



Distr. LIMITED

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.48/CRP.3
28 November 2023

Original: ENGLISH

Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

Virtual, 28 November 2023

DATA REPORTING TOOL FOR MEAs - DaRT

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Data Reporting Tool for MEAs – DaRT

DaRT is the first tool supporting Parties to effectively use synergies in the field of national reporting by providing a framework to manage knowledge at the national level.

DaRT provides private and secured national working spaces that support national focal points, reporters and experts, in speeding-up reporting processes by organizing and curating knowledge in fields of common interest among MEAs.

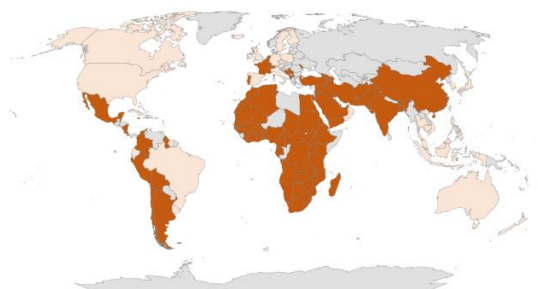
DaRT, a voluntary tool provided free of costs by UNEP, is recognized in multiple decisions of MEA governing bodies,¹ including by CBD, CMS, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the Carpathian Convention.

Functionalities of DaRT:

1. DaRT **visualises the interrelationships among strategic plans of MEAs, SDGs and NBSAPs**, thus:
 - Supporting parties in situating their NBSAPs in the context of global/regional commitments;
 - Accelerating the revision of NBSAPs; and
 - Identifying opportunities for synergistic implementation of commitments.
2. DaRT offers an **online and interactive library with guidance, tools and databases** supporting MEA implementation and national reporting, by enabling parties to
 - Find guidance on how to implement MEAs; and
 - Use global/regional data for monitoring and reporting where national data are missing.
3. DaRT provides **private and secured national working spaces** allowing to organise and maintain knowledge across conventions, ministries and organisations to:
 - Speedily find information for reporting and other purposes;
 - Facilitate the re-use of information for multiple reports;
 - Harmonize and standardize the information, knowledge, data reported to conventions.

Rollout of DaRT:

The map depicts the 104 countries who have benefited from a dedicated DaRT training (workshops and/or webinars) and for which a functional DaRT working space was created (dark orange), and the 39 countries who have attended webinars without working spaces established, as of June 2023.



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¹ - CBD COP decisions 15/5 on the monitoring framework for the GBF, 15/6 on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, 15/13 on cooperation with other conventions, and 15/16 on knowledge management (all building on previous COP decisions 14/25 and 14/27),
 - CMS Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP13) on synergies and partnerships,
 - Ramsar Convention on Wetlands resolution XIV.6 on synergies, and
 - the Carpathian Convention decision COP6/1 on implementation.

PROGRESS REPORT ON ROLLING-OUT THE DATA REPORTING TOOL FOR MEAs - DaRT

I. INTRODUCTION, DEFINITION AND FUNCTIONALITIES

1. **The aim of this report is to provide an overview of selected activities undertaken** by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) between **June 2021¹ and September 2023 to promote the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs² – DaRT³ and to roll-out the tool to parties**. Additionally, the report provides the first findings and key observations on the use of the DaRT as received by parties.
2. **DaRT is a voluntary and user-friendly biodiversity knowledge-management tool** that supports parties in improving national synergies, coordination, planning, reporting, review, and knowledge-management across biodiversity-related conventions. It is a qualitative platform that promotes the harmonization and standardization of data and reports. “Data” in the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs refers to qualitative biodiversity information and knowledge used in national reporting. While the information stored in DaRT is in the form of texts, images, links to existing text and indicators, DaRT does not produce quantitative information (numbers, statistics, indicators).
3. **DaRT has three main functionalities**. DaRT provides a single secure and private working space in which national focal points, reporters biodiversity experts, collect, organize, share and re-use biodiversity knowledge for national reporting. The platform also brings biodiversity-related conventions together as it provides a framework of interrelated global and regional strategies, goals and targets adopted by biodiversity-related conventions to which NBSAPs are mapped. Finally, DaRT provides an online library of biodiversity-related publications called the “Compendia”.
4. **DaRT is being developed and rolled-out by UNEP** in collaboration with the CBD and biodiversity-related conventions, with financial support from the EU, Switzerland (FOEN), GEF, and Sweden (SIDA). The tool was developed in 2016, under UNEP’s “Environmental Treaties Programme – Realizing synergies for biodiversity” and in response to UNEA⁴ Resolution 2/17⁵ on enhancing the work of UNEP in facilitating cooperation, collaboration, and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions.

