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OPTIONS TO ENHANCE SYNERGIES AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

Addendum

POSSIBLE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE OPTIONS FOR ACTION IDENTIFIED BY THE WORKSHOP ON SYNERGIES AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS, FEBRUARY 2016

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. The present document builds on the information contained in the report of the workshop on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions held in February 2016 (UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/21) in a manner intended to assist the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in advancing the work on the matter.
2. Firstly, the document provides a summary of how the discussions and outputs were organized under each thematic area addressed by the workshop. Secondly, where relevant, it reassigns some options for action from an area under which they were identified to the thematic area to which they most strongly relate. Thirdly, it associates each of the options for action with an appropriate actor or set of actors. In several cases, these had not been specified. Fourthly, it reorganizes the options for action according to actor. And, fifthly, it presents and contextualizes them in a manner that could be actioned by the Conference of the Parties through elements of decisions aimed towards various actors. The use of footnotes serves to provide cross-reference to the source of the material contained in the report of the workshop. The text so denoted is faithful to that in the report as developed and agreed by the workshop participants.
3. The Subsidiary Body is invited to consider the present document in developing any recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and determining any instructions it may wish to provide to the Secretariat. In this regard, the Subsidiary Body could request the Secretariat to undertake further work, perhaps in consultation with the informal advisory group and the co-Chairs of the workshop, for example to elaborate and refine proposed actions, and further categorize them, including those for which there is relevant ongoing work or mandate and those for which there is none.
4. The Subsidiary Body could also consider incorporating some of the proposed actions into a draft decision that it could recommend to the Conference of the Parties. In this regard, based on options for action identified by the workshop, the Conference of the Parties could request, encourage or invite

* UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/1/Rev.1.

Parties, as appropriate, to implement measures that could enhance synergies among the conventions. Not all such measures would be applicable to all countries, but could be taken up as appropriate and according to national circumstance. The Conference of the Parties could also direct the Executive Secretary to carry out work that would support Parties in such efforts and perform any other actions towards enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. It could invite further action from the Biodiversity Liaison Group in this regard. It could also invite other relevant organizations to support Parties in relevant actions and to contribute in other ways to enhancing such synergies. It could request the Global Environment Facility and invite other financial institutions to support the relevant work of Parties. The Conference of the Parties could also establish further consultation among Parties, including addressing synergies in particular thematic areas at the level of experts in such areas. It could also initiate or establish new tools, mechanisms or initiatives for the purpose of enhancing synergies and efficiencies among the biodiversity-related conventions. And, furthermore, it could invite the governing bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions to provide corresponding attention and direction on such matters as may be appropriate.

5. The following sections address, sequentially, the eight thematic areas considered by the workshop: the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans; institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms; information and knowledge management; national reporting, monitoring and indicators; communication and awareness-raising; science–policy interface; capacity-building and; resource mobilization and utilization.

1. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans

6. Opportunities to strengthen synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions provided by the frameworks of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans were identified under seven themes, including: NBSAPs as a possible entry point for synergies; involvement of key stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities; national coordination for implementing the conventions; national focal points, and; tools for accessing funding. The workshop identified the importance of involving key stakeholders and indigenous peoples and local communities¹ in the planning processes and their implementation at all levels.

7. Addressing each of these themes, the workshop identified options for action at the national, regional and global levels. These were categorized into short-term options (to be undertaken within two years) and medium-term options (to be undertaken over two to five years). Some of the options relate to coordination mechanisms or resource mobilization and so have been addressed in subsections 2 and 8, which address these matters. As well as being addressed as a dedicated area, the frameworks were highlighted under several thematic areas of discussion.

8. Derived from the options identified, the Conference of the Parties could consider elements of a decision addressing various actors, along the following lines.

9. Addressing the national level, the Conference of the Parties could encourage Parties, in revising or updating and implementing their national biodiversity strategy and action plan:²

(a) To reflect in the national biodiversity strategy and action plan all the commitments under each of the biodiversity-related conventions that are linked to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in line with the commitments agreed to under the conventions concerned;

(b) To conduct a mapping and gap analysis of relevant implementation actions, including those related to contributions under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals,³ and:

¹ Workshop outcome on Area I, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs.

² Workshop outcomes on Area I, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs.

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1, annex.

- (i) Identify potential needs from the gap analysis;
- (ii) Assess whether the actions on synergies in national implementation plans are in line with priorities, commitments and opportunities;
- (iii) According to national need, review existing action plans for implementation to include implementation of the other biodiversity-related conventions;
- (c) In revising or updating related strategies and action plans, make use of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and prepare Target-driven work plans for all biodiversity-related conventions;
- (d) Make use of indicators of other relevant conventions in implementing measures towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and, as appropriate, prepare relevant national indicators for other biodiversity-related conventions to track effective implementation and monitoring of actions and also to feed into national actions related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (e) Ensure the appropriate participation of relevant stakeholders and of indigenous peoples and local communities in the finalization of the national biodiversity strategy and action plan and relevant national programmes, explicitly for better articulation and planning to achieve synergies;
- (f) Link the national biodiversity strategy and action plan to the national clearing-house mechanism and/or other information-sharing hubs.

