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REPORT OF THE BOGIS-BOSSEY EXPERT WORKSHOP 2025

(Prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme)

Summary:

The document is the report of an Expert Workshop on the Bern Process and the contribution of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), on 27-28 August 2025 in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) of Switzerland and with technical support from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

Bogis-Bossey Expert Workshop 2025

27-28 August 2025

The Bern Process and the contribution of MEAs to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

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Background

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized an Expert Workshop on the Bern Process and the contribution of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), on 27-28 August 2025 in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, in partnership with the Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) of Switzerland and with technical support from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC).

This workshop was held in the context of the Bern Process¹ on Cooperation among the MEAs for the implementation of the KMGBF and builds on outcomes of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP-15 and COP-16) to the CBD. Of note, decision CBD COP 16/35² on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, invites Parties to consider the report of the Bern III Conference and invites UNEP to continue to support cooperation and collaboration among the MEAs contributing to the effective implementation of the KMGBF.

The workshop aimed to support the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the KMGBF by facilitating information exchange and promoting complementarity of inputs from the MEAs to the global review, in line with their respective mandates, and in response to CBD COP decision 16/32³ on Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review. It further sought to provide elements of advice on the future role and objectives of the Bern Process, building on lessons learned, outcomes, and impacts from previous activities.

Goal and scope of the workshop

The Bogis-Bossey Expert Workshop was a flexible and technical activity held in the context of the Bern Process but was not a Bern Conference that ordinarily convenes representatives of Parties to all the relevant MEAs. The workshop sought to provide expert advice on topics related to the implementation of the KMGBF, focusing on the global review of collective progress in implementation of the KMGBF and discussing the future of the Bern Process and its relevant activities.

The expected outputs of the meeting were:

(1) Input on how to achieve a “concise compilation of examples of contributions of relevant MEAs towards the implementation of the KM-GBF” within the global report, and

¹ <https://www.unep.org/events/conference/bern-iii-conference-cooperation-among-biodiversity-related-conventions>

² <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-35-en.pdf>

³ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-16/cop-16-dec-32-en.pdf>

more generally, how to promote complementarity in the contribution of MEAs in the context of the global review process.

(2) Input on the role of the Bern Process in the future and potential topics, objectives, and modalities for the next activities under the Bern Process, such as a potential Bern conference or other activities, to accelerate cooperation and synergies in MEA implementation for the KMGBF.

Organisation and oversight

The Expert Workshop was convened by UNEP, with financial support from the Government of Switzerland. Switzerland served as the host country. The objectives, agenda, and structure of the workshop were determined in collaboration with the Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland and in consultation with experts and partners, including the CBD Secretariat.

Discussions at the meeting were held in accordance with the Chatham House Rule with no attribution for contributions.

Report of the workshop

The expert workshop report summarizes the discussions by country experts, representatives of stakeholder groups, and secretariats of MEAs on their contributions to the global report and global review of progress in the implementation of the KMGBF as well as on the potential future role and activities of the Bern Process.

Opening of the workshop

Niklaus Wagner opened the meeting on behalf of the Government of Switzerland as host country, welcoming participants to the Chateau de Bossey. He recalled that the mandate from COP15 placed the decision on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations⁴ on equal footing with the decision on the KMGBF and other key decisions including on reporting and monitoring, with a need now to focus on how to continue to strengthen synergies among MEAs for implementation of our common biodiversity goals enshrined in the GBF. Mr. Wagner noted that the global review is a good time to consider achievements made under many MEAs and take the next steps for synergistic implementation.

Tita Korvenoja welcomed participants on behalf of UNEP, noting that 12 MEA Secretariats as well as Parties were represented in the workshop which built on the ongoing Bern Process. She added that since 2018, the Bern Process has been central to

⁴ CBD [Decision 15/13](#)

UNEP's efforts to foster collaboration among more than 16 MEAs, promoting dialogue, knowledge exchange, and joint action. She recognized that countries like Mexico have internalized the Bern Process nationally, and that regional capacity-building efforts continue. Ahead of UNEA-7, UNEP is preparing a document showcasing good practices at the national level to further strengthen MEA cooperation in support of implementation. Ms. Korvenoja thanked the Swiss government for their hospitality and continued support for MEAs related work. She encouraged participants to think boldly, creatively, and collaboratively, using the momentum of the Bern Process to advance the KMGBF and other global commitments.

Asad Naqvi, Director of the Implementation Support division at the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, emphasized that the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the KMGBF comes at a time of rising poverty and inequality, with 3.5 billion people holding less than 2% of global GDP most dependent on biodiversity and ecosystem services. The richest generation of human history still faces headwinds in addressing sustainability and poverty. Financing is the foundation of KMGBF implementation, and redirecting subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity could help provide the resources needed to safeguard human well-being, and a future in harmony with nature. Mr. Naqvi noted that the global review is intended to provide accountability for the global commitments set out in the KMGBF, and it is a chance to show collective progress while identifying further actions needed to achieve the goals and targets.

Diane Klaimi, UNEP, reminded participants of the objectives of the meeting. Building on UNEP's work and actions that took place since the Bern III Conference, and in line with its mandate to continue and build on the Bern Process, the expert workshop aims:

Objective (1) To facilitate the compilation of examples of contributions of relevant MEAs to the global review of collective progress in the implementation of the KMGBF, in line with their respective mandates.

