



Tematea

Issue-based Modules for the Coherent Implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions

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The Challenge

- ◆ Many countries are Party to a multitude of environmental agreements
- ◆ Often with similar implementation requirements from articles and decisions/resolutions
- ◆ The challenge is to be aware of all these obligations and how they inter relate
- ◆ National experts face problems communicating across conventions
- ◆ Much emphasis on need for coordination at different fora
- ◆ Need to be aware of all these provisions and improve coordinated/coherent approach

The Project

Mandate: UNEP GC Decision 23/1 requests UNEP to support implementation by parties to MEAs of their obligations under those MEAs.

Hypothesis: implementation of different MEAs often relates to issues of common concern. Making the integrated information on those issues available to all relevant actors, could therefore enhance coherent implementation of MEAs.

Project: UNEP, in cooperation with IUCN and UNEP-WCMC, developed 5 Issue-Based Modules.

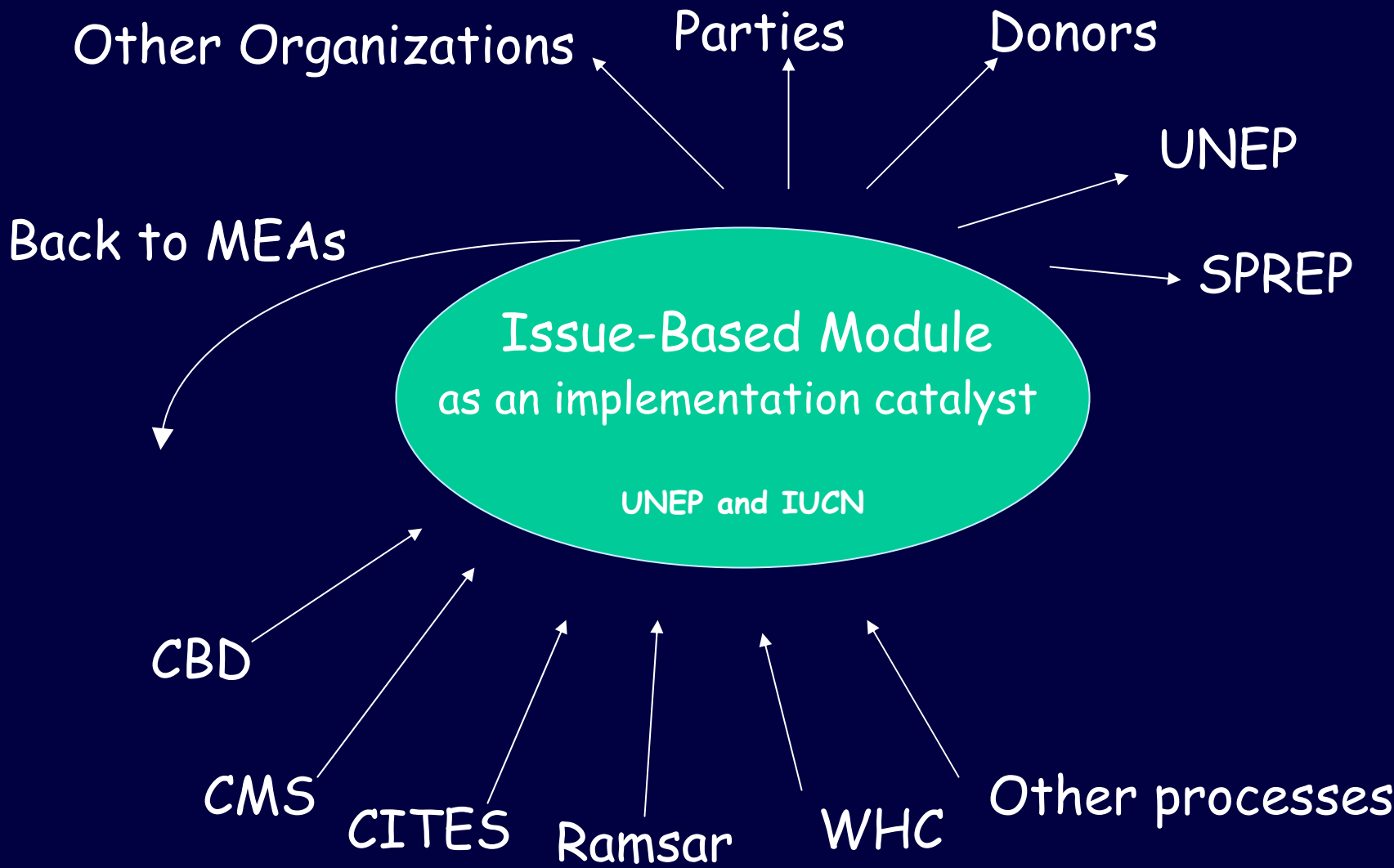
Aim

