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REPORT OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP ON SYNERGIES AMONG BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

Note by the Executive Secretary

Pursuant to decision XIII/24 of the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary has the honour to transmit to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation the report of the informal advisory group on synergies among biodiversity-related conventions.**

* [CBD/SBI/2/1](#).

** The list of members of the informal advisory group is annexed to the present document.

**REPORT OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP ON SYNERGIES AMONG
BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS SUBMITTED TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

1. This document reports on the work undertaken by the informal advisory group on synergies since it was established, pursuant to the request of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in decision XIII/24, paragraph 15, in November 2017.
2. The report is presented to the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation of the Convention (SBI 2), as also requested by the Conference of the Parties in that decision. It contains advice to the Executive Secretary, the Bureau of CBD COP 13, and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, as developed by the Group.
3. The report is structured in two main sections. Part 1 presents the advice of the informal advisory group, as well as additional actions that the group recommends. Part 2 describes the work and methodology in formulating the advice. Additional detail is provided in annex to the report.

PART 1. ADVICE OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP ON SYNERGIES

INTRODUCTION

1. Part 1 of this report presents the advice of the informal advisory group as mandated by decision XIII/24 (section I) and additional recommendations of the group (section II).

I. ADVICE OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP ON SYNERGIES

2. The following text presents advice of the informal advisory group on synergies established pursuant to paragraph 15 of decision XIII/24 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
3. In decision XIII/24, the Conference of the Parties welcomed options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level contained in annex I to the decision; and a road map for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the international level 2017-2020 (the “road map”), contained in annex II of the decision.
4. Annex II to decision XIII/24 contains a table of “desirable key actions for enhancing synergies at the international level from 2017 to 2020”. The key actions are grouped under seven activities which contribute towards three broad outcomes. For each key action, the table serves to identify: the timeline in which it would be implemented; the organization(s) that would potentially lead it; guidance or directive provided under the conventions that would mandate its implementation, if any; and the source or origin of the proposal for the action.
5. As requested in paragraph 15 of decision XIII/24, advice of the informal advisory group concerns the prioritization and implementation of actions in the table contained in annex II of the decision. As also requested in paragraph 15 of the decision, the advice of the Group is targeted to the Executive Secretary (ES), the CBD COP 13 Bureau, and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG), as appropriate.
6. The informal advisory group considers that all the desirable key actions are important and should be implemented. It has therefore provided advice on the implementation of each of the key actions rather than only on some that have been prioritized. Advice of the Group on the implementation of each of the key actions is presented below in the order in which the key actions are contained in the original table, according to the Activity and to the Outcome to which each relates, and indicating which of the actions received the highest scores during the Group’s prioritization exercise:

1. Area/expected Outcome A: Enhanced cooperation and coordination mechanisms.

1.1. Activity 1: Enhancement of the efficiency of the work and processes of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions.

1.1.1. Key action: Counterpart staff working on specific areas (high score).

1.1.1.1. Advice to the BLG:

Taking into account relevant existing liaison/coordination mechanisms and work undertaken by communication and capacity development officers:

- a) to continue to strengthen collaboration among counterpart staff working on specific areas;
- b) to further identify issues with potential for synergies;

1.2. Activity 2: Involving other relevant organizations in the work of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions to, among others: facilitate coordinated system-wide action on capacity-building; clarify roles and responsibilities in mutually-supportive activities; provide links with appropriate processes related to the SDGs, and; facilitate strengthened support to Parties at the regional level.

1.2.1. Key action: Invitation to contribute to discussions of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and their preparation.

1.2.1.1. Advice to the BLG:

1/ To continue to convene meetings with other organizations whose work is relevant to the biodiversity agenda and implementation of the conventions, and:

- a) to invite suggestions for the agenda and share information and outcomes of such meetings;
- b) to continue to involve FAO in such sessions, particularly in support of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform;
- c) to involve the Environment Management Group Secretariat in such sessions.

2/ To share information on the work of the BLG on a web page including the minutes of BLG meetings, in a timely manner.