10. Addressing the global level, the Conference of the Parties could invite the Biodiversity Liaison Group and relevant international organizations:⁴

- (a) To prepare and make available guidance to be used, as appropriate, at the national level by national focal points and practitioners on synergies for implementing the national biodiversity strategies and action plans and similar strategies and action plans of other biodiversity-related conventions;

- (b) To prepare and make available guidance for national focal points, as appropriate, on incorporating all relevant biodiversity commitments into a system-wide approach;

11. The Conference of the Parties could also invite the governing bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions:⁵

- (a) To call for enhancement of joint efforts on synergies at various levels, ensure that future cooperation is based on a common understanding of issues and options, and undertake joint efforts to maximize the effectiveness of mandates and agendas delivered at various levels;

- (b) To coordinate relevant actions to translate the options for enhancing synergies into actions. A similar call could be made with respect to the financing mechanism.

2. Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms

12. Options identified by the workshop for strengthening synergies among the conventions that relate to institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms, focused on strengthening coordination at the national level and at the international level. They also addressed fragmented responsibilities and efforts across the conventions. Options were identified at national, regional and global levels. These were not distinguished according to timeframe. While some measures would be of a long-term and ongoing nature, each could be initiated in the short-term. As well as being addressed as a dedicated theme, options for action relevant to coordination mechanisms were highlighted under a number of other thematic areas of discussion.

13. Derived from all these options, the Conference of the Parties could consider elements of a decision addressing various actors, along the following lines. In doing so, it could advise the actors

⁴ Workshop outcomes on Area I, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs.

⁵ Workshop outcomes on Area I, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs.

concerned to take advantage of relevant existing institutions to work on common issues under biodiversity-related conventions at national, regional and international levels.⁶

14. To enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level, the Conference of the Parties could encourage Governments to establish or strengthen a formal coordination mechanism for efficient coordination among national focal points and relevant authorities of biodiversity-related conventions⁷ and to consider further strengthening such coordination mechanisms by making them inclusive of other stakeholders, including women, young people and indigenous and local people.⁸

15. The Conference of the Parties could recommend that such national coordination mechanisms could/should:

(a) Facilitate collaboration and coordination between national focal points or equivalent authorities of biodiversity-related conventions;

(b) Potentially oversee national priority-setting, including funding options, for action on synergies;⁹

(c) Facilitate coordinated needs assessments, for example on joint actions for implementation of biodiversity-related conventions in the framework of national biodiversity strategies and action plans,¹⁰ and for targeted capacity-building;¹¹

(d) Enable focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions to exchange information on priorities with regard to actions for implementation and resource needs so that there is a common understanding;¹²

(e) Enable strengthening of awareness-raising and information-sharing for the national focal points of the various biodiversity-related conventions, with the participation of relevant stakeholders and scientists, as well as indigenous peoples and local communities, to support related actions;¹³

(f) Facilitate a multi-biodiversity-related convention national coordination process related to national reporting to, inter alia:¹⁴

(i) Harmonize data collection and reporting;

(ii) Link focal points and institutions to meet reporting requirements;

(iii) Supervise quality control, consistency of reporting and respect for reporting deadlines;

(iv) Ensure proper standards for databases.

(g) Facilitate enhanced coordination among the conventions with respect to communications and awareness-raising, that would:

(i) Enable the national biodiversity coordination committee to develop a strategy for communication and awareness;¹⁵

⁶ Workshop outcome on Area II, Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms.

⁷ Workshop outcome on Area II, Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms, also echoed in outcomes on Area I, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs, and Area VIII, Resource mobilization and utilization.

⁸ Workshop outcome on Area VII, Capacity-building.

⁹ Workshop outcome on Area I, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs.

¹⁰ Workshop outcome on Area VIII, Resource mobilization and utilization.

¹¹ Workshop outcome on Area VII, Capacity-building.

¹² Workshop outcome on Area I, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Workshop outcome on Area IV, National reporting, monitoring, indicators.

¹⁵ Workshop outcome on Area V, Communication and awareness-raising.