Facilitate coherent implementation of regional and global biodiversity commitments coming from different biodiversity agreements, by

- structuring negotiated text in a logical framework
- lowering the threshold for experts to understand how commitments from other conventions relate to their own work
- promoting national cooperation and communication between experts across conventions and sectors

Target groups

- ◆ National focal points and other national experts
- ◆ Inter- and non-governmental organisations
- ◆ Donors
- ◆ Agreements secretariats



Issues

- ◆ Inland waters
- ◆ Invasive Alien Species
- ◆ Sustainable Use
- ◆ Climate Change
- ◆ Protected Areas
- ◆ Access and Benefit Sharing (in development)

Characteristics of the Modules

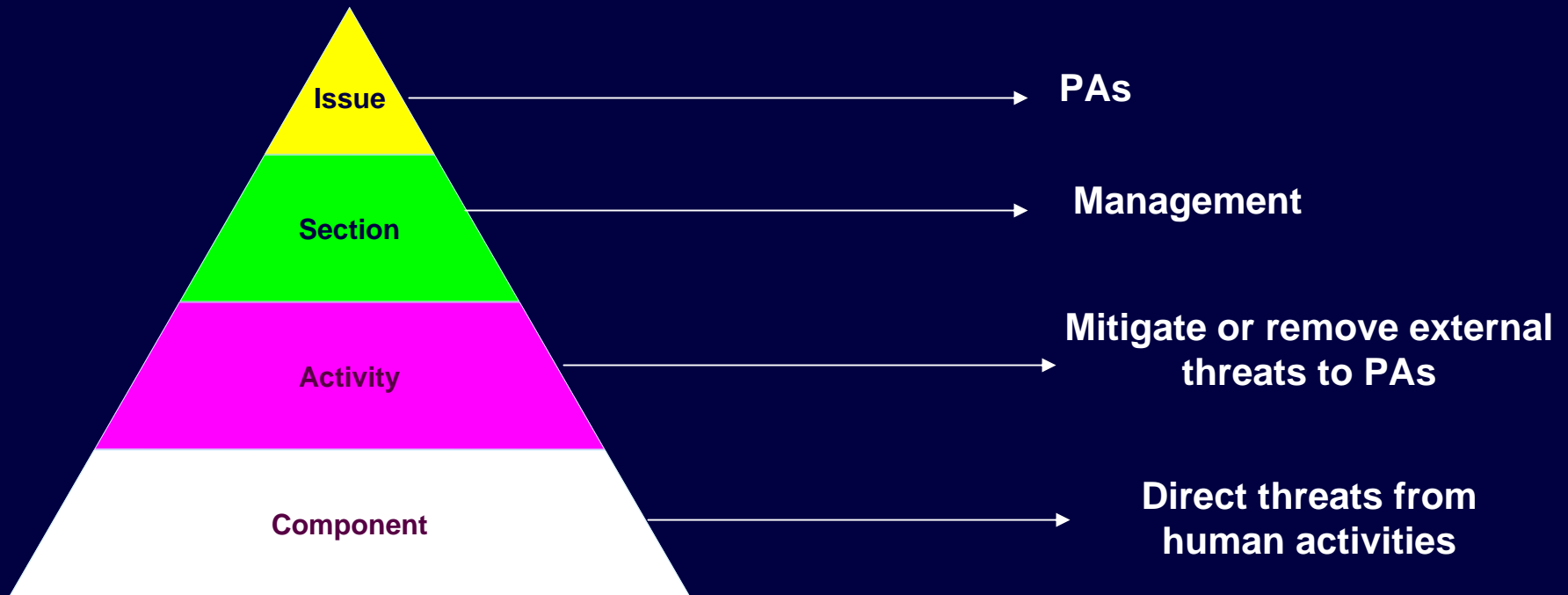
- ◆ Analysis of existing decisions & activities of global and regional MEAs on the specific, cross cutting issues
- ◆ Analysis of relationship between decisions of different MEAs to demonstrate overlaps, potential conflicts and gaps
- ◆ Presentation of the 'action-oriented' part of the decision in simplified language within a logical framework if relevant to Parties
- ◆ Voluntary and evolutionary tool
- ◆ Web based and available on www.tematea.net

