



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/PREP-COP/2016/4/2
18 November 2016

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL JOINT PREPARATORY MEETING FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN FOR THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA AND THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE ASSOCIATED MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOLS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA, 22-26 AUGUST 2016

1. In line with decisions XII/6 on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives, and XII/29 on Improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) jointly implemented, together with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), a project entitled: “Strengthening the capacity of developing countries in multilateral environmental decision-making: enhancing preparations for CITES CoP 17 and CBD COP 13”.
2. The project, initiated by the CITES Secretariat and funded by the European Union, comprised four regional joint preparatory meetings for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP 17) and the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 13) and the associated meetings of the Parties to the Protocols on Biosafety (COP-MOP 8) and on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing (COP-MOP 2). The meetings were held for Asia, Africa, the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. The report adopted by the regional preparatory meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Antigua, Guatemala, from 22 to 26 August 2016, is presented herewith.

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL JOINT PREPARATORY MEETING

INTRODUCTION

1. The regional joint preparatory meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP 17) and the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 13), the eighth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 8) and the second meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP 2) was held in Antigua, Guatemala, from 22 to 26 August 2016.
2. The meeting was convened to assist Parties to prepare for the CITES CoP 17, which was to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 24 September to 5 October 2016, and for the CBD COP 13, COP-MOP 8 and COP-MOP 2, to be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016.
3. The meeting was enabled through the generous financial contribution by the European Union. It was organized by the secretariats to the two Conventions, with support from the Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Government of Guatemala.
4. Representatives of the following countries participated in the meeting: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Belize; Bolivia (Plurinational State of); Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Guatemala; Honduras; Mexico; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Suriname; Uruguay and; Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Representatives of the United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/ROLAC), the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Conservation International took part in the meeting as resource persons. For the list of participants, see UNEP/CBD/PREP-COP/2016/4/INF/1.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting started at 9 a.m. on Monday, 22 August 2016. Her Excellency Rita Mishaan, Ambassador of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala, His Excellency Carlos Fernando Coronado, Vice-Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change of Guatemala, His Excellency Elder Manrique Figueroa, Executive Secretary of the National Council of Protected Areas of Guatemala, in their capacity as host of the meeting, made welcoming remarks. Ms. Claudia de Windt, Secretariat of the Organization of American States, and Mr. Alberto Pacheco Capella, United Nations Environment Programme – Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, made opening statements. Representatives of the CBD Secretariat also addressed the meeting on behalf of the Executive Secretary, and a video message of the Secretary-General of CITES was presented.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

6. The meeting elected Mr. César Augusto Beltetón Chacón (Guatemala) and Mr. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Mexico) to serve as co-Chairs of the meeting, representing CITES and CBD respectively.
7. The meeting adopted its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/CITES/PREP-COP/2016/4/1) and agreed to the organization of work based on the proposal as contained in annex I to the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/PREP-COP/2016/4/2/Add.1).
8. In accordance with item 3.1 of the provisional agenda of the meeting, a representative of CITES Secretariat briefed the meeting on the organization of CITES CoP 17. In accordance with item 4.1 of the provisional agenda, a representative of the CBD Secretariat together with a representative of the Government of Mexico, as host of the upcoming Conference of the Parties, briefed the meeting on the organization of COP 13, COP-MOP 8 and COP-MOP 2.
9. The meeting was then divided into two working groups, one to address matters of CITES CoP 17 and the other to address matters of CBD COP 13, COP-MOP 8 and COP-MOP 2.

ITEM 3. CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA – CONVENTION-SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS

10. At its first session, the CITES working group elected Mr. Marcel Calvar (Uruguay) as co-Chair of the working group, to work jointly with Mr. César Augusto Beltetón Chacón (Guatemala), co-Chair of the meeting for CITES.

11. The CoP 17 agenda items and proposals for Amendment to Appendices I and II that were covered at this meeting were chosen through a consultative process by the Parties participating in the meeting.