- (ii) Enable the national entities responsible for the various biodiversity-related conventions to collaborate in the development of communications and awareness-raising, including through the international observances¹⁶ that relate to the conventions, and in conducting joint information and awareness campaigns;¹⁷
- (iii) Integrate and coordinate message(s) for biodiversity-related conventions;¹⁸
- (iv) Enable preparation of a national biodiversity-related communication and awareness strategy, mindful of synergies and mutual benefit (see subsection 5 of this section);¹⁹
- (h) Facilitate coordination among the conventions with regard to resource mobilization and utilization that would:²⁰
 - (i) Enable development of a joint resource mobilization strategy, taking into account the strategic plans of individual biodiversity-related conventions and mainstreaming of biodiversity into different sectors;
 - (ii) Improve and ensure collaboration between the national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions and the operational focal point of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), with the goal of making proposals for biodiversity-related projects;
 - (iii) Enable the GEF operational focal point to share information with the national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions on accessing funds through the GEF biodiversity focal area;
 - (iv) Facilitate consultation among the national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions in discussions on the utilization of the national GEF funding allocation for biodiversity;
 - (v) Enable the consideration of conducting pilot projects for promoting synergies on thematic areas, such as plant and animal health to support food security, food safety and environmental protection, including designing innovative projects for funding by the Global Environment Facility to contribute to synergistic action;²¹
 - (vi) Enable the national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions to coordinate their funding efforts for synergies among the conventions by engaging with the donor countries' representatives in their countries.
- (i) Facilitate coordination among the conventions with regard to capacity-building, for example the training of national focal points, the conducting of joint workshops on common areas of responsibility among the conventions, such as national reporting and resource mobilization, the identification of common areas of capacity-building needs and the delivery of coordinated capacity-building for implementation of the conventions (see subsection 7 of this section);²²
- (j) Help to facilitate the holding of national preparatory meetings before the meetings of the governing bodies of biodiversity-related conventions, involving officials and stakeholders associated with the other biodiversity-related conventions.²³

¹⁶ For example the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020, the International Day for Biological Diversity, World Wetlands Day, World Wildlife Day etc.

¹⁷ Workshop outcomes on Area III, Information and knowledge management, Area IV, National reporting, monitoring and indicators and Area V, Communication and awareness-raising (adapted from).

¹⁸ Workshop outcome on Area V, Communication and awareness-raising.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Workshop outcomes on Area VIII, Resource mobilization and utilization unless otherwise indicated.

²¹ Workshop outcome on Area I, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs.

²² Workshop outcome on Area VII, Capacity-building.

²³ Ibid.

16. The Conference of the Parties could also encourage Parties, informed and benefiting from such national coordination mechanism:²⁴

(a) To take into account mutual supportiveness of biodiversity-related conventions in developing national policies;

(b) To undertake an assessment of national needs for coordination and synergy among the biodiversity-related conventions;

(c) To undertake an assessment of the capacity-building needs and institutional arrangements for coordinated and synergistic efforts or approaches for effective implementation of biodiversity-related conventions;

(d) To develop a strategic plan for coordinated, synergistic implementation of biodiversity-related conventions.

17. The establishment or enhancement by Governments of such national coordination mechanisms would require consultation among all the relevant national offices. It could also benefit from recommendations being provided by the governing bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions similar to that provided by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

18. To enable such national measures to benefit from cooperation between countries regionally, the Conference of the Parties could invite relevant regional programmes and organizations to establish or strengthen regional mechanisms that would support coordination among the conventions by, among other things, helping countries within a region:²⁵

(a) To make use of regional achievements and promote success stories of implementation of biodiversity-related conventions for obtaining funds from all relevant funding sources and mechanisms;

(b) To streamline funding to maximize implementation;

(c) To identify specific thematic areas for promoting synergies at regional level;

(d) To ensure that the discussions and options for enhancing effective implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions extend to all relevant regional agreements and conventions, as prioritized by those agreements and conventions, in order to enhance cooperation and implementation.

19. As a supportive action at the global level, the Conference of the Parties could invite relevant international organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to seek coordinated actions to create and implement synergies among biodiversity-related conventions (and within national biodiversity strategies and action plans and other strategic plans).²⁶ This could include the delivery of capacity-building activities (see subsection 7 in this regard).

20. As another supportive action to these national efforts, the Conference of the Parties could also invite the Biodiversity Liaison Group to prepare a sample guide based on best practices, showing synergy among the conventions, and share it with the national focal points for the Conventions.²⁷

21. To increase coordination at the international level, the Conference of the Parties could consider targeting elements of a decision along the following lines.

22. The Conference of the Parties could invite the Biodiversity Liaison Group to undertake the following activities:²⁸

²⁴ Workshop outcomes on Area II, Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms.

²⁵ Workshop outcomes on Area I, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs.

²⁶ Workshop outcome on Area II, Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Workshop outcomes on Area II, Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms.

(a) Seek to ensure that the secretariats of all the biodiversity-related conventions attend meetings of the governing bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions to facilitate synergies among them, using such opportunities for meetings among members of the Biodiversity Liaison Group or their designees;

(b) Designate members of their staff to participate in informal groups on synergies in communication, resource mobilization, capacity-building, Internet technology and other areas, as appropriate.

23. The Conference of the Parties could invite the governing bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions to take actions with a view to:²⁹

(a) Encouraging mutually supportive decisions and possibly common decisions by the governing bodies of biodiversity-related conventions for achieving coherence at all levels, including further development and strengthening of joint work programmes and memoranda of understanding;

(b) Taking note of the valuable role of the Biodiversity Liaison Group in fostering synergies, consider recognizing the Biodiversity Liaison Group through their respective governing bodies and elaborating terms of reference.

