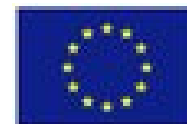


UNEP Project on “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies”:

Preliminary results of the national-level questionnaire

WGRI-5 side event on “Improving coordination and cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels”: Tuesday, 17 June, 13:15-14:30

Katharina Rogalla von Bieberstein, UNEP-WCMC



Introduction

Calls for synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions

“ **Biodiversity-related conventions:**

CBD, CITES, CMS, ITPGRFA, Ramsar Convention and WHC

“ **Widespread calls for greater coherence and synergies among MEAs:**

UNEP GC Decision SS.XII/3: *“Invites the Executive Director to undertake, as appropriate, further activities to improve the effectiveness of and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties...and to explore the opportunities for further synergies in the administrative functions of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats administered by the United Nations Environment Programme and to provide advice on such opportunities to the governing bodies of those multilateral environmental agreements.”*



Project outline

Title: *Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies*

Objective: Analyse and provide non-prescriptive guidance on opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related MEAs at all levels

Stakeholders: MEA secretariats, MEA host institutions, MEA national focal points, UNEP Regional Biodiversity MEA focal points and other experts

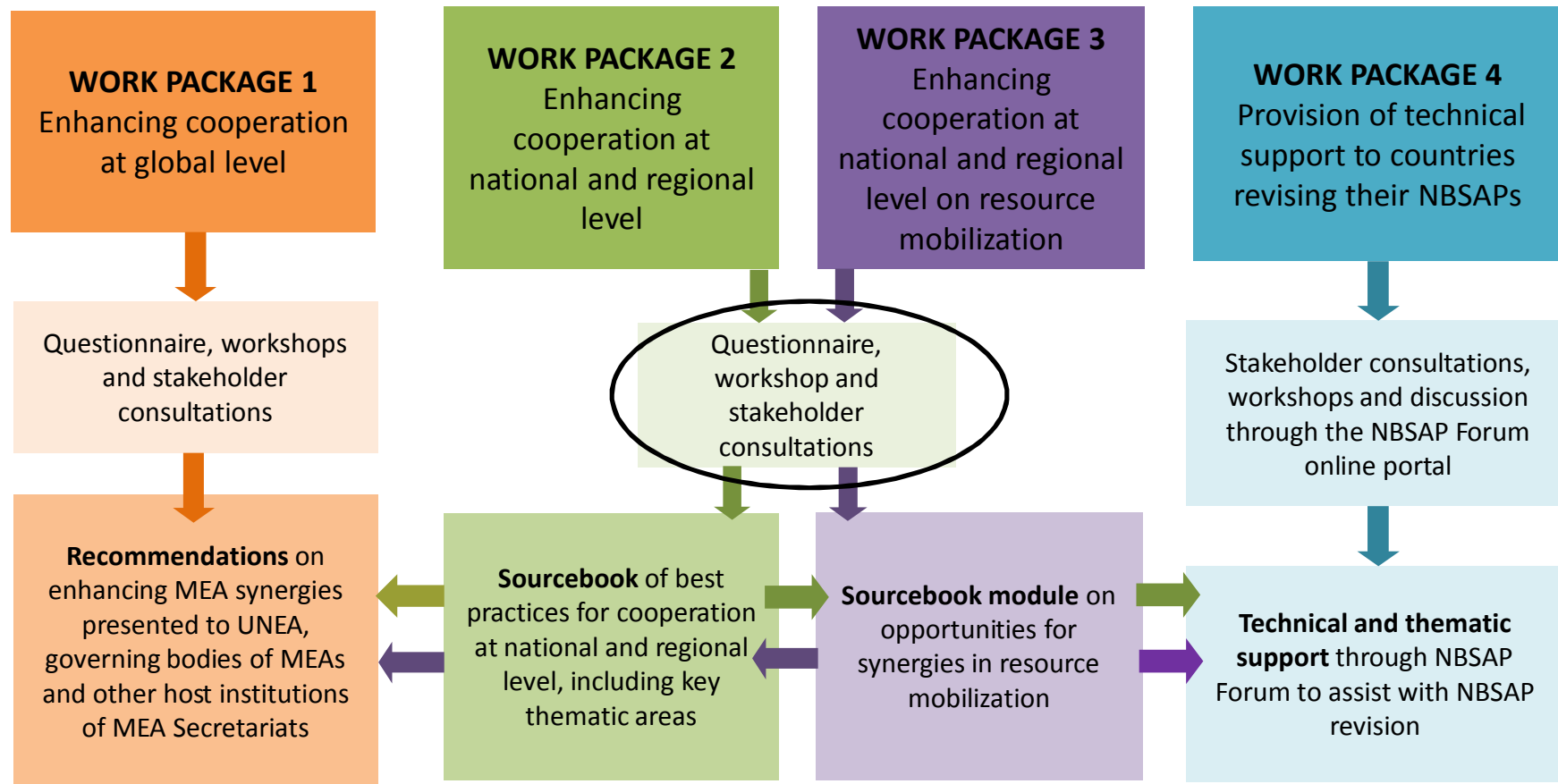
Executing agencies: UNEP and UNEP-WCMC

Funding: European Union and Swiss Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

Timeline: 2013-2015



Overview (simplified)