12. The following documents and proposals were selected from the 55 items originally identified:

Document	Issue	Presenter(s)
Doc.4	Adoption of the Rules of Procedure	Secretariat
Doc.8	Sponsored delegates project	Secretariat
Doc. 13	Establishment of the rural communities Committee of the Conference of the Parties	Venezuela
Doc.32	Implementation of the Convention relating to captive-bred and ranched specimens	El Salvador
Doc.36	Introduction from the sea	Chile
Doc.45 and 46	Traceability	Mexico
Doc.47	Stocks and stockpiles of specimens of CITES-listed species	Guatemala
Doc. 48	Timber Identification	Brazil
Doc. 56	Sharks and rays	Costa Rica
Doc. 58	Hawksbill turtle	Cuba
Doc. 62	International Trade in rosewood timber species	Mexico
Doc.72	Regional cooperation on the management of and trade in the queen conch (<i>Strombus gigas</i>)	Honduras
Doc.73	Tortoises and freshwater turtles (<i>Testudines spp.</i>), a	Ecuador
Doc.75.1	Bushmeat	Ecuador
Doc.76	Neotropical tree species	Guatemala
Doc.78	Sharing existing written science-based rationales and scientific information for non-detriment findings made for trade in CITES-listed species	Argentina
Doc.79	Implementation of the CITES Strategic Vision: 2008-2020	Brazil
Doc. 83	Annotations (in the context of proposal 62)	
Doc. 87	Freshwater stingrays (<i>Potamotrygonidae spp.</i>)	Uruguay
	PROPOSALS	
Prop.3	<i>Vicugna vicugna</i>	Peru
Prop. 21	<i>Crocodylus acutus</i> (American crocodile)	Colombia
Prop. 22	<i>Crocodylus moreletii</i> (Morelet's crocodile)	Mexico
Prop.25 and 26	<i>Abronia species</i>	Guatemala and Mexico
Prop. 40	<i>Telmatobius coleus</i> (Titicaca water from)	Bolivia
Prop .42	<i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i> (Silky shark)	Venezuela
Prop. 43	<i>Alopias spp.</i> (Thresher sharks)	Panama
Prop. 44	<i>Mobula spp.</i> (Devil rays)	Costa Rica
Prop. 45	<i>Potamotrygon motoro</i> (Ocellate river stingray)	Bolivia
Prop. 47	<i>Holacanthus clarionensis</i> (Clarion angelfish)	Mexico
Prop. 49	<i>Polymita</i> (Cuban landsnails) spp.	Cuba
Prop. 50	<i>Beaucarnea spp.</i> (Ponytail palm, Elephant-foot tree)	Mexico

Document	Issue	Presenter(s)
Prop. 53	<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i> (Siamese rosewood)	Secretariat
Prop. 54	13 timber species of genus <i>Dalbergia</i>	Mexico
Prop. 55	<i>Dalbergia</i> spp. (Rosewoods, Palisanders)	Guatemala
Prop. 62	<i>Bulnesia sarmientoi</i> (<i>Palo santo</i>)	Argentina

13. For each agenda item or proposal, the Party (or Parties) who acted as the presenter(s) gave a brief summary, noting the background of the issue as well as the key discussion points of the relevant document, and also provided views on the possible consequences of adopting or rejecting the proposed actions (Resolution/Decision/Proposal), if any. After each presentation, Parties shared relevant information and exchanged views on the issue(s) covered by the document or the proposal.

14. As a background to the CITES session, the CITES Secretariat gave a presentation on the general overview of CITES CoP 17 agenda items as well as the decision-making process, and on the listing criteria for CITES Appendices I and II.

15. Informal views, that do not engage the official position of the Parties, were highlighted regarding a number of agenda items and proposals:

(a) *Doc. 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 on Rules of procedure.* Parties expressed a majority of views in favour of the need to be present at the moment of voting for all member States of a Regional Economic Integration Organization, invoking a question of fairness and the fact that many Parties are struggling to attend the CoP because they lack the financial resources. Representatives also expressed an interest in the outcome of the interpretation and scope of the existing rule 23, regarding the procedure for deciding on proposals for amendment of Appendices I and II. Particularly, rule 23, numeral 4. Concerning the Rules on Working Groups, representatives identified as an urgent need the use of Spanish, as one of the three official languages of the Convention, in all the working groups;

