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Convention on Biological Diversity  
Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals  
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora  
International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture  
Ramsar Convention on Wetlands  
World Heritage Convention

### **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LIAISON GROUP OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS**

Geneva, 13 April 2011  
UNEP International Environment House, Geneva

**Participants:** Ahmed Djoghlaf, David Duthie (CBD)  
John Scanlon, Marcos Silva, Juan Carlos Vasquez (CITES)  
Elizabeth Mrema (CMS)  
Mechtild Roessler (WHC)  
Ananda Tiega (Ramsar)  
Apologies from ITPGRFA

#### **ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING**

1. The special meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) was held at the CITES Secretariat, UNEP International Environment House, in Geneva. It was opened on 13 April 2009, at 10 a.m by Mr John Scanlon, the Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).
2. The meeting was briefed by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Mr Ahmed Djoghlaf, who stressed that the meeting came at an important time, with the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, in Nagoya, and the challenge of keeping the Plan active. He acknowledged the generous contribution of Japan for 2010-2011 with a provision for similar support for future years after review. The Executive Secretary provided a brief update on the meeting of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) held in Bonn on 11 April 2011, noting the current collaboration between CBD and UNCCD in relation to their respective NBSAPs and NAPs.
3. Following a brief review of the agenda, it was agreed to add a fifth (4bis) item: "Issues of relevance to the BLG". The Executive Secretary to the Convention on Biological Diversity suggested (supported by the participants) that this new phase of enhanced collaboration between the members of the BLG was calling for a more formal *modus operandi* for the BLG to be developed and agreed. This issue would be further developed for the September 2011 retreat.

#### **Tour de Table**

4. John Scanlon (CITES) expressed support for greater collaboration both within the BLG and with the JLG and noted that there was an expectation on this from Parties to CITES to help operationalize synergies between biodiversity-related conventions at the national level. CITES reported on their participation in the regional NBSAP workshops, stressing the importance of this to the broader implementation of the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

5. Mechtild Roessler (**WHC**) said that the Secretariat was looking for a greater focus on biodiversity within the WHC which would be discussed at a WHC Council meeting to be held from 19 to 29 June 2011.

6. Elizabeth Mrema (**CMS**) said that she welcomed the meeting, making reference to the previous meeting held in September 2010 and to its contribution to the Nagoya success by uniting support for the Strategic Plan. She welcomed the chance to create synergies via the NBSAP process.

7. Ananda Tiega (**Ramsar**) welcomed mutual support and greater collaboration between BLG members– stressing the ecological and socio-economic interdependence of wetlands and forests. He highlighted the need for a follow-up on TEEB studies focusing on (synergies between) wetlands and forests. Noting that Ramsar had “only” 160 Parties – he requested support from other conventions to lobby for ratification.

8. In response to the tour de table, the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity stressed that the Japan Fund was a unique opportunity to support Parties to implement their commitments; referring to the 3/4/11 UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (UNCEB) meeting (see Para 18 of the meeting report at <http://www.unsceb.org/ceb/rep/ceb/fin/CEB-2011-1-Conclusions-Final.pdf>).

## **ITEM 2. COLLABORATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020**

9. Ahmed Djoghlaif (**CBD**) emphasized that the Secretariat was making all efforts possible in order to achieve, by 2012, completion of both national targets and NBSAPs and that NBSAPs should be adopted at the highest possible level, both nationally and regionally.

10. John Scanlon (CITES) explained that a guidance document on NBSAPs was being prepared by a consultant for use by CITES Parties and that the Secretariat had issued a notification on the NBSAP workshops. The CITES Secretariat would provide selective attendance of NBSAP meetings and encourage the attendance of CITES national authorities.

11. Ahmed Djoghlaif (**CBD**) outlined a number of awareness raising/outreach mechanisms coordinated by the Secretariat that other BLG members could use (e.g. joint notification via monthly newsletters) and suggested an analysis of NFP overlap for all BLG members and the possibility of a BLG newsletter. He reported that the Nagoya Protocol on ABS had, to date, 7 signatures, and how biodiversity ceremonies are being used to promote the signature process on the margins of important meetings.