Questionnaires

- “ 2 Questionnaires to implement work packages 1-3:
 - “ Global level: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SynergiesProject_GlobalLevel
 - “ National and regional level: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SynergiesProject_NationalLevel

- “ National level questionnaire:
 - “ Distributed to NFPs of the six global biodiversity-related conventions and the GEF, MEA Secretariats, UNEP Regional Biodiversity MEA Focal Points and relevant experts – open list!
 - “ 6 sections - <http://nationalmeasynergies.wordpress.com/>
 - “ National institutional arrangements
 - “ National reporting and information management
 - “ Science-policy interface
 - “ Implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
 - “ Capacity building
 - “ Resource Mobilization
 - “ **Questionnaire and workshop focus on cooperation among national focal points (NFPs) and coherent implementation at the national level**

Workshop last Sunday

“ Objectives:

- . Input to national level sourcebook
- . Input to global level discussion paper (work package 1)
- . Input to WGRI

“ Participants:

- . 35 participants: NFPs from 5 of the BDR conventions, MEA Secretariats, international organizations

“ Outputs:

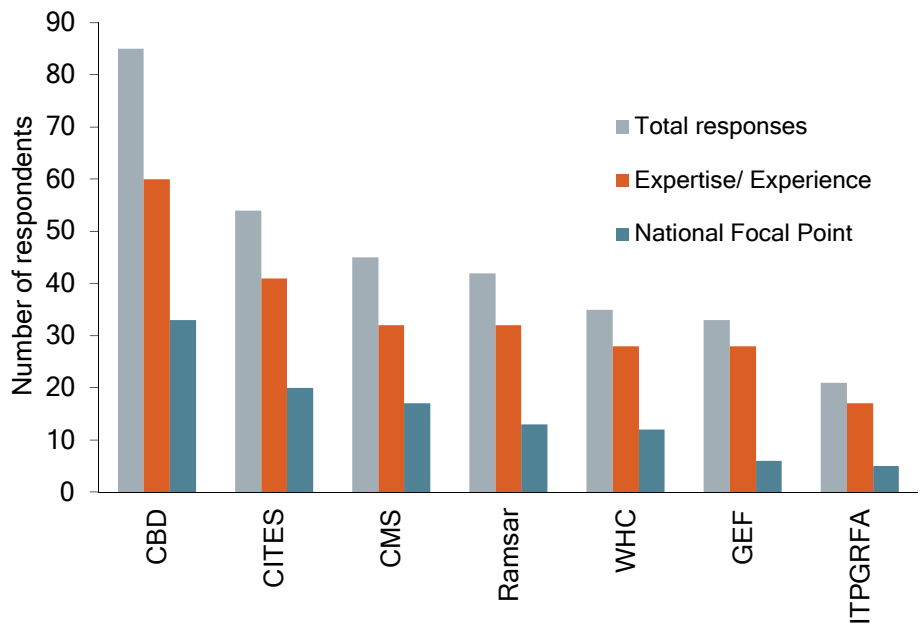
- . Discussion and feedback on questionnaire results
- . Sharing of national approaches for enhancing cooperation
- . Suggestions for global discussion paper and recommendations

The Process (cont.)

- “ Internal review and review by MEA Secretariats
 - “ Provided in English, French and Spanish
 - “ Distributed in early April
 - “ Notifications sent to Parties by CMS, WHC, ITPGRFA, CBD and CITES
 - “ Presentations about the project and questionnaire at CBD resource mobilization workshops in Uganda, Brazil, Thailand and Germany
 - “ In addition, project team members followed up with individuals in order to ensure a high response rate which contained a balance across conventions and across regions
- Inform a sourcebook of “Opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national and regional levels”

General Information on Respondents

- “ 128 participants, 85 individual countries
- “ 70 national focal points
- “ 60 to 90 responses per question
- “ All respondents have expertise with one of the biodiversity-related conventions, some have experience with multiple conventions