(b) *Doc 8 on Sponsored Delegates Project.* Representatives expressed a strong support for the establishment of an improved mechanism that ensures all Parties in need of financial assistance to attend the CoP. In particular, there are a number of Parties in the Central, South American and the Caribbean regions that have not received a definitive response and requested a response as soon as possible in order to be able to make appropriate travel plans. They explained that it is not only a matter of money but also visas, institutional changes in countries and administrative procedures that require time. For instance, they shared their concerns about the facilities for obtaining a visa from South Africa, particularly in countries where South Africa does not have diplomatic representation. They asked whether there was a possibility of obtaining visas upon arrival;

(c) Proposals 25,26 and 54,55. Representatives requested that the Secretariat facilitate consultations with the Chair of Committee I regarding the *Abronia* and *Dalbergia* proposals in relation to the actual rule 23 of the Rules of Procedure. The main questions are whether the proposals are complementary or compete among themselves and what are the possible consequences for proposed annotations;

(d) *Marine species.* Representatives called for the development of a support programme for the implementation of CITES listings for all marine species, similar to the joint ITTO-CITES programme for tree species. The meeting also discussed issues related to introduction from the sea (IFS), and the support of the Secretariat for the preparation and implementation of non-detriment findings. On this last point, it is relevant to note that the methodological guidelines are intended as support for countries to develop their own procedures and not as a binding document;

(e) *Proposal 45.* After discussion with the representatives of Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, Bolivia expressed its intention to withdraw the proposal and to include it in Appendix III. Range States will consider the possibility of working together on a possible listing the species in Appendix II at CoP18 provided that more robust scientific evidence is collected;

(f) *Proposal 62.* Representatives requested that the working group on Annotations consider this proposal after CoP 17 and ensure the full participation of the range States. Working Group should provide interpretation in Spanish.

16. On the election of new regional and alternate regional members, the participants were reminded that there were a number of members of the Standing Committee (SC), Animals Committee (AC) and the Plants Committee (PC) whose terms will end at CoP 17, and that an election of new members would be needed. Brazil and Peru explained their internal agreement to swap their positions. It was explained that official communications will be sent to the Secretariat explaining the agreements, noting the guidelines for the election of representatives in the Animals and Plants Committees as laid out in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16).

17. In order to facilitate the selection process, the schedule of the regional meetings at CoP 17 was discussed. During the meeting of Parties on a regional basis (Sunday, 25 September 2016, 9 a.m.-noon), the candidates for SC, AC, and PC will be reviewed and discussed. At this time, any new candidatures may be announced.

18. In addition to the above, the Parties requested the Secretariat to secure a meeting room for the region every morning from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. for the entire duration of CoP 17, so as to allow the representatives from the region (or subregion) to meet and discuss relevant issues. Guatemala as regional representative to the Standing Committee offered to send an official request.

19. Mexico and Guatemala expressed an interest in conducting bilateral consultations on issues of common interest.

20. Parties considered that this meeting was important for the region to share information and exchange opinions before CoP 17, and encouraged the organization of a similar meeting before each CoP.

ITEM 4. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE PROTOCOLS TO THE CONVENTION – CONVENTION-SPECIFIC DISCUSSIONS

21. At its first session, the CBD working group elected Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda) co-Chair to work jointly with Mr. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz, co-Chair of the meeting for CBD.

22. Under this item, the working group considered matters that would be addressed by COP 13 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, COP-MOP 8 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and COP-MOP 2 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing as shown in the provisional agendas of those meetings (respectively UNEP/CBD/COP/13/1, UNEP/CBD/BS/MOP/8/1 and UNEP/CBD/ABS/MOP/2/1).

23. During the first session of the working group, the Secretariat presented the agenda items for COP 13, COP-MOP 8 and COP-MOP 2. The Secretariat also introduced items 2 to 8 of the COP 13 provisional agenda, focusing on the organization of work and the proposed arrangements for the concurrent meetings of the Convention and its Protocols, as per item 4.5 of the provisional agenda. Some Party representatives raised concerns regarding the challenges that small delegations are likely to face in following negotiations under the three instruments.

24. Party representatives considered and agreed on the agenda items of the three meetings to address during the regional preparatory meeting. Those items were selected according to proposed areas of attention submitted by Parties in response to Notifications 2016-077 and 2016-084, items identified by the Secretariat as needing particular attention as well as items selected by representatives on the first day. The items selected are listed in the table below.