3. Information and knowledge management

24. Options identified by the workshop for strengthening synergies among the conventions in the areas of information and knowledge management focused on improving access to information necessary for implementation and linking networks of knowledge. Options for action were identified at national, regional and global levels. These were not distinguished according to time scale. The workshop recognized close relationship with the discussions held and options identified on national reporting, monitoring and indicators; and for this reason they are addressed together in subsection 4, below.

4. National reporting, monitoring and indicators

25. Options identified by the workshop for strengthening synergies among the conventions in the areas of national reporting, monitoring and indicators addressed six themes, on: common reporting; institutions for reporting; monitoring; indicators; awareness-raising and communication, and exchanging information and lessons learned among conventions. With respect to common reporting, the workshop considered data; quality of data; and reporting burden. The workshop noted a challenge that the biodiversity-related conventions have common and different data requirements and sources; no two are the same. Opportunity lies in any overlapping data requirements of biodiversity-related conventions. It also noted the challenge that interoperability requires a common language between systems and that interpretation relies on the accuracy of data and its meaning, which may differ between conventions. With regard to the reporting burden, the workshop observed that reporting must be tailored to different institutions and instruments and that completing reports on time and in full requires a heavy workload. The burden could be reduced by accessing relevant data from other sources. With regard to monitoring, the workshop observed that the different biodiversity-related conventions must learn lessons by tracking the effectiveness and utility of what is reported and determining reporting needs. With regard to indicators, the workshop observed that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals process will be preparing indicators and driving the agenda and that this will have implications for biodiversity-related conventions, for example they may need to reformat their reporting structures in order to effectively contribute to monitoring progress towards the SDGs.

26. Addressing these issues, options for action were identified at national, regional and global levels. Such options were identified as short- and medium-term measures, without differentiation. Those options that relate to enhancing coordination mechanisms, enhancing communications and building capacity have been included in subsections 2, 5 and 7, respectively.

²⁹ Workshop outcomes on Area II, Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms.

27. In formulating its advice, the Subsidiary Body may also wish to also consider the investment and progress made as a result in the development of the operational online reporting system under the Convention on Biological Diversity that enables the aggregation of data towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to consider also the guidance for the sixth national report to the Convention addressed under agenda item 13 and presented in document UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/11. The Subsidiary Body is also invited to consider any advice it may provide with regard to the clearing-house mechanism (agenda item 8, UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/6).

28. To address options related to national reporting, monitoring and indicators, and those related to information and knowledge management, the Conference of the Parties could consider providing elements of a decision addressing various actors, along the following lines.

29. Addressing the national level, the Conference of the Parties could encourage Parties:³⁰

(a) To review existing tools and approaches for information and knowledge management to assess their efficacy, and develop new tools and approaches, if required;³¹

(b) To develop thematic national databases, or strengthen existing databases, that are open, interoperable and have adequate safeguards in the context of data/information management;³²

(c) To exchange information on tools, mechanisms and best practices for data collection and reporting;

(d) To undertake an inventory of their datasets to better understand the availability of information and approaches;

(e) To identify which set of data is needed and the commonalities of the data in all or some of the biodiversity-related conventions;

(f) To update clearing-house mechanisms to streamline reporting among different biodiversity-related conventions;

(g) To ensure that reporting under each biodiversity-related convention benefits from the input of other biodiversity-related conventions;

(h) To plan monitoring as a requirement for effective reporting;

(i) To establish linkages of the national focal points with the agency designated for reporting on achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (national statistical agency in many countries) to harmonize information on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Indicators;³³

(j) To attempt linkage of the databases of member countries of biodiversity-related conventions to the national statistical database;³⁴

(k) To promote the use of global tools including UNEP Live and InforMEA.³⁵

30. The Conference of the Parties could also encourage Governments of States Parties to biodiversity-related conventions to ensure that they influence the discussions on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and the discussion regarding biodiversity-related indicators under each of the conventions.³⁶

³⁰ Workshop outcomes on Area IV, National reporting, monitoring and indicators unless otherwise indicated.

³¹ Workshop outcome on Area III, Information and knowledge management.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Workshop outcome on Area IV, National reporting, monitoring and indicators.