Process

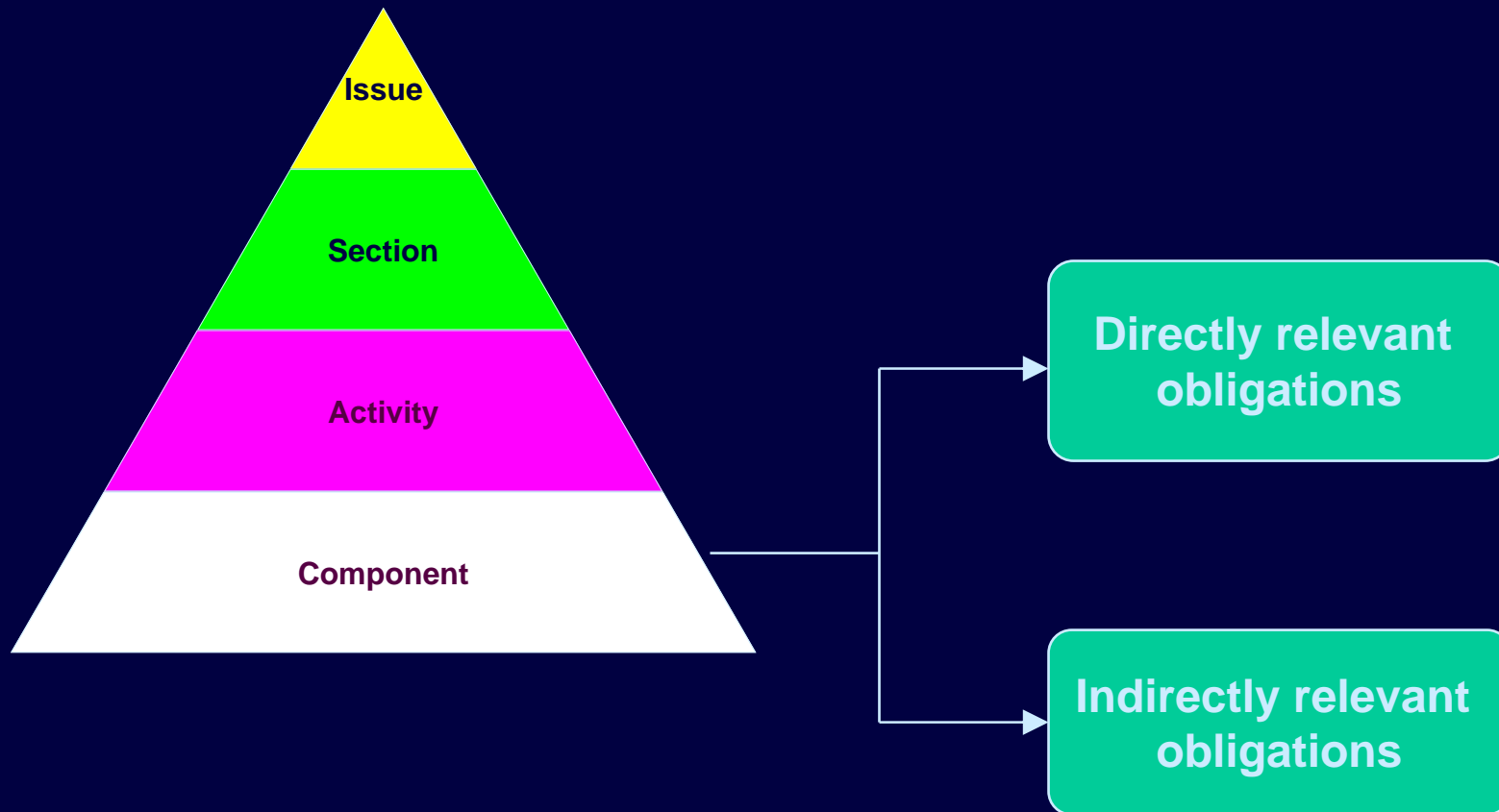
- ◆ Develop reference tools for easy access to relevant obligations & commitments from international environmental agreements for specific themes (e.g. protected areas):
 - identifying and grouping implementation requirements on specific issues under different agreements
 - translating this into practical tools in the form of issue-based modules