Objective (2) To provide input on the role and objectives of the Bern Process in the future, building on the lessons learned, outcomes and impacts from the previous Bern activities, to accelerate cooperation and synergies in MEA implementation for the KMGBF.

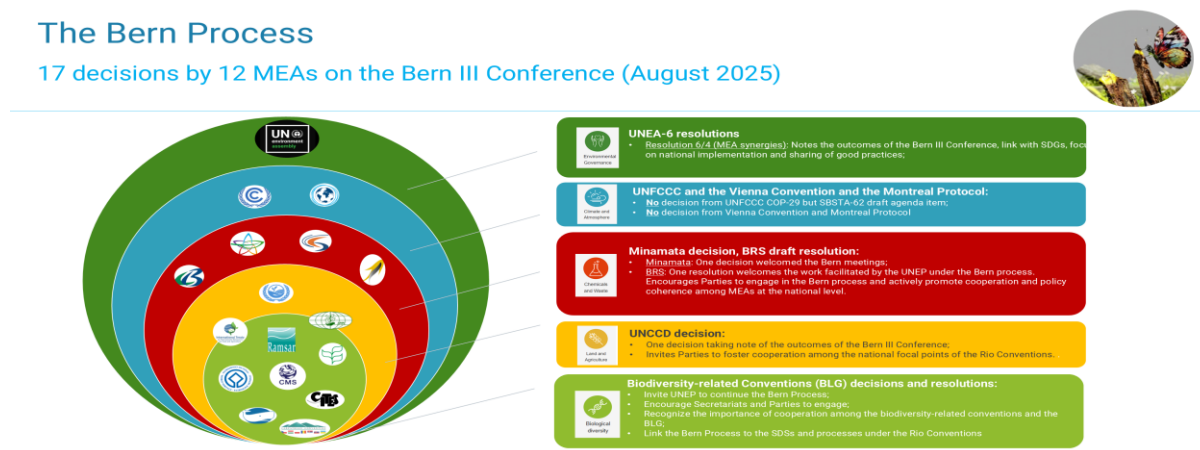
Neville Ash, UNEP-WCMC, the meeting facilitator, provided a framing for the expert meeting and facilitated introductions. He reminded participants that the aim of the meeting was to share ideas openly and explore options for short-term and long-term coordination and cooperation.

Setting the Stage: Framing the Expert Workshop and the Bern Process

Overview of the Bern Process

Diane Klaimi, UNEP, provided an overview of the Bern Process, which originated from the CBD COP [Decision 14/30](#) calling for a workshop on collaboration among the Parties to the biodiversity-related conventions. It also aligns with [Decision 14/34](#) on a comprehensive and inclusive process for preparing the Global Biodiversity Framework. Two Bern Process consultations and one conference contributed to the development and implementation of the KMGBF, which now serves as a framework relevant for all MEAs. Several subsequent decisions⁵ across MEAs and treaties called for the continuation of the Bern Process by UNEP and encouraged their contracting parties and secretariats to engage in it (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Bern Process mandates, 2019-2025



Clarisse Kehler Siebert, Sweden, co-chair of the Bern III Conference, spoke about the outcomes of the conference in 2024, which concluded, *inter alia*, that all MEAs should contribute to the global report under the CBD with concrete practical actions that were recommended for further uptake. She reminded participants of the self-identified mapping of MEAs with the KMGBF targets, useful to identify entry points for collaboration among the MEAs to accelerate implementation of common targets of the KMGBF and now also to report on progress. She suggested this mapping could be revisited to identify where progress has been made and which MEAs might lead on

⁵ For example, CBD ([decision 15/13](#)), the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) ([resolution 13/2022](#)), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands ([resolution XIV/26](#)), and the Carpathian Convention ([decision 7/4](#))

reporting on implementation of specific targets. Ms. Kehler Siebert noted that identifying gaps and challenges is only a first step, and that learning to communicate and exchange information requires effort.

Briefing on the Process of the Global Review of Collective Progress on the implementation of the KMGBF

Chantal Robichaud, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, provided an overview of the global review, encouraging participants to consider how ‘their’ MEA fits into this process. Ms. Robichaud noted that planning, monitoring, reporting and review are cross-cutting considerations of the KMGBF and a stand-alone decision under the Convention. The global review will be conducted at COP-17 and COP-19, with the global report as one input. Ms. Robichaud informed participants that the reporting template for non-state-actor commitments is in Decision 16/32 and will be online soon in the CBD Online Reporting Tool. Ms. Robichaud introduced the principles for the global report and its peer review process, underway with the review of the annotated outline. The main sources of information will be national reports as the primary source, an analysis of the usage of KMGBF Monitoring Framework indicators (requested in [Decision 16/31](#)) and a global analysis of information in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) and national reports. Other sources will be considered, as set out in [Decision 16/32](#), including relevant information from the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant MEAs, international organizations and processes.

Briefing on the Work of the AHSTAG on the Global Report

Hesiquio Benítez Díaz, Mexico, co-chair of the Ad Hoc Scientific and Technical Advisory Group for the preparation of the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the KMGBF (AHSTAG), described the work of the AHSTAG, its composition, the governance of the global report process and its timeline. He introduced the annotated outline which will guide the production of the global report, in a manner fully consistent with the outline and guidance set out by the Conference of the Parties. He emphasized the importance of receiving national reports in a timely manner as the primary basis of the global report.

