



## Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions

Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage  
 Convention on Biological Diversity  
 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora  
 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals  
 Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat  
 International Plant Protection Convention  
 International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
 International Whaling Commission

### Meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)

Friday 20 February 2026, FAO Headquarters, Rome

Queen Juliana Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

**Chair:** Mr. Enrico Perotti, Executive Secretary, International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

#### 1. Opening

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming participants and emphasizing the BLG's primary objective: information-sharing on ongoing developments across biodiversity-related conventions and identifying opportunities to strengthen synergies, effectiveness, and joint communications. Members introduced themselves and discussed procedural items, including the agenda and the review of actions.

#### 2. Debrief on IPPC and updates on relevant work under the respective conventions

At the Secretary's first in-person meeting with BLG members, a brief presentation highlighted the work of the IPPC and its role in biodiversity processes, emphasizing its importance in setting international standards to prevent the spread of plant pests and support food production and biodiversity.

Members then shared updates on their respective processes focusing on issues of common interest. Astrid Schomaker (CBD) reported on recent subsidiary body meetings, paying special attention to the global report on collective progress towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and recent discussions on improving meeting effectiveness.

Amy Fraenkel (CMS) updated members on the upcoming Conference of the Parties in Brazil (March 2026) and noted an emerging policy gap on insect conservation relevant to migratory species.

Kent Nnadozie (ITPGRFA) summarized outcomes from the Governing Body meeting in Lima, including work on farmers' rights, access and benefit-sharing, and a new mandate to strengthen cooperation with the Liaison Group and at the national level.

Martha Rojas Urrego (IWC) outlined preparations for upcoming Scientific Committee and Commission meetings, as well as work related to the KMGBF, the BBNJ Agreement, and the Commission's 80th anniversary.

Musonda Mumba (Conventions on Wetlands) highlighted the new Strategic Plan, outcomes of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, and outreach linked to World Wetlands Day.

Jyoti Hosagrahar (WHC) reviewed recent governing body meetings, noting growing attention to site management, cooperation on Global Environment Facility matters, and climate action for World Heritage.

Haruko Okusu (CITES) summarized outcomes from the latest Conference of the Parties, including a decision on innovative finance, ongoing efforts to secure arrangements for the next meeting, and testing of prioritization metrics during meetings.

#### 4. System-wide Developments

Members exchanged practical approaches to the management of processes and meetings under resource constraints. CITES reported successful measures: shorter document page limits, speaking time limits, reduced session hours, and other cost-saving steps. CBD shared innovations such as early submission of statements, pre-meeting webinars, and advance costing of recommendations. Across members, interest emerged in potential AI applications and the need to continue exchange experiences related to efficiency and effectiveness of processes.

## **5. Guest Briefings: FAO OCB and UNEP “State of Nature Finance 2026”**

FAO’s Office of Climate Change, Biodiversity and Environment (OCB) highlighted its role mainstreaming biodiversity across sectors, the role of the Office to enable funding from the Global Environment Facility and the Green Climate Fund and aligning agrifood activities with KMGBF implementation. UNEP presented key findings from the State of Nature Finance 2026, emphasizing that nature-positive investment must scale significantly and that large private and public finance flows remain nature-negative, reinforcing the need to address incentives and capacity constraints.

Members agreed that the CBD Secretariat will share the UNEP presentation with the Liaison Group.

## **6. UN80 update and exchange of views**

The group discussed UN80 reform discussions focused on science, governance, collaboration, and implementation, especially harmonization of monitoring/reporting and more coherent support for national implementation. Members agreed BLG can contribute constructively by demonstrating existing synergy mechanisms and practical outcomes.

## **7. Reflections on BLG past achievements and potential future actions**

Members reflected on BLG inputs to GEF-9 and challenges tracking convention-relevant investments. Ideas included supporting countries through clearer priorities, potential future joint messaging on recognition of all biodiversity-related conventions, and national focal point collaboration to improve coordination. Members agreed to continue to monitor and consider engaging in GEF-related matters beyond the negotiations of the GEF ninth replenishment cycle.

Past achievements in terms of communication outputs were also discussed, notably joint statements at recent meetings, such as the 7<sup>th</sup> United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA7). On the website, a prototype was prepared and will be shared with members before it goes live. Members agreed to inform communication focal points across conventions on this and other communication-related matters.

For better planning and outreach, members also agreed to share an updated calendar with the main meetings of the Liaison Group’s members as well as other meetings and international days of common interest. Members also agreed to develop a ‘communique’ as an output of the present meeting.

## **8. Discussion on potential entry of the BBNJ Agreement in the BLG**

There was also preliminary consensus to welcome the engagement of the BBNJ Agreement in the Liaison Group, recognizing timing considerations around the establishment of its institutional arrangements and COP1.

**Next meeting:** An online BLG meeting is tentatively planned for July, chaired by IPPC.