II. RECOGNITION OF DART

5. **DaRT was recognized in governing bodies decisions and resolutions of four MEAs**. Following DaRT team’s active engagement with parties of biodiversity-related conventions, DaRT was recognized as a voluntary tool in CBD COP15 decisions [15/5](#), [15/6](#), [15/13](#), and [15/16](#), building on previous CBD COP14 decisions [14/25](#) and [14/27](#). The Carpathian Convention decision [COP6/1](#) and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands resolution [XIV.6](#) and [CMS Resolution 11.10](#) (Rev.COP13) also recognized DaRT as a voluntary tool.

¹ The report builds upon and complements document [CBD/SBI/3/INF/8](#), dated June 8th 2020.

² Multilateral Environmental Agreements

³ DaRT platform: <https://dart.informea.org>

⁴ United Nations Environmental Assembly

⁵ UNEA Resolution 2/17: <https://www.unep.org/environmentassembly/proceedings-report-resolutions-and-decisions-unea-2>

III. DEVELOPMENT OF DART

6. **Through Phase IV⁶ of its development, DaRT is firmly anchored within the activities of the UNEP Law Division**, under the project “Leveraging transformational change through coherent and synergistic implementation of Environmental Treaties”, 2023-2026, referred to as Treaties II⁷ which aims to enhance synergies in the context of the triple planetary crisis, climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. The DaRT platform itself is hosted on the InforMEA⁸ domain on the BRS webserver (UN webserver) in Geneva.
7. **The opportunities for collaboration between UNEP regional activities through other projects** such as the **GEF Global Biodiversity Framework-Early Actions Support Project**, ACP-MEAs III, and DaRT have been seized to use interlinkages for outreach/rollout activities and diversify funding sources for enhanced synergy. The European Commission’s Global Public Goods and Challenges programme (GPGC) includes a project on “Scaling-Up Action to Realize synergies for Biodiversity” implemented by UNEP, incorporating a component on DaRT upgrade and interoperability with the Online Reporting System (ORS). Further, DaRT has been integrated in the Digital Transformation Sub-Programme of UNEP’s MTS 2022-2025⁹ and recognized as one of the key digital tools in UNEP supporting MEAs.¹⁰
8. **DaRT can support rapid NBSAPs alignment under the GEF GBF Early Action Support Project.** As part of its multifunctionalities, DaRT can be used by parties to [map national targets with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework \(GBF\)](#), as described in **Figure 1**.¹¹ This alignment can be used for a quick gap analysis among the national and global framework so as to determine the gaps to bridge when reviewing and/or updating the NBSAPs. Parties are encouraged to use DaRT’s visualisation of interrelated global and regional goals and targets to ensure that the revision of the NBSAPs considers the multiple targets of biodiversity-related conventions.
9. **DaRT contributed to GEF GBF Early Action Support Projects’ seven workshops and webinars.** The DaRT team actively participant in four workshops and three webinars¹² organized by GEF, CBD, UNEP, and UNDP, with DaRT presented as one of the tools parties can choose to use to align and revise their NBSAPs:
 - Anglophone Africa Region Inception and Technical Support Workshop, 2-4 May 2023, Nairobi Kenya,
 - Asia Pacific and Central and Eastern Europe Regions Inception and Technical Support Workshop, 23-26 May 2023, Istanbul, Turkey,
 - Francophone Africa Region Inception and Technical Support Workshop, 18-21 July 2023, Lomé, Togo,
 - Ghana GEF GBF-EAS National Inception Workshop: Introduction to the Data Reporting Tool on MEAs, 12 September 2023,

⁶ DaRT Phase I, which consisted in the development of a first version of DaRT, was launched in 2018, followed by Phase II (2019-2020), Phase III (2020-2023), and Phase IV started recently (2023-2026).

⁷ The new phase that started in June 2023 broadens MEAs engagement beyond biodiversity cluster to chemicals and waste conventions, UNFCCC and UNCCD.