Participants were invited to reflect. In addition to points included in the respective discussion sections, the following unique thoughts were shared by participants:

- The review of global progress towards shared environmental goals is a long-term process. The global review is important now, as the only midterm review of the KMGBF before 2030. In the midst of monitoring biodiversity and management actions, it is essential to consider the need for strong political process, supporting the broad and ambitious KMGBF.

- There has been evident progress in the available tools, such as InforMEA and DaRT, and the synergies in COP decisions from a legal perspective. However, some of those synergies are less visible at national level, in terms of practical application. In particular, there is a need to communicate and strengthen the use of identified, synergistic indicators at national level, such as the KMGBF indicators.
- There is a continued need to make tools more visible, considering tools and guidance for synergistic implementation as well as monitoring and reporting.
- The means of implementation are vital to the success of the KMGBF and participants recognized available support, such as the Kunming Biodiversity Fund and the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund.
- The Parties to CBD decided at COP16 there will be a concise compilation of MEA contributions to the KMGBF implementation. This is the minimum commitment that must be met.
- For national to global reporting, not only having data and information but interpreting it in a way that is relevant to biodiversity impacts and using it in a way that is meaningful for biodiversity goals and targets is essential.
- National level capacity for monitoring underpins the entire process from national to global review of progress and KMGBF implementation. A given country's 7th National Report to the CBD may not be perfect but is important to share to inform the world.

Discussions regarding the Global Report on KMGBF implementation

What information are MEAs planning to provide in the global report?

Several MEAs were planning to contribute information directly to the CBD Secretariat in response to [Notification 2025-099](#),⁶ either derived from national reporting to the MEA or synthesized analyses at regional or global scales. Some of this information is directed towards specific targets and may use the given MEA's indicators, despite differing from the KMGBF indicators.

Participants emphasized that MEAs should clearly indicate their contributions to KMGBF progress, particularly through targeted case studies. Several MEAs have already positioned themselves as champions for particular targets or topics and have substantive reporting, data platforms, and knowledge products available, but inputs

⁶ Invitation to submit relevant information to support the production of the global report on collective progress in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

must be prioritized and manageable to avoid overwhelming the CBD Secretariat and AHSTAG.

Participants noted the need for a concise and usable report, while recognizing that MEA contributions may require contextualization. A key challenge is determining the most useful type and scale of information, whether focused on a few priority KMGBF targets,⁷ broader coverage across all relevant targets for a given MEA, or at national, multi-national, or global levels. Based on the discussions, it seems likely that MEAs will use existing information in their submissions.

Participants highlighted the need to avoid double counting, particularly where national indicator reporting reflects MEA inputs. While participants emphasized that MEA contributions should be visible, particularly given that the number of 7th National Reports may be limited, they stressed the need for clarity and consistency.

Ideas for providing meaningful inputs included: linking MEA case studies to specific targets, using the target mapping to identify which targets MEAs should focus on; ensuring balance among targets, rightsholders and stakeholders, ecosystems and species, or thematic topics addressed in the global report; ensuring balance in representation and the use of quality information from and about MEAs, sectors, and non-state actors. Some participants noted that it would be valuable to identify and share how MEAs are strategizing to ensure inclusion at the national level given that the KMGBF is to be implemented using a whole-of-society approach.

A participant suggested including information on trends in financing for implementation from individual MEAs.

Procedural considerations were raised: some MEAs may require input from their Parties or governing bodies before submission, and this may be supported by ensuring that governing bodies of the MEAs are aware of the inputs to the CBD review process and its relevance for all MEAs. In addition, some requested the CBD Secretariat to clarify how the contributions will be handled and followed up.

Participants discussed the value of coordinating or developing a common MEA approach for contributions, inclusive of those with limited capacity, and focused on concrete, contextualized information rather than raw data. The Bern III mappings of MEAs with the KMGBF targets could be valuable for a coordinated approach. Questions remained about the responsibility for preparing and selecting case studies and how to present information in a way that is both specific and accessible, including through targeted examples of best practices.

⁷ Participants mentioned some specific targets, such as targets 7, 8, 14, 15, 19, 22 as well as horizontal and cross-sectoral issues.

Some participants mentioned that from a MEA perspective, it might be of value to be consulted when prioritization from the submitted information is made during the development of the report.

How can potential gaps in the [draft annotated outline of the global report](#) be filled?

Many participants agreed that there were no major gaps in the draft annotated outline and that it was important to adhere to the adopted outline of the global report in the COP Decision 16/32.

Some participants proposed that in addition to Section E specific to MEAs, it would be important to integrate MEA information throughout the global report, making the relevant MEA contributions across the KMGBF visible and informing the global review. For Section E, the question was raised of who would select which case studies would be included, following what criteria, and how the case studies on synergies such as those prepared for UNEA-7 would be used as an addition.

A participant suggested that the global report have a dedicated section per MEA to increase their visibility. It was also noted by a participant that in the draft annotated outline of the global report, the section E on contributions by MEAs has been expanded to include contributions by international organisations and processes. In this context and while recognizing the relevance of contributions by international organisations and processes, it was mentioned that the global report should provide sufficient space and visibility to MEA contributions, in line with CBD 16/32, para 19(f).

