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THE DATA REPORTING TOOL FOR MEAS (DART) - A TOOL FOR BIODIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The Executive Secretary circulates herewith, for the information of participants in the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, a document providing information on the Data Reporting Tool for MEAS (DaRT). The present document has been prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme and is presented in the form and language in which it was received by the Secretariat of the Convention.
2. The United Nations Environment Programme has prepared the document in response to decision [14/25](#), paragraph 4(d) and (g), and decision [14/27](#), paragraph 3(g), in which the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to contribute to the development, testing and promotion of the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT, dart.informea.org), and to facilitate its use in reporting processes across the biodiversity-related conventions, as appropriate.
3. This document provides an overview of the DaRT, including its background, current development, guidance, and future plans, highlighting the benefits to Parties and stakeholders of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements as a tool that promotes synergies.
4. This document presents information relevant to agenda item 9 of the provisional agenda of the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, addressing mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review of implementation. It is also relevant to agenda item 10 on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives, and agenda item 7, particularly with respect to knowledge management.

* CBD/SBI/3/1.



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THE DATA REPORTING TOOL FOR MEAS (DaRT) - A TOOL FOR BIODIVERSITY KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

Dart.informea.org



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1. Summary

1. The Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT) is the first tool supporting Parties to effectively use synergies in the field of knowledge and information management for national reporting to biodiversity-related conventions. DaRT provides Parties to MEAs with a private and secure working space to organize, share, and maintain information, data and knowledge across conventions and reporting processes. By providing Parties with a single national working space, DaRT facilitates the re-use of information in the spirit of “enter once, re-use several times”, relieving the reporting burden and fosters communication and cooperation across ministries.
2. DaRT is being developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with support of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and in partnership with InforMEA Initiative which brings together Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and UNEP-WCMC. The development of the DaRT is financially supported by the European Union (EU) and Switzerland.

3. Integrating national biodiversity information in one place supports reporting across conventions¹ and enables the analysis of information against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This ultimately demonstrates the contribution of the implementation of biodiversity related conventions towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets² has been recognized by the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions calling their Parties to integrate respective goals and targets in their National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as a flexible universal framework for action on biodiversity. This framework of interrelated goals and targets across conventions and from the global, regional to the national level, provides a solid foundation to organize national information to suit the needs of national reporting under various processes. The DaRT effectively supports this interlinkage of goals and targets through providing a national working space across conventions from national to global levels.
5. Further, DaRT adapts to the transition from the present Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets to a new post-2020 global biodiversity framework expected to be agreed by the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) in Kunming, China, thereby continuing to support future national reporting more effectively. An ambitious, measurable, relevant and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework will require significantly increased cooperation at all levels, moving beyond the corridors of environment ministries to include relevant Ministries that deal with the drivers of biodiversity loss for example land use change, climate change, pollution, natural resource use and exploitation, or invasive alien species. DaRT can fill these gaps by promoting effective knowledge management across Ministries and administrative units enhancing synergies across conventions and increasing effectiveness of national efforts to achieve global environmental targets.
6. Multiple tools were created to support Parties in implementing the conventions and to report thereon. DaRT aims at providing Parties with a single-entry point to the tools and, in the medium term to develop interoperability with these tools. DaRT is thus the primary space for mapping between strategies from which information will be permeating into other tools.

2. The development of DaRT

7. In 2012, the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences started a project to streamline the Belgian national reporting under the European Biodiversity Strategy and the global Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets.³ The result of the project was presented and tested by the European Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) Network in 2013. The CHM Network recommended that an ad-hoc Biodiversity Information System for Europe (BISE)-CHM working group to be set up to explore further options for “Sharing information on implementation of national strategies and reporting on progress towards biodiversity targets between global, regional and national levels”. The working group particularly aimed to avoid duplication of reporting at EU levels against the global goals and targets, by encouraging the re-use of country information for assessing progress of the EU Biodiversity Strategy against the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Targets. In 2014, a trial of a Biodiversity 2020 Target Cross-Linking

¹ UNEP/CBD/COP/13/INF/24, Elements for a modular reporting against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-13/information/cop-13-inf-24-en.pdf>

² CBD CoP Decision 10/2: <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/?id=12268>

³ EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (COM(2011) 244): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52011DC0244>