⁸ [The United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements](#).

⁹ For people and planet: the UNEP strategy for 2022–2025: <https://www.unep.org/resources/policy-and-strategy/people-and-planet-unep-strategy-2022-2025>

¹⁰ DaRT: Data tool helps bring biodiversity back from the brink: <https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/story/dart-data-tool-helps-bring-biodiversity-back-brink>

¹¹ Note: You have to log in to your national working space for accessing your NBSAP in DaRT (Use the [contact form](#) to request a login).

¹² <https://www.learningfornature.org/en/courses/gef-early-action-support-webinar-series-webinar-5-national-target-alignment-tools-and-technical-support/>

- Webinar - Session #5: NBSAP alignment: Tools and technical support (English session 2), Focus on Central America and the Caribbean countries, 19 September 2023,
- Webinar - Session #5: NBSAP alignment: Tools and technical support (Spanish session), Focus on RBLAC countries, 19 September 2023,
- Webinar - Session #5: NBSAP alignment: Tools and technical support (French session), Focus on RBA, RBAS countries, 21 September 2023.

Figure 1: Example of possible Ghana NBSAPs alignment with the Kunming-Montreal GBF. The logic behind the alignment is: If a national target is mapped to an Aichi Targets (as defined in the NBSAPs) and the Aichi Target is mapped to a GBF target (as published by CBD), then the GBF target might also be related to your national target.

Based on the mapping of your NBSAP with the Aichi Targets...

...the mapping with biodiversity-related conventions can easily be derived:

Mapping with NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN



Ghana Target 9 Ensuring that invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment
Rationale for the national target Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in Ghana have caused devastating impacts on the distribution and abundance of endemic species resulting in extinctions and affecting



Aichi Target 9

By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Mapping with Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework



TARGET 6. Reduce rates of introduction and establishment of invasive alien species by 50 per cent Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 percent, by 2030, eradicating or controlling invasive alien species especially in priority sites, such as islands.

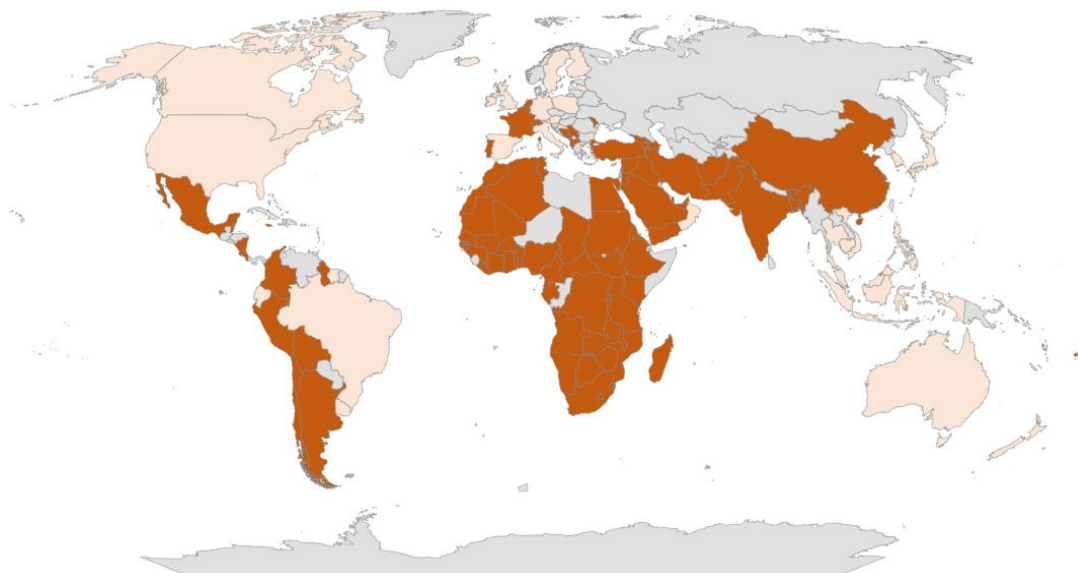
→ This approach allows the mapping of NBSAPs with targets of multiple MEAs strategies.