Agenda Item	Issue
	COP 13
9	Review of progress towards the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

Agenda Item	Issue
10	Mainstreaming and integration of biodiversity within and across sectors. - the integration of biodiversity in productive sectors through non-forest management and forest resources in the Maya Biosphere Reserve
11	Resource mobilization and financial mechanism. - Resource mobilization (SBI 1/6) - Guidance to the financial mechanism (to be developed on basis of SBI 1/7(5)) - Initiative on Financing for Development - The need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism
12	Other means of implementation: enhancement of capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and other initiatives to assist implementation. Capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and the clearing-house mechanism (SBI 1/5)
13	Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations. Options to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions (to be developed on the basis of SBI 1/8)
14	Article 8(j) Guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate measures to ensure prior informed consent initiatives. - Glossary of key terms and concepts in Article 8j and related provisions - Voluntary guidelines for the repatriation of traditional knowledge - Use of the term indigenous peoples and local communities
15	Marine and coastal biodiversity, including ecologically or biologically significant marine areas
16	Invasive alien species
17	Other scientific and technical issues, including synthetic biology, implications of the assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on pollinators
18	Modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation Integration among the Convention and its Protocols
19	Guidelines for the sixth national reports, modalities for future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and indicators
	Cartagena Protocol COP-MOP 8
8	Financial mechanism
10	Report of the Executive Secretary on administration of the Protocol and on budgetary matters
11	Risk assessment and risk management (Articles 15 and 16)
12	Unintentional transboundary movement of living modified organisms (LMOs)
14	Review of implementation and effectiveness of the Protocol: 14.1 Monitoring and reporting (Article 33) 14.2 Third assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Cartagena Protocol and mid-term evaluation of the Strategic Plan
15	Socio-economic considerations (Article 26)
16	Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
17	Communication, Education and Public Awareness
	Nagoya Protocol COP-MOP 2
4	Compliance Committee
5	Report of Subsidiary Body on Implementation
6	The Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House and information-sharing (Article 14)
9	Budgetary matters

Agenda Item	Issue
10	Measures to assist in capacity-building and capacity development (Article 22)
12	The need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism (Article 10)
13	Assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol (Article 31)

25. Prior to the consideration of each of the above items, the Secretariat made an introductory presentation, highlighting, as applicable, the different sub-items and the outcomes from the relevant intersessional processes (SBSTTA 19, WG8(j), SBSTTA 20 or SBI 1) and related documents.

4.1. Matters to be addressed by the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth meeting

26. Item 9 on the review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets was considered jointly with item 19 (see para. 36 below).

27. With regard to item 10 on mainstreaming, following a brief introductory presentation of the issues under this item by the Secretariat, a representative of Guatemala presented a case study on the integration of biodiversity in productive sectors the management of timber and non-timber forest resources in the Maya Biosphere Reserve. The two presentations were followed by a general discussion, including other examples of mainstreaming at the national level. Representatives then considered and discussed the text of the draft decision on this item. Concerning paragraph 2 of the draft decision, it was suggested that a reference to the SAMOA Pathway and Agenda 21 could be included in section “Strengthening the mainstreaming of biodiversity through relevant international process”. Representatives discussed the importance of including in the draft COP decision on this item elements regarding land use planning and management, and identified possible paragraphs in the decision wherein a reference to land use could be made. Party representatives exchanged views on paragraphs in the draft decision that are still in square brackets, including paragraph 13(d) on examples of practices and mechanisms of sustainable use. Regarding the sub-item on agriculture, representatives discussed bracketed paragraphs 23, 24 and 25, and called for a balanced approach in considering this and other sectors. With respect to the sub-item on tourism, representatives emphasized the importance of innovative approaches to the sector, such as certification schemes, community tourism and eco-tourism, with support from international organizations such as the World Tourism Organization. Some representatives noted the possible risks related to market access and non-tariffs barriers associated with certification schemes. Representatives emphasized that mainstreaming should include all sectors and not just the four sectors prioritized at COP 13, and that other sectors should be discussed at future COPs. Representatives also raised the issue of inclusion of academia, youth and civil society, among other stakeholders, in mainstreaming efforts.