31. Addressing the global level, the Conference of the Parties could request the Executive Secretary and invite the Biodiversity Liaison Group, where relevant through collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant organizations:³⁷

(a) To ensure and enhance links between the convention secretariats and relevant global knowledge products, for example the IUCN Red List;³⁸

(b) To provide guidance on national databases, data access and use, and share experience in sharing national database development and use; the guidance provided by the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) could be used for ready reference;³⁹

(c) To identify the information needed for each convention.⁴⁰ Build on the work of the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre and others to determine the common and different reporting elements for each biodiversity-related convention;

(d) To ensure that the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions provide information in a form that is accessible to InforMEA;

(e) To provide guidance to assist national efforts, building on the work of InforMEA and the mapping exercises identified in the Sourcebook;

(f) To develop a possible framework for reporting information covering all seven biodiversity-related conventions through a bottom-up approach, the framework being based on the common reporting information collected by the biodiversity-related conventions according to their mandates;

(g) To exchange information on reporting experiences and lessons learned under the different biodiversity-related conventions to improve the reporting system;

(h) To prepare guidance on reporting to assist in effective national reporting;

(i) To monitor the process of reporting in order to be able to improve its implementation and identify emerging issues, and provide early warnings that require action;

(j) To ensure that the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions contribute to the discussions on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and to the discussion of biodiversity-related indicators under each of the other conventions.

32. The Conference of the Parties could also invite relevant organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme, through the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, in consultation with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions:⁴¹

(a) To make an inventory of areas of overlap between biodiversity-related conventions;

(b) To promulgate and make use of relevant case studies, such as the European Union mapping exercise on the data required to meet obligations and the Brazilian information management system described in the UNEP Sourcebook.

5. *Communication and awareness-raising*

33. The workshop identified options for strengthening synergies among the conventions in the areas of communication and awareness-raising at the national, regional and global levels. These were not distinguished according to time scale. While some measures might be of a long-term and ongoing nature,

³⁷ Workshop outcomes on Area IV, National reporting, monitoring and indicators unless otherwise indicated.

³⁸ Workshop outcome on Area III, Information and knowledge management.

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Workshop outcomes on Area IV, National reporting, monitoring and indicators.

each could be initiated in the short-term. As well as being addressed as a dedicated theme, communication and awareness-raising were highlighted under a number of thematic areas of discussion.

34. Towards this, the Conference of the Parties could consider elements of a decision addressing various actors, along the following lines. Some of the options have been addressed in subsection 2 that considers coordination mechanisms.

35. With respect to the national level, the Conference of the Parties could encourage Parties:⁴²

(a) To take measures to improve understanding of the specific objectives of each of the biodiversity-related conventions;⁴³

(b) To take measures to integrate and coordinate messages for biodiversity-related conventions;

(c) To take measures to ensure that the national entities responsible collaborate on the various international observances relevant to and promoted by the biodiversity-related conventions in order to increase awareness of the conventions, the issues they address and their interrelationship.⁴⁴

(d) To create reports that are useful documents for public communication and stakeholder consultation and ensure that summaries of the national report are also available in their national language(s);⁴⁵

(e) To utilize information from all the biodiversity-related conventions and not work in silos;⁴⁶

(f) To prepare a national biodiversity-related communication and awareness strategy, mindful of synergies and mutual benefit among the biodiversity-related conventions, that would: ensure target audience-specific communication; develop target-specific communication channels; use various approaches (e.g. emotional, economic, cultural, well-being) to establish better understanding of the connection between biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and human well-being; provide scientific advisory information to policy-makers, and; use modern and traditional tools creatively (e.g. social media, folk media, search engines, cell phones, radio, sports events);

(g) Take measures to enable the national focal points, or equivalent authorities, of biodiversity-related conventions to collaborate with other sectors, as appropriate (e.g. climate change, inter-ministerial dialogue);

(h) Develop web-based communication tools for national audiences relevant to all the biodiversity-related conventions, their objectives and synergies between them, that could include: a single entry point to channel users to the information sought and other related or relevant information; Internet screening tools to inform users about potential wildlife crimes and illegal trade and its role in endangering species' populations and; interactive features including for sharing success stories.

36. Addressing the regional level, the Conference of the Parties could invite relevant regional organizations and networks to support member countries in communications and awareness-raising activities, including those noted above, and to collaborate regionally, for example on international observances.⁴⁷

⁴² Workshop outcome on Area V, Communication and awareness-raising unless otherwise indicated.

⁴³ Workshop outcome on Area II, Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms.

⁴⁴ Workshop outcome on Area IV, National reporting, monitoring and indicators and Area V, Communication and awareness-raising.

⁴⁵ Workshop outcome on Area IV, National reporting, monitoring and indicators.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Workshop outcome on Area V, Communication and awareness-raising.

37. Addressing the global level, the Conference of the Parties could invite the Biodiversity Liaison Group to take steps that would enable the secretariats of the conventions and other relevant organizations:⁴⁸

(a) To collaborate on and contribute to international observances to increase awareness, including the proposed International Year of Plant Health 2020;

(b) To establish joint events, such as a pavilion for biodiversity-related conventions to be convened at international conventions and congresses;

(c) To jointly prepare and provide countries with communication material/guidance material for effective communication with various audiences with regard to the conventions and synergies among them;

(d) To ensure that the website of each biodiversity-related convention should have a dedicated “synergies” page that provides information on synergies, such as the Sourcebook, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, common issues for biodiversity-related conventions and sources of funding for biodiversity;⁴⁹

(e) To collaborate on the development of web-based communication mechanisms that could include the creation of a single entry point to channel users to the information sought and other related and relevant information; tools such as Internet screening tools that would inform users about potential wildlife crimes and illegal trade and its role in endangering species’ populations; and an interactive facility to enable countries to share successes and/or problems.