1.2.1.2. Advice to the Bureau and the BLG:

To consider ways for Parties to the Conventions, through bureaux and standing committees or other mechanisms, to provide feedback on the work of the BLG.

1.2.2. Key action: Participation at meetings of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions.

1.2.2.1. Advice: See under previous key action.

1.3. Activity 3: Fostering cooperation in areas of common interest and within the mandates of two or more conventions.

1.3.1. Key action: Continued development and strengthening of joint work programmes and memoranda of understanding.

1.3.1.1. Advice to the members of the BLG:

Taking into account work of existing initiatives and coalitions (CPW, CPF, GSPC, IAS-LG):

- a) to continue to develop and strengthen joint work programmes and agreements, avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy and focusing on useful joint activities;
- b) to collaborate with existing partnerships and coalitions, and invite them to share relevant reports/outcomes;

- c) to make available a full list of agreements between the convention secretariats;
- d) to review current agreements, include new activities/ update existing agreements or establish new agreements, as needed.

1.4. Activity 4: Enhancing the work of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity related Conventions (CSAB).

1.4.1. Key action: Coordination of the CSAB including to enable the CSAB to serve as a mechanism between the conventions, IPBES and their secretariats.

1.4.1.1. Advice to the BLG:

- 1/ To utilize the work of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) as a mechanism between the conventions, IPBES and their secretariats;
- 2/ To facilitate the CSAB:
 - a) to meet at the margins or back-to-back with IPBES Plenary;
 - b) to participate as observers in multilateral expert panels;
 - c) to further identify issues with potential for synergies;
 - d) to consult with the bureaux regarding their agendas and share information such as minutes of their meetings.

2. Area/expected Outcome B: Enhancing management of and avoiding duplication related to information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators.

2.1. Activity 1: Collaboration in the management of information and knowledge and alignment in national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators.

2.1.1. Key action (a): Undertake an analysis of gaps and duplications of existing tools and approaches in information management and knowledge management and an assessment of their effectiveness (high score).

2.1.1.1. Advice to the ES and BLG:

Taking into account the outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”¹ and the ‘Sixth National Report: Technical reporting guidance’ and other relevant tools and initiatives:

- a) to continue to collaborate with UNEP MEA-IKM/InforMEA, UNEP WCMC and the BIP in the management of information and knowledge and alignment in national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators;
- b) to catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements to undertake an analysis of gaps and duplications of existing tools and approaches in information management and knowledge management and an assessment of their effectiveness.

2.1.1.2. Advice to the ES:

To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.

2.1.2. Key action (b): Provide support in designing data collection and monitoring systems.

2.1.2.1. Advice to the ES and members of the BLG:

Taking into account the outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, in collaboration with UNEP, UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, catalyse

¹ More information on the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, managed by the CBD Secretariat and UNEP and executed by UNEP-WCMC is available in CBD/SBI/2/INF/13.

funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for a project facilitate easy access to the guidance material and provide support in designing data collection and monitoring systems aimed at the national level and informed by the needs of the various conventions.

2.1.2.2. Advice to the ES:

To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.

2.1.3. Key action (c): Advance and make use of relevant case studies on information management, such as those described in the UNEP Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels (the UNEP Sourcebook).

2.1.3.1. Advice to the ES and members of the BLG:

Building on the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”: to catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for a project to further support the online library of case studies, conceived as a “living” and updateable resource/tool.

2.1.3.2. Advice to the ES:

To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.

2.1.4. Key action (d): Provide guidance on national databases, data access and use, and share experience in national database development and use, taking into account and utilizing relevant initiatives including those under the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity, MEA IKM/InforMEA and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF).

2.1.4.1. Advice to the ES and members of the BLG:

In collaboration between the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, and building on the online library prepared under the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” and other relevant initiatives: to catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for a project to develop guidance on national databases, data access and use through a dedicated project.

2.1.4.2. Advice to the ES:

To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.

2.1.5. Key action (e): Support national efforts in national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators, building on the work of InforMEA and the mapping exercises identified in the UNEP Sourcebook.