How could the global report be useful to the MEAs in supporting their mandates and implementation?

Participants agreed that there is a clear role of the global report and review in expressing the contributions of synergies and communicating the diffuse Bern Process and its results to others, both to Parties and at the sub-national level. The report could identify where each MEA contributes to operationalizing the GBF. In addition to potentially increasing the visibility of MEAs and their contributions, the report could result in improved implementation: Visibility for the multiple benefits of biodiversity action can boost Party engagement, particularly with recognition of the cost-effectiveness of synergistic implementation.

Participants considered that the report could provide:

- A shared evidence base of global status and trends for biodiversity and biodiversity management, from high-quality and verified sources, with a sense of ownership by MEAs that could in turn motivate further targeted information sharing;
- Documented interlinkages between MEAs (including from those outside the biodiversity cluster, such as pollution and land degradation) and targets/goals, resulting in greater awareness among MEAs of ongoing MEA activities and facilitating collaborative action by Parties and MEAs, using some of the data and information available from MEAs;
- A solid foundation for synergies, potentially linking with future resourcing and sources of funding;
- Clarity on the common challenges faced by all MEAs;
- A foundation for policy coherence at the national level and with regard to global mechanisms;
- An identified set of common stakeholders and non-state actors, with potential for strengthened and more synergistic engagement; and
- Impetus to avoid the rampant proliferation of ‘synergies’ initiatives, with parallel processes and the continuation of a siloed approach.

The participants noted the value of a concise global report in drawing out high level information, synthesizing the large amounts of available information from MEAs and other sources and interpreting into policy-relevant take-home messages related to MEA contributions. An iterative process to understand what would be most useful in global reporting was recommended, with participants noting that this global report is the first of its kind using shared indicators for the KMGBF and this cross-MEA coordination and there may be value in giving space for improvement and standardization.

Discussions on the Global Review & MEA Contributions

How can MEAs provide input to the global report, including in response to [notification 2025-099](#)?

Participants emphasized that MEA inputs should complement, rather than duplicate, national reports. While the 7th National Reports focus on how countries are addressing their national targets, MEAs can highlight global or cross-cutting activities and perspectives, showcase collaborative actions towards multiple KMGBF elements and where relevant other agreements, and provide targeted case studies and analyses, avoiding duplication in reporting implementation. Inputs from MEAs could also support

the AHSTAG in identifying priority actions for inclusion in the global report and identifying specific partners to assist the AHSTAG.

Several participants noted that Parties are already turning to MEA focal points other than the CBD focal points when preparing their 7th National Reports, of particular relevance because National Reports are the primary source of information for the global report. This existing flow of information to CBD national focal points should be supported, with MEAs positioned to add value by sharing aligned analyses, tools, and lessons learned.

Case studies were considered a useful format, but participants cautioned against collecting too many. Instead, using an iterative process that ensures relevance, MEAs should identify the most essential examples, particularly those that illustrate synergies across KMGBF targets and multiple MEAs. Participants considered that the MEAs were best placed to identify and analyse such cases, and UNEP can provide facilitative support within its mandate. A balance is needed between a few concise highlights and a broader set of contributions, managing expectations and workloads.

Discussion highlighted the importance of ensuring MEA visibility in the global report. While recognizing the value of inputs from others, some participants stressed that MEAs should retain a distinct place or status and not be diluted by broader contributions.⁸ At the same time, perspectives from Indigenous Peoples and local communities and other rightsholders and stakeholders were considered vital to a comprehensive review.

Recognizing differing starting places, participants underlined the need for mentoring and capacity building to support Parties to contribute effectively, in particular to ensure that information and perspectives from those with least capacity to report themselves are included in the collective review of progress. Proactively, the Bern Process tools and collaboration among MEAs could be used to look ahead to build up the implementation and reporting of Parties with attention to likely gaps.

Beyond the Global Report, what are other opportunities, ways and means for MEAs to contribute to the global review process?

Participants highlighted opportunities for MEAs to contribute to the global review through mentoring, capacity-building, and supporting exchanges among Parties on the reporting process. MEAs were also noted as developers and users of diverse tools for monitoring and reporting, such as the UNESCO Site Navigator. MEA experts could play a

⁸ The Bern III Conference Report contains relevant concepts: “Specifically, MEAs should contribute to the global report with their own chapter on interlinkages of MEAs with the Framework, and their contributions to its implementation.”

role in interpreting national-to-global information into meaningful analysis for the global review.

A participant shared the idea of reactive monitoring missions, responding to emerging identified issues to identify what pressures sites are facing and provide tailored recommendations. This could be used to enhance representation across the global review, responding to identified gaps as the body of evidence is collated.

There was a desire to consider longer-term contributions, building from national reporting to different MEAs. Participants noted that MEAs can help share data and information in novel ways, including different perspectives on biodiversity and environmental management. An example was shared of the WHC and IUCN publication [*World Heritage: a unique contribution to biodiversity conservation*](#).