28. With respect to agenda item 11 on resource mobilization, the working group considered the financial reporting framework under the Convention and its linkages with the initiative on Financing for Development as well as the needs assessment for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7) to support the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodríguez (Costa Rica), one of the five experts in charge of preparing a full assessment of the funds needed for the implementation of the convention and its protocols for GEF-7, gave a presentation on the aims and methodology of the assessment exercise. Parties were encouraged to complete the questionnaire before the deadline of 31 August 2016 in order to inform the GEF of their needs for the seventh replenishment. Representatives highlighted the importance of the two exercises while noting that the reporting burden remains a challenge for many countries. Representatives emphasized that global support to biodiversity efforts needs to be strengthened. Representatives emphasized the need to promote resource mobilization for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and, above all, the responsibility of industrialized countries to provide financial resources for biodiversity in the context of common but differentiated responsibilities. Some representatives shared their experiences with the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) and noted the benefit of the initiative in assisting countries to assess their financing needs and seek investment opportunities for biodiversity. They called for a second phase of

BIOFIN in support of implementation, including national biodiversity strategies and actions plans (NBSAPs), particularly in countries that have not received such support so far, and similar initiatives. Other representatives highlighted the importance of reporting on collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities to promote and strengthen their role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

29. In relation to item 12 on “Other means of implementation: enhancement of capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and other initiatives to assist implementation”, the working group discussed the outcomes of the intersessional work, including recommendation I/5 of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and the draft short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Each country represented was invited to identify its top 10 priority capacity-building activities from the draft action plan and the compilation from all the countries present was discussed. In summary, 26 activities were selected as priorities by at least three countries. It was understood that the list was indicative and would require further analysis by Parties. Under this item, the working group was also provided with information related to the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI).

30. Regarding item 13 on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, the working group discussed the intersessional work undertaken by the Secretariat to review the outcomes of the workshop on synergies among the Biodiversity-related Conventions, which was held from 8 to 13 February 2016, as per the guidance provided by SBI 1 in recommendation 1/8. It also suggested that the seventh replenishment of the GEF should give special attention to projects that aim at supporting the implementation of several conventions in a synergistic manner. Representatives had very rich discussions with regard to synergies, particularly in relation to national experiences. Representatives highlighted the key role of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in promoting synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. Furthermore, representatives discussed the importance of creating comprehensive national development plans that incorporate the objectives of different conventions and the need to align those plans towards common objectives, such as achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals in order to avoid competing internally for the same resources. Representatives also stressed the need to address challenges to enhancing synergies, such as weak environmental institutions and lack of capacities.

31. In relation to item 14 on Article 8(j), the working group considered the sub-item on draft voluntary guidelines for the development of legislation or other mechanisms regarding prior informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities for accessing their traditional knowledge, as well as sub-item regarding recommendations from the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. One representative noted that additional work needs to be done before finalizing the voluntary guidelines for the repatriation of traditional knowledge. The working group supported the SBI 1 recommendation inviting the COP-MOPs to the two protocols to consider adopting the use of the term “indigenous peoples and local communities”.

32. With respect to item 15 on marine and coastal biodiversity the group considered the issue of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs). One representative noted that the EBSA model proposed at the global level does not sufficiently take into account national contexts and processes. The group also took note of the work plan on biodiversity and acidification in cold-water areas, elements related to marine debris and impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity, and the issue of marine spatial planning and training initiatives.

33. In relation to item 16 on invasive alien species, the group discussed elements of the draft decision, in particular paragraphs 4, 7 and 12 of the annex, “Summary of technical considerations for the use of biological control agents to manage invasive alien species”, which are still in square brackets. Generally, the region is favourable to keeping the original text of the draft decision and to remove the square brackets. Representatives also suggested that a statement about the importance of the assessment by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on invasive alien species could be presented on behalf of the region.

34. Concerning item 17, the working group discussed the sub-item on sustainable wildlife management during its first session, focusing on potential linkages with the work under CITES. During subsequent sessions, the group also considered the issue of synthetic biology as well as the work of IPBES, particularly with regard to the IPBES assessment on pollinators, pollination and food production.

