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Item 10 of the provisional agenda*

COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. In decision XI/6, the Conference of the Parties (COP) reiterated the importance of cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and other relevant instruments for achieving full implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The decision also noted the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, and in collaborating with other United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and others, as well as the contribution of the Environment Management Group.

2. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Executive Secretary to collaborate with other entities in a number of other decisions. For example, in decision XI/21, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to identify relevant workshops and activities within the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP) and countries' national adaptation plans under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and disseminate such information with a view to enhancing knowledge-sharing on ecosystem-based

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* UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/1.

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approaches. Likewise, the Conference of the Parties, at its tenth meeting, adopted numerous decisions supporting collaboration among relevant organizations.¹

3. In paragraph 17 of decision XI/6, the Executive Secretary was requested, subject to the availability of resources, to report on a number of aspects of such collaborative efforts, particularly with respect to the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, including through the established mechanisms of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the Joint Liaison Group (JLG), and also with respect to national-level synergies. The decision requested the Executive Secretary to propose options for a process to enhance such coordination. The decision further requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with other convention secretariats, to draft suggestions for the Conference of the Parties on improving efficiency and reducing unnecessary overlap and duplication at all relevant levels among the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, with a view to identifying and reinforcing synergies.

4. The present note by the Executive Secretary reports on actions undertaken and progress achieved to enhance collaboration between conventions, international organizations and initiatives. It provides an update on the activities of the BLG and the JLG. It also reports on progress to develop a proposal for further coordination as requested by the Conference of the Parties.

5. The note also provides a summary of other cooperation with partner organizations. It is intended to highlight some key arrangements and cooperative work and does not purport to be an exhaustive account of cooperative actions.

6. The Working Group is invited to provide further guidance on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and other relevant instruments, as appropriate, prior to consideration of these matters by the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

I. COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES

7. In order to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the partnerships of the Secretariat and the enhancement of mechanisms to deliver support to the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 are more important now than ever. This includes strengthening mechanisms for relevant organizations with mandate and capacity, including at the regional and subregional levels, to provide support to Parties, and the Secretariat's role as a clearing-house and global hub for the Convention, as addressed in document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/3/Add.1. It also requires full engagement in other relevant international processes in order to mainstream biodiversity into the sectors and processes most impacting biodiversity and wherein actions to prevent the continued decline in biodiversity must be taken.

¹ For example, in decision XI/6, COP welcomed the Rio Conventions Pavilion as a mechanism to enhance collaboration, and invited further support to the initiative to increase visibility of synergies among conventions and improve its effectiveness and achievement of its objectives. In the same decision, COP invited the Environment Management Group to continue facilitating cooperation among its members in support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In decision XI/6, COP also welcomed and provided guidance regarding collaboration on: biodiversity and agriculture; forest biodiversity; biodiversity and health; biological and cultural diversity and; biodiversity and tourism development. In addition, COP addressed cooperation in specific decisions related to the cross-cutting issues and programmes of work of the Convention, including decision XI/28 on invasive alien species.

A. Cooperation with other conventions

1. The biodiversity-related conventions

8. This section of the note reports on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions.² It includes review of actions undertaken variously by the secretariats and by the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions to further cooperation, including in the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and in promotion of synergies through revision and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP); and actions undertaken in the context of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG). It also addresses the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

The Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)

9. Building on an informal meeting held on 23 January 2013 in the margins of the first meeting of the plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), the eighth meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) was held on 13 February 2013 in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland.³ The BLG addressed the following issues at this meeting:

(a) In respect to IPBES, the BLG agreed on the need for a coordinated approach within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 to develop requests to IPBES. It was agreed that the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity would coordinate a joint submission to the second meeting of IPBES;

(b) With regard to joint activities for the biennium 2013-2014, the BLG adopted a framework under which to elaborate specific cooperative activities. In this context, it was agreed that the Secretariat of the Convention, being best placed, would represent the views of BLG members on the post-2015 development process and elaboration of the SDGs;

(c) In considering options for the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national level synergies, the BLG agreed that efforts to enhance cooperation among the conventions should focus on the NBSAP process and therefore the need to prioritize work on promoting the cooperation among the biodiversity related Conventions through the NBSAP process. The BLG was briefed by UNEP on the preparation of its project funded by the European Union, and reported elsewhere in this document, on strengthening synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, and requested to be consulted in the further development of the project;

(d) In considering potential access to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) resources for the biodiversity-related conventions other than the Convention on Biological Diversity, the BLG agreed to organize a meeting with the GEF Secretariat to consider this issue and to contribute the GEF programming strategy for GEF-6.

