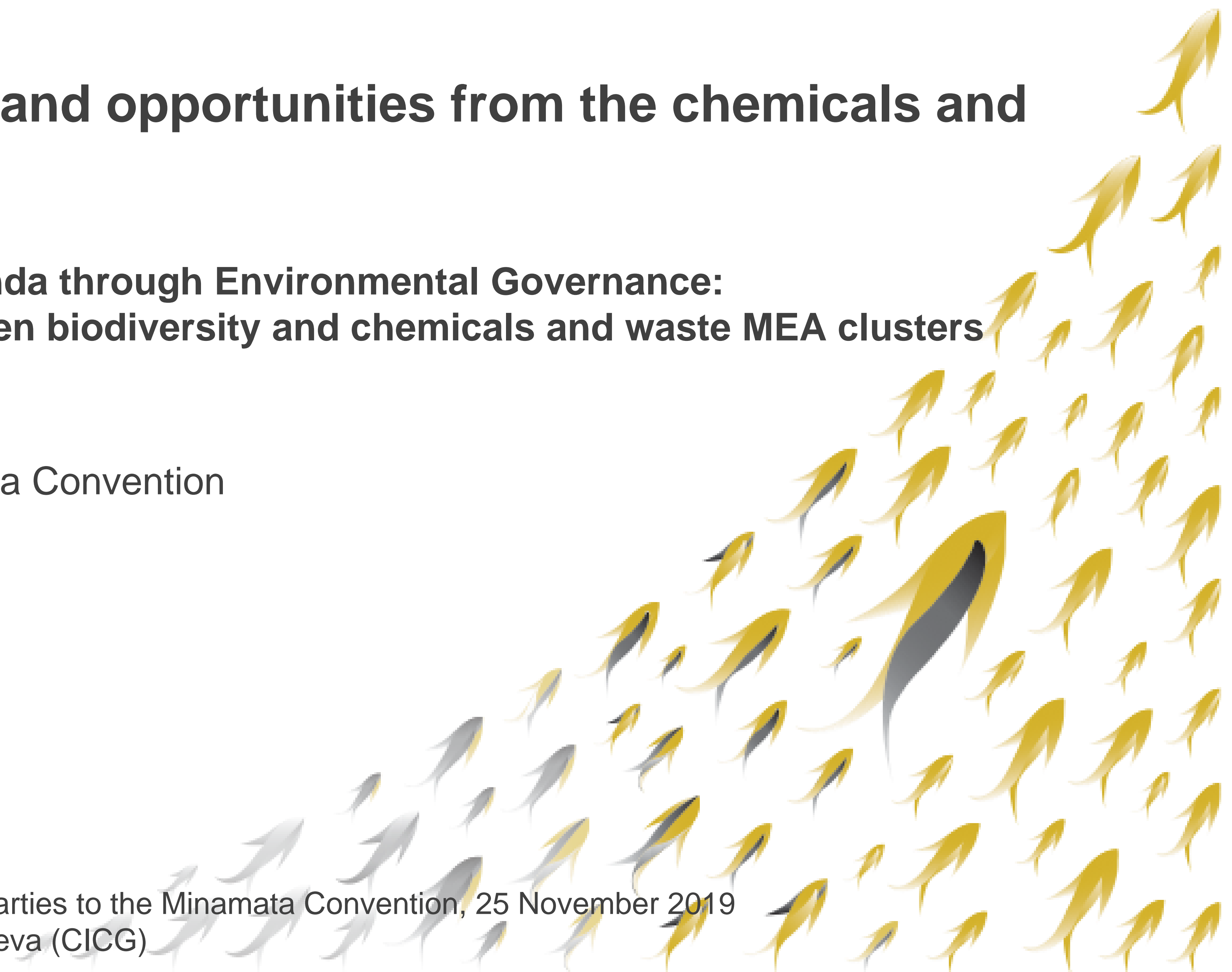


# Overview of options and opportunities from the chemicals and waste perspective

**Delivering on the 2030 Agenda through Environmental Governance:  
Promoting synergies between biodiversity and chemicals and waste MEA clusters**

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Third Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Minamata Convention, 25 November 2019  
International Conference Center Geneva (CICG)



# Expiring goals

As a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder policy framework, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (**SAICM**), was adopted in 2006 by the First International Conference on Chemicals Management (ICCM1).

Its goal is that chemicals, throughout their life cycle, are “used and produced in ways that minimize significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment” by 2020.

ICCM4 initiated an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 to be considered by ICCM5 in 2020.

