

**2014 Quarterly report of the Executive Secretary
Cost Savings, Efficiencies and Delivery Improvements Resulting from Synergies in the Basel, Rotterdam and
Stockholm Secretariat**

1 January – 31 March 2014

Overview

This quarterly report provides information on efficiencies and delivery improvements resulting from synergies in the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm secretariat from 1 January to 31 March 2014, with a view to improving services to parties. As noted in previous quarterly reports, the secretariat welcomes comments from parties and other stakeholders on the structure and content of this report, and how to maximize its utility.

The fact that no new costs savings are reflected for the activities listed below reflects the fact that it is too early in the biennium to identify such savings. In other cases, maximum efficiencies may have already been achieved. Cost savings achieved on the items below *vis a vis* a pre-2011 COP scenario have been reflected in previous reports.

Ongoing activities that contribute to efficiencies and delivery improvements resulting from synergies between the three conventions

Activity	Synergies
Harmonized approach to secretariat support of subsidiary bodies.	More consistent service to parties across the three conventions at multiple policy levels.
Streamlined and harmonised websites for the three conventions as well as for the joint synergies website.	Improved and more coherent delivery of synergies-related information to stakeholders. Improved access for Parties to updated and new information relevant to the work of the three Conventions.
Secretariat co-located on one floor.	Improved communication and integration of work across the secretariat and better physical alignment with new matrix structure.
Sharing of office equipment such as photocopiers, printers, etc.	Fewer pieces of equipment.
Coordination on staff travel.	Reduced need to send multiple staff to the same meeting.
The use of webinars to augment technical assistance support delivered through Regional centers and workshops.	Capacity strengthening at the national level, cutting across the work of all three MEAs.
Cooperation with UNEP Chemicals through the Establishment of a UNEP task force on cooperation and coordination on cross-cutting and mutually supportive activities.	Strengthened technical and policy cooperation between the MEA secretariat and UNEP.
Joint resource mobilization for the three conventions.	Improved responsiveness and consistency of approaches to donors; improved tracking, reporting and accountability.
Development of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for all of the critical functions of the secretariat.	Improved accountability, clearer and more replicable procedures, strengthened ability to operate in a matrix environment.

Collaboration with CITES secretariat on opportunities for synergies between the secretariats on a range of issues, including IT, translations, webinars, videoconferencing, paper smart meetings and other administration and financial services, with an view to sharing services for improved resource efficiency and delivery.	Potential future cost savings for parties of all four MEAs, as well as enhanced delivery of services to parties by sharing best practices.
Work of the sustainability task force report and initial steps towards implementation of recommendations.	A more environmentally and economically sustainable secretariat. Synergies with UNEP/EMG as well as with the wider UN System.
Scheduling of back-to back meetings/workshops, i.e. OEWG and Technical Expert Group meeting as well as the Implementation Compliance Committee and Global Monitoring Coordination group with the POPs Review Committee.	Improved and more cost effective approaches for party participation; strengthened ability to share experiences, expertise and lessons learned among subsidiary groups. Increased efficiencies in the logistics for organizing meetings.
Work of the BRS gender task team.	Inter-secretariat coordination, cohesion on information sharing and messaging, improved gender balance in MEA secretariats.