IV. PROMOTING AWARENESS ON DART

- 10. UNEP conducted sixteen webinars promoting the DaRT to MEAs, international and regional organizations and countries.** A series of sixteen webinars was organized in collaboration with SCBD, UNEP-WCMC, UNCCD, regional organizations including the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO-RETC), as well as the Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) and the Francophone Institute for Sustainable Development (IFDD). Webinars for countries, in preparation of DaRT national workshops, were also organized for Canada, Nigeria, China, Ghana and Guyana.
- 11. DaRT webinars were attended by over 550 biodiversity experts from 104 countries (see Figure 2).** The participating experts underscored the importance of the DaRT working sites being private, the potential of the tool in fostering collaboration among national focal points and experts. They requested that beside the biodiversity-related conventions and the 2030 Agenda, the strategic plans of additional conventions, especially the Rio Conventions, be included and the opportunity to make

DaRT interoperable with other clusters of MEAs including chemicals and wastes/pollution-related tools be explored.

Figure 2: The map depicts the 104¹³ countries who have benefited from a dedicated DaRT training (workshops and/or webinars) and have established a functional DaRT working space (dark orange), and the 39¹⁴ countries who have attended webinars without working spaces established, as of June 2023.



12. **DaRT organized outreach activities during five international and regional meetings.** The DaRT team has been actively providing information on the benefits of increased collaboration and synergies using DaRT in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including during **UNEA 5.2** (28 February – 2 March 2022, Nairobi, Kenya), **CBD SBI-3** (15 March 2022, Geneva, Switzerland), **CBD OEWG-4** (21-26 June 2022, Nairobi, Kenya), **AMCEN meeting** (1-4 September 2022, Libreville, Gabon), **CBD COP15** (7-19 December 2023, Montreal, Canada).

12.1 At the successful side event “**How to use DaRT for increased national collaboration and reporting towards the 2030 targets**” during **SBI-3**, Cameroon shared its experience in using the DaRT for completing a test CBD 7th National report based on the reporting template ([CBD/SBI/3/11/ADD1/AMEND1](#)) and using the indicators of the monitoring framework ([CBD/SBSTTA/24/3](#)), even though both the template and the framework were being negotiated. Cameroon concluded that using DaRT:

¹³ Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, DR Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fidji, France, Gabon, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Guyana, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Marshal Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Niue, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Palestinian Territory, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Switzerland, Syria, Tanzania, The Gambia, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

¹⁴ Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Oman, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, Singapore, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Thailand, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Vietnam.

- a. Increased collaboration among national focal points of other biodiversity related conventions,
- b. Allowed to complete the test national report in record time and stressed the modular character of DaRT, which allows to re-use the information for reports across multiple MEAs,
- c. Facilitated the mapping of national targets and NBSAPs with the global strategies of other MEAs, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the SDGs.

12.2 The DaRT team organized a helpdesk in collaboration with UNDPs' UNBiodiversity Lab¹⁵ during **OEWG-4**. Negotiators from 30 countries used the opportunity to learn about DaRT, get a demonstration of the tool, and inquire about its practical application. Further to that, UNEP received over 20 requests from new countries to implement DaRT.

12.3 During the meeting of the **African Group of Negotiators' Meeting in Preparation for CBD-OEWG-5 / COP-15 and CITES COP-19** (1-4 September 2022, Libreville, Gabon), the potentials of DaRT for up-scaling reporting was presented to CITES delegates in plenary and included in a regional position statement for CBD COP15.

12.4 A **CBD COP-15** side event gave the opportunity to present the "**Landscape of collaborating tools under the various conventions**" that can be used by parties to implement their commitments. Tools presented include DaRT, UNBiodiversity Lab, InforMEA, Target Tracker, the Compendia of Guidance, Bioland and the Online Reporting Tool for the CBD 7th National Report.

13. **Conclusions from DaRT outreach activities:** The resumed in-person outreach activities were met with keen interest from the parties to learn about DaRT. This is also reflected by the number of visitors to the DaRT website that increased from 300 visitors per month in 2021 to 700 per month in 2022. Visitors come from all continents with a total of 189 countries.

14. **Points of interests expressed by parties include the instantaneous and visual mapping of the national strategic plans to the global plans of biodiversity-related conventions**, including the 2030 Agenda and the strategic plan of the UNCCD, and the inclusion of additional regional instruments and information on experiences gained so far in organizing the collaboration at the national level for a successful use of the DaRT.