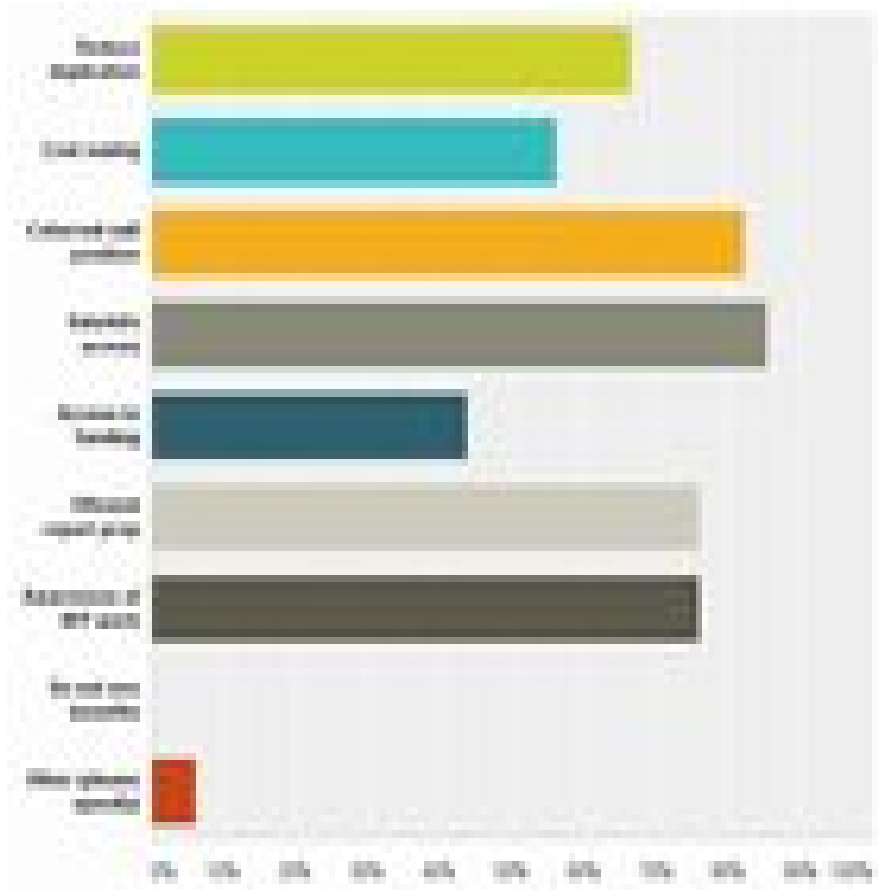


Questionnaire analysis

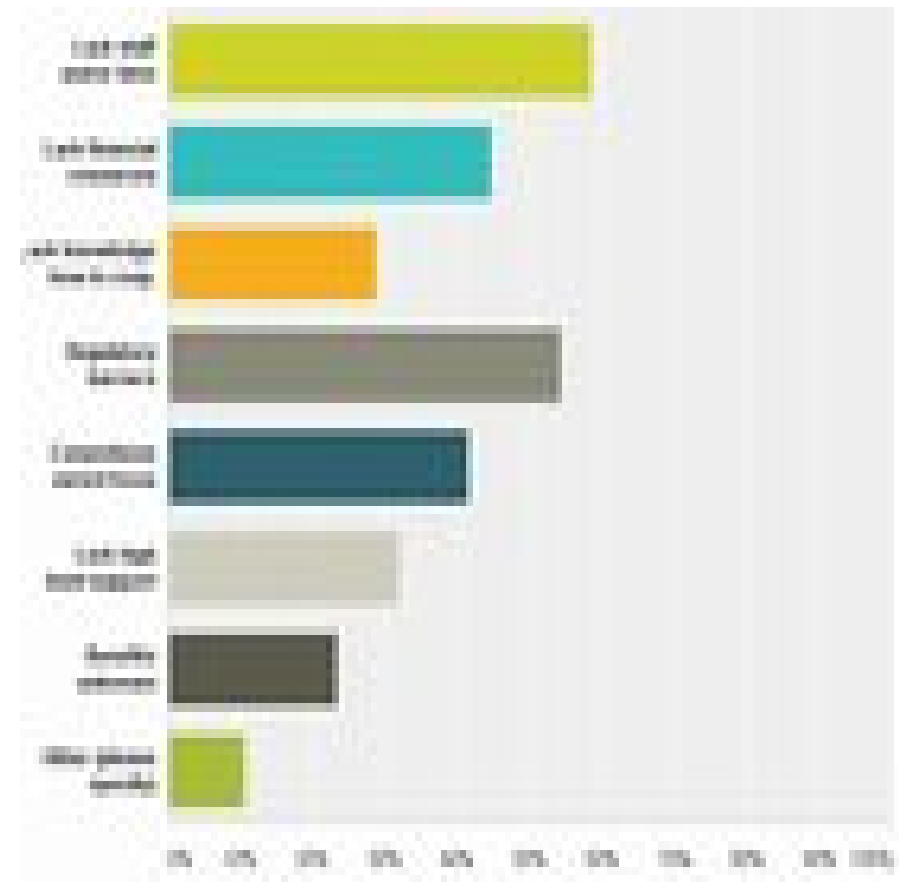
- “ Mix of multiple choice and open-ended responses
- “ Open-ended responses to prevent bias and encourage sharing of national approaches
- “ Presentation of preliminary results due to limited time available
- “ Questionnaire thematic sections analysed separately (but relevant comments from other sections included)
- “ Filters applied e.g. To look only at responses from NFPs or only at respondents who have cooperation mechanisms in place
- “ Focus on qualitative analysis
- “ Preliminary analysis has not used any statistical methods
- “ Issues:
 - . Answers not focusing explicitly on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions
 - . Vague answers