2.1.5.1. Advice to the ES and members of the BLG:

Building on previous key action (d) and the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for a project to develop a programme to support national efforts in national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators.

2.1.5.2. Advice to the ES:

To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.

2.1.6. Key action (f): Maximize data compatibility and enhance links between the data systems of the conventions and relevant global knowledge products; improve harmonization, links and interoperability of all relevant biodiversity-related data initiatives (high score).

2.1.6.1. Advice to the ES and members of the BLG:

Building on the outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” and in collaboration with UNDP (GEOBON). InforMEA and UNEP-WCMC: to consider supporting the establishment of an agreed initiative in support of this key action.

2.1.7. Key action (g): Contribute to the ongoing processes on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, including their refinement, and to the discussion of biodiversity-related indicators under each of the other conventions.

2.1.7.1. Advice to the BLG:

Building on the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, in collaboration with BIP, IAEG (interagency and expert group on SDG indicators) and Environment-Live: to continue joint and coordinated work on this key action.

2.1.8. Key action (h): Provide, at the regional and subregional levels, capacity-building related to data management and national reporting, including training on database systems.

2.1.8.1. Advice to the members of the BLG:

Taking into consideration the outcomes and outputs of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for a dedicated capacity-building project endorsed by participating countries to provide, at the regional and subregional levels, capacity-building related to data management and national reporting, including training on database systems.

2.1.8.2. Advice to the ES:

To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.

2.1.9. Key action (i): Keep under review opportunities for cooperation in reporting under the conventions, in line with CBD COP decision XIII/27 on national reporting, and for ensuring interoperability between reporting systems or platforms (BLG), making use of and continuing the development of approaches and possible tools.²

2.1.9.1. Advice to the ES and members of the BLG:

Taking into consideration the outcomes and outputs of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, and taking account of the work under implementation of CBD decision XIII/27: to seek direction from the governing bodies of the conventions to enable implementation of this key action, including to provide funds for IT development and to enable dedicated staff effort.

2.2. Activity 2: Provide countries with capacity-building at the national level in the area of information and knowledge management.

2.2.1. Key action (a): Provision of appropriate tools and technology for database development.

² Such as the modular approach to reporting in FOEN, UNEP-WCMC, NatureConsult (2016). Elements for a modular reporting against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge (UNEP/CBD/COP/13/INF/24).

2.2.1.1. Advice to the members of the BLG:

Taking into account the outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, existing guidance from the GEF, the “Connect” project, in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP, UNEP-WCMC and other potential partners, and with the endorsement of participating countries: catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for a dedicated project to implement this key action.

2.2.1.2. Advice to the ES:

To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.

2.2.2. Key action (b): Pilot studies on database planning and management, for example in two countries per region.

2.2.2.1. Advice to the members of the BLG:

Building on the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP and other relevant organizations, and with the endorsement of participating countries: to consider supporting the development of a dedicated project to implement this key action.

3. Area/expected outcome C: Enhanced provision of capacity-building and guidance

3.1. Activity 1: Make existing guidance material more widely known and readily available or prepare new materials to address any gaps.

3.1.1. Key action (a): List of existing guidance materials on synergies.

3.1.1.1. Advice to the ES and members of the BLG:

Building on the outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, support the dissemination and maintenance of guidance material, and prepare new materials to address any gaps.

3.1.2. Key action (b): A guide and other communications material about the biodiversity-related conventions, their relationships and synergies among them.

3.1.2.1. Advice to the members of the BLG:

Building on the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” and in collaboration with UNEP:

- a) prepare and make available yearly calendars of events and meetings of biodiversity-related conventions;
- b) support the production of a guide and other communication material about the biodiversity-related conventions, their relationships and synergies among them.

3.1.3. Key action (c): Guidance on synergies in implementing the national biodiversity strategy and action plan and similar strategies and action plans of other biodiversity-related conventions (high score).

3.1.3.1. Advice to the ES and members of the BLG:

Building on the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, in collaboration with UNEP (including UNEP regional offices), other regional coordination mechanisms and UNDP, and taking into account existing guidance and activities under the conventions and UNEP, to consider supporting the development of further guidance material as described in this key action.