## **ITEM 3. COLLABORATION FOR THE EARLY ENTRY INTO FORCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION**

12. Ahmed Djoghlaif (**CBD**) said that a new ABS GEF Medium-sized project Task Manager had been recruited to facilitate briefings for parliamentarians and missions as widely as possible, along with joint briefings with ITPGRFA. In Brazil, a summit of legislators would be convened at Rio+20, and would meet every 2 years to review implementation of the Rio conventions. Japan established a 1 billion Yen fund for early entry into force and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol– and highlighted the need for similar matching funds from other donors to supplement the GEF-5 allocation.

13. A representative of **CITES** described briefly its e-permitting system which could also be used for ABS agreements, as well as a toolkit for permit exchange that was compliant with international standards for e-commerce (compliant with the WCO Data Model v.3)

## **ITEM 4. COLLABORATION FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON BIODIVERSITY**

14. A representative of the Secretariat of the **CBD** reported that the Tokyo MoE/UNU global launch event had been postponed until the end of the year, but regional launches would go ahead. SCBD provided an overview of the many materials being prepared and events being convened for

UNDB. (NOTE: The CBD Strategy for UNDB and video materials for UNDB are now available at: <http://www.cbd.int/2011-2020>).

#### **ITEM 5. ANY OTHER MATTERS**

15. A representative of **CITES** congratulated the Secretariat of the CBD on their outreach successes, noting that there were lessons to be learned for CITES. He reported on the upcoming Standing Committee meeting in Geneva (date to be determined), which would initiate a Strategic Plan alignment process. With respect to other BLG collaborations, he noted that the MIKE MIST software was being shared with Ramsar.

16. The representative of the Secretariat of the **CBD** requested that a UNDB event be held at CITES Standing Committee meeting, and noted that there were ongoing discussions on the establishment of liaison officers in Geneva and Bonn which would greatly enhance BLG collaboration.

17. The representative of **WHC** reported on forthcoming meetings in November 2011 where the General Assembly would review policy issues, including the WHC Anniversary celebrations focusing on “world heritage and sustainable communities” (list of events is available on WHC website). She introduced the decision of the 34<sup>th</sup> Session on biocultural diversity between WHC and its Cultural Conventions, plus SCBD (see annex to the minutes), noting that the Secretariat of WHC would convene a major global meeting on bioculture in June 2011, in parallel with the WHC Committee meeting (UNESCO HQ, Paris).

18. A representative of **CITES** noted that he would like to add sustainable use/development/cultural value to the agenda of next BLG and as a possible theme for Rio+20.

19. The representative of **Ramsar** noted that he strongly supported joint designation of sites.

20. The representative of **CMS** provided details of the organization’s tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to be held in November 2011 in Bergen, with a focus on ecological connectivity. She reported that they had already presented a document to the Standing Committee on the implications of the outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Parties to the CBD, held in Nagoya, which would be on the agenda of the Conference of the Parties to the CMS, and encouraged SCBD participation in a side-event. She noted the joint programme of work with CITES and Ramsar (the programme of work with CBD needed to be updated and a SCBD focal point appointed as contact on this matter). The Conference of the Parties to the CMS had Scientific Council meeting and Standing Committee, among others, all of which had potential synergies with other biodiversity-related conventions and welcomed more BLG interactions in the build up to the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

21. The representative of **Ramsar** reported that the organization’s Deputy would attend the Conference of the Parties to the CMS, adding that the eleventh meeting of the Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, with the theme “Wetlands, Tourism and Recreation”, was provisionally set for 19-26 June 2012 (subject to approval by the Steering Committee). The representative of the Secretariat of **CBD** recommended that the Conference of the Parties should be convened before Rio+20 for greater impact. CoP Guidelines on tourism and wetlands would be developed in harmony with SCBD guidelines and a memorandum of understanding with the World Tourism Organization would be agreed upon. In reply, the representative of **WHC** noted that the organization was also working on a global recommendation on sustainable tourism.

22. A representative of the Secretariat of **SCBD** offered a one day briefing on NBSAPs at the CMS (Bergen) and WHC (Paris) events.