38. The Conference of the Parties could also invite relevant international organizations, including regional organizations, to support integrated approaches to communications and awareness-raising among the biodiversity-related conventions.

6. *Science-policy interface*

39. Options identified by the workshop for strengthening synergies among the conventions in the area of the science—policy interface addressed science in decision-making; scientific bodies; knowledge gaps; communication and; science—policy functions. Many related to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Options for action were identified at the national, regional and global levels. These were identified as short-term options and medium-term options.

40. To address these, the Conference of the Parties could consider elements of a decision aimed at various actors, along the following lines. In formulating its advice to the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body may also wish to take account of the outcomes of the fourth session of the IPBES Plenary held in February 2016, including the memorandum of cooperation between the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and the secretariat of IPBES.

41. Addressing the national level, the Conference of the Parties could encourage governments to take steps:⁵⁰

(a) To establish and make use of a national roster of experts across all biodiversity-related conventions;

(b) To enable the collaboration and involvement of national scientists engaged in the processes of the biodiversity-related conventions in the science—policy interface, for example that related to IPBES;

(c) To strengthen cooperation among relevant national institutions for decision-making;

⁴⁸ Workshop outcome on Area V, Communication and awareness-raising unless otherwise indicated.

⁴⁹ Workshop outcome on Area VIII, Resource mobilization and utilization.

⁵⁰ Workshop outcomes on Area VI, Science-policy interface.

(d) To enable the biodiversity-related conventions to contribute jointly to the development of scenarios and models catalysed by IPBES;

(e) To establish a science-policy platform or coordination mechanism at national level, involving all relevant institutions, to: ensure use of the best available knowledge; interact with IPBES in a timely, coherent manner and; strengthen implementation;

(f) To assess the needs of the seven biodiversity-related conventions from the national perspective in order to provide input to the next IPBES work programme;

(g) To identify science-policy centres within the country that may address knowledge gaps;

(h) To collaborate with other countries in such measures, including regionally.

42. As medium-term measures, the Conference of the Parties could also encourage Governments to take steps:⁵¹

(a) To establish institutional arrangements to enable interface between scientists and the national officials responsible for the development and implementation of policy related to the biodiversity-related conventions;

(b) To improve incentives for scientists to take part in the knowledge-based decision-making process;

(c) To make use of the deliverables and assessments of IPBES and communicate their findings;

(d) To use information-sharing mechanisms, including the Internet, clearing-house mechanism and social media, for disseminating science-policy related information.

43. Addressing the regional and global levels, the Conference of the Parties could invite relevant international organizations, including regional organizations and the Secretariat of IPBES, to support such national efforts as well as measures that will help to ensure collaboration and involvement of the scientists and rosters of experts of the biodiversity-related conventions.⁵²

44. Addressing the global level, the Conference of the Parties could invite the Biodiversity Liaison Group to take measures to enable the biodiversity-related conventions to:⁵³

(a) Contribute jointly to the development of scenarios and models catalysed by IPBES;

(b) Make use of the deliverables and assessments of IPBES and communicate findings that are relevant to the convention;

(c) Assess the needs of the seven biodiversity-related conventions for input to the next IPBES work programme.

45. The Conference of the Parties could also invite the governing bodies of the other biodiversity-related conventions to consider adopting measures that would complement those noted above and that would ensure that:⁵⁴

(a) The conventions interact with IPBES in a timely, coherent manner and contribute jointly to the assessments and the development of scenarios and models catalysed by IPBES;

(b) The chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions continue to facilitate dialogue between the conventions, including for the provision of input to IPBES;

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

(c) The science-policy needs of the seven biodiversity-related conventions are assessed and provided as input to the next IPBES work programme.

7. *Capacity-building*

46. Options identified by the workshop for strengthening synergies among the conventions in the sphere of capacity-building addressed four broad challenges, to: strengthen knowledge and skills, including on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions; increase coordinated capacity-building and awareness-raising efforts among the biodiversity-related conventions; increase human and financial resources dedicated to the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions and towards greater cohesion in their implementation, and; strengthen the sustainability of capacity-building.

47. Addressing these challenges, options for action were identified at national, regional and global levels. They were not distinguished according to time scale. While by its nature, building capacity is an ongoing and long-term undertaking, the options for action identified could each be initiated in the short-term. In addition, some of the options for action addressed under subsections 2 and 4 of this section relate to capacity-building.

48. The Conference of the Parties could consider elements of a decision addressing various actors, along the following lines. In formulating its advice to the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body is invited to consider any advice it may provide on the issue of capacity-building addressed under agenda item 8, considered in document UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/6 and with regard to advice to the financial mechanism addressed under agenda item 10 (UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/8).