10. At a special meeting of the BLG and the Secretariat of the GEF held from 2 to 3 September 2013, the BLG considered the relationship between its members and GEF, including on how to help countries access GEF funding to implement projects that harness synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions while being consistent with the GEF mandate.⁴ The BLG was also briefed by UNEP on its

² The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention), and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention).

³ The report of the meeting is available at <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/doc/blg-2013-02-13-en.pdf>

⁴ The report of the BLG meeting is available at <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/doc/blg-2013-09-09-en.pdf>

project, “Synergies among the Biodiversity-related Conventions through increasing Coordination and Cooperation in the Mobilization of Financial Resources”, that is funded by the Government of Switzerland and complements the larger project on synergies, noted above. The outcomes of the meeting are presented in document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/5 on the review of implementation of decision XI/5, together with a draft recommendation for consideration by the Working Group.

11. The Executive Secretary will take the opportunity of the next meeting of the BLG, expected to be held in August 2014, and of the forthcoming meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (JLG), that will be held on 2 June 2014, to consult further with the members of the BLG and JLG on matters regarding the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national-level synergies, in order to gain their further views and inputs, taking into account the work being undertaken in this respect by UNEP. A report on these matters will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)

12. *Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023*: The tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS COP10, November 2011, Bergen, Norway) resolved to prepare a new Strategic Plan for Migratory Species (SPMS) for the period 2015-2023. The end-date provides ability to assess progress during the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and to assess how the SPMS has supported the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

13. A Strategic Plan Working Group (SPWG) was established with the task of drafting the SPMS 2015-2023 for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting that will be held in November 2014. A key recommendation of the SPWG has been that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets would serve as a framework in developing the SPMS in order that migratory species priorities are linked to the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets and to provide a logical and effective way for migratory species targets to be integrated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), thereby ensuring they are part of national planning and priority-setting processes.

14. A second consultation draft of the SPMS 2015-2023 prepared by the SPWG was published online in March 2014. It presents sixteen Targets grouped under five strategic goals aligned with those of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. Each of the 16 Targets contribute directly towards one or more of each of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets with the exception of Aichi Target 16. An implementation plan is provided in a companion volume. Indicators to track progress towards achievement of the targets have been based on those devised for the corresponding Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

15. The sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was held in Bangkok, from 3 to 14 March 2013. The Conference of the Parties adopted a revised CITES Strategic Vision extended to 2020 with reference to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The Conference of the Parties also adopted a resolution on cooperation with the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) noting the potential contribution of CITES to the objectives and targets of the updated GSPC 2011-2020. In considering a possibility of adopting the Global Environment Facility as a financial mechanism of the Convention, the Conference of the Parties requested the Secretariat to explore the necessity and feasibility as well as the implications of this and to continue, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to explore a closer working relationship with GEF to enhance the biodiversity strategy associated with the GEF-6 replenishment by strengthening the species-based component.

International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

16. In the context of their Memorandum of Cooperation established in 2010 and their Joint Initiative established in 2012 to further promote complementarity in the implementation of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, the secretariats of the CBD and the ITPGRFA collaborated on a number of activities in the current intersessional period, including workshops on mutually supportive implementation of the Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol (organized by the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and Bioversity International in cooperation with the Secretariats of the CBD and the Treaty) in Rome, 29-31 January 2013 and 3-6 June 2014. In addition, a component on mutual supportiveness between the two instruments has been included in the regional capacity-building workshops on the Nagoya Protocol held in 2013 and 2014.

17. At its fifth session, held in Muscat, Oman, from 24 to 28 September 2013, the Governing Body of the International Treaty considered a note by the Secretary of ITPGRFA on the relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity.⁵ The Governing Body also adopted a number of resolutions relevant to the CBD.⁶

Ramsar Convention on Wetlands

18. Cooperation with the Ramsar Convention continues under the frameworks of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed by the Convention Secretariats on 4 November 2011 and the CBD-Ramsar 5th Joint Work Plan 2011-2020. Among other cooperative actions, the Secretariat collaborated with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Ramsar Secretariat to organize a half-day workshop for UNCCD scientific correspondents on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in drought management. The workshop was held in the margins of the High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies that was held in March 2013.

Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

19. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the first and second meetings of the plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) held respectively in Bonn, from 21 to 26 January 2013 (IPBES-1) and Antalya, Turkey from 9 to 14 December 2013 (IPBES-2). The Executive Secretary delivered a joint statement on behalf of the six biodiversity-related conventions that recognized their important relationship with IPBES and encouraged partnership to enhance achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the sustainable development agenda. In addition, the Secretariat contributed to consultations towards the preparation of mechanisms and work programme of the platform, for example, participating in the International Expert and Stakeholder Workshop on the Contribution of Indigenous and Local Knowledge Systems to IPBES: Building Synergies with Science, held from 9-11 June 2013 in Tokyo.

2. *The Rio conventions*

20. This section of the note reports on cooperation among the Rio conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including in the context of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio conventions.

⁵ Document IT/GB-5/13/14 available at: http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/gbw14_Relationship_with_the_CBD.pdf

⁶ Resolution 5/2013, Relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity; Resolution 6/2013, Partnerships, Synergies and Cooperation with other Organizations; Resolution 7/2013, Implementation of Article 6, Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources and; Resolution 10/2013, Development of the Global Information System on Plant Genetic Resources in the Context of Article 17 of the International Treaty.

The Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions

21. The twelfth meeting of the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions was held on 22 January 2013 in Bonn. The CBD Secretariat reported on the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and on progress regarding the Call for Ecosystem Restoration. The UNCCD Secretariat reported on preparations for CST-3, Fortaleza, Brazil. The UNFCCC Secretariat reported on COP 18/CMP8 in Doha. The meeting discussed next steps for the Rio Conventions Pavilion and, in addressing main lines of cooperation within the JLG context, considered: the terms of reference and principles of work for the JLG; joint reporting; and the Pilot Partnership for the national implementation of synergies among the Rio conventions. The meeting also considered ways to engage with and inform in a coordinated manner, the various processes towards the sustainable development goals and post-2015 development agenda. The report of the meeting is available on the CBD website.⁷ The thirteenth meeting of the JLG is scheduled to be held on 2 June 2014 in Bonn.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

22. The CBD Secretariat has participated actively in the processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including the 18th session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC held in Doha, from 26 November to 7 December 2012 and the 19th session of the Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC held in Warsaw, from 11 to 22 November 2013. The Secretariat has also participated in meetings of the subsidiary bodies of the UNFCCC held in Bonn, from 3 to 14 June 2013.

23. The CBD Secretariat attended and contributed to the UNFCCC expert workshop on loss and damage, held in London, on 1 March 2013, in order to highlight the experiences of CBD with issues relating to loss and damage. The Secretariat also attended the UNFCCC Adaptation Committee meeting, held from 5-8 March 2013, Bonn, in order to highlight the CBD's potential contributions to the work of the Adaptation Committee. The Secretariat participated in the UNFCCC Nairobi work programme technical workshop on ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation, made a presentation and facilitated a session on implementing synergies in the context of the Rio conventions.

24. As part of its workplan for supporting Least Developed Countries, (LDCs), the UNFCCC Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) organized a series of regional training workshops on national adaptation planning for LDCs. Through the generous financial support of the Governments of Japan and Spain, the CBD Secretariat supported the participation of CBD national focal points to share national experience in the workshops for Francophone Africa (18-22 March 2013, Lome, Togo), Anglophone Africa (26 July to 2 August 2013, Kigali, Rwanda) and Asia (17-25 August 2013, Siem Reap, Cambodia). The CBD Secretariat also participated in the LEG training workshops and made presentations on the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in adaptation and on the implementation of synergies between NAPAs and NBSAPs.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

25. The CBD Secretariat continues to contribute to relevant processes under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and collaborate with its Secretariat. In response to decision X/35, the Secretariat collaborated with the Global Mechanism of the UNCCD to produce a study on the valuation of dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity. The study was presented to the Second Scientific Conference of the UNCCD in April 2013. The study was published as CBD Technical Series No. 71 and was jointly launched by the Secretariat and the Global Mechanism at the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UNCCD (UNCCD COP11) held from 16-27 September 2013, in Windhoek.

⁷ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/reports/jlg-12-report-en.pdf>

26. At UNCCD COP11, the CBD Secretariat also partnered with the UNCCD Secretariat in the management and delivery of the Rio Conventions Pavilion and it organized, in collaboration with the UNCCD Secretariat and others, side events on the role of biodiversity in disaster risk reduction and on the potential contribution of ecosystem restoration to zero net land degradation.

27. Among other cooperative action, the Secretariats of CBD and UNCCD co-organized a one-day workshop on 14 April 2013 at the margins of the eleventh meeting of the UNCCD Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention (UNCCD CRIC 11) to build the capacity of UNCCD focal points on implementing synergies between the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the UNCCD Ten Year Strategy, and between national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and national action programmes (NAPs) and integrate these into national development planning.