Benefits and barriers to collaboration among NFPs

Benefits



Barriers

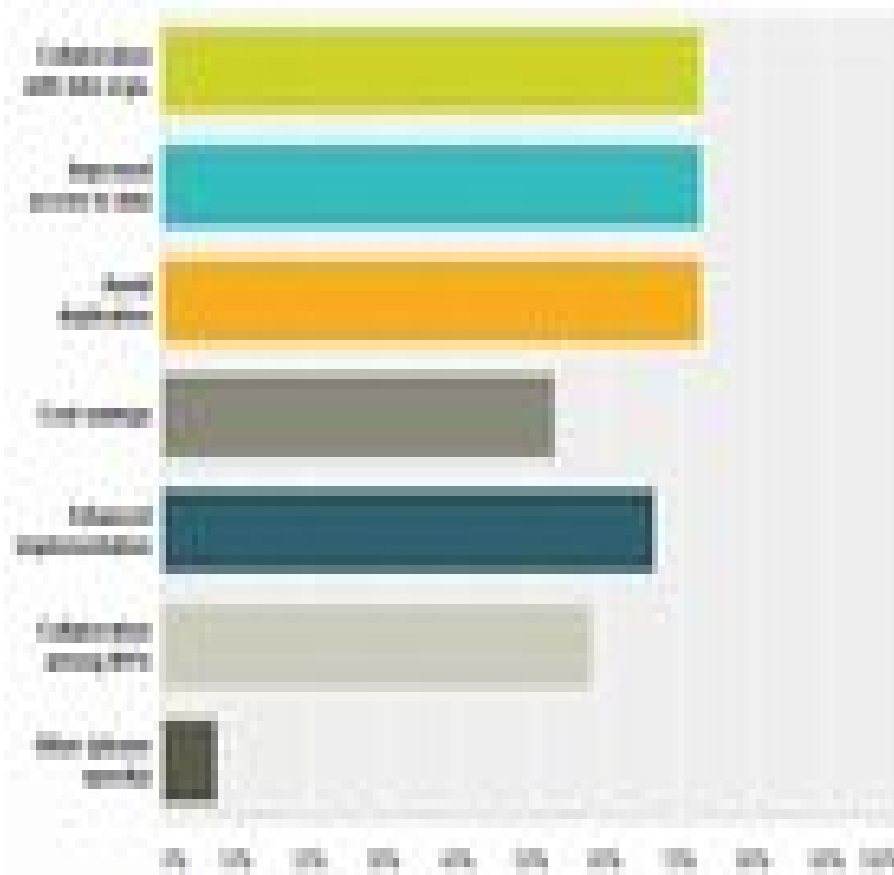


Section 2: Information management and reporting

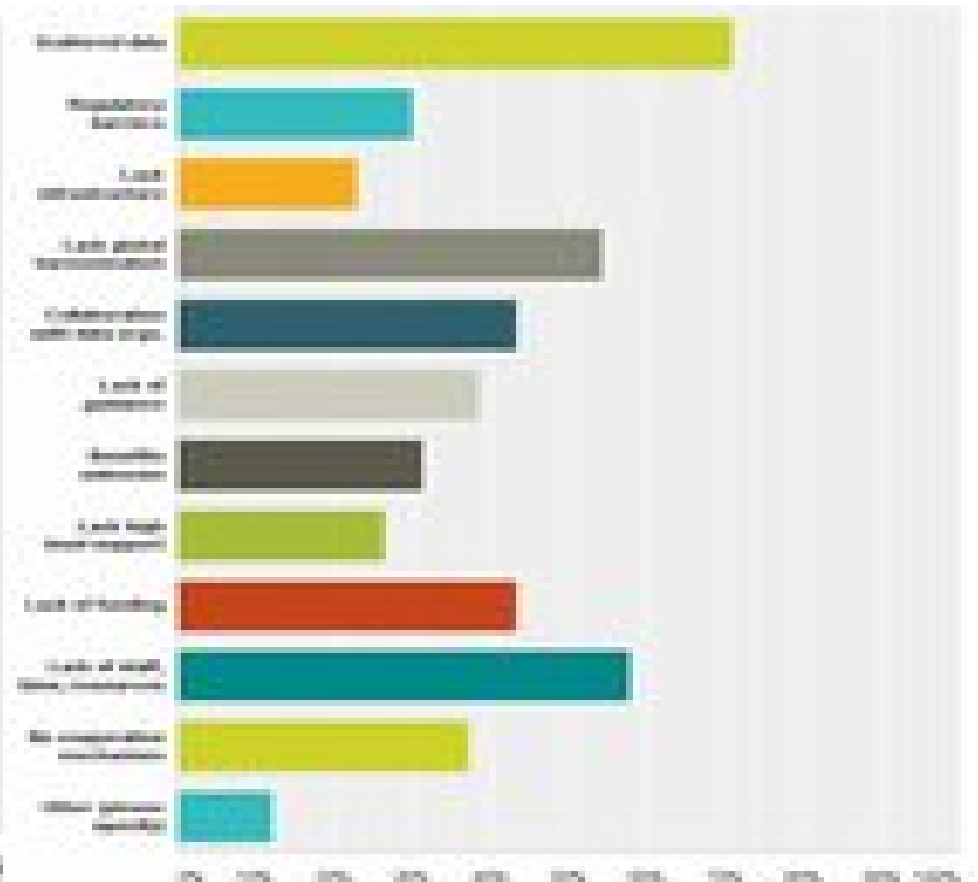
- “ 40% of respondents have cooperation mechanisms to harmonize info management and reporting
- “ Range of formal and informal mechanisms
 - . Data management mechanisms
 - . Meetings/committees
- “ CHM and shared databases are seen as helpful
- “ Of those 40%, the majority involved NFPs collaboration
- “ National reporting is the main activity that national focal points collaborate on (over 80% of NFPs)
- “ Many countries discussing/ in process of creating a mechanism