49. With respect to the national level, the Conference of the Parties could encourage Governments/Parties:⁵⁵

(a) To ensure adequate staffing dedicated to the biodiversity-related conventions for their effective and synergistic implementation;

(b) To prioritize skills and capacities of human resources, including national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions, and assign or delegate roles and responsibilities appropriately;

(c) To provide common training and other learning opportunities to the national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant staff to build capacity and mutual understanding of:

(i) Each of the biodiversity-related conventions, including their specific objectives,⁵⁶ with a view to promoting synergies, pooled resources, and the retention of skills and knowledge;

(ii) The role of indigenous and local knowledge for coordinated integration in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions;

(iii) Communication methods to raise awareness on the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services with their respective high-level policy decision-makers;

(iv) Technical knowledge on synergy and coordination.⁵⁷

(d) To clarify the roles and responsibilities of national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions;

(e) To conduct joint capacity-building workshops for entities with responsibilities for the biodiversity-related conventions on common areas of responsibility among the conventions, such as national reporting and resource mobilization;

(f) To identify common areas of capacity-building needs through a synergistic approach;

⁵⁵ Workshop outcomes on Area VII, Capacity-building unless otherwise indicated.

⁵⁶ Workshop outcome on Area II, Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

(g) To conduct coordinated capacity-building for implementation of biodiversity-related conventions;

(h) To undertake measures designed to ensure the sustainability of national capacity-building, including through:

- (i) Training trainers for the biodiversity-related conventions including scientists and policy-makers;
- (ii) Creating, updating and/or improving databases and platforms for information-sharing to ensure institutional memory and consolidation of human resources available for implementation of biodiversity-related conventions;
- (iii) Developing a curriculum for the biodiversity-related conventions and advocating its inclusion in relevant university faculties to support and ensure sustainability in capacity-building and synergistic implementation of biodiversity-related conventions;
- (iv) Conducting targeted community capacity-building for effective assimilation and coordinated implementation of biodiversity-related conventions at site and national level.

50. Addressing the regional and global levels, the Conference of the Parties could invite relevant international organizations, including regional organizations and programmes, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to contribute to promoting ways to strengthen coherent system-wide action on capacity-building to facilitate cooperation and collaboration in implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.⁵⁸

51. Among such actions, the Conference of the Parties could invite relevant organizations to contribute to the establishment of a global database of capacity-building programmes, projects, opportunities and initiatives (and lists of experts) relevant to the biodiversity-related conventions, that could be utilized by the conventions at all levels, to improve and identify these, avoid duplication and maximize their utilization.⁵⁹

52. The Conference of the Parties could also invite relevant organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme, in consultation with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, to deliver such capacity-building through programmes at the regional and subregional levels, including:

- (a) Capacity-building related to data management and national reporting that would:⁶⁰
 - (i) Provide training on database systems;
 - (ii) Build capacity to international standards;

(b) Broad stakeholder consultations or workshops at subregional level on information and knowledge management, including traditional knowledge in local communities.⁶¹

53. The Conference of the Parties could also invite relevant organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, to provide such capacity-building support to countries at the national level, including in the areas of information and knowledge management, for which activities could include:⁶²

⁵⁸ Workshop outcome on Area VII, Capacity-building; Elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, Option 5.1.

⁵⁹ Workshop outcome on Area VII, Capacity-building.

⁶⁰ Workshop outcomes on Area IV, National reporting, monitoring and indicators.

⁶¹ Workshop outcome on Area III, Information and knowledge management.

⁶² Workshop outcomes on Area III, Information and knowledge management.

- (a) Provision of appropriate provision of tools and technology for database development;
- (b) Pilot studies on database planning and management, for example in two countries per region.

54. The Conference of the Parties could invite the Global Environment Facility to support building the capacity of national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions.⁶³

55. The Conference of the Parties could invite the Biodiversity Liaison Group to give attention to supportive measures, including:⁶⁴

- (a) Facilitating a process to identify common areas of capacity-building needs through a synergistic approach (national, regional and global levels);
- (b) Exploring ways to mobilize financial resources to provide training on biodiversity-related conventions in prestigious educational institutions;
- (c) Giving consideration to the development of a higher-educational curriculum for the biodiversity-related conventions.

56. The Conference of the Parties could emphasize that in developing and conducting such actions at all levels, national, regional and global, actors should take advantage of existing networking opportunities for capacity-building to help synergistic implementation of biodiversity-related conventions.⁶⁵

8. *Resource mobilization and utilization*

57. Recommendations regarding strengthening synergies among the conventions in the areas of resource mobilization and utilization focused on taking measures to promote coordination in resource mobilization, including through relevant international financial mechanisms and instruments, including the Global Environment Facility; and to increase the sharing of relevant information across conventions.

58. Addressing these, the workshop identified options for action at national, regional and global levels. Such options were identified as short- and medium-term measures, without differentiation. As a long-term measure, the workshop identified the possibility of considering a new financial mechanism that covers the biodiversity-related conventions. Several of the options relate to enhancing coordination mechanisms and are addressed in subsection 2 above.