Tool (TCT) was initiated to respond to this recommendation. TCT was further developed, taking into account the recommendations of a workshop on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions held in February 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland.⁴

8. A practical training for TCT was conducted during the meeting of the European CHM-network on sharing information, experience and tools in support of the preparation of the 6th National Report to the CBD in Brussels, Belgium in September 2017. The meeting confirmed the further needs to elevate the work on the TCT from the EU level to the global level, leading to an initial concept of the DaRT.
9. In response to the Resolution 2/17⁵ of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) on enhancing the work of UNEP in facilitating cooperation, collaboration and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, UNEP is implementing the “Environmental Treaties Programme – realizing synergies for biodiversity”, funded by Switzerland and the European Union. This project initiated the development of the DaRT as a crucial, voluntary and user-friendly tool to promote synergies amongst biodiversity-related conventions.
10. The DaRT Phase 1 (2016-2018) oversaw various milestones such as identification of core technical functionalities of the DaRT and its outreach activities. DaRT was successfully recognized through CBD COP decision 14/25, paragraph 4 (d) and (g), and COP decision 14/27, paragraph 3(g), in which the Conference of the Parties requests the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to contribute to the development, testing and promotion of the DaRT with a view to learning from Parties’ experiences in delivering their sixth national reports, and facilitating its use in reporting processes across the biodiversity-related conventions, as appropriate. Also, the concept of the DaRT was widely promoted at other meetings such as InforMEA Initiative’s 9th Steering Committee in Montreux, Switzerland in June 2018, GEF-UNEP - Information project inception & planning workshop in Jordan, Amman in October 2018 and Ramsar COP 13 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates in October 2018.
11. DaRT Phase 2 (2019-2020) has further enhanced the functionalities and outreach to wider stakeholders. The first Expert Workshop on the “Data Reporting Tool (DaRT) - Roll-out for African countries” held in Nairobi, Kenya in October 2019, invited focal points of biodiversity-related conventions from nine African countries, who recorded country instances in DaRT, and provided critical feedback on further enhancements.⁶ DaRT was further recognized by governing bodies of biodiversity-related conventions. CMS COP 13 held in Gandhinagar, India, in February 2020, adopted the Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP13)⁷ on synergies and partnerships and highlighted the DaRT as a useful tool for harmonized knowledge management and national reporting. The benefits of DaRT to effectively use synergies was also elevated at other meetings and side events such as the Consultation workshop of biodiversity related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework held in Bern, Switzerland in June 2019, CITES COP 18 held in Geneva, Switzerland in August 2019, and CBD SBSTTA-23 in Montreal, Canada in November 2019.

⁴ UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/21: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/sbi/sbi-01/information/sbi-01-inf-21-en.pdf>

⁵ UNEA Resolution 2/17: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/11190/cop/?id=12268>

⁶ Report on the expert workshop: <https://dart.informea.org/node/7114>

⁷ CMS CoP Resolution 11.10 (Rev. CoP13):
https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/cms_cop13_res.11.10_rev.cop13_e.pdf

3. Functionalities of DaRT

12. DaRT is a useful and simple to use tool for promoting synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level and can organize national knowledge, information and data, thus facilitating reporting to the different biodiversity-related conventions. DaRT can also be used for national-level communication work and reporting to the SDGs. It helps managing biodiversity information across teams and ministries, agencies and facilitates smooth transition once a staff member in charge of biodiversity information leaves the ministry or agency.
13. DaRT already includes the strategic plans of biodiversity-related conventions and the SDGs⁸ and displays the interlinkages among the respective targets as adopted or identified by the conventions (see paragraph 17). When logged in, strategic plans of regional conventions relevant for a specific country are available.
14. By creating linkages between NBSAP and global/regional targets and the SDGs in the national working spaces, Parties create a framework to organize national information and data on actions to implement commitments and recommendations under each of the biodiversity-related conventions. Once information and data are mapped to NBSAPs, they become retrievable across processes thus rendering a time-consuming analysis of former national reports superfluous (Figure 1).
15. DaRT includes a user guide to walk users through the key functions of DaRT.⁹ This includes basic navigation of the DaRT, setting-up and organizing a national working space and guidance on queries and tasks that can be done in the DaRT by a team of national contributors. Further, a working space is available for anyone wishing to test the tool.¹⁰

