

**Strengthening collaboration and
coordination between biodiversity
and chemicals and waste clusters**

*Findings...
and options for action*

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<https://pub.norden.org/temanord2022-513>

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coordination between biodiversity
and chemicals and waste clusters**

The report is based on:

- Desk study carried out by UNEP-WCMC
- Peer review of two drafts of the study report
- Expert consultation workshop convened by UNEP
- Oversight by a steering committee

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The report addresses:

- Pollution as a key driver of biodiversity loss
- International policy response to the impacts of pollution
- Current extent of alignment of policy response
- National approaches to implementation
- The post-2020 and beyond 2020 strategy processes
- Options for action

Key areas of mutual interest across clusters...

- Understanding the ***potential impacts*** of chemicals and waste on biodiversity
- Understanding the different ***pathways*** through which chemical and waste enter and move
- Understanding the ***social and financial implications*** of damage to biodiversity
- ***Reducing risks*** to and impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Achieving a more ***integrated cross-sectoral approach*** to managing risk and response
- Promoting ***cooperative action*** to understand, prioritize and address issues of concern
- Using ***biodiversity to reduce the impacts*** of chemicals and waste
- Improving delivery and impact of major ***international initiatives*** already agreed

Characteristics of a successful approach...

- ***Strengthens implementation***, and increases efficiency and cost-effectiveness
- ***Led from the national level***, supported as appropriate internationally
- ***Comprises manageable actions***, using pragmatic approaches to address identified needs
- ***Identifies mutual dependencies***, common issues and targets to focus action more effectively
- ***Respects autonomy*** of the different instruments, and avoids politically charged discussions

Options for action – four strategic approaches

Strengthen implementation mechanisms

Work together to achieve common aims

Coordinate common needs and services

Utilise key international entry points

Options for action

Strengthen implementation mechanisms

Ensure that *national focal points* of the different MEAs and processes know each other, and are able to work together on issues of common interest

Ensure that institutional mechanisms are in place to bring together representatives of *competent national authorities* on issues of common interest

Consider actions that can be taken at national level to increase integration when developing *plans and strategies* for implementing each MEA and SAICM

Consider proposing actions at the international level within each instrument that might *support* increased cooperation and collaboration across clusters

Options for action

Work together to achieve common aims

Cooperate on ***communications*** relating to the interconnections between biodiversity and chemicals and waste, and links to the health agenda

Collaborate in the identification of risk, and in ***contingency planning*** for recognising and mitigating the potential impacts of known risks

Collaborate in improving governance arrangements, ***planning and implementation*** at national and local levels, including through legislation and regulation

Promote and support ***research in key areas*** identified as a being a priority by both the clusters, and facilitate wide access to the results

Initiate ***cross-cluster collaborative projects*** as a vehicle for increasingly working together to achieve common interests in a cost-effective manner

Options for action

Coordinate common needs and services

Explore opportunities for cooperation and collaboration in **monitoring and reporting**, particularly with respect to indicators

Consider the potential benefits of increased **coordination of capacity-building**, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer

Facilitate the **sharing** of guidance materials, experience and information relevant to the interface between the two clusters

Collaborate in the development of an effective **science-policy interface** at both national and international levels

Options for action

Utilise key international entry points

Promote the uptake of the findings of the study in the *post-2020 and beyond 2020 processes*, liaising with relevant secretariats

Raise the profile of cross-cluster collaboration through *United National Environment Assembly* and intergovernmental and interagency meetings

Promote *regional cooperation* as a basis for strengthening cooperation in addressing impacts of chemicals and waste on biodiversity

Encourage international *finance institutions and programmes* to support action addressing environmental issues in an integrated manner

Identify ways to collaborate in the context of a *'One Health'* approach, using this as a basis for driving and justifying action

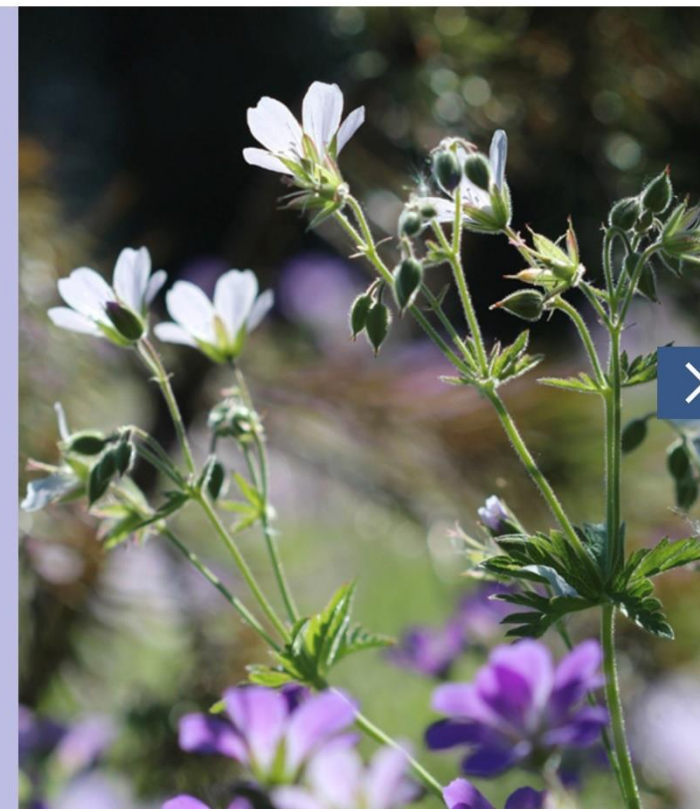
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