- ◆ Support Capacity Building at national level based on the issue-based modules

Issues are divided into the following hierarchy:



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A common structure to the modules: Sections

- ◆ Assessments
- ◆ Legislative measures & national policies
- ◆ Management
- ◆ Economic instruments
- ◆ Provision of resources
- ◆ Communication, Education & Public Awareness
- ◆ Cooperation

Purpose of the commentary

- ◆ Further explanation to better understand the commitment
- ◆ (Potential) synergy between obligations
- ◆ Information on possible overlaps, contradictions, or duplications
- ◆ Information on further documents to consult
- ◆ Information on the exact location of an obligation

Use of Modules identified by stakeholders

- ◆ Identification of priorities and focusing of activities
- ◆ Development and verification of national legislation, programmes and planning
- ◆ Interaction between experts across MEAs and across sectors
- ◆ Development of coherent positions for different MEA meetings
- ◆ Development of focused national reports

Use of Modules identified by stakeholders

- ◆ Training and induction of new staff
- ◆ Preparation of case studies and reports for MEAs
- ◆ Development and assessment of multi-convention proposals
- ◆ Retiring old decisions
- ◆ Design of research programmes and projects
- ◆ Raising awareness for international obligations

National Workshops

1. Norway (Europe): Invasive Alien Species
2. Seychelles (Africa): Climate Change
3. Peru or Panama (Latin American and Caribbean): Inland Waters

National Workshop in Norway

- ◆ Applying the IAS module to national draft strategy on IAS provides a good opportunity to achieve:
 1. To support coherent national implementation of IAS obligations through the Strategy, including facilitating reporting.
 2. Provide guidance to other countries on how to improve national policy on IAS.
- ◆ Comparison was carried out and discussed at this workshop
- ◆ Follow-up ongoing with relevant sectors

National Workshop in Seychelles

- ◆ Rationale: strong interest in biodiversity and climate change
- ◆ Process:
 - Inventory existing implementation of Biodiv & CC obligations
 - Development of two discussion documents to evaluate current implementation and to propose ways forward.
- ◆ If every expert knows how his/her work fits within the overall picture, this creates possibilities for cooperation and increased efficiency.
- ◆ Government interested in applying modules to strengthen implementation and capacity of staff

Recognition by Mandates

References at international fora (2005-2006)

- Ramsar COP9, Resolution IX.5,
- CMS COP8, Resolution 8.11
- CBD SBSTTA11, 4 recommendations
- CBD COP8, 5 decisions COP8 in particular invites UNEP to further develop the modules and report back at COP9
- WHC 30th Session, Decision 30 COM6
- 11th AMCEN meeting

Future Plans

- ◆ to further develop and maintain the issue-based modules
- ◆ to extend the modules towards all regions and countries
- ◆ to extend to other key biodiversity issues
- ◆ to support the national use of the modules (*national workshops, case studies*).

And for the Pacific region.....

- ◆ Identify champions within the Pacific region to engage with the initiative
- ◆ Encourage the use of the module
- ◆ Identify further issues important for the Pacific region for module development

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