3.1.4. Key action (d): Guidance document on possible opportunities for a coordinated approach to funding from the GEF and other multilateral systems including the Green Climate Fund where appropriate and/or possible.

3.1.4.1. Advice to the ES:

(Relates also to key action C.2.d)

Building on the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” and in collaboration with GEF and convention secretariats: develop a guidance document as described under this key action that would:

- a) note the importance of synergies in documents about GEF replenishment;
- b) note the importance of the Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels;
- c) recommend making use of BIOFIN and its notebook, and exploring other opportunities including in the private sector;
- d) highlight the COP decision XII/30 inviting other MEA COPs to provide advice to GEF through the CBD COP
- e) note the need to discuss this in the BLG.

3.1.5. Key action (e): Success stories of synergies in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions are compiled and made available, including through the Clearing-house Mechanism and the NBSAP Forum.

3.1.5.1. Advice to the ES and members of the BLG:

To collaborate to develop and find an accessible location for concept of an online library developed under the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”.

3.1.6. Key action (f): Provide information on synergies, such as the UNEP Sourcebook, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, common issues for biodiversity-related conventions and sources of funding for biodiversity, on the websites of each of the biodiversity-related convention, for example through a dedicated “synergies” page.

3.1.6.1. Advice to the members of the BLG:

Building on the outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:

- a) catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for the development of a dedicated “synergies” online hub. Allocate sufficient staff time to maintain it;
- b) identify gaps;
- c) follow-up activities to the document ‘Improving access to existing guidance, data and information via biodiversity related convention websites’.

3.2. Activity 2: Capacity-building.

3.2.1 Key action (a): Identify common areas of national capacity-building needs, across the conventions.

3.2.1.1. Advice to the members of the BLG:

As agreed at the BLG meeting/meeting with agencies: to examine proposals resulting from the synergistic work conducted by the CBD Secretariat in follow-up to decision XIII/23.

3.2.2. Key action (b): Share information on ongoing, planned and upcoming capacity-building programmes, projects and initiatives relevant to the biodiversity-related conventions in order to

facilitate a coordinated approach, avoid duplication, ensure coherence of their delivery, maximize their utilization and enable cooperation in implementation where relevant.

3.2.2.1. Advice to the members of the BLG:

To make use of the calendar of capacity-building activities resulting from the synergistic work conducted by the CBD Secretariat in follow-up to decision XIII/23 in support of implementation.

3.2.3. Key action (c): Deliver coordinated capacity-building, including through regional and subregional mechanisms and online mechanisms, taking advantage of existing networking opportunities for capacity-building and addressing common needs and areas of two or more conventions and including building capacity for synergistic implementation of the conventions.

3.2.3.1. Advice to the members of the BLG:

(relates to previous two key actions)

Building on the outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, collaborate in the development and implementation of capacity-building programmes and activities addressing common needs and areas, according to the results of the synergistic work conducted by the CBD Secretariat in follow-up to decision XIII/23.

3.2.4. Key action (d): 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.

3.2.4.1. Advice to the ES and members of the BLG:

- 1/ To support webinars, regional workshops and other activities for the national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions on accessing funds in the GEF biodiversity focal area;
- 2/ To include a briefing on GEF mechanism and synergies with other conventions in implementing NBSAPs and Strategic Plan 2011-2020 in COP 14 programme.

3.2.5. Key action (e): To establish joint events, such as a pavilion for biodiversity-related conventions to be convened at international conventions and congresses.

3.2.5.1. Advice to the ES and members of the BLG:

To continue to organize joint events at the margins of COPs, including capacity-building communication/awareness-raising activities, and promotional activities to advertise the existence of the materials and a future online database/ joint website, as relevant and depending on venue and resources.

II. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GROUP TO ENHANCE RELATED WORK ON SYNERGIES

7. In reviewing the desirable key actions included in the road map 2017-2020, the informal advisory group also identified a number of additional actions that could contribute to enhancing coherent implementation and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions. These additional actions would be complementary to the desirable key actions presented in the table contained in annex II to decision XIII/24. A full list of the additional desirable actions identified by the Group is presented below.