Several avenues for MEA contributions were proposed, including:

- engaging Parties to raise awareness, including at high-level events that acknowledge the mutual benefits of synergies
- sharing information in public forums as well as in and regional ministerial and governance forums where tailored capacity is needed
- contributing to informal technical dialogues, noting that informal technical dialogues may take place between SBSTTA-27 and SBI-7 if there are resources, bringing non-state actors, Parties, and MEAs together to share reflections on the basis of the global report and opportunities to feed into the global review.
- contributing through the technical science-policy advisory panels and
- providing evidence through case studies

Case studies can be compiled in different ways. One proposal was a stand-alone case study for each MEA showing how they are contributing to different KMGBF targets, helping countries to see that through ratification of the given convention they are also contributing to the KMGBF. There was appetite to re-use existing information and limit the number of case studies developed for contribution to reporting under the CBD, alone, but with attention to the application of cases as assessed evidence.

Many MEAs are already collating relevant data, hosting data and information sharing tools, and in some cases providing knowledge products relevant for the global review of progress. Participants discussed the future development of additional indicators and knowledge management across the MEAs, re-using existing systems where possible.

The importance of engaging both countries and MEA Secretariats on what the KMGBF means for each MEA was underscored. Governing body meetings were identified as timely entry points to clarify perspectives, strengthen linkages, and share information.

Participants raised the need to clarify how analyses and syntheses feeding into the global report, even if not included in the final text, will be preserved and made accessible, for example through online platforms.

Participants also recognized the need to ensure lessons are learned from the current process for the global review of collective progress on the KMGBF. Documenting challenges and exploring additional opportunities to link with other global review processes, such as those pertaining to climate change and land management, could help future reviews.

How can MEAs report on their implementation using KMGBF indicators?

The participants discussed the ongoing monitoring and reporting processes active under many MEAs, several using indicators, with recognition there is some overlap but not complete matches with the adopted KMGBF monitoring framework indicators. The participants considered that there is value in reporting additional information on indicators that are relevant to the KMGBF and the MEA, even if not part of the KMGBF indicators.

Several MEAs have ongoing data collection and reporting processes using quantitative and qualitative approaches, including indicators, which the participants indicated are highly relevant for the KMGBF but may not perfectly match with KMGBF indicators, particularly headline and binary indicators. For example:

- Under the **Minamata Convention on Mercury**, there is ongoing work to develop and use indicators on mercury trends (concentration) in air and human populations, relevant for KMGBF Target 7, and on mercury and the impact on Indigenous Peoples, which could serve KMGBF Target 22. There is a strong demand to have the indicator developed and applied now, and there is not yet a full alignment with the KMGBF, but the alignment could grow with time.
- The **International Whaling Commission** is collecting information on sustainable use (based on catch data) and persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and mercury levels in the populations of many marine mammal species, with monitoring conducted on a rotational framework. These data are relevant for KMGBF Targets and could help fill gaps considering marine and aquatic systems, but IWC metrics are not perfectly aligned with the existing KMGBF indicators.
- The periodic monitoring and reporting under the **World Heritage Convention** can make a direct contribution to KMGBF monitoring with data for protected areas, IUCN Red List, sustainable forest management, and green/blue spaces in cities, as well as relevant information on engagement with Indigenous Peoples.

Some participants praised the use of an indicator-based approach, providing reliable evidence. The further harmonization of indicators and streamlining of shared and collaborative reporting processes was urged by several participants, including a push for mandates to use shared global indicators. MEAs could share information about their indicator use and development in their submissions to the CBD, noting that CBD Decisions did invite MEAs to work on relevant indicators and that this work is of relevance beyond 2030. As MEAs begin developing post-2030 strategies, considering the primary data holders for indicators that address linked issues, such as biodiversity and land management, could help identify thematic champions.

Participants expressed different views on the ways MEAs could report indicator-derived data, including indirectly through MEA processes, such as the Effective Evaluation under the Stockholm Convention, and different views on the potential alignment of a given MEA's monitoring framework with the global targets of the KMGBF. A question was raised regarding whether MEA-derived data reporting would be possible in the timeline for the 7th national reports to the CBD, considering both mandate and time.

Several participants agreed on the need for clear guidance to Parties, MEAs, and technical staff regarding the availability and relevance and trustworthiness of datasets and monitoring tools.

Discussions regarding the future of the Bern Process

How can the Bern Process best support the global review and KMGBF implementation?

Participants saw an opportunity for tangible inputs from the Bern Process into the global report and review, making visible the opportunities, successes, and challenges of synergistic implementation in support of shared global goals and targets.

Participants underlined the role of the Bern Process in fostering Party-led coordination among MEAs to trigger coherent action. By supporting the coordinated provision of information that may be difficult to capture through national reports, the Bern Process can facilitate the sharing of cross-MEA perspectives and mappings of strategies.

Concrete opportunities for contribution include case studies on synergistic and complementary implementation of multiple MEAs, with UNEP coordinating internally to support a submission on national implementation of multiple MEAs, which will also be delivered as an information document to UNEA-7.

The Bern Process could also add value by convening 'deep dives' on selected KMGBF targets or challenges, akin to the model used by the High Level Political Forum in

focusing on selected Sustainable Development Goals in sequence, to focus implementation and review efforts where they are most needed. These focused technical discussions could showcase synergies, share practices, connect implementers with resources and tools such as policy examples or databases, and provide a forum for technical exchange. Subject to financing, ‘deep dives’ with expert input and mutual learning could be held on suggested topics relating to targets or cross-cutting elements of the KMGBF, such as:

- Specific targets or clusters of targets, such as:
 - KMGBF Target 2 regarding restoration
 - KMGBF Target 7 regarding chemical use and pollution
 - KMGBF Target 8 regarding climate change
 - KMGBF Target 10 regarding sustainable management of areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry
 - KMGBF Target 11 regarding the restoration, maintenance and enhancement of nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services
 - KMGBF Target 14 regarding integration of biodiversity into decision-making
- Mainstreaming of biodiversity across government and sector agendas
- Gender across MEAs
- Youth and intergenerational equity across MEAs
- Synergies for Small Island Developing States (and other Party groupings or regions)

The participants discussed using the results of the global report to determine priority topics for such deep dives.