Benefits and barriers of reporting

Benefits



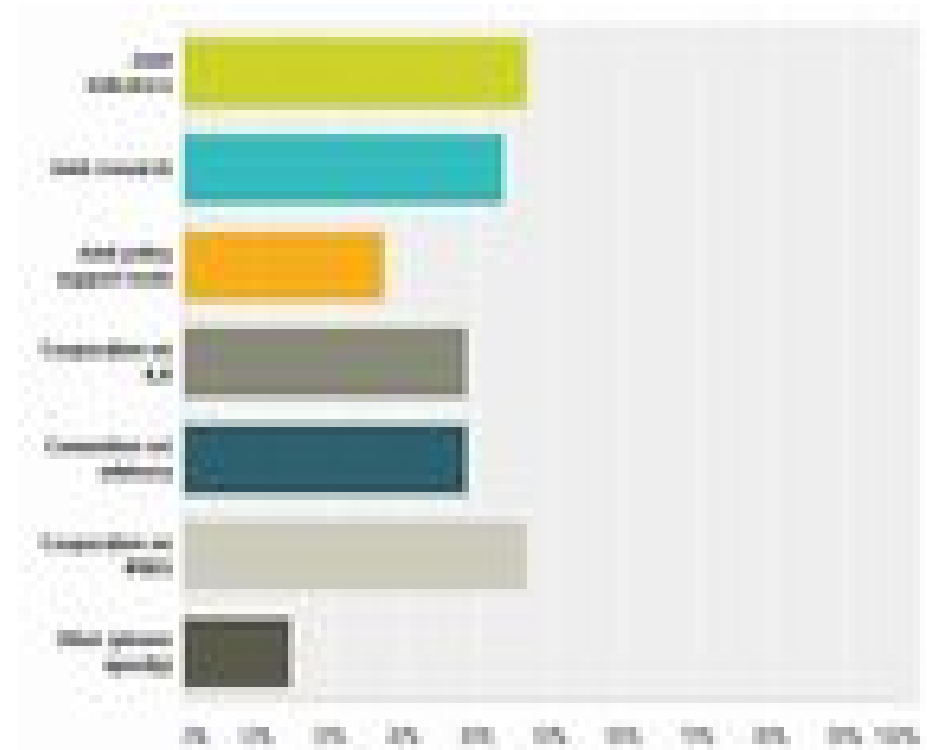
Barriers



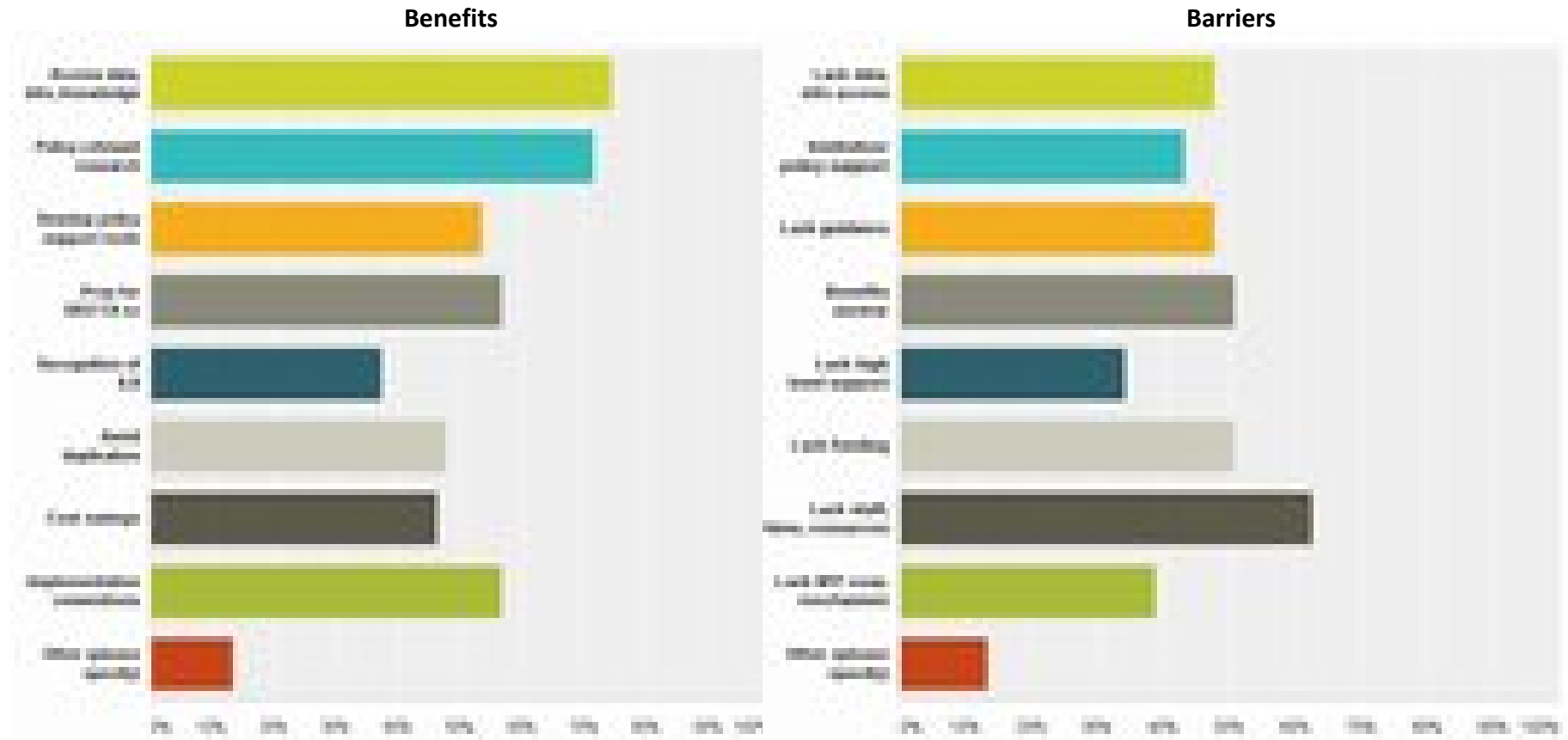
Section 3: Science-policy interface

- “ Cooperation on IPBES and development of joint indicators are the most common science-policy interface activities
- “ Development of joint policy support tools relevant to multiple conventions is the least cited initiative to strengthen the science-policy interface
- “ 40% of NFPs have collaborated to improve science-policy interface
- “ Connected to national reporting