UNCCD-CBD Joint liaison arrangements United Nations Headquarters New York

28. In addition to the ongoing collaboration in the context of their related objectives and relevant programmes of work, the Secretariats of CBD and UNCCD continue to maintain their joint liaison arrangements at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, through which the CBD Secretariat presently benefits from the service of a professional officer dedicated fifty percent to matters related to the Convention on Biological Diversity. The presence of the CBD Secretariat through the joint liaison office has proven invaluable to the Secretariat's efforts to collaborate with other United Nations entities and other organizations and to provide input to relevant processes of the United Nations. For example, in the context of the processes towards the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals, reported elsewhere in this document; and preparation towards the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

The Rio Conventions Pavilion

29. The Secretariats of CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC and GEF continued to cooperate in the development and preparation of the Rio Conventions Pavilion (RCP) as a mechanism to promote and strengthen synergy in implementation of the Rio conventions. The RCP was organized at the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-11) held from 8-19 October 2012, in Hyderabad, India⁸ and at the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP11) held from 16-27 September 2013, in Windhoek⁹

3. Other conventions

International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

30. A meeting of the Secretariats of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the CBD was held on 16-17 September 2013 to exchange information on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the IPPC Strategic Framework and strategies for communication and capacity-building. The two secretariats initiated a review, presently ongoing, of their joint work programme to more strongly reflect the strategies of the two Conventions and address issues related to invasive alien species and living modified organisms (LMOs), for example through support to the development of national capacity in phytosanitary measures.

⁸ IISD Reporting Services summary report available at <http://www.iisd.ca/biodiv/cop11/pavilion/html/ymbvol200num19e.html>

⁹ IISD Reporting Services available at <http://www.iisd.ca/desert/cop11/pavilion/intro.html>

Aarhus Convention

31. Cooperation between the CBD Secretariat and the secretariat of the Aarhus Convention of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is focused on the Cartagena Protocol's programme of work on public awareness, education and participation concerning the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms (LMOs) and the objective of the Aarhus Convention to promote access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice regarding all environmental matters including genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

32. In this respect, in continuation of ongoing cooperation, the secretariats recently collaborated to organize a round table on access to information, public participation and access to justice regarding LMOs/GMOs, held in Geneva, Switzerland from 16 to 17 October 2013. The aim was to build countries' capacities in promoting access to information, participation and access to justice regarding LMOs/GMOs through sharing knowledge, good practices and lessons learned, and to make recommendations for future action at the national, regional and international levels in that regard. Among recommendations for action at the regional and international levels, was for the Aarhus Convention and the Cartagena Protocol to continue, as appropriate, assisting countries in ratifying and implementing the two instruments through, among other things: (i) mainstreaming the Aarhus Convention and Article 23 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety into biodiversity, environmental and sustainable development policies and programmes, and; (ii) promoting, subregional, regional and international cooperation (e.g., through existing regional organizations and networks).

B. Cooperation with international organizations and initiatives*Cooperation in the context of the processes towards the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals (SDG)*

33. The CBD Secretariat has actively engaged in the ongoing processes towards the post-2015 United Nations development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As a member of the United Nations inter-agency Technical Support Team (TST), the CBD Secretariat co-led (with FAO, UNEP, UNDP and the World Bank, and with contributions from ESCAP, UNFF, UNESCO, UN Women, WMO and other biodiversity-related conventions) the preparation of the TST Issues Brief on Biodiversity for consideration by the Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs at its eighth session held from 3 to 7 February 2014. As an invited panelist at the opening of this session, that considered oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity, the Executive Secretary addressed OWG on the importance and options for addressing biodiversity within the SDGs. The Secretariat has also provided inputs to Issues Briefs led by other United Nations entities on other themes taken up by OWG and to other reports by the United Nations Task Team on Post-2015 (UNTT) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

34. In response to the request of the Co-chairs of OWG at its ninth session held from 3 to 5 March 2014, a list of existing inter-governmentally agreed goals and targets and a list of potential goals and targets were prepared with UNEP and submitted to the TST. The Secretariat was also involved in a ranking exercise on action areas identified by the Co-chairs for potential Focus Areas for the SDGs, and in preparation of options for a potential goal and five targets for the TST. Together with other United Nations entities, the CBD Secretariat is reviewing a paper circulated by the Co-chairs on 18 April 2014 to provide comments on technical aspects, such as feasibility of goals and measurability of targets, among other. Further details are presented for consideration by the Working Group in documents UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/6 and UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/12.