35. The working group considered the two sub-items under item 18, modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and mechanisms to support review of implementation and; Enhancing integration among the Convention and its Protocols and the organization of meetings. In general, the region supports the modus operandi as described in the draft decision. Party representatives discussed the potential hosts of COP 14 and COP 15. Peru reiterated its interest in hosting COP 15.

36. Finally, the working group considered issues under item 19, namely guidelines for the sixth national reports, modalities for future editions of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and indicators. With regard to indicators, one Party noted that some of the global indicators are very general and not properly aligned with national indicators. It was noted that the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Indicators for the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 recognized the need for each country to examine data available, existing expertise, and monitoring needs both for site-level or ecosystem level management and for policymaking. It was also noted that the list of global indicators prepared on the basis of the work of the AHTEG and following peer review and review by SBSTTA 20 was open to further modifications. Other representatives noted the challenge countries face in relation to reporting and the need to use resource efficiently, avoid duplication and better harmonize reporting obligations.

4.2. Matters of the Cartagena Protocol to be addressed by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its eighth meeting

37. The working group discussed matters relating to agenda items to be addressed by COP-MOP 8, in particular: 8 (financial mechanism); 10 (report of the Executive Secretary on administration of the Protocol and on budgetary matters); 11 (risk assessment and risk management) 12 (unintentional transboundary movement of living modified organisms); 14 (review of implementation and effectiveness of the Protocol); 15 (socio-economic considerations); 16 (Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress); and 17 (public awareness, education and participation).

38. A number of representatives noted with concern that some of the matters to be considered by COP-MOP 8, such as the Guidance on Risk Assessment of Living Modified Organisms and the development of conceptual clarity on socio-economic considerations in the context of Article 26, paragraph 1, of the Protocol, have taken so long to resolve.

39. With regard to sub-item 14.1, a number of representatives noted that, although the reporting format for the third national reports was simple, it was too long and some of the questions were repetitive. They recommended that the format for the next reporting cycle be streamlined and shortened, and that it allow for adequate space for free text entries to enable Parties to provide additional information or attachments, as appropriate.

40. With respect to item 17, representatives highlighted the importance of public awareness with a particular emphasis on education.

41. Representatives also noted that only one country in the region, Mexico, had ratified the Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress. They invited Mexico to share its experience in this regard.

4.3. Matters of the Nagoya Protocol to be addressed by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol at its second meeting

42. The working group discussed matters relating to agenda items to be addressed by COP-MOP 2, in particular: 4 (Compliance Committee); 5 (report of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, including a review of progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 16 on the Nagoya Protocol, modus operandi of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation and integration among the Convention and its Protocols); 6 (ABS Clearing-House and information-sharing); 9 (report of the Executive Secretary on administration of the

Protocol and on budgetary matters); 10 (measures to assist in capacity-building and capacity development (Article 22)); 12 (the need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism - Article 10) and; 13 (assessment and review of the effectiveness of the Protocol (Article 31). With regard to item 6, some representatives called for further integration of the ABS Clearing-House with the other clearing houses under the Convention.

4.4. Other matters

43. In addition to the COP 13, COP-MOP 8 and COP-MOP 2 agenda items, the group had a general discussion on the draft Cancun declaration with a view to providing comments on the draft before 12 September 2016, as prescribed by notification 2016-095.¹ Party representatives congratulated the Government of Mexico for its leadership in inviting ministers from four different sectors to the high-level segment of COP 13, and expressed their support for the initiative.

ITEM 5. SYNERGIES AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON CITES AND CBD

44. In the afternoon of the third day, the meeting considered synergies and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, in particular issues of common interest to be addressed by CITES CoP 17 and CBD COP 13, as well as possible ways and means of enhancing synergies and cooperation for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at the national level. Representatives shared national experiences and case studies. This session comprised two moderated panel discussions and was followed by a general discussion.

45. The first panel discussion included brief exchanges among representatives of CITES, CBD, OAS and UNEP.

46. The representative of the CITES Secretariat highlighted all the ongoing initiatives to strengthen synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, drew attention to CoP 17 documents on this topic and stressed the importance of implementing practical solutions on the field driven by the Parties themselves.

47. The representative of the CBD Secretariat provided an overview of the intersessional work conducted in response to CBD decision XII/6 on options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions that will be considered at COP 13, based on the outcomes of the Workshop on enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, held in Geneva in February 2016, with representation of Parties to each of the seven global biodiversity-related conventions.