15. **Upcoming DaRT outreach activities will take place during CBD SBSTTA-25¹⁶** on 15-19 October 2023. DaRT will participate in [SBTTA-25 event 5256](https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-25) "Target Tracker platform and the potential role of tools to monitor the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework". The event will explore the needs of parties in monitoring progress towards the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the opportunities provided by tools such as the UN Biodiversity Lab, Target Tracker, DaRT, CBD online reporting tool (ORT), BIOFIN and the NBSAPs Forum. Additionally, DaRT will be represented at the GEF GBF EAS programme's helpdesk for NBSAPs tools during SBSTTA-25, following the same successful interactive format used during OEWG-4 helpdesk.

¹⁵ <https://unbiodiversitylab.org/>

¹⁶ <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTTA-25>

V. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DART WORKSHOPS

16. **To roll-out DaRT to parties, train national practitioners in using the tool** and initiate the creation of national DaRT committees or include the management of DaRT in existing national bodies, UNEP in collaboration with its regional offices, the Belgian CHM partner network and governments organized national and regional workshops as follows:

- “Operationalizing the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT) for **Cameroon**”, 21-25 June 2021, Douala Cameroon,
- “Operationalizing the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT) for **Pakistan**”, 23-25 May 2022, Islamabad, Pakistan,
- “Operationalizing the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT) for Tanzania”, 12-17 June 2022, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania,
- “Operacionalización de la Herramienta de Reporte de Datos (DaRT) para Colombia”, 25 –27 Julio 2022, Bogotá, Colombia,
- “Operationalization of the data reporting tool (DaRT) for **Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Sudan, Syria and Yemen**”, 7-9 September 2022, Amman, Jordan,
- “Opérationnalisation de l'outil de rapportage des données (DaRT) pour **l’Algérie, le Maroc, la Mauritanie et la Tunisie**”, 4-6 Octobre 2022, Tunis, Tunisie,
- Atelier des pays francophones du partenariat CHM Belge - “Opérationnalisation de l'outil de rapportage des données (DaRT) pour **le Burundi, le Maroc, le Burkina Faso, la Côte d’Ivoire, la RD Congo, la Guinée, la Guinée Bissau, le Niger et le Togo**”, 13-15 Octobre 2022, Bujumbura, Burundi,
- Taller de expertos sobre el despliegue de la herramienta de comunicación de datos para los acuerdos ambientales multilaterales (DaRT) para **Perú, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, y México**, 2 - 4 noviembre 2022, Lima, Perú,
- Workshop “Roll-out of the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT) for Multilateral Environmental Agreement for **China**”, 6-7 November 2023, Beijing, China.

UNEP expresses its gratitude to the partners and countries who contributed to the successful organization and implementation of these workshops.

17. **DaRT is embraced by the parties that have participated in the training workshops**, and its role in increasing synergies, strengthening cooperation, and simplifying national reporting was emphasized. All parties except for one declared to aim at formally establishing a national DaRT committee, be it as a new forum for collaboration or by including the DaRT in already existing national biodiversity coordination mechanisms.

18. **The SWOT analysis in Table 1 below delivers a first summary of the comments received by parties** on the use of the DaRT in 2022, as well as recommendations for its further development in support of a successful implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Table 1: SWOT analysis based on selected feedback received from countries following the identification and analysis of internal strengths and weaknesses, and external opportunities and threats that shape current and future operations of the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs – DaRT.