Environment Management Group and Issues Management Group on Biodiversity (EMG/IMG)

35. The Executive Secretary participated in the nineteenth meeting of the senior officials of the Environment Management Group (EMG) held in New York on 19 September 2013. The EMG adopted a

workplan for 2014-2015 and, in considering the work and recommendations of the Issues Management Group (IMG) on biodiversity, extended the work of the IMG for one more year with the following tasks to:

(a) Present the online biodiversity mapping tool to the seventeenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Affairs (SBSTTA-17), transfer it to the Convention on Biological Diversity for future maintenance and make it available to Member States and other stakeholders;

(b) Contribute, as appropriate, to the NBSAP Forum to support the review and implementation of the national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs);

(c) Contribute to the mid-term review process of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets including by providing indicators and data, in particular those relevant to the national level implementation of the targets; also, further consider ways to integrate the Aichi Targets into other country level planning tools such as the UNDAFs, and;

(d) Prepare a progress report by the EMG on contribution of the United Nations system to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 for consideration at the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force

36. In September 2011, the Executive Secretary and the executive heads of twenty-six organizations—comprising international non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations entities, including the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions—signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Two additional organizations have subsequently signed the memorandum.¹⁰ The stated aim of the memorandum is to contribute to the successful and timely implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and, more specifically, to provide a platform to exchange information and coordinate activities among the signatories in support of the efforts of their member countries and stakeholders towards achieving the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The memorandum established the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force, whose membership is limited to the heads or deputy heads of the signatory organizations and whose purpose is to promote information exchange and, where appropriate, to coordinate the activities of the respective institutions to achieve the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. By the agreed modalities of cooperation, the Task Force will build upon and complement the work being carried out by the EMG of the United Nations through its IMG on biodiversity and by the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions on issues related to the implementation of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. A meeting of

¹⁰ The 29 signatories of the Memorandum of Cooperation and Members of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force comprise the international non-governmental organizations Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE), BirdLife International, Conservation International, Rare Conservation, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), TRAFFIC (that signed on 4 November 2011), the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF); the intergovernmental organizations Bioversity International, the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) (that signed on 14 October 2013), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention; and United Nations entities comprising the Secretariats of the CBD, CITES and CMS, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Secretariat of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

the Task Force was held in the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in October 2012 and further steps will be taken to enhance this mechanism.

Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species

37. Initiated by the Executive Secretary in 2010, the purpose of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species is to facilitate cooperation among relevant organizations to support measures to prevent the introduction and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species. The secretariats of ten international organizations participate in the Liaison Group as core members.¹¹

38. The Liaison Group facilitates the exchange of information on relevant policies and activities to ensure that they are complementary so as to optimize efficiency, to build synergies and to avoid any unnecessary duplication. In the period up to 2020, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and in particular Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 on invasive alien species, provides the main focus of the work of the Group. The fourth meeting of the Liaison Group was held from 28 February to 1 March 2013 in Rome.¹² The Terms of Reference & *Modus Operandi* were revised by agreement among the Liaison Group at this meeting.¹³

39. Progress of activities undertaken by members of the Liaison Group was reported to the World Trade Organization's Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Committee) by the Secretariat of the WTO SPS Committee in March 2014.¹⁴ These include actions related to risk analysis, ballast water and bio-fouling, conveyances, and guidance prepared by the Executive Secretary for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its eighteenth meeting, (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/18/8) on the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and live bait and live food.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

40. In response to a request from its Governing Council, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is undertaking a project, funded by the European Union thematic programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources including Energy (ENRTP), on improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies. There are two key elements to this project. The first concerns the identification of opportunities and options for further enhancing cooperation at the global level through secretariats and their hosting bodies, and through the governance and advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions. The second concerns the identification and sharing of best practice at the national level for achieving increased coherence in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions.

41. In 2014, UNEP initiated a UNEP/MEA Task Force to examine how administrative and programmatic arrangements could be improved. The CBD Secretariat is involved with both discussions, and is leading the discussions on programmatic cooperation, with the goal of identifying practical and

¹¹ The secretariats of the following international organizations participate in the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species as core members: the Centre for Agricultural Biosciences International (CABI), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), the World Trade Organization (WTO).

¹² Available on the CBD website at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/ais/iaslg-04/official/iaslg-04-report-en.pdf>

¹³ Available on the CBD website at <http://www.cbd.int/invasive/doc/tor-mo-ialg-2013-02-028-en.pdf>

¹⁴ Available on the WTO website at https://docs.wto.org/dol2fe/Pages/FE_Search/FE_S_S009-DP.aspx?language=E&CatalogueIdList=123521,123529,123531,123471,123409,123397,123369,123382,123385,123312&CurrentCatalogueIdIndex=4&FullTextSearch=

concrete ways in which the organizations can work more effectively together, while being mindful of the respective mandate of each.

42. UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) has continued to provide a prominent role in the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP) and in preparation of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO4). Contribution of UNEP-WCMC to the Convention is guided by its joint work programme with the CBD Secretariat established in 2012 to support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The contribution of the UNEP-WCMC to the NBSAP Forum, supporting countries in revising their national biodiversity strategies and action plans and setting national targets, is described in document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/3.

43. The CBD Secretariat has been working with UNEP to find ways in which UNEP's Programme of Work can better support implementation of the Convention, its Protocols, and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The Secretariat is also strengthening collaboration with UNEP's Regional Offices to identify opportunities for joint work in the respective regions, such as with respect to policy forums and capacity-building.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

44. In 2012 and launched at COP-11, the United Nations Development Programme adopted a UNDP Biodiversity and Ecosystems Global Framework 2012-2020 to advance the post-2015 development agenda and to contribute to attainment of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The strategy provides a framework for the implementation support provided by UNDP to the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 through its delivery mechanisms at global, regional and national levels, including through its country offices in developing countries. The contribution of UNDP to the NBSAP Forum, including the management of its website, is described in document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/3.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

45. The negotiations initiated in November 2012 for the sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund concluded in April 2014 with commitment by donors for a replenishment of US\$ 4.43 billion to GEF-6, 2014-2018. The biodiversity focal area strategy is presented among the programming directions¹⁵ for the replenishment that will be submitted for adoption by the GEF Assembly at its fifth meeting from 25 to 30 May 2014 in Cancun, Mexico. The CBD Secretariat participated in the process coordinated and facilitated by the GEF Secretariat to prepare the focal area strategy, including as a member of its technical advisory group. Towards this, and other aspects of collaboration, a retreat of the CBD and GEF Secretariats was held from 4 to 5 June 2013 in Montreal, Canada that included a session with video link with CBD National Focal Points. A meeting of the liaison group of the biodiversity-related conventions with the GEF Secretariat, reported elsewhere in this document, was held in Geneva from 2-3 September 2013.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

46. It is projected that an increase in food production of about 70 per cent will be required by 2050 (FAO). This is in addition to projected demands for other agricultural commodities such as bioenergy, fibres and raw materials for other non-food uses. Agriculture is already the dominant use of land and water, and a significant consumer of other resources such as energy, fertilizers and agrochemicals. As will be reconfirmed by the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO4) and other assessments, achieving sustainable management of production landscapes, and notably sustainable increases in agricultural production, and ways and means by which this is undertaken, is the dominant factor determining progress towards most of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

¹⁵Available on the GEF website at <http://www.thegef.org/gef/node/10419>.

47. In 2013, the Thirty-eighth Session of the FAO Conference reviewed and approved the FAO's new Strategic Framework 2010-19 which determines the future strategic direction of the Organization. The conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity components are common elements throughout the whole Strategic Framework and are key element to address its five Strategic Objectives which aim to: help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition; make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable; reduce rural poverty; enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems; and, increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters. A number of global initiatives and partnerships, that approach agriculture and environmental issues in an integrated manner maintaining human well-being, poverty eradication and food security as their main aim, have been initiated or strengthened to support the Strategic Framework 2010-19.

48. Further details have been provided by FAO in the information document UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/22, which includes specific activities and outputs that can be identified within the different programmes of work of the different parts of FAO, and initiatives, milestones and activities, that mainly contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 16 as well as several of the others.

49. The CBD Secretariat collaborates with FAO in its initiative on Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and serves on the Steering Committee of the initiative. In this capacity the Secretariat participated in the GIAHS joint Scientific and Steering Committee Meetings that were held at FAO headquarters in Rome, from 29 to 30 October 2012 and, by video conference, from 28 to 29 April 2014, and participated in the International Forum on GIAHS held in Noto, Japan, from 29 May to 1 June 2013.