4. DaRT benefits as a synergies tool

16. DaRT engages users in collecting, structuring, sharing and auditing knowledge relevant for implementing MEAs, thus the efficiency in developing and using national reports is increased at several levels: experts compiling national reports, MEA Parties and MEA Secretariats:
 - a. Benefits for experts compiling national reports are:
 - Searching an information base built-up across processes and Ministries;
 - Finding texts and information (almost) ready for re-use;
 - Easy and rapid retrieval of information for a specific report.
 - b. Benefits for Parties to MEAs:
 - Systematically building-up institutional knowledge required for reporting on the implementation of MEAs;
 - Increasing the level of communication and collaboration across Ministries, administrations, experts, etc.;

⁸ **Global Strategic plans available in DaRT:** Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including Aichi Biodiversity Targets ([CBD COP decision X/2](#)); CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020 ([Resolution Conf. 16.3 \(Rev. CoP17\)](#)); Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 ([CMS Resolution 11.02](#)); the Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 ([Ramsar COP Resolution XII.2](#)); Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for [Food](#) and Agriculture 2018-2027 ([CGRFA-16/17/22](#)); the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and targets ([UNGA Resolution A/RES/70/1](#))

Regional strategies available in DaRT: AEWAs Strategic Plan 2019-2027 ([UNEP/AEWA/MOP7/Res. 7.1, Strategic Plan 2019-2027](#)); EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy ([COM/2011/0244 final](#))

⁹ DaRT user guide: <https://dart.informea.org/user-guide>

¹⁰ Please use the contact form to request access: <https://dart.informea.org/form/contact>

- Securing that knowledge remains within the institutions when key focal points leave their position, facilitating the transition from one national/regional/global strategic plan to its successor;
 - Facilitating the onboarding and training of new collaborators.
- c. Benefits for MEA Secretariats:
- Increased quality of national reports due to better knowledge management at the national level;
 - More coherent national reports across conventions.