8. The informal advisory group further recommends that the Executive Secretary and the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions carefully review the recommendations prepared as an output of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, with a view to their possible follow-up and implementation. These are contained in the project’s report, entitled “Recommendations on possible next steps and activities to enhance cooperation and collaboration among the biodiversity-related conventions, and delivering on COP decision XIII/24”.

Additional activities/actions suggested by the informal advisory group on synergies

9. During their deliberations, members of the informal advisory group provided suggestions of activities/actions additional to those contained in the table provided in Annex II to decision XIII/24. The suggestions are organized by areas/expected outcomes contained in the table, as follows.

1. Area A. Enhanced cooperation and coordination mechanisms

10. Additional activities/key actions relating to enhanced cooperation and coordination mechanisms are as follows:

(a) Supporting/encouraging the creation of National Liaison Groups of Biodiversity-related Conventions;³

(b) Using the assessment model on Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 to assess the level of implementation of all Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

(c) Assessing the possibility and desirability of holding meetings of the governing bodies concurrently;

(d) Addressing mainstreaming at the meetings of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions;

(e) Identifying draft decision(s) that could be presented to the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions, based on the experience of CMS and CITES;⁴

(f) The Secretariat could prepare and distribute a survey on coordination mechanisms at the national level;

(g) Parties could represent conventions/secretariats when secretariats are invited to attend or even actively participate in meetings of other conventions but cannot accept the invitation due to time and budget constraints of secretariats staff. In the past, secretariats have relied on Party representatives from different conventions to represent them and ensure that the views of the other instrument are equally taken on board to promote coherence and synergies. In return this enables the secretariats of the different conventions to be involved and stay aware of opportunities for synergies even if they are low on staff on the individual processes/topics. As Parties are also organized in regional groups, this furthermore could contribute to a better understanding among the Parties of issues relevant to different multilateral environmental agreements. This informal practice should therefore be acknowledged and encouraged. Examples:

(i) CMS Chair of the Strategic Plan Working Group (Belgium) represented the CMS Executive Secretary in a CBD post-2020 framework side-event during the CMS COP12;

(ii) CITES National focal point for Mexico reported to the CITES Secretariat on an upcoming IPBES meeting.

Other examples can probably be found when talking to the secretariats;

(h) Make use of the bureau members' functions of communication within their regional group to encourage dialogues and exchanges on issues of synergies among biodiversity-related conventions at the national level;

(i) The secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions should enhance synergies among them at a practical level through arrangements for management and staffing including time allocation that promote cooperation and communication across the conventions on issues of common concern. This

³ Note that, effectively, this has already been included under Annex I of decision XIII/24

⁴ Four Parties to the two conventions submitted a joint proposal to CMSCOP 12 for the Parties to CMS to adopt the African Elephant Action Plan, an instrument originally developed in the margins of CITES (CITES Decisions 14.75 to 14.79). Statement by John E. Scanlon, CITES Secretary-General at the Twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species. Opening Plenary, Manila, Philippines, 23 October, 2017. Online https://cites.org/eng/news/sg/CITES_SG_opening_speech_Twelfth_CoP_Convention_on_Migratory_Species_23102017

could be done through partnership agreements or other formal arrangements or just by exchanging the relevant information among relevant staff. It could be very useful both for the efficiency of the Secretariat as the implementation by the Parties if staff working on similar issues are in communication with their counterparts handling the same issue when for example developing activities, guidance, communication or draft COP decisions on these issues. This would facilitate a coherent approach to implementation and outreach on these issues across the biodiversity-related conventions at low cost as no new structures would be needed, just better communication and organization;

(j) Cooperation and synergies among the convention secretariats could be facilitated by the further identification of issues of common concern by Parties to the Conventions and by the development of joint work plans on issues of common concern by the secretariats;