50. The fourteenth regular session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA), held from 15 to 19 April 2013, considered a number of items relevant to biodiversity and the Convention on Biological Diversity. The secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Commission collaborated in several activities, including presentations by the secretariat of the Commission during capacity-building workshops on access and benefit-sharing conducted by the CBD Secretariat in 2013 and 2014.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

51. One among several aspects of cooperation provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to the CBD concerns the relation between biological diversity and cultural diversity. In its decision X/20, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the joint programme between UNESCO and the Secretariat of the CBD on biological and cultural diversity 2010-2020, and invited Parties and other relevant stakeholders to contribute to and support its implementation. To advance this, the Secretariat of the CBD and UNESCO further defined the mandate of the programme and its implementation strategy through analysis of COP decisions and the mandate of the CBD, as well as those of the World Heritage Convention and other UNESCO-related conventions, and they established an informal liaison group on biological and cultural diversity.

52. In decision XI/6 B, the Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the first meeting of the liaison group and welcomed further steps to explore, document and raise awareness of the value added by incorporating links between biological and cultural diversity into the implementation of the CBD, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and relevant international obligations. The informal liaison group continues to work electronically and members also use opportunities to meet on the margins of other meetings and events.

53. In 2013, with the generous support of the Government Italy and the University of Florence, a professional officer from Slovakia was seconded to the New York Office of UNESCO to advance the web pages and to assist in the development a number of communication and awareness raising tools, including an issues brief series on the links between biological and cultural diversity and an online Global

Biological and Cultural Diversity Platform designed to provide policymakers with resources, case studies and tools to integrate the links between biological and cultural diversity in the design and implementation of strategies and policies addressing the erosion and loss of biological and cultural diversity.

54. In April 2014, the Government of Italy and the University of Florence, in partnership with the Secretariat of the CBD and UNESCO, initiated the 1st European Conference for the Implementation of the Joint Programme on Biological and Cultural Diversity to explore the linkages between biological and cultural diversity and cultural landscapes in the European context. The event included a two-day open scientific conference followed by a two-day expert meeting. This initiative provided regionally specific advice in the form of a declaration for consideration by Governments, and regional and international organizations within Europe.

55. During 2014, with the financial support of the Japan Biodiversity Fund for regional preparatory meetings towards the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for indigenous and local communities in the Latin America and Caribbean, African, Asian and Pacific regions, the Secretariat has included an agenda item on the joint programme to raise awareness and garner further regionally specific advice regarding the development of tools for policymakers. The various regional discussions will contribute to a full day event on biological and cultural diversity to be held in the margins of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

56. Lessons learned from the joint programme will be integrated into relevant capacity-building opportunities for national focal points and indigenous and local communities. A progress report on the joint programme, including a report of the 1st European Conference, will be made available as an information document (UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/14) for consideration by the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. No further decisions are proposed at this time.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

57. The CBD Secretariat participated to the Second BioTrade Congress organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva from 11-13 December 2013. The Secretariat provided presentations on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, access and benefit-sharing and the Nagoya Protocol. Continued cooperation between the Secretariat and UNCTAD includes preparation towards a third BioTrade Congress to be held in the margins of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in October 2014.

World Health Organization (WHO)

58. The CBD Secretariat has collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO) to support a strengthening of attention to the links between biodiversity and human health. In this respect, during 2013 and 2014 cooperation has included the co-organization of a regional workshop for Africa on human health and biodiversity from 2-5 April 2013 in Maputo, Mozambique, attended by participants from 25 countries, exchanging information on national actions to integrate biodiversity and health issues into national health strategies and NBSAPs. Inputs on biodiversity and health were prepared jointly with the WHO regional office for Africa for consideration at the Second Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa, held from 23-26 November 2013 in Luanda, Angola. Information materials on the links between biodiversity and human health were prepared and distributed in the margins of the meetings of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, reported elsewhere in this document. Work has been undertaken for the preparation of a volume of the CBD Technical Series on the links between biodiversity and human health.

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

59. The Secretariat has cooperated with the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on the identification of critical tourism and conservation hot spots to support the integration of biodiversity aspects into sustainable tourism development, through the development of a “Destination Flyways” project in collaboration with UNEP, IUCN, BirdLife International, Wetlands International, and the Secretariats of CMS, AWEA, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, and the UNESCO World Heritage and the Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB). The preliminary phase of the project is ongoing with support from the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany and partnership development is ongoing.

60. With UNEP serving as the coordinating agency, the Secretariat is cooperating with UNWTO to develop a proposal for the tourism component of the 10 Year Framework Programme on Sustainable Consumption and Production. In February 2014, the Secretariat participated in the steering committee meeting held in Agadir, Morocco, parallel to the conference of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Tourism.

61. To promote replication of best practice, UNWTO, UNEP and the CBD Secretariat have been cooperating with industry in the identification and dissemination of best practices for biodiversity in tourism through awards and outreach initiatives within the industry.

