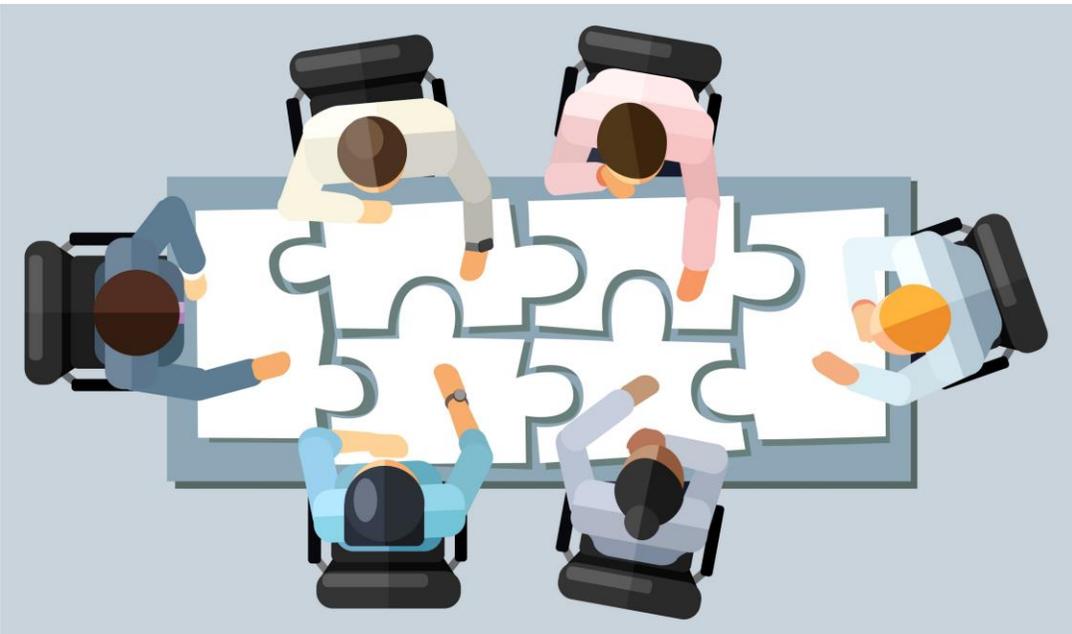


NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORMS

Justine Lancelin

Associate Programme Officer - UNEP-WCMC

What is a national biodiversity platform?



A national biodiversity platform is a framework for bringing together stakeholders in collaborative relationships to consider the full value of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and their contributions to society and well-being, in decision-making.

Key objectives



1

Bring together key knowledge holders and stakeholders on BES to support decision-making and knowledge generation

2

Enhance knowledge-brokerage amongst science, policy, and society, build communities of practice and support governmental processes in a collaborative dialogue

3

Share knowledge and discuss BES topics relevant to policy and country priorities

4

Disseminate and facilitate access to knowledge by sustaining long-term capacity-building efforts

5

Contribute towards the integration of BES considerations into national and sectoral plans and policies

Supporting an overarching goal: improved inclusion of biodiversity considerations in decision-making to support transformative changes towards sustainable development

Researchers

Support science communication within policy processes
Stimulate interactions between natural & social sciences disciplines

Policymakers

Access researchers & evidence-base for policy design
Communicate policy questions to science community
Interact with stakeholders directly affected by policies
Support in science-policy processes

Practitioners

Access best-available knowledge to apply in their work
Channel their knowledge into policy processes

Private sector

Assess biodiversity benefits, dependencies & risks in supply chains
Understand policy developments affecting sector & share best practices to inform policy design
Co-produce knowledge

Civil society organisations

Understand policy developments & provide inputs into policy processes
Access data for technical & advocacy work
Co-produce knowledge & collaborate on initiatives

Indigenous peoples and local communities

Access to policy processes to share insights on biodiversity (e.g., resource management models) & social processes (e.g., cultural impacts of policies)
Co-produce knowledge with science community

Using a foundational approach of transparent, accountable, inclusive and meaningful engagement of stakeholder groups in decision-making processes

Examples of national biodiversity platforms



Malawi

The National Biodiversity Steering Committee

- Established in 1996
- Coordinated by the Environmental Affairs Department



Azerbaijan

The National Biodiversity Platform

- Established in 2021
- Coordinated by the Regional Environmental Centre

How national biodiversity platforms fit within the national ecosystem assessment process

1. A national biodiversity platform is one of the long-lasting components of the assessment process. This can be established anew by the assessment process, or can build upon an existing platform as needed.
2. Such platform encourages engagement between practitioners, policymakers, diverse knowledge holders and stakeholders. It supports the assessment process and provides ongoing communities of practice at the intersection of science and policy, which can assist decision-making processes.