Initiatives to strengthen the science-policy interface in the context of the coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions



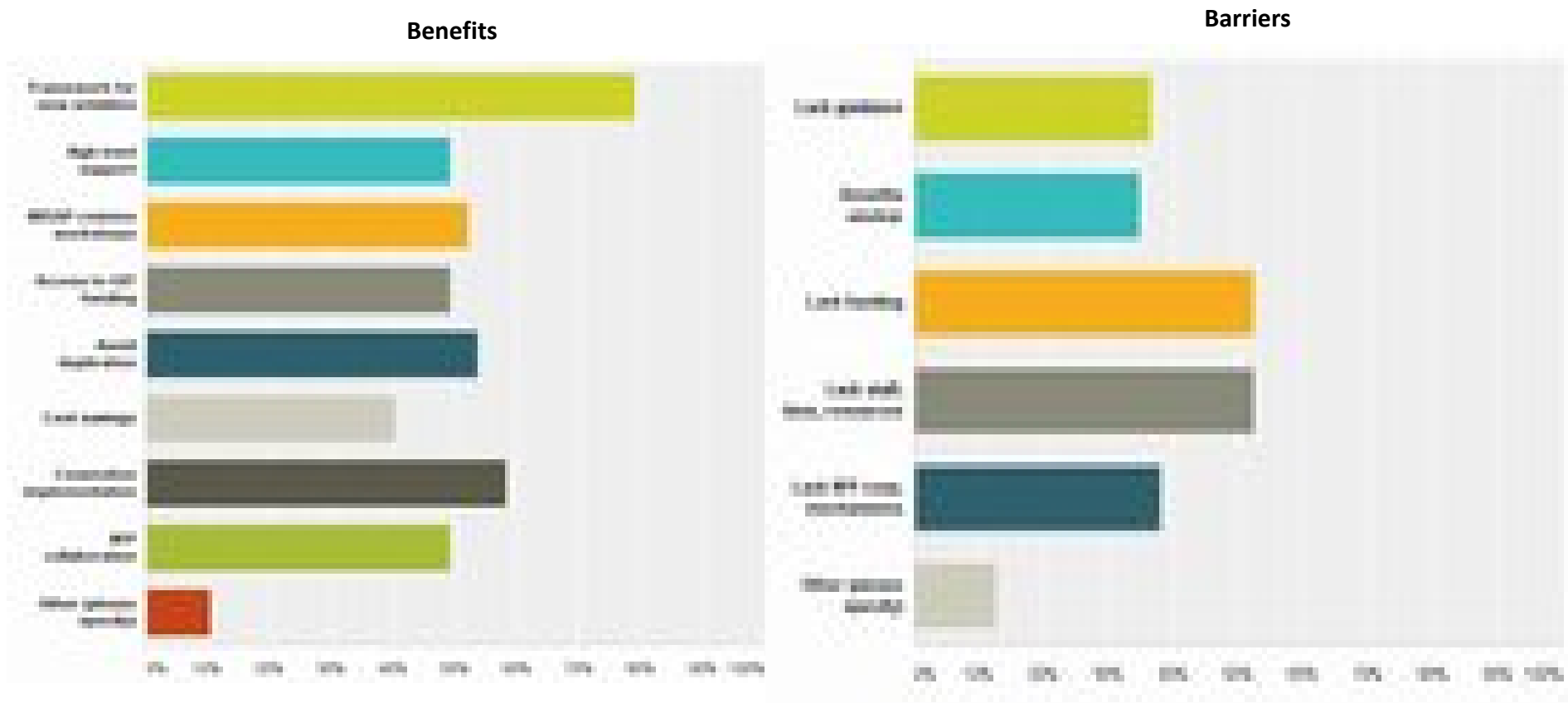
Benefits and barriers of cooperation among NFPs to strengthen the science-policy interface



Section 4: Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and NBSAPs

- “ Over half of respondents have activities using the Strategic Plan, its Aichi Targets and NBSAPs to coherently implement the conventions
 - . Specific topics: protected areas, indicator setting, Nagoya Protocol
 - . Awareness-raising activities
- “ Over half of NFPs have collaborated with other NFPS to develop such activities
- “ Most NFPs are engaged with NBSAP process
 - . In particular CITES and Ramsar
- “ A small percentage of respondents are aware of regional level initiatives

Benefits and barriers of using the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and/or the NBSAP revision process to coherently implement the biodiversity-related conventions