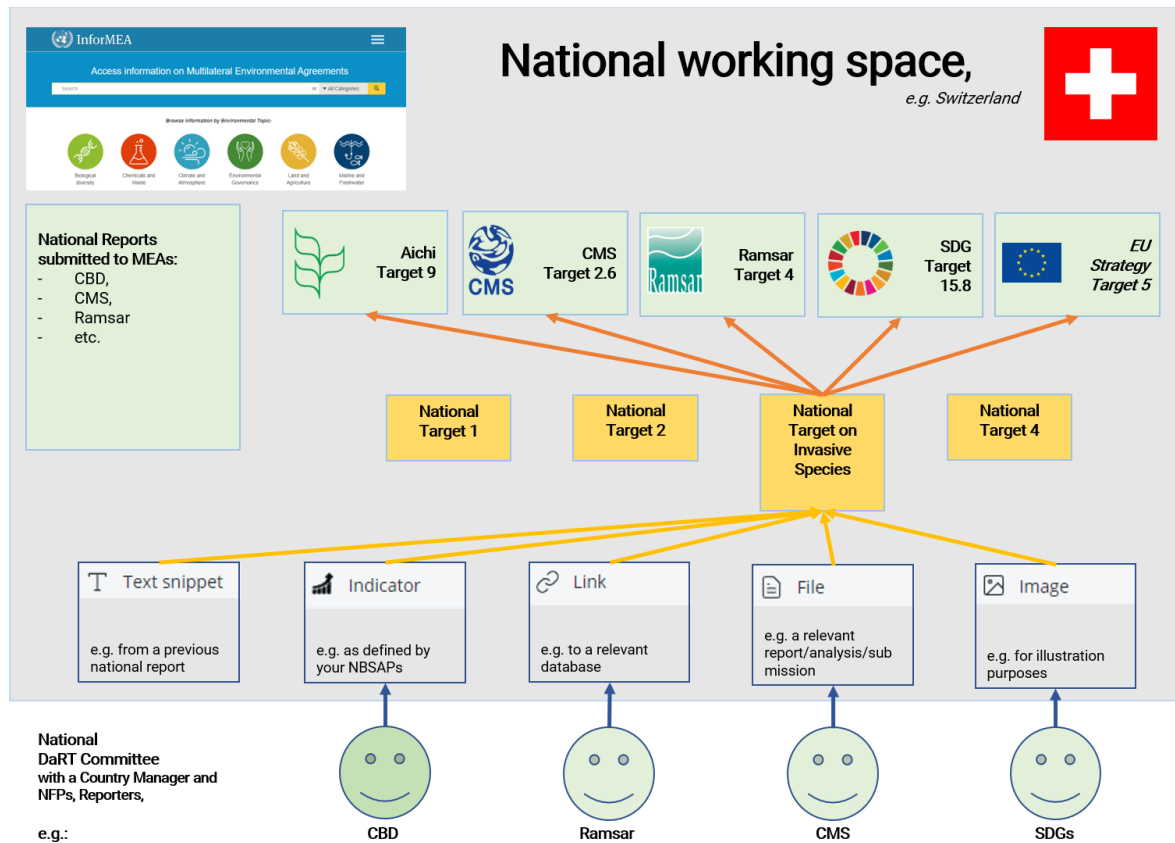


Figure 1: Visualization of the structure of the DaRT: The DaRT “national working spaces” are accessible within InforMEA (grey) and are pre-filled with the national reports a Party submitted to MEAs and global/regional strategic plans of biodiversity-related conventions (green boxes). National reporters include and organize national information according to NBSAPs (orange box). A query facility integrated in the national working space (arrows) allows national reporters to benefit from the comprehensive collection of information and data on national targets and actions to implement commitments and recommendations under each of the biodiversity-related conventions.

17. As for the value of the DaRT to SDGs, the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions contributes to achieving multiple SDGs. To highlight this contribution, the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related agreements have mapped their strategic plans to the SDGs. Below are some examples:

- Aichi Targets to SDGs: Technical Note on Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹¹
- CMS Strategic Plan for Migratory Species to Aichi Targets: The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023, Annex A (CMS Resolution 11.02)¹²
- 4th Ramsar Strategic Plan to SDGs: Scaling up wetland conservation, wise use and restoration to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (2018)¹³
- Strategic Plan for the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture to SDGs (CGRFA-16/17/22)¹⁴
- IPPC: Strategic Framework for the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) 2012-2019¹⁵

Integrating national biodiversity information in one place is of value in the context of analyzing information against the SDGs and ultimately demonstrating the contribution of the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. DaRT contributes to the nexus of science and policy

18. A major challenge for countries is to find accurate and up to date information and data to include in their national reports. DaRT supports Parties in overcoming this obstacle by providing a framework to collect, maintain and curate information and data(sources) in the long run.
19. At global level, several tools have been and are developed to provide Parties with adequate data and information. Similarly, the World Environment Situation Room, disaggregated indicators provided by the Biodiversity Indicator Partnership or the UN Biodiversity Lab or data supplied by the Indicator Reporting Information System or projects. By collaborating with these processes and establishing interoperability with the tools (see chapter 6), DaRT contributes to increased access to those tools, fostering data availability at the national level and therewith to a more complete and coherent reporting to the biodiversity-related agreements.
20. DaRT supports the implementation of CBD COP decision 13/24¹⁶ and 14/30¹⁷ on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives, by integrating and displaying the relationship between the strategic plans of biodiversity-related conventions and the SDGs.
21. By providing a framework of interrelated goals and targets completed by national data and information on the implementation of commitments and recommendations under the biodiversity-related conventions, DaRT can create the basis to:

¹¹ <https://www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-technical-note-en.pdf>

¹² https://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/mos2_inf16_cms_spms_e.pdf

¹³ https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/hb2_5ed_strategic_plan_2016_24_e.pdf

¹⁴ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mr418e.pdf>

¹⁵ <https://www.ippc.int/en/publications/1015/>

¹⁶ CBD Decision 13/24: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-24-en.pdf>

¹⁷ CBD Decision 14/30: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-30-en.pdf>

- a. Facilitate collaboration and coordination between national focal points or equivalent authorities of biodiversity-related conventions to align data collection, foster quality control and consistency of reporting across conventions, enable development of joint communications;
- b. Obtain political support in accessing, sharing and using information across Ministries, administrations, experts, etc.;
- c. Monitor and verify progress in national implementation;
- d. Conduct a gap analysis of relevant implementation actions and support revising or updating related strategies and action plans, as suggested in CBD COP decision XIII/24, Annex I, chapter B;¹⁸
- e. Conduct a mapping and gap analysis of relevant implementation action related to biodiversity-related conventions and contributions under the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development;
- f. Consider the relevance of NBSAP and implementation actions for achieving national contributions to the Paris Agreement or the global forest goals and targets of the United Nations strategic plan for forests 2017-2030;
- g. Revise related strategies and action plans, especially when considering alignment with the upcoming post2020 global biodiversity framework in national implementation of biodiversity-related conventions.