59. In addition, recommendations on tools for accessing funding emerged from consideration of the frameworks provided by the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans. In this regard, options were identified at national, regional and global levels, in each case identified as medium-term measures. Some of these have been addressed in subsection 2 that addresses coordination mechanisms. Strengthening financial support for effective and synergistic implementation of the conventions was also addressed in consideration of capacity-building, with options identified at the national and global levels.

60. Derived from the short- and medium-term measures, the Conference of the Parties could consider elements of a decision addressing various actors, along the following lines. Other considerations the Conference of the Parties could make with respect to guidance on this issue have been presented in subsection 2 above. In formulating its advice to the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body is invited to consider any advice it may provide with regard to guidance to the financial mechanism addressed under agenda item 10 (UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/8).

61. Addressing the national level, the Conference of the Parties could encourage Parties:⁶⁶

⁶³ Workshop outcome on Area VII, Capacity-building.

⁶⁴ Workshop outcomes on Area VII, Capacity-building.

⁶⁵ Workshop outcome on Area VII, Capacity-building.

⁶⁶ Workshop outcomes on Area VIII, Resource mobilization and utilization unless otherwise indicated.

(a) To increase staff dedicated to the biodiversity-related conventions and leverage appropriate financial support for effective implementation of the conventions through advocacy and by demonstrating benefits;⁶⁷

(b) To exchange experiences among countries on resource mobilization through the use of economic instruments, such as subsidies, incentives and taxes, and with the private sector;

(c) To consider utilizing a sufficient level of the national GEF funding allocation to implement aspects of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans that serve joint objectives of biodiversity-related conventions;

(d) To ensure engagement of the national focal points of all the biodiversity-related conventions to prepare for discussions on future GEF replenishments;

(e) To collaborate regionally to explore regional opportunities for fund-raising (e.g. regional development banks) to foster synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions;

(f) To share, at regional and subregional levels, best practices and lessons learned from successful access to the GEF biodiversity focal area.

62. Regional support or actions identified by the workshop, included exploring regional opportunities for fund-raising to foster synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, for example through the regional development banks; and regional support or approaches to assessing needs for joint actions for implementation of biodiversity-related conventions in the framework of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

63. The Conference of the Parties could recommend that these are taken into account in any future work undertaken under the Convention with regard to resource mobilization and support measures related to the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans.

64. Addressing the global level, in the guidance it provides to the Global Environment Facility, the Conference of the Parties could recommend that:

(a) The seventh GEF replenishment should recognize the importance of further enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, as well as with the other conventions for which it serves as financial mechanism, including the convention on climate change;⁶⁸

(b) The GEF and others should promote public–private partnerships for cooperative efforts to implement the biodiversity-related conventions;⁶⁹

65. In addition, the Conference of the Parties could invite Parties, the Executive Secretary and relevant organizations to provide informed guidance in discussions and priority-setting for the next replenishment of the Global Environment Facility to ensure that the issue of synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions receives attention as a theme that is important for biodiversity.⁷⁰

66. In addition, the Conference of the Parties could invite the Global Environment Facility, in the context of its existing mandates, to undertake the following, as appropriate, in cooperation with its implementing agencies:⁷¹

(a) In collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and in consultation with the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions, prepare and disseminate “How-to” guidelines for the national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions to work with the national operational focal points of the GEF to access funding;

⁶⁷ Workshop outcome on Area VII, capacity-building.

⁶⁸ Workshop outcome on Area VIII, Resource mobilization and utilization.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Workshop outcome on Area I, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs.

⁷¹ Workshop outcomes on Area VIII, Resource mobilization and utilization.

(b) Conduct webinars, regional workshops and other activities for the national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions on accessing funds in the GEF biodiversity focal area.

67. The Conference of the Parties could request the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility and other relevant international organizations, and in consultation with the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions, to prepare guidance for the biodiversity-related conventions for seizing emerging opportunities, consistent with Option 6.2 of the UNEP Options Paper, on a coordinated approach to securing funding from GEF and the Green Climate Fund, and make the guidance available to parties of the conventions.⁷²

68. The Conference of the Parties could invite the Biodiversity Liaison Group and the GEF Secretariat and implementing agencies to identify thematic areas for promoting synergies, and share success stories of the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions, to inform, as appropriate, the governing bodies of the conventions and the Global Environment Facility.⁷³

69. The Conference of the Parties could invite international financial institutions to channel additional financial resources for strengthening synergy and efficient implementation of biodiversity-related conventions; and emphasize the value and need for investment in adequate human resources for synergistic and effective implementation of biodiversity-related conventions.⁷⁴

⁷² Workshop outcome on Area VIII, Resource mobilization and utilization.

⁷³ Workshop outcome on Area I, The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs.

⁷⁴ Workshop outcome on Area VII, capacity-building.