62. With financial support generously provided by the Government of Germany, the Secretariat has initiated work that will include the compilation of best practices, to review the application of the Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting.

International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO)

63. Arising from the Memorandum of Understanding established between secretariats of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the CBD in 2010, the Joint ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity¹⁶ aims to enhance biodiversity conservation in tropical forests with direct participation of local stakeholders, addressing the main drivers of biodiversity loss in tropical forests: deforestation and forest degradation. The Initiative provides support to ITTO producer member countries to reduce losses of biodiversity through the implementation of the CBD programme of work on forest biodiversity, focusing on the common objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the ITTO Action Plan. The Initiative aims to achieve four key outputs, with the assistance of donors and with the close collaboration of partners in producer member countries.

(a) Enhanced local capacity for biodiversity conservation in production forests and for the rehabilitation of degraded and secondary forests;

(b) Improved conservation and management of protected areas, especially in association with buffering protected areas, and trans-boundary conservation;

(c) Safeguarding tropical forest biodiversity in forestry interventions, including in REDD+ related projects, and;

¹⁶ The programme document that is the basis for concrete project activities under the Joint ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity is available in English, French and Spanish from both the CBD and ITTO websites at the following locations:

CBD: <http://www.cbd.int/forest/doc/cbd-itto-initiative-programme-document.en.pdf>

ITTO: http://www.itto.int/documents_detail/contents_type=598 ITTC(XLVII)/11 ITTO/CBD Collaborative Initiative to Conserve Tropical Forests

(d) Improved welfare of local communities and indigenous groups through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

64. These outputs are to be achieved through the promotion of sustainable forest management with a particular emphasis on biodiversity protection; forest monitoring and adaptive management to generate multiple benefits on a sustainable basis; protection against invasive species; and enhancing the value of natural tropical forests to avoid land-use change. The Initiative focuses both on production and protection forests.

65. To date, eleven projects under the Initiative are being piloted for a total investment of over US\$15 million, of which donor governments including Japan, Switzerland, Belgium, the United States of America and the Republic of Korea have contributed a total of US\$ 12,527,309. ITTO leads the implementation of the Initiative in close consultation with the CBD Secretariat, donors, other partners and especially the beneficiary countries.¹⁷

66. Progress in the implementation of nine projects (two have not yet started), covering 20 countries in the three tropical regions of the world, is already visibly contributing towards the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and, in particular, the forestry-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 7, 11 and 15. Further details on the Collaborative Initiative, including an outline and the current status of the eleven projects are provided in the accompanying information document, UNEP/CBD/WGRI/5/INF/20.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

67. The Executive Secretary signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in October 2012 to enhance collaboration in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and in the work programmes of the CBD and its Protocols. SPREP is supporting its Members in designing and implementing their National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans.

II. NEXT STEPS

68. With the priority being placed on implementation of the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, effective partnerships will be increasingly important in the efforts by Parties and in the work of the Secretariat to support such efforts. Increasing the effectiveness and scope of cooperation with partners, and improving coordination, in the context of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, will be a priority for the Secretariat in the coming biennium and beyond.

69. As the above examples demonstrate, the Executive Secretary has been successfully strengthening collaboration with other Rio conventions, other biodiversity conventions, United Nations agencies, and other bodies. The Secretariat is continuing to examine ways to further strengthen such cooperation, particularly to provide for synergies at the national level to enhance implementation of NBSAPs in an effective manner.

70. A number of upcoming meetings, inter-agency processes and projects will have direct bearing on this work, including the UNEP MEA Task Force and the UNEP-led project on effectiveness among the biodiversity MEAs, to which the Secretariat is actively contributing. The Secretariat will also use the upcoming meetings of the BLG and JLG to prepare a proposal for the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on additional ways to strengthen such cooperation.

¹⁷ More information is also available at <http://www.itto.int>

71. In addition, the Secretariat is considering ways in which to develop new partnerships and networks that can help support Parties' implementation, such as regional networks with universities and other entities, as well as ways in which to make existing partnerships more effective. For example, the activities of existing communications, policy and mobilization mechanisms such as, *inter alia*, the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force, the NBSAP Forum, as well as work undertaken in the context of BLG and the JLG, will be harmonized and integrated with an eye to greater synergy. Further, information derived from reporting mechanisms and structures under the CBD, such as national reports, NBSAP updates, and the clearing-house mechanism, can be leveraged for their policy and communications value across a variety of policy domains, as well as geographic scope.

III. SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATIONS

72. Based on this review, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention may wish to provide further guidance on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and other relevant instruments, as appropriate, prior to consideration of these matters by the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.
