whether the effort is sufficient to achieve 2030 milestones or whether there is a need to ratchet up. A coherent, well-designed monitoring, reporting, and review mechanism can be a powerful force for effective and transparent cooperation, coordination, and synergistic implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs.

To make working with biodiversity information as efficient and manageable as possible for countries and international organisations alike, synergies should be fostered and capacities enhanced. Set up for that purpose, the DaRT enables countries to manage biodiversity information across conventions, policies, ministries, and agencies.

“DaRT IS A KEYSTONE PLATFORM THAT BRINGS TOGETHER ALL THE FOCAL POINTS OF MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS (MEAs) INTO ONE NATIONAL WORKING SPACE THAT FACILITATES THE PREPARATION OF NATIONAL REPORTS AND CLEAR MESSAGING.”

Diane Klaimi, Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Support and Cooperation Law Division, UN Environment



2. THE DaRT, A LEVER FOR ENHANCED REPORTING, SYNERGIES

Changing to more efficient and dynamic ways to manage and provide information would be a significant step to more efficiently and coherently implement MEAs. This can be enabled by a number of knowledge management tools. Some are convention-specific while others can be applied to more than one instrument.

The first tool that supports Parties to effectively use synergies in the field of knowledge and information management for national reporting to MEAs is the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs, DaRT ⁵. It is being developed by multiple MEAs, cooperating under the InforMEA ⁶ project.

It provides private and secure digital working spaces to national governments to manage biodiversity information across ministries, conventions, and agencies. DaRT allows users to collect and organise knowledge and different types of information and to store them in a secure place for long-term use.

CHANGING TO MORE EFFICIENT AND DYNAMIC WAYS TO MANAGE AND PROVIDE INFORMATION WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT STEP TO MORE EFFICIENTLY AND COHERENTLY IMPLEMENT MEAs.

This tool is being developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in collaboration with the biodiversity-related MEAs under InforMEA and is financially supported by the European Union and Switzerland.

DaRT is designed to be interoperable with other knowledge platforms, which allows it to be prefilled with relevant information from InforMEA, the CBD Clearing-House Mechanism, Bioland, the Online Reporting System (ORS), the UN Biodiversity Lab, and other sources of information.

The data managed in DaRT can be used to monitor progress in national implementation, to analyse gaps in national strategies and action plans, and to prepare national reports (see Figure 2 for functionalities).

It also includes information on global and national strategies. Multiple sets of goals and targets can be linked to different types of information, which the countries may use for national reporting but also domestically, including to monitor and verify progress on implementation.

A CONSTANTLY EVOLVING SET OF INDICATORS

Most indicators that are proposed as part of the monitoring framework for the post-2020 GBF are based on information provided by Parties in their reports to relevant MEAs, including biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions, the hazardous chemicals and wastes conventions, relevant organisations and their programmes, and other processes.

INDICATORS DIFFER BETWEEN:

- + **Headline indicators**, which capture the overall scope of the goals and targets of the post-2020 GBF and can be used for tracking progress, as well as for tracking national, regional, and global progress whereby the underlying data is consistent and comparable across countries;
- + **Component indicators** for monitoring component of goals and targets of the post-2020 GBF at national, regional, and global levels;
- + **Complementary indicators** for thematic or in-depth analysis, with many of them being provided by UN agencies and international organisations that cooperate in the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership ⁷ and indicators specific to countries.

INDICATORS VARY IN:

- + The frequency at which they are updated;
- + The methodologies applied;
- + Their geographical scope;
- + Reference periods and other parameters.

Many of them are among the set of indicators endorsed by the 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (CBD COP-14) for the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Indicators will evolve with time, methodologies will improve, and new approaches will develop.

The post-2020 GBF should embrace this evolving nature by including a mechanism (i.e. establishment of a technical expert group) to review the set of indicators at certain intervals.

At the same time, commitment from Parties to provide consistent, reliable data series over specific periods of time will be key in this endeavour.



Internet of things, agriculture concept, Smart Robotic (artificial intelligence/AI) use for management, control monitoring, field analysis.