The summary report to the second edition of the Global Chemicals Outlook (GCO II) indicates that, despite significant action already taken, the global goal will not be achieved by 2020.



# Expiring goals

The Aichi targets, a set of 20 global targets under the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, are “expiring” next year.

Further to decision 14/34 of the CBD, the Convention will adopt, in 2020, a post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision of “Living in harmony with nature”.

The efforts to develop the **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework** are occurring in **parallel with the SAICM intersessional process** that aims to prepare recommendations for the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.



Close coordination between the two clusters provides an **opportunity to create synergies, enhance policy coherence and coordination, and align** the objectives and efforts throughout the remaining parts of both consultation processes leading up to 2020.



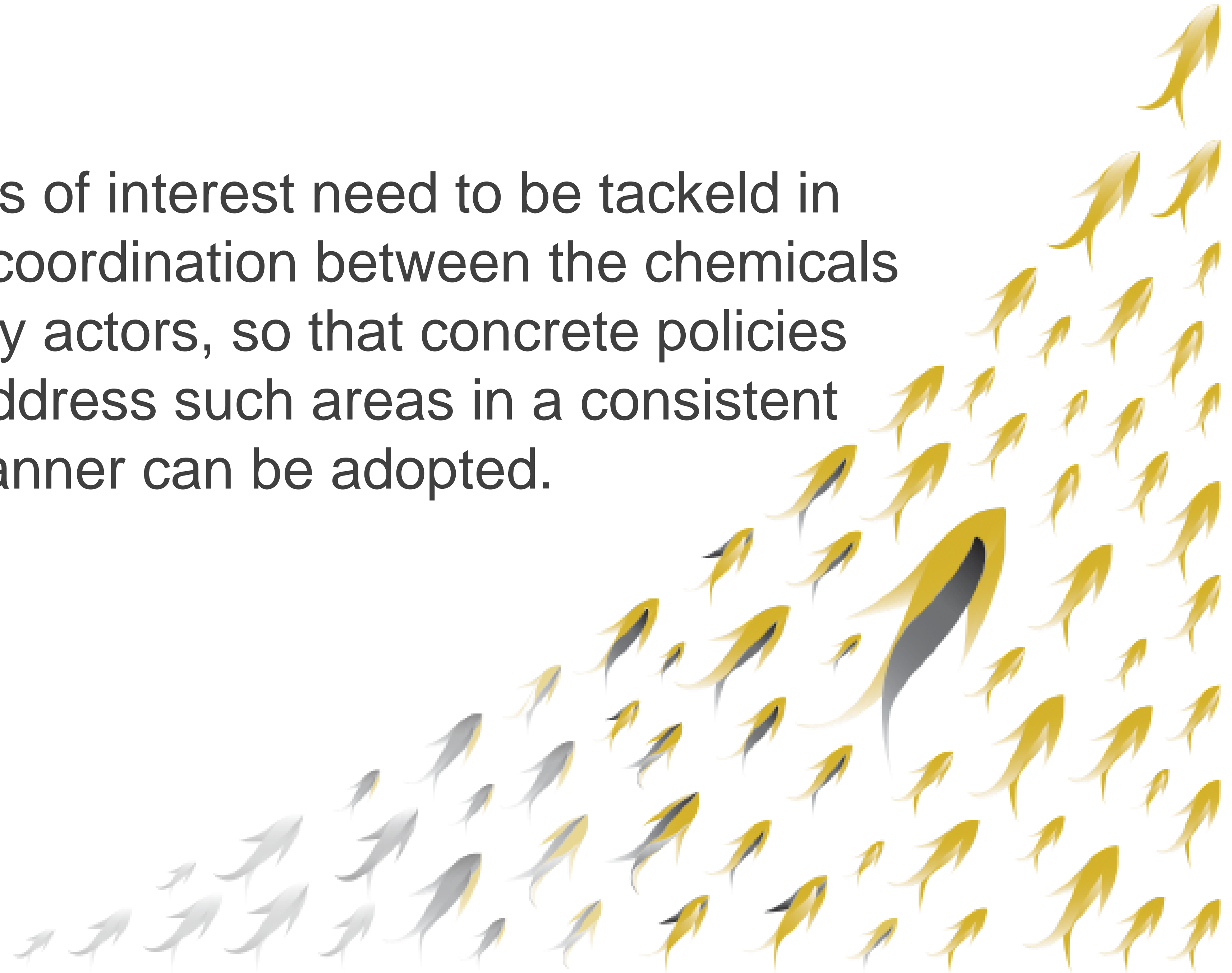
# Chemical pollution and biodiversity

Ecosystem deterioration and subsequent negative impact on biodiversity are mainly caused by:

- chemical pollution deriving from **industrial activities, releases into land and water.**
- the use of **pesticides and fertilizers;**
- the improper **management of waste;**
- **informal mining and artisanal and small-scale gold mining** that uses mercury, which occurs mainly in forests and protected areas



The common areas of interest need to be tackled in collaboration and coordination between the chemicals and the biodiversity actors, so that concrete policies and actions that address such areas in a consistent and synergistic manner can be adopted.