6. Future plans (DaRT Phase 3)

22. The DaRT project will be further developed through a third phase. Hosted by UNEP, DaRT Phase 3 aims to ensure that the tool will be maintained and managed in a sustainable manner through sustainable financing, governance, administration, interoperability and outreach. UNEP will also work closely with the MEAs to further promote DaRT roll-out to the parties and further adoption through their governing bodies processes.
23. The Phase 3 of the DaRT will also develop interoperability with other online reporting tools such as CBD's Bioland-CHM, Online Reporting System (ORS), UN Biodiversity Lab, and UNEP World Environment Situation Room (WESR) and Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS). An overview of other related tools for reporting can be found at <https://dart.informea.org/tools>. The DaRT API version 1 will be further developed to this purpose. Please also refer to the Figure 2 on interoperability with other tools.
24. For further information
 - visit the DaRT Homepage <https://dart.informea.org/>
 - or contact:
 - Diane Klaimi, Programme officer DaRT, UNEP, diane.klaimi@un.org
 - Eric Wiedmer, DaRT user support, eric.wiedmer@natureconsult.ch

¹⁸ CBD COP decision XIII/24: <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/2016/cop-13/documents>

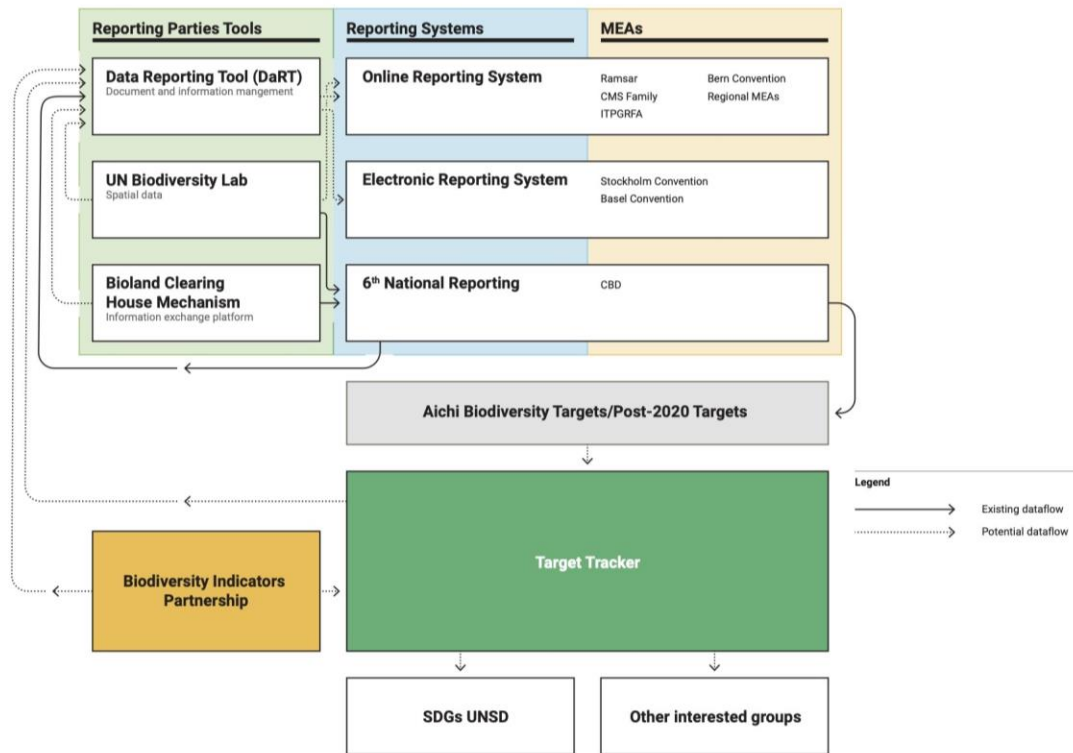


Figure 2: Schematic overview of the dataflow among reporting tools including DaRT, the Online Reporting System (ORS), the CBD Online Reporting Tool and the Target Tracker Tool which is due to be developed over the next few years, as a response to the new post-2020 goals and targets, with full launch expected in 2023.