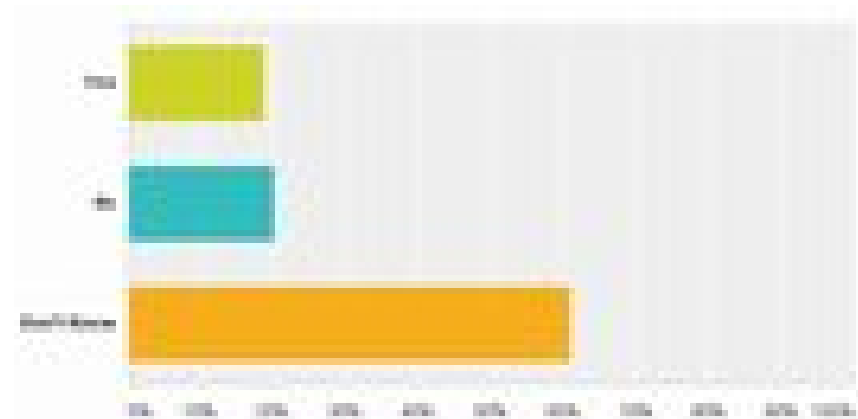
Section 5: Capacity Building

- “ Over 40% of respondents have undertaken (or know of) capacity building activities to support the coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions
- “ Workshops are the most common type of capacity building activity undertaken
- “ In over 80% of cases where capacity building activities have taken place, collaboration among NFPs has played a role in developing or implementing the activities
- “ The main benefits in implementing capacity building activities are enhanced scientific, technical, institutional and policy-making capacities to implement the conventions as well as enhanced capacities to prepare national reports
- “ The main barrier to implementing joint capacity building activities is lack of funding

Section 6: Resource mobilization (1)

- “ It is not clear if coherent implementation reduces costs or uses resources more efficiently
- “ Many respondents feel that further analysis is needed to show whether cooperation leads to reduced costs or more efficient use of resources
- “ It is unclear if new opportunities for resources arise from coherent implementation of the biodiversity MEAs
- “ There is fairly high cooperation with national GEF focal points to mobilize resources

Has the coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions resulted in reduced costs or more efficient use of resources in your country?



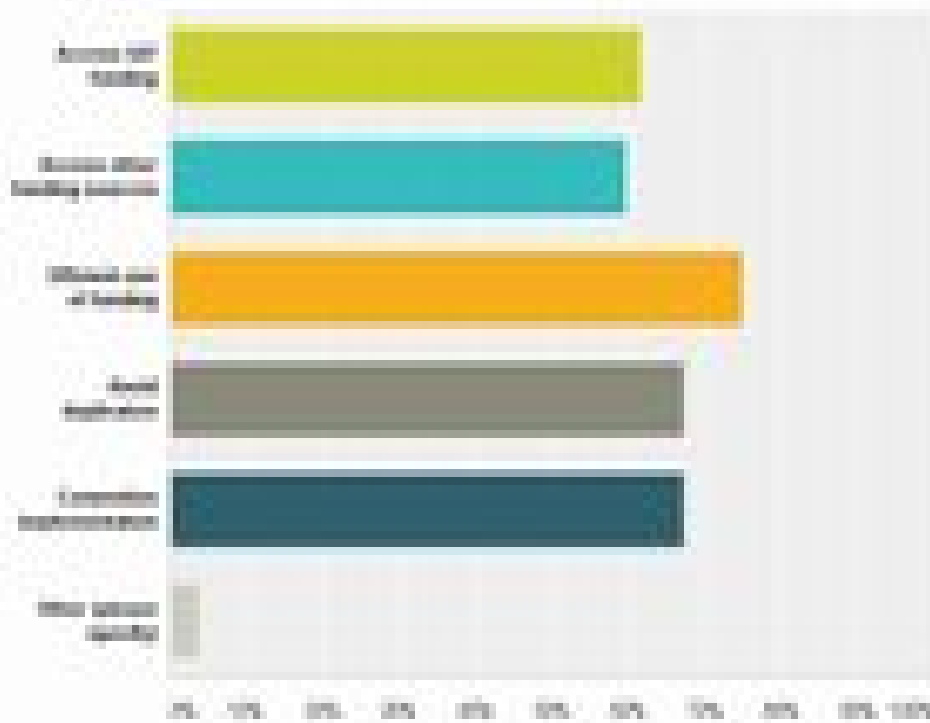
Yes: time/workload savings, coordinated budgets, support from related projects, pooling funding
Don't know: Lack of assessments, not all activities coherent, too early to tell
No: no coherent implementation, cost saving not primary goal

Section 6: Resource mobilization (2)