Based on the outcomes of Bern III, what should be prioritized, adapted, or added?

Many participants agreed that the Bern Process is now at the implementation stage and can play a role in assessing the global review, in its entirety, to help guide further action. This would include assessment of the activities and impact of the Bern Process and synergistic implementation, considering its impact at the national level. A participant expressed the use of the Bern Process as a space for considering how to align plans and raise the political dimensions of MEA synergies. A participant suggested that by giving the Bern Process its clear mandate through UNEP and MEAs, as well as resources, the Bern Process could act as a collaboration hub and keep synergies high on the international agenda.

Continued support for broad awareness of the values and best practices of synergistic implementation across MEAs, and of the Bern Process itself, was considered necessary. Ideas to strengthen such awareness included a campaign to raise visibility of Bern Process and cross-MEA synergies, the use of ‘synergy champions’, and continued use of side events at MEA COPs and other major gatherings, particularly for Parties to showcase their efforts and the benefits received from synergistic implementation. The communications efforts could include the development of standard language for easy use in communicating about the importance of synergies and the Bern Process.

Participants identified other priority needs, including:

- Continued efforts to build political will, noting that synergies naturally lend themselves to this process as leaders may respond to the evidence of co-benefits and linkages among priority areas, or be concerned about vulnerabilities and duplications that threaten successful implementation if issues are not addressed simultaneously.
- Facilitated information flow through the Bern Process network.
- Coherence and avoidance of duplication among multiple synergies initiatives, including the many initiatives by multiple MEAs.
- Continued effort to reduce the reporting burden faced by Parties and non-state actors. A relevant decision under each MEA governing body to explore the use of more harmonized reporting across MEAs would be a key achievement. There was disagreement whether to harmonize, optimize or generally enhance synergies in monitoring; this was discussed as a potential topic for a future Bern IV Conference, potentially informed by a study of the scopes and limits of harmonizing reporting templates.
- Discussion of how to address mainstreaming and synergies together, noting the two are different.
- Discussion of synergies in financing.
- Given concern about the large workload of CBD focal points, there is a need to consider how MEAs can reduce burden on MEA focal points and clearly demonstrate how different MEAs support implementation of the KMGBF.

Practical actions were proposed:

- The mapping of targets and indicators of the KMGBF with the MEAs could be updated, building from the table published in the Bern III conference report and updated to support the Senegal Workshop on the Implementation of Biodiversity and Chemicals and Waste Multilateral Environmental Agreements⁹, to guide

⁹ United Nations Environment Programme (2024). *Background document - Key entry points for mutually supportive action on biodiversity and chemicals & waste*. <https://wedocs.unep.org/20.500.11822/46677>

MEA contributions to the global review and to future indicator development and application.

- Several MEA governing bodies have a regular or permanent agenda item on synergies or enhanced cooperation with other international organizations and this could be utilized more effectively in enhancing synergies agenda across the MEAs, and peer-review of the text under such agenda items could help the Secretariats. Having harmonized synergies on MEA agendas with related COP decisions on strengthening cooperation and synergies was viewed as a priority to spur further action.
- Joint initiatives and joint capacity building programmes could be developed, benefiting from the creation of relevant bodies and processes (such as the new Subsidiary Body on Article 8j and Other Provisions of the CBD Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities) and the growing momentum on cross-cutting considerations such as gender and mainstreaming.
- Coordination meetings among MEAs, including MEAs beyond the biodiversity cluster, could be held more frequently including preparatory meetings prior to COPs. A participant suggested that the Bern Process, UNEP, or a dedicated project could be used to build capacity to broaden existing mechanisms to strengthen sustainable funding.
- A more formal Bern Process forum or committee could be established and meet virtually on a regular basis to share information and track how MEAs are jointly contributing to the KMGBF; such a body could facilitate ongoing exchange and preparation for global review cycles, serving as connective tissue between the conventions and fostering effectively implemented and complementary inputs from all MEAs to reviews of collective progress under MEAs.

How could potential future events/activities (e.g. a Bern IV conference) best contribute to fulfilling the aim of the Bern Process?

Participants considered that there was continued value in the Bern Process and that a Bern IV conference was desirable. With regard to the timing of a Bern IV conference, some mentioned that 2027 would be an opportunity to hold the conference as part of the feedback loop after CBD COP17 and the global review of collective progress. The Bern Process could help to spur implementation by MEAs and Parties, focusing efforts where most needed based on the global review. Following the review, the Bern Process could create a collation of lessons learned and an assessment of how many MEAs fed into the global report and review. The modalities of a potential Bern IV conference could be similar to those used for previous conferences, such as nominations of each of the

16 MEAs and potentially additional new, relevant ones¹⁰ through their bureaux as well as five Party delegates (one per UN region).