⁵ <https://dart.informeae.org> – Please also check the SBI-3 information document. CBD/SBI/3/INF/8: <https://cutt.ly/ZI2rZ3O>

⁶ <https://www.informeae.org>

⁷ <https://cutt.ly/YkExAse>

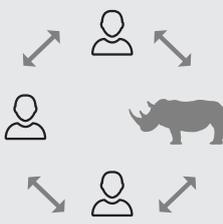
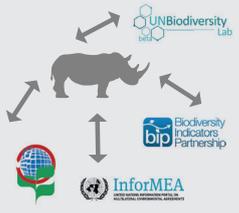
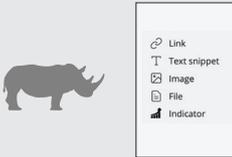
<p>Reuse data for multiple national reports</p> 	<p>Cooperate, communicate and share information (e.g. for a report)</p> 	<p>Retrieve information in a single tool (interoperability) and share it with the national Bioland webpage</p> 	<p>effective global stocktake would also involve non-state actors, including stakeholder groups and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) role will be particularly instrumental in providing science-based information to the global stocktake and supporting its accuracy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Ensure complementarity, coherence, and synergies between the review of implementation procedures of biodiversity-related MEAs. To be consistent, the global stocktake should be closely related to convention-specific review mechanisms and draw upon information from all MEAs;
<p>Add and manage different types of information</p> 	<p>Organize information according to goals and targets of multiple strategic plans, including the SDGs</p> 	<p>Apply filters to easily retrieve info</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Establish paths of information from national to global level: ownership of countries for globally aggregated information of progress towards global environmental goals, for instance by the Global Biodiversity Outlook, is likely to increase as the information can be traced back to its source. National action is expected to add up sufficiently to achieve global goals. Coherent information at all levels is an important factor to assess this accounting framework;

Figure 2: Functionalities of the data reporting tool (selection)



<https://dart.informea.org>

Cover photo
Blue sky and network connection lines.
Cloud technology

ENHANCING THE MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW MECHANISM FOR THE POST-2020 GBF

A functioning monitoring, reporting, and review mechanism is fundamental to any MEA. In the case of biodiversity-related conventions, many initiatives have already been developed, but the challenge for the post-2020 GBF is to bring them coherently together. The process of developing the post-2020 GBF is an opportunity to:

- + Enhance national accountability and reporting to contribute to the assessment of progress on the outcomes commonly agreed and measures taken aimed at implementing the biodiversity related conventions, their effectiveness, and their contribution to the post-2020 GBF implementation;
- + Contribute to a global stocktaking to have a balanced representation of biodiversity-related conventions, UN agencies, and international organisations that are supporting the implementation of the post-2020 GBF. An efficient, transparent and

A REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST-2020 GBF SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY THE MEAs AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES ACCORDING TO THEIR SPECIFIC MANDATES AND NEEDS.

- + Apply a modular reporting approach as part of the comprehensive review: governing bodies of biodiversity-related conventions could task their respective secretariats, in cooperation with UN agencies and intergovernmental organisations, to create thematic modules for reporting by Parties. This can be facilitated with DaRT as it allows for dynamic provision of up-to-date information.
- + Include monitoring, knowledge generation, and knowledge management: the development and application of interoperable tools like DaRT support knowledge management at national, but also at regional and global levels and thus come hand in hand with the capacity development and knowledge management components of the post-2020 GBF.

TOGETHER
CBD COP 15 ____ KUNMING 2021
TOWARDS
A GLOBAL
DEAL FOR
NATURE & PEOPLE

4POST2020BD.NET
@4POST2020BD



We would like to thank the DaRT team for their diligent review:

Diane Klaimi (UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya)
Kazuhiko Seriu (UNEP, Nairobi, Kenya),
Eric Wiedmer (NatureConsult, Wahlendorf, Switzerland)

POST2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK – EU SUPPORT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND IMPLEMENTED BY EXPERTISE FRANCE. IT AIMS AT FACILITATING A COMPREHENSIVE AND PARTICIPATORY PROCESS LEADING TO THE ADOPTION OF AN AMBITIOUS POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK THAT FOSTERS COMMITMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION.



THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



IMPLEMENTED BY EXPERTISE FRANCE