Facilitating synergies in implementing multilateral environmental agreements towards sustainable development

GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop
MEAs and SDGs: Coordinating response to safeguard planet

Continued, rapid deterioration of the **global commons**…

- Holocene → Anthropocene
- Urgent action required to avoid tipping points and irreversible damage
Session objectives?

1. To understand milestone global agreements and recent MEA guidance to the GEF;

2. To enhance synergies among MEAs and promote GEF program integration;

3. Discussion around the Convention synergies.
Convention Guidance
Key agreements and GEF guidance

UN General Assembly:

• Noted the need for enhanced cooperation among the Rio Conventions (2009);

• Adopted The Future We Want (Rio+20), encouraging coordination and cooperation between MEAs.
Key agreements and GEF guidance

Convention on Biological Diversity:

• “Encourages Parties to promote synergies between biodiversity and climate-change policies and measures” (*decision XI/21*);

• “Requests the Global Environment Facility [...] to support projects and activities to improve synergies among relevant multilateral environment agreements” (*decision XI/6*);
Key agreements and GEF guidance

Convention on Biological Diversity:

**GEF to provide financial resources for:**

- “Capacity-building with the aim of increasing the effectiveness in addressing environmental issues through their commitments under the CBD, UNFCCC, and the UNCCD, inter alia, by applying the ecosystem approach”

- “Developing synergy-oriented programmes to conserve and sustainably manage all ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands and marine environments, that also contribute to poverty eradication” (*decision X/24*)
Key agreements and GEF guidance

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change:

- “Encourages the Global Environment Facility [...] to align [...] programming with [...] nationally determined contributions, where they exist, during the seventh replenishment, and to continue to promote synergies across its focal areas.”

- “Requests the Global Environment Facility [...] to take into consideration climate risks in all its programmes and operations [...].” (decision 11/CP.22)

✓ (l)NDCs frequently mention biodiversity, ecosystem-based approaches, land degradation...
Key agreements and GEF guidance

Stockholm Convention and Minamata:

• “Stressed that the sound management of chemicals and wastes has a global environmental benefit and is an essential element of sustainable development;”

• “Encouraged the Facility to continue to enhance synergies in its activities”

• “Identification of possible elements of guidance from the Stockholm Convention to the GEF that also address the relevant priorities of the Basel and Rotterdam conventions.”
  (decision SC-7/21)
Key agreements and GEF guidance

UN Convention to Combat Desertification:

• “Invites the GEF to continue its support for the implementation of the convention [...] in light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 15.3”;

• “Invites the GEF to [...] consider technical and financial support for voluntary national land degradation neutrality target-setting”

• “Invites country Parties to formulate and integrate in their National Adaptation Plan voluntary targets to achieve LDN in accordance with their specific national circumstances and development priorities.” (COP 12)
Example: Land as a central element

SDG 15, Target 15.3: Land Degradation Neutrality

→ “by 2030, combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world.”

- Land agenda embodies the importance of tackling complex, interdependent issues in an integrated manner
- How we protect and manage land resources sustainably will have impacts on multiple goals
- UNCCD COP 12 (2015):
  ✓ Addressing LDN will be priority area for GEF support;
  ✓ LDN guiding principle for implementation of Convention.
Practical Action: Synergy and Multiple Benefits

Growing interest by countries in cross-cutting projects with multiple benefits

- 47 out of 74 land degradation projects (FY13-15) are multi-focal;
  - $227 million from land degradation, $300 million from biodiversity, climate change, SFM, etc.
- 41 more projects addressing land agenda supported by funds for climate change (LDCF, SCCF, AF)
  - $297 million from climate-related funds
Practical Action: Synergy and Multiple Benefits

Example of institutional arrangements at the national/regional level:

- Informal and/or formal committees to coordinate between national focal points, different ministries and agencies, and other stakeholders.
- National GEF committees as mechanisms for national focal points to foster the coherent implementation of the MEAs and SDGs.
- National strategy for the implementation across MEAs and SDGs.
- Regional initiatives including learning and peer-to-peer exchange, regional centers of excellence in data monitoring and reporting, implementation of large-scale, cross-cutting impact programs.
Practical Action: Synergy and Multiple Benefits

Additional entry points for synergies at the national level:

• **Sustainable Development Goals**: Coordinating framework for achieving multiple goals. Integration of MEAs and SDGs in national development.

• **Implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation**: EbA enable people to adapt to the impacts of climate change by sustainably managing, conserving and restoring ecosystems.

• **National planning and reporting** (e.g. links between UNFCCC NAPs, CBD NBSAPs, and UNCCD NAPs, national reports)

• **Sustainable land management**: links with biodiversity, climate change and land degradation, relevant to all 3 Rio Conventions.

• **Landscape restoration**: contributes to biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and mitigation and combatting land degradation, relevant to most MEAs.
GEF-6 Programming Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Integrated Approach Pilots:</th>
<th>Other cross-cutting initiatives:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➢ Sustainable Cities</td>
<td>➢ Sustainable fisheries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Food Security</td>
<td>➢ Illegal wildlife trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Commodity Supply Chain</td>
<td>➢ Amazon sustainable landscapes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biodiversity</th>
<th>Land Degradation</th>
<th>Climate Change</th>
<th>Sustainable Forest Management</th>
<th>International Waters</th>
<th>Chemicals &amp; Waste</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

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Questions for today’s discussion

1) We think the IPs are one of the ways of achieving these convention synergies is there another way?

2) What are some of the challenges you have faced in implementing Convention synergies the ground?

3) How do you see the CBD Convention blending with the other Conventions and vice versa?