48. The representative of the OAS General Secretariat highlighted the value-added of the OAS role as a political regional organization supporting the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as CITES and CBD. The representative highlighted the following areas of work: supporting the implementation of regional and global agreements related to biodiversity through sustainable use and trade; building on the space provided by the Regional Trade Agenda for cooperative action on this topic; and monitoring progress with regard to conservation and the sustainable use of biodiversity in the context of good governance and the rule of law.

49. The representative from UNEP discussed the importance of agency coordination at the national level to promote efficiency in the utilization of domestic funds at national level for biodiversity conservation. Additionally, an emphasis was placed on practical synergies in the implementation of the biodiversity related MEAs and proposed that the NBSAPs could be a vehicle to gather momentum in this sense. He emphasized that the tools and case studies on synergies at the national level are available, UNEP launched the sourcebook on synergies and the options paper on synergies. Lastly, he mentioned that inter-agency communication remains a key element in strengthening synergies and this would aid the implementation of NBSAPs and also when considering the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals.

¹ In reference to notification 2016-095. The Declaration is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/cop/preparation/cop13-hls/default.shtml>.

50. During the second panel discussions, CITES and CBD Party representatives discussed issues related to synergistic implementation and relevant experiences at the local, national and regional levels. Representatives of Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Antigua and Barbuda, and Costa Rica shared examples of ongoing collaborative activities in their countries.

51. A representative of Colombia presented a case study on the *Crocodilus acutus* in Cispatá Bay, in which communities are leveraging economic benefits from the sustainable use of the species listed in Appendix II of CITES, thus supporting its conservation contributing to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets 1, 4 and 12.

52. A representative of Peru presented a case study on community-based management of vicuña in the Province of Lucanas, Ayacucho Department, whereby, as a result of the benefits derived from the sustainable harvesting and marketing of vicuña fibre, communities have contributed to the conservation of the species.

53. The representative of Mexico highlighted examples of synergies between CITES and CBD, particularly regarding: (a) CITES contribution to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC 2011-2020), which will be presented at CITES COP 17; (b) the North American region's collaboration with the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) and the project to identify priority species of App. II; and (c) a Mexican project on traceability and monitoring of Morelet's crocodile which takes into account prior informed consent (PIC) and mutually agreed terms (MAT) elements.

54. The representative of Antigua and Barbuda presented examples of daily cooperation among different national-level actors in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including the work of customs authorities in controlling invasive alien species and monitoring the export and import of species listed under CITES.

55. The representatives of Costa Rica (for both CBD and CITES) presented two experiences of synergies between the two conventions. SINAC is the institution which developed a strategic plan that takes into account CITES, CBD, Ramsar and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS). The representative for CBD presented an experience with the biodiversity-related monitoring of some species of appendix 1 of CITES, and the CITES representative presented a case study on hammerhead sharks that demonstrates the positive impacts of the sustainable use of a species listed in appendix 2 of CITES on the well-being of local communities.

56. Following the presentations by the panellists, the plenary further discussed national experiences on cooperation, synergies and sustainable use involving actors at all levels. The plenary was invited to link these experiences to eight areas related to synergies, such as resource mobilization and coordination mechanisms. Some representatives emphasized the importance of building on and learning from existing collaborative initiatives and lessons learned. Other representatives highlighted the need to take intentional and deliberate joint actions, and to have a more comprehensive sustainable development perspective.

ITEM 6. SYNTHESIS AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

57. Representatives expressed their appreciation to the Government of Guatemala for hosting the meeting, to the European Union for its generous financial contribution, to the OAS General Secretariat for its support, and to the CBD and CITES secretariats for organizing the meeting. They encouraged potential donors to support the organization of similar meetings in advance of future CITES CoP and CBD COP meetings.

58. On the afternoon of the fifth day, the plenary adopted the report. Following closing remarks from the co-Chairs of the meeting for CITES and CBD, and from representatives of the OAS General Secretariat, CITES Secretariat, CBD Secretariat and UNEP/ROLAC, and comments from representatives, the co-Chairs closed the meeting at 3:20 p.m. on Friday, 26 August 2016.