# Agenda 2030: A suitable overarching framework

The **2030 Agenda offers a suitable overarching framework** for UNEP and the various MEAs in the two clusters to further strengthen cooperation and joint actions to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The ICCM4 in 2015 welcomed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and noted that there is a “potential for SAICM, as a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder platform, to make a significant contribution to the implementation of that Agenda, in particular its goals and targets relating to chemicals and waste.”

In fact, the SDGs rely heavily on the sound management of chemicals and waste, and cannot be met unless the impacts of chemicals and waste on people and the environment are drastically reduced.



Chemicals and waste management are reflected **explicitly** in a number of goals and targets, including those addressing health, water, cities and human settlements, and responsible consumption and production.

They also relate **implicitly** to the goals on poverty, agriculture, oceans, decent work and climate change.





# Options to promote synergies

- **Aichi Target 8:** “By 2020, pollution (...) has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity”, could be strengthened for example by highlighting specific pollutants, such as pesticides, fertilizers, plastics, etc., and adding targets for treatment of industrial waste water.
- **The list of pesticides** included in the Stockholm and Rotterdam convention annexes could be expanded considering consequences on biodiversity.
- In order to minimize the pressure on ecosystems, in particular protected areas and forests where **ASGM** takes place, the linkage with biodiversity could be strengthened for example through the development of the **Minamata National Action Plans** that aim to replace the use of mercury in the sector are replace it with sustainable alternatives.



# Options to promote synergies

- Reinforcing institutional collaborations between the two clusters, for example by developing **joint programmes** aimed at tackling issues of common concern, such as the Basel Convention's Plastic Waste Partnership.
- **Stronger involvement of MEA Secretariats in the delivery of UNEP's existing programmes**, such as the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and the fifth Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environmental Law for the decade starting in 2020.
- **Coordination and consultations among national focal points of MEAs in the two clusters** to ensure that priorities of both cluster MEAs are included in the development of both post-2020 frameworks.



# Options to promote synergies

- Enhancing multi-stakeholder and multisectoral cooperation between biodiversity and chemicals actors through platforms like SAICM and MEAs partnerships, i.e., Global Mercury Partnership led by UNEP.
- Building collaboration at the national level among actors (governance and institutional arrangements) and intersectoral enforcement legislation, i.e., illegal trade.
- Green Customs Initiative, led by UNEP: Partnership to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant border control officers to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities covered by trade related conventions and MEAs.



# UNEA as a suitable platform

UNEA is a suitable platform that can foster dialogue and cooperation among all MEAs.

Relevant UNEA resolutions include: resolution 1/5 on chemicals and waste, 2/7 on sound management of chemicals and waste and 3/4 on environment and health.

UNEA Resolution 3/2 in 2017 on “Pollution mitigation by mainstreaming biodiversity into key sectors”, highlighted the linkages between the chemicals and biodiversity clusters by recognizing that fostering cross-sectoral initiatives will provide an opportunity to achieve the goals and objectives of different MEAs and international commitments, including the Aichi Targets and the SDGs.





# UNEA: Opportunities for synergies

- **Before UNEA:** Stronger MEA imprint during UNEA preparation, for example during CPR meetings, OECPR, and regional forums of ministers of environment and the regional forums on sustainable development.
- **During UNEA:** Organisation of dialogue sessions between UNEP Executive Director, Heads of MEAs, COP and UNEA Presidents. Preparation of “thematic briefs” for Presidents or members of the respective Bureaus, in consultation with MEA Secretariats, on proposed resolutions, highlighting ongoing initiatives, priorities for cooperation and possible intergovernmental decisions that promote coherence and synergies between MEAs on substantive issues.
- **After UNEA:** The implementation of relevant UNEA resolutions offer an opportunity for UNEP and the various MEAs to further strengthen joint actions to deliver on the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. UNEA resolutions implementation teams could also include MEA Secretariats’ staff, as appropriate, to strengthen programmatic coherence and cooperation between UNEP and MEAs;



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