23. The representative of **WHC** reported on their study on economic value of 890 WHC sites (the link to the report to be sent to BLG members) and also reported that the IFLA Congress requested UNESCO to promote Landscape Convention before the Steering Committee meeting in May 2011.

24. A representative of the Secretariat of the **CBD** offered to create a BLG page in the August issue of Satoyama Magazine, which would focus on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CBD and Rio+20. SCBD also invited BLG members to the annual retreat in September 2011 in Chateau de Bossey, before the second meeting with IGOs, and the meeting of B-11 and D-10 (will encourage also C-18) to be held in September.

25. A representative of **CITES** proposed that a good common BLG position for Rio+20 could be on sustainable development/use.

26. A representative of the Secretariat of the **CBD** noted that Rio+20 was an opportunity which was still lacking focus and stressed the need to avoid potentially divisive issues (WEO/green economy) and focussed on unity – biodiversity, including cities, could provide that focus as underpinning sustainable development through ecosystem services. He noted that the JLG had agreed to promote joint activities at national level in pilot countries.

27. A representative of the Secretariat of the **CBD** provided a brief history of the process leading up to IPBES stressing the strategic importance of providing a platform between science and policy for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. IPBES, when established, should report to the Conference of the Parties of the biodiversity-related conventions through their respective scientific bodies.

#### **ITEM 6. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

28. The representative of **CITES** presented an overview of the new InfoMEA web-portal and the CITES Virtual College which was extremely well-received (see <http://www.infomea.org> and <http://campusvirtual.unia.es/cites/>). Beta versions of the website version, still under development, can be viewed at <http://www.infomea.org>. Comments from BLG members would be welcomed and may be sent to [marcos.silva@cites.org](mailto:marcos.silva@cites.org). The meeting was closed at 1.05 p.m.

#### ***Action points for SCBD***

- A summary document of the current support from the Japan Fund to be circulated to BLG members along with a revised NBSAP timetable.
- To draft elements of a *modus operandi* and circulate to BLG members by end of June 2011 for comment with a view to agreement at the BLG Retreat (September 2011).
- CBD ABS team to connect with/visit BLG members when they next in Europe to exchange experience.
- To share a document sent to Rio+20 Committee.

*Annex*

## 5D. World Heritage Convention and sustainable development

### Decision: 34 COM 5D

The World Heritage Committee,

1. Having examined Document WHC-10/34.COM/5D,
2. Recalling Decisions 32 COM 10 and 33 COM 14A.2, adopted at its 32nd (Quebec City, 2008) and 33rd (Seville, 2009) sessions respectively,
3. Thanks the State Party of Brazil for supporting the organization of an expert meeting on the relations between the *World Heritage Convention*, conservation and sustainable development, held in Paraty (Brazil) from 29 to 31 March 2010;
4. Welcomes the outcomes of the above-mentioned meeting and agrees that it would be desirable to further consider, in the implementation of the *Convention*, policies and procedures that maintain the Outstanding Universal Value of properties, and also contribute to sustainable development;
5. Also welcomes the proposed Action Plan for 2012 developed during the Expert Meeting at Paraty and presented in the above-mentioned Document, and encourages to reflect and to pursue the efforts to strengthen linkages between the *World Heritage Convention* and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs);
6. Requests the World Heritage Centre, in close collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to pursue the study of the revision of the *Operational Guidelines*, to integrate sustainable development, and to further consider these matters within the framework of the reflection on the Future of the *Convention*;
7. Also requests the World Heritage Centre, in close collaboration with the Advisory Bodies, to seek extra-budgetary funding to organize, within the framework of the reflection on the Future of the *Convention*, a consultative meeting on "World Heritage and Sustainable Development" with all States Parties and secretariats of the concerned MEAs, before the 36th session of the World Heritage Committee in 2012, and further requests the World Heritage Centre, within the limits of its capacity, to seek extra-budgetary funding for the implementation of the other activities mentioned in the Action Plan for 2012 presented in Document WHC-10/34.COM/5D;
8. Also requests the World Heritage Centre to identify opportunities, of potential collaboration with the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Programme (MAB), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and other MEAs, and taking into account the needs of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in the form of pilot projects to address the relation between conservation and sustainable development at regional/ecosystem scales;

9. Further requests the World Heritage Centre to report on the progress accomplished in the implementation of the above for examination by the World Heritage Committee at its 35th session in 2011.