While the Bern Process is unique in being Party-led, there is value in building on and, where relevant, working with other ongoing initiatives for coordination, such as the [Joint Liaison Group](#) of the Rio Conventions (CBD, UNCCD, and UNFCCC), the [Informal Advisory Group on synergies](#) among biodiversity-related conventions under the CBD, the UN [Environment Management Group](#). Some participants noted that the connections across MEAs, the mandate for collective action, and the channels of communication are more mature within the Bern Process and under the CBD than in other initiatives, benefiting in part from the use of the ecosystem approach that moves beyond silos and benefits overall discussions of synergies.

A number of MEAs will be developing post-2030 Strategic Plans. Participants considered it useful to have a briefing from Bern Process during that process, with co-chairs or representatives from strategic taskforces to connect and coordinate.

Participants considered that the scope of the Bern Process should continue to be broad, with some calling for expanded participation from other international agreements¹¹, key implementation partners and UN bodies (such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization). Others emphasized the benefit for the Bern Process to continue focusing on cooperation among Parties to relevant MEAs only in line with the mandate of the Bern Process (e.g. CBD 15/13, para 13 and 14). A possible option that was mentioned could be to invite, as an exception, an expert from a particularly relevant international organization such as the FAO as a guest, depending on the agenda and the meeting. While the value of coordination on subjects such as monitoring and harmonized reporting using shared indicators was noted, the group proposed that the Bern Process also be used to address other aspects of synergies beyond the implementation of the KMGBF, extending into subjects such as innovative finance, ecosystem approaches, and the roles of Indigenous Peoples in supporting synergistic implementation. The Bern Process could be used to bring together major rightsholders and stakeholders across the MEAs, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, and youth, who are engaged in implementation and assist in tracking processes across MEAs.

Opportunities for dialogue and exchange, including informal exchange, were highly valued by participants, who saw the Bern Process activities as useful to move beyond a siloed or competitive approach.

¹⁰ such as the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement) or the plastics agreement under negotiation

¹¹ including new agreements at global level, such as the BBNJ Agreement, and potentially regional agreements such as Escazú Agreement

Some participants wanted a more organized and strategic approach to the Bern Process, including a possible mechanism or institutionalization as well as a longer-term roadmap and set of objectives. Others noted the value of an informal approach, simplifying participation and avoiding distraction from implementation. A working group or advisory committee to help prepare activities under the Bern Process was proposed.

One of the next steps could be the development of a long-term programme of work or a road map of MEA elements and strategic directions. Aspects of such a roadmap have been developed under the Minamata Convention on Mercury. An example was provided of the [Joint Liaison Group](#) of the Rio Conventions with an agreed set of areas of cooperation, subject to available resources: 1) country capacity building and resource mobilization, which includes information exchange and training for national focal points, in support of monitoring and reporting; 2) coherence and complementarity; and 3) outreach and visibility, showcasing cases and best practices.¹²

The need for resourcing for a continued Bern Process was raised. The Bern Process has not been costly, and it is hoped that with a diverse pool of funding including continued national investment, the Process can continue to deliver and thereby boost implementation across MEAs.

The need to identify the target audience(s) for Bern Process activities was raised, along with the aim of using high-level influence to drive synergistic actions. The need for formal and informal information sharing among Bern Process participants was noted.

A participant requested UNEP support in organizing expert groups for KMGBF targets or themes under the auspices of the Bern Process. The engagement of such groups could be timebound and used to feed into specific processes. (See above for further information about the proposed series of ‘deep dives’.)

Closing of the workshop

During the closing session, participants were invited to provide advice to UNEP regarding planning for continued Bern Process or any reflections on the Bogis-Bossey Expert Meeting. These included the following further thoughts:

- Among synergies initiatives, the Bern Process remains unique as a Party-led process.
- Celebrating the movement towards alignment of MEA strategic plans is important, while recognizing there is a continued need for collaborative work both under the Bern Process and across the UN system, particularly in challenging times with limited resources for environmental action.

¹² <https://rioconventions.org/areas-of-cooperation>

- Participants expressed a range of views regarding expanding the Bern Process beyond Parties and MEAs to include other UN bodies, science-policy panels, and other relevant partners, with attention to priority themes such as marine and other aquatic systems. Some connections, such as a meeting of the past and present presidencies of meetings of Conferences of the Parties of MEAs, may be valuable as time-limited events under the auspices of the Bern Process. The scope of the Bern Process should react to the conclusions of the global report on progress towards implementation of the global biodiversity goals and targets.
- Regular intersessional work, likely by a small group, is needed to continue the Bern Process, while avoiding duplication with other synergies initiatives. Some participants asked for consideration of a mechanism or institutional arrangement for a strategic, sustainable Bern Process.
- Building from the foundation of synergistic goals, planning and mandates, synergies must now be put into action and evidence shared of their impacts.
- To drive action, the proposed series of ‘deep dives’ was welcomed by many participants, in part to showcase key areas of effective collaboration. In addition, participant urged the continued celebration of successes through effective communication, including compiling and sharing case studies.
- A number of global processes will converge around 2030 in terms of renewed strategic planning, in a context of transformation in the (co)management of socio-environmental systems, including in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and local communities and other rights-holders. With a continued need to ensure that MEAs are heard and the lessons of synergistic implementation used, the Bern Process was seen as a simple channel for inputs into a post-2030 biodiversity framework and future strategic plans of other global agreements, including any successor to the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Lessons learned could be shared among the MEAs, such as the CITES model of revising resolutions as needed rather than creating new text. In this context, participants proposed using the Bern Process to help transition from the KMGBF forward while keeping energy on implementation.