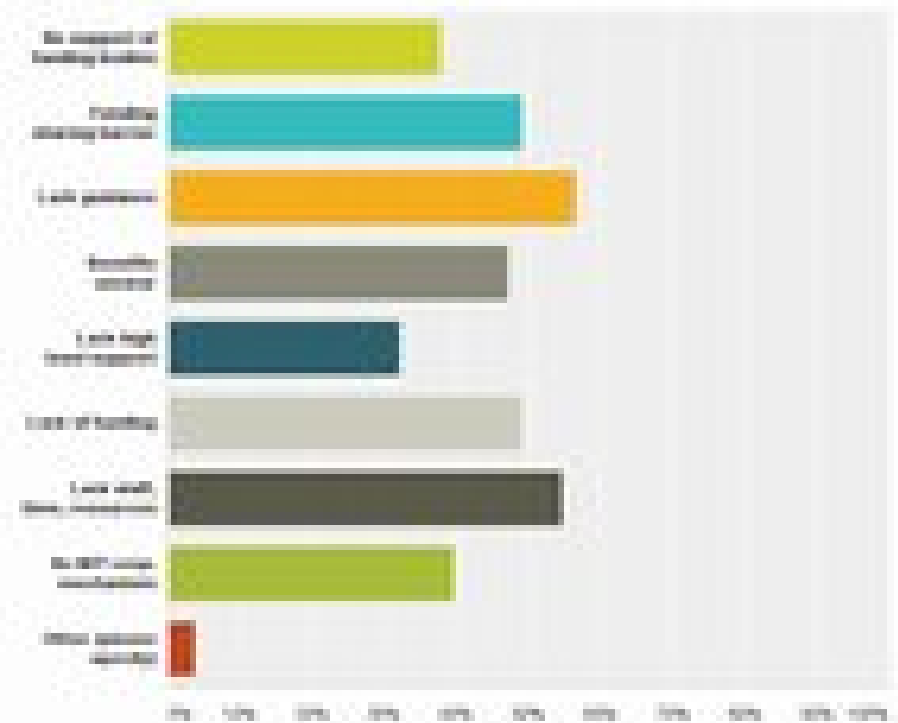
- “ The majority of respondents do cooperate with GEF focal points (63% of respondents, and 66% of NFPs respondents) but **20% of respondents don't know who the national GEF Focal Point is.**
- “ **A large number of respondents (42%) have not yet prepared a GEF request.**
- “ There appears to be a general need to provide more guidance on how to cooperate with GEF focal points effectively and how to access GEF funding

Benefits and barriers to collaboration among NFPs on resource mobilization

Benefits



Barriers



Influence of global level processes on cooperation at the national level/ Lessons learnt for the synergies discussion at the global level

“ Yes

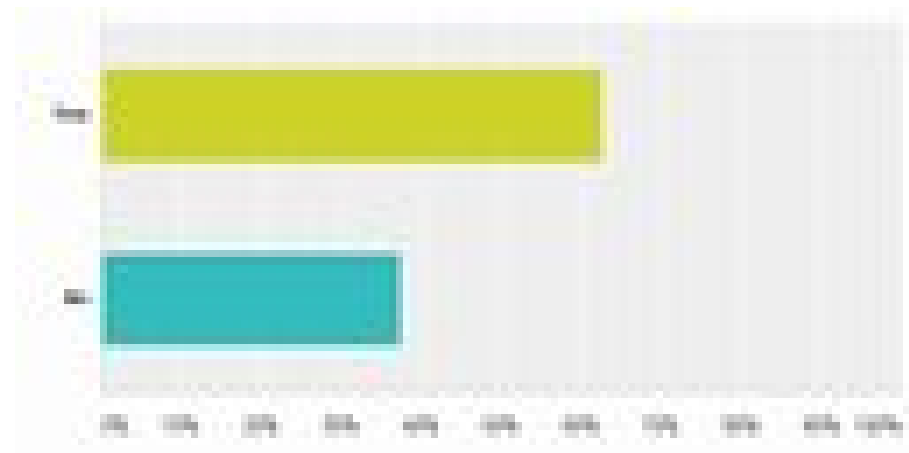
- . alignment of conventions (e.g. Strategic plan) aids cooperation and policy development at natl level
- . Reporting
- . NBSAPs
- . Bilateral convention activities (e.g. CBD and CITES, CBD and ITPGRFA)
- . MEA workshops and attending COPs

“ No

- . Not enough guidance for NFPs on how to implement activities
- . Lack of natl level cooperation mechanisms

Global processes unknown

Have global level activities to enhance cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions fostered cooperation among NFPs at the national level?



Where we would like your input

- “ General comments on the results
 - . Surprises? Gaps? Do you think these results accurately reflect your own situation? (or the situation of NFPs you have worked with)
- “ Examples of national level case studies of cooperation among the conventions in the 4 thematic areas (information and reporting, science-policy, NBSAPs and resource mobilization)

Taking the results forward

- . What kind of guidance and further work is needed?
- . Solutions to the barriers to cooperation?



- “ Recommendations for the global level
 - . What global level processes have been most influential and why?
 - . What actions should be taken at the global level/on what activities do you need global level support
- “ Guidance contained in the sourcebook

Please view our summary of the results per section and comment on:
<http://nationalmeasynergies.wordpress.com/>

National-level questionnaire:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SynergiesProject_NationalLevel

Workshop website with background documents:

<http://nationalmeasynergies.wordpress.com/>

Global-level questionnaire:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SynergiesProject_GlobalLevel

Thank you for your attention!

Questions? Comments? – katharina.bieberstein@unep-wcmc.org

The Process

- “ Questionnaire was designed based on literature review
- “ Composed of 6 thematic sections:
 - . Institutional arrangements
 - . Information management and reporting
 - . Science-policy interface
 - . Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2020-2011 and NBSAPs
 - . Capacity building
 - . Resource mobilization
- “ Audience: national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and GEF, national experts, UNEP Regional Biodiversity MEA Focal Points, MEA Secretariat members, international experts
- “ Aim: collect data on current levels of cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions (especially national focal points) at the national level.
 - . Find out about existing cooperation mechanisms, benefits and barriers to cooperation, influence of global level processes on national level cooperation, best practices and national approaches for case studies