Strengths		Weaknesses	
Internal origin	1. Simple, easy, and accessible tool fostering collaboration among stakeholders	1. Interoperability is not available with all existing platforms	
	2. Quick access to a lot of useful and easily available data	2. Missing translations for some global strategic plans	
	3. Consolidation of information and data on the implementation of MEAs in one single national workspace	3. Requires a good internet connection (despite the bulk import form allowing to work offline to some extent)	
	4. Facilitates knowledge sharing and exchange at different levels (local, provincial, national)		
	5. Effective information and knowledge management		
	6. Opportunity to enhance content on national biodiversity action		
	7. Promoting synergies for national reporting		
	8. Harmonization and standardization of data and reports for all conventions		
Opportunities and recommendations		Threats	
External origin	1. Include a « cockpit » allowing parties to track the state of implementation of strategic plans using a traffic light system alike in the GBO ¹⁷	1. Lack of recognition of DaRT as a reporting tool. DaRT must benefit from: i. Strong political will, ii. regulatory basis, and iii. a clear institutional set-up, with clear and shared responsibilities.	
	2. Harmonization and interoperability with other existing global databases (e.g., include species databases (GBIF ¹⁸) for facilitated tagging of the content)	2. The sustainable funding, monitoring, and evaluation of the DaRT must be addressed.	
	3. Seek collaboration with donors, development partners and other organizations for funding	3. Lack of follow-up and communication from participants about DaRT following the DaRT workshop	
	4. Ensure interoperability with tools developed at the national and international level		
	5. To establish a national DaRT committee , there is a need to: - Bring together MEA focal points, environmental directorates, development partners, sectoral departments, academic researchers...etc.		
	6. The creation of regional DaRT working spaces could enhance regional cooperation		

¹⁷ [Global Biodiversity Outlook](#).

¹⁸ [Global Biodiversity Information Facility](#).

VI. FACILITATING ACCESS TO BIODIVERSITY-RELATED INFORMATION AND DATA

19. **A core objective of the DaRT is to provide a one-stop-shop for information supporting the implementation of biodiversity-related MEAs**, including the SDGs, by linking tools developed in support of parties, and facilitating the re-use of information for multiple reporting processes.
20. **DaRT national working spaces include all national reports** that a country submitted to MEAs so far, the NBSAPs and contents of a country's CBD 6th national report (interoperability with CBD CHM), the indicators developed by the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership BIP, and the indicators adopted for monitoring the progress towards the 2030 Agenda.
21. Following the adoption of the KM-GBF, **interoperability will be extended to the new goals and targets, the monitoring framework and to the reporting template for the CBD 7th and 8th national reports** as well to UNEP's Global Environment Database, which includes a comprehensive collection of indicators available today.
22. Thanks to the financial support by the European Union's Global Public Goods and Challenges programme (GPGC), **interoperability will be extended to the Online Reporting System (ORS)** which is used to generate national reporting templates by many of the biodiversity-related conventions.
23. **In addition to resources available in DaRT national working spaces, DaRT users can access the "Compendia" online and interactive biodiversity library (Figure 3).** Since December 2022, users have access to the online version of three [Compendia of Guidance](#) on biodiversity-related information and data, initially published in 2018 in a PDF format by UNEP-WCMC following [CBD COP decision XIII/24](#). The update of these online resources should be completed by October 2023.

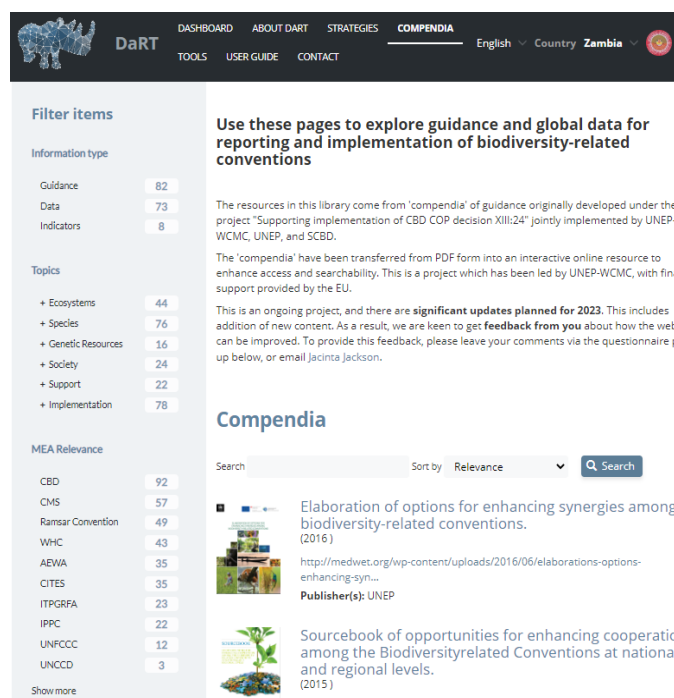


Figure 3: The Compendia of Guidance directly accessible by parties/countries from their national collaborative working space in DaRT, in this example by national focal points and biodiversity expert users from Zambia.