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#### **An Action Plan for 2012 [Extract from Document WHC-10/34.COM/5D]**

In terms of next steps to achieve the above, the participants in the Meeting proposed that the World Heritage Committee might consider requesting the World Heritage Centre and the Advisory Bodies the following:

- a) To carry out a study on the social and economic impact of inscription on the World Heritage List on potential sites from each region of the world;
- b) To develop a study and publication on best practices and methodologies linking heritage conservation and sustainable development for natural, cultural, and mixed sites;
- c) Building on the results of the Paraty Meeting, to request the World Heritage Centre in close cooperation with the Advisory Bodies to propose revisions to the *Operational Guidelines* with a view to mainstreaming a concern for sustainable development within them;
- d) To organize a meeting on "World Heritage and Sustainable Development" with all States Parties and concerned MEAs, at the end of 2011. Based on the outcome of this meeting, the Secretariat may finalise a proposal for the revision of the *Operational Guidelines* to be submitted for examination by the Committee at its 36th session in 2012 or to the proposed extraordinary session of the General Assembly in 2012;
- e) To promote the positive role of World Heritage for Sustainable Development, at Rio plus 20, in 2012, together with other MEAs;
- f) To develop specific guidance and communication tools (e.g. within Resource Manuals but also through innovative technologies) on integrating sustainable development in conservation and management strategies, drawing from existing materials, when available (i.e. the tool developed by WWF: "Protected areas benefit assessment tool");
- g) To develop, in collaboration with international agencies for development, international banks, and national governments, guidelines and strategies for meeting MDGs and other development goals using heritage as a resource for development in a sustainable manner;
- h) To encourage UNESCO Category 2 Centres to spearhead research and training and cooperate among them on the subject of sustainable development;
- i) To encourage the Biodiversity Liaison Group to put sustainable development as an overarching theme and area of cooperation for its next coordination meeting(s);
- j) To explore, within the context of the Biodiversity Liaison Group and in a small number of pilot sites (maximum 5 between 2010 and 2012) that have multiple joint designation (or to be developed to have multiple joint designation), how these multiple designations at the international level can contribute towards better trade-offs and interactions between biodiversity conservation and enhancing human well-being at the larger regional or biome level;

- k) To recognise opportunities for collaboration between Man and the Biosphere (MAB) reserves that comply with the Seville strategy and the statutory framework for WNBR (post 1995) as land seascapes contributing to regional (in-country) and biome level sustainability and the protection of OUV in World Heritage sites and to encourage cooperation of States Parties, the World Heritage Centre, the Advisory Bodies with MAB on the following aspects:
- i. To invite the MAB programme to present a position paper on the above-mentioned collaboration as information document for the World Heritage Committee (Brasilia, 2010);
  - ii. To use Brazilian sites as illustrative case studies and to showcase them during a special event at Brasilia for 34 COM to be organised by Brazilian Government, UNESCO Brasil and MAB;
  - iii. To document the legal basis of land-resource use in core, buffer and transition zones as well as institutional mechanisms used for coordinating biosphere reserves such as the Mata Atlantica as an information/data base for visualising ways and means by which the protection of the Natural World Heritage embedded in the biosphere reserve could be strengthened on a sustainable basis;
  - iv. To identify opportunities for collaboration between World Heritage and MAB to address sustainability issues at regional/ecosystem scales (e.g between the Angkor World Heritage Site and the Biosphere Reserve of Tonle Sap, in Cambodia ; Ha Long Bay World Heritage Site and Category B Biosphere Reserve (Vietnam); Brazilian World Heritage properties included in many Biosphere Reserves);
- l) To consider the establishment a new World Heritage thematic programme on the integration of sustainable development in the management of World Heritage properties, including consideration of tourism, to develop guidance and capacities.