Relevant resources

Articles

National Biodiversity Platforms connect diverse stakeholders for nature and policymaking

News

Originally appears [here](#) on UNEP-WCMC's website



Photo by Graeme Morris on Unsplash

For centuries, Azerbaijan's culture and economy have been closely associated with its diverse ecosystems, including the country's mountain habitats that comprise up to 60 per cent of its territory, as well as inland water and forest ecosystems. These habitats provide fertile grounds for crops, summer

Webinars



Under development A guidebook

Guidebook on National Biodiversity Platforms: Connecting Nature & People

Sabina J. Khan, Dr. Johannes Förster, Miriam Brenck,
Dr. Heidi Wittmer, Dr. Kristina Raab



Lessons Learned Workshop, July 22, 2021



@Andras

Thank you!

www.unep-wcmc.org

Facebook: [@unepwcmc](https://www.facebook.com/unepwcmc)

Twitter: [@unepwcmc](https://twitter.com/unepwcmc)

MALAWI

ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM

Revival of the National Biodiversity Steering Committee

Dr Lilian Chimphepo

Environmental Affairs Department (EAD)

Malawi has an established national structure dealing with biodiversity as provided by the legal and institutional framework – The National biodiversity Steering Committee (NBSC).

- NBSC provides guidance to sectors involved in biodiversity management. At the local level, the District Environmental Sub-Committees coordinate biodiversity issues in the district and Village Natural Resource Management Committees coordinate biodiversity activities at the community level
- NBSC establishment facilitated by EAD as Focal point for CBD
- The Committee is composed of key stakeholders in the sectors related to biodiversity management in Malawi.
 - Government departments
 - Academia
 - Private Sector
 - NGOs

Reviving the NBSC

The NBSC has been dormant for some time due to its activities being dependent on emerging projects

The NEA team resolved in its meetings to revive this committee and serve as the National platform form for the NEA process.

A meeting with the NBSC members was organized to brief them about the NEA project and the need for their commitment to take up the mandates of a national platform as it were.

Other participants of this meeting included government officials, academia, NEA co-chairs, Research fellows, and a representative of NEA Authors

Purpose of NBSC

To provide a forum for effective policy dialogue on frameworks, priority setting, and means of facilitating investment and transfer of technology on biodiversity initiatives in the country.

It will also enhance collaborative project development and implementation, with a view to optimize the contribution of biodiversity management programmes to sustainable development

Role of the NBSC in the NEA Process

- ❑ As a national planning platform, the NBSC will be:
 - ❑ Reviewing and approving all key outputs of the national ecosystem assessment process,
 - Scoping report, and communication strategy
 - Assessment report
 - Policy briefs
 - All knowledge products emanating from the assessment process.
 - ❑ Technical advice including input in the process as the committee is a rich pool of experts from different sectors.
 - ❑ To play an active role in the role of the dialogues.



Key Questions

Q1: How can the NBSC be made flexible to serve as a national platform for the NEA process?

Q2: What lessons can you share from your NEA experience to inform the NBSC to play a successful role in the Malawi NEA process?





REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM

Rashad Allahverdiyev

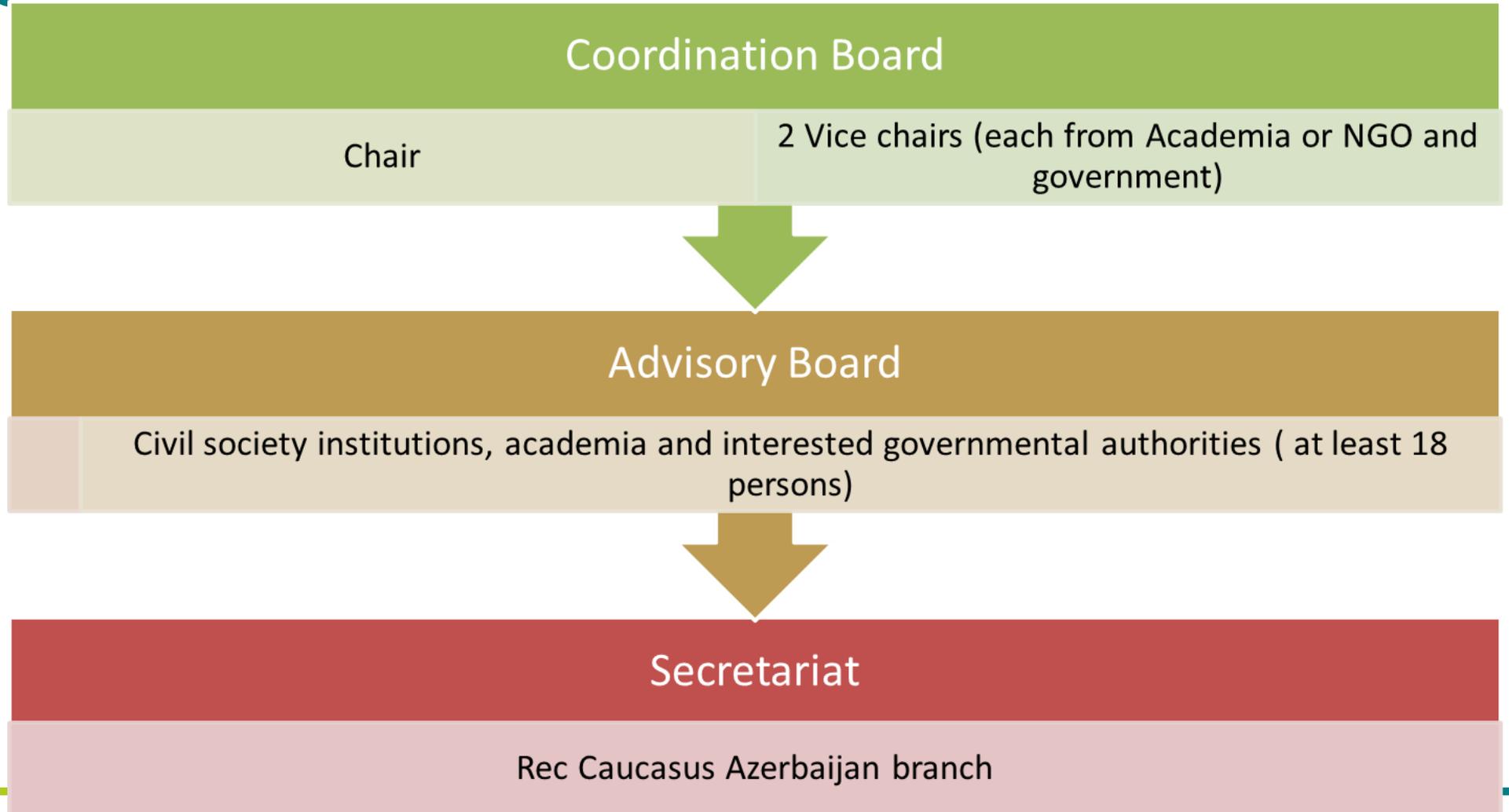
Rec Caucasus Azerbaijan Branch

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM

HOW WAS IT ESTABLISHED / SELECTED?

- To have a crucial role in actively connecting the resident expert communities on biodiversity and ecosystems services, *Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources*, which is main coordinating authority on environment, and in particular, on biodiversity and ecosystems services, launched the establishment of National Biodiversity Platform.
 - Azerbaijan Branch Office of REC Caucasus* is main coordinating and implementing unit for National Biodiversity Platform and will appoint the secretary on partly paid basis for National Biodiversity Platform
-

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM STRUCTURE



NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM

HOW WAS IT ESTABLISHED / SELECTED?

Coordination Board establishes permanent and temporary working bodies (expert groups, working groups, commissions)

Coordination Board consisting of the Chairman of NBP and two vice-chairs. Chairman and two vice-chairs are selected from the representatives of Advisory Board.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM

HOW WAS IT ESTABLISHED / SELECTED?

Advisory Board is consisted of representatives of civil society institutions, academia and interested governmental authorities. Minimum requirement to the number of members – the number should be at least 18 persons

Advisory Board is open for scientists, civil society and policy makers, they could join to Advisory Board, just having official letter from the institutions which they are representing

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY PLATFORM

KEY CHALLENGES & QUESTIONS

- **A face-to-face meeting with the Ministry of ecology and Natural Resources**
 - **To find a way of the legal status of NBP**
 - **Structure of NBP**
-

The background is a vibrant teal color. The upper portion features a soft-focus image of water with gentle ripples and several out-of-focus white light spots, creating a bokeh effect. The lower portion is a solid, uniform teal color.

THANK YOU