In closing, it was noted that the expert meeting had provided useful advice regarding ways to feed information into the report on global progress towards the KMGBF. There was strong agreement that the Bern Process provides value, and the ideas discussed during the workshop were to be captured in a report which would also propose a draft roadmap on the Bern Process for the next five years, as a foundation for future discussion.

Participants were encouraged to consider the mandates and ways to ask for synergistic work at different levels, and to reach out to others within their country and across MEAs to try a different way of working. Thanks were extended to the Government of

Switzerland, UNEP, and all those involved in the smooth function of the meeting. Finally, thanks were extended to all participants for their contributions.

Annex 1: Workshop Agenda

Day 0 (26 August 2025)

19:00-20:30: Welcoming Reception

Day 1 (27 August 2025)

09:00-09:15: Official Opening (*Swiss Government, UNEP, CBD Secretariat*)

09:15-10:00: Setting the Stage: Framing the Expert Workshop and the Bern Process (*UNEP*)

10:00-10:20: Briefing on the Process of the Global Review of Collective Progress on the implementation of the KM-GBF (*CBD Secretariat*)

10:20-10:45: Briefing on the Work of the AHSTAG on the Global Report (*AHSTAG Co-Chair*)

10:45-11:00: Introduction to Group Discussion Modalities

Discussion Block I: Views on the draft annotated outline of the global report

11:30 - 12:30: Group Discussions: Global Report

Guiding Themes:

- Usefulness of the Global Report for MEAs
- MEA-specific information in Global Report & potential gaps
- MEA synergies in the Global Report & potential gaps
- MEA information in CBD National Reports and NBSAPs

13:30-15:00: Plenary: Gathering inputs from groups and advancing discussions on the global report

Discussion Block II: Views on other opportunities for MEAs to contribute jointly to the global review and how to showcase these opportunities.

15:30-16:50: Group Discussions: Global Review & MEA Contributions

Guiding Themes:

1. Joint submissions of MEAs to the global report and use of existing guidance
2. Visibility of MEA contributions in the global review process beyond the global report

3. MEAs alignment with KM-GBF indicators

Day 2 (28 August 2025)

09:00-09:10: Recap of Day 1

09:10-10:30: Plenary: Group Inputs & Advancing Discussions on the Global Review and MEA Contributions.

11:00-11:45: Plenary: Summary and Conclusions on Blocks I & II Discussions.

11:45-12:30: Briefing on the Bern Process and its achievements (*UNEP & Bern III Co-chair*)

Discussion Block III: Input regarding the future role and objectives of the Bern Process

13:30-14:30: Group Discussions: Future of the Bern Process

Guiding Themes:

1. The role of the Bern Process in supporting the KM-GBF implementation and Global Review
2. Next priorities and relevant activities/events for the Bern Process
3. Considerations towards a potential Bern IV Conference

15:00-16:00: Plenary: Group Inputs & Advancing Discussions on the Future of the Bern Process

16:00-16:30: Closing Session & Way Forward (*Switzerland, UNEP, CBD*)

Annex 2: Summary of Participants

The conference included representation from the following Secretariats of multilateral agreements:

- Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
- International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling, served by the International Whaling Commission (IWC)

- Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, or Ramsar Convention
- Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, or World Heritage Convention (WHC)

In total, 13 of the 38 participants were from MEA secretariats.

Another 15 participants were from 14 national governments and the EU, mostly representing MEA national focal points. A co-chair of the CBD Ad Hoc Science and Technical Advisory Group (AHSTAG) was present to provide advice on the types of inputs from MEAs that would be most useful in the global report on collective progress towards implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. A co-chair of the Bern III Conference was present, supporting continuity of ideas.

In addition, 3 of the participants were from civil society and stakeholder groups, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, women, and youth, and one other person was from a UN entity, not including the planning and logistics team.

Annex 3 – Bern Process Mandates

[Mandates for the Bern Process](#) were provided as part of the preparatory documents for participants.

All of the meeting documents can be accessed at:

<https://www.unep.org/events/workshop/bogis-bossey-expert-workshop-bern-process-and-contribution-meas-implementation-km>

Annex 4: Road map of possible Bern Process activities

2026:

- Development of a long-term programme of work for the Bern Process
- Series of ‘deep dives’
- Updated MEA-led mapping of MEAs with targets and indicators of the KMGBF, building from the table published in the Bern III conference report

- Action towards the establishment of a more formal Bern Process forum, committee, or expert panel, which could meet virtually on a regular basis to track how MEAs are jointly contributing to the GBF and monitor the long-term programme

2027:

- Collation of lessons learned and an assessment of how many MEAs fed into the global report and review
- Bern IV Conference
- Study of the scopes and limits of harmonizing reporting templates
- Meetings of the Bern Process panel, committee, or forum

2028:

2029:

- Discussions on the contribution to facilitate the development of post-2030 strategic planning for multiple MEAs
- Meetings of the Bern Process panel, committee, or forum

2030:

- Meetings of the Bern Process panel, committee, or forum