(k) Actions for enhanced synergies among biodiversity-related conventions should be adequately integrated in the preparation for and the development of the post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, in particular as they are essential to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(l) The preparation of a joint high-level/ministerial global event and other joint activities related to the preparation of the post-2020 framework on biodiversity would encourage active participation of the governing bodies as well as the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions in the post-2020 process;

(m) Enhanced synergies among biodiversity-related conventions should contribute to developing guidance on synergies in implementing NBSAPs and similar strategies and action plans and for strengthening the implementation of the post-2020 biodiversity framework and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(n) The informal advisory group on synergies should continue to provide advice on and monitor the implementation of the road map until the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(o) The informal advisory group on synergies could provide advice on the points mentioned above, in particular with regards to ensuring a synergetic approach towards the post 2020 global biodiversity framework, including options for enhancing synergy on national reporting with regard to the post-2020 global framework, including with regard to common sets of indicators and modular approaches to reporting. As the process for a post-2020 global biodiversity framework proceeds, work needs to progress in parallel on indicator and reporting processes, so that these are defined as soon as possible after the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(p) The biodiversity-related conventions and their secretariats should make effective use of the IPBES Global and Thematic Assessments and influence the IPBES work programme coherently as a community;

(q) Cooperation and synergies among the conventions could be facilitated by the further sharing of information about the Global Environment Facility and its 7th replenishment and resource mobilization.

11. In addition, under Area A.1 of the table, the informal advisory group asked the Secretariat to prepare a table showing actions that have been taken by the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions under specific thematic areas, as referenced in paragraph 6 of annex II, including in the areas of climate change and invasive alien species, on which attention had been requested by COP 9 and COP 10, and in the area of “mainstreaming”. This task remains to be executed by the Secretariat.

2. Area B. Enhancing management of and avoiding duplication related to information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators

12. Additional activities/key actions relating to enhanced management of and avoiding duplication related to information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators, are as follow:

- (a) Supporting/encouraging the creation of national clearing-house mechanisms;⁵
- (b) Considering the re-launch of TEMATEA (which, by structuring provisions of different instruments on specific key topics, provided a practical tool to support a better and more coherent national implementation of biodiversity-related conventions);
- (c) Involving Parties in developing templates for modular reporting;
- (d) Involving national entities more closely in the development of guidelines and templates on national reports;
- (e) The convention Secretariats should continue to collaborate with UNEP MEA-IKM/InforMEA, UNEP WCMC, IPBES Secretariat and the BIP in the management of information and knowledge and alignment in national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators, as appropriate;
- (f) The convention secretariats should carry out a gap analysis of where additional guidance is needed related to data management systems in the context of synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, either through the development of new material or through the strengthening of existing guidance;
- (g) The convention secretariats should consider the recommendations of the project, “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, for further work to support implementation of the road map 2017-2020.

3. Area C. Enhanced provision of capacity-building and guidance

13. Additional activities/key actions relating to enhanced provision of capacity-building and guidance are as follows:

- (a) Monitoring and assessing the level of effectiveness of existing tools and mechanisms for enhancing synergies at the national level;
- (b) Inviting UN Environment to create projects of national level coordination that could be supported by the Biodiversity Finance Initiative (BIOFIN) of the United Nations Development Programme;
- (c) Measuring impacts of tools and guidelines on synergies among biodiversity-related conventions at the national level;
- (d) Involving all biodiversity-related conventions in preparing the post-2020 biodiversity framework, and organizing a joint high level/ministerial global event before its adoption.

PART 2. WORK AND METHODOLOGY IN FORMULATING ADVICE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Part 2 of this report provides relevant background and the working methodology of the informal advisory group.

II. INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP ON SYNERGIES

2. This section provides information about the mandate, background and composition of the informal advisory group on synergies among biodiversity-related conventions.

A. Mandate

3. At its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted decision XIII/24 on cooperation with other conventions and international

⁵ Relates to surveys on national reports: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/ac3a/53b9/51fbfd17ac62cb6a3e93eea/nrws-2017-01-presentation-01-en.pdf>

organizations, including options to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. In paragraph 15 of the decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the COP 13 bureau, and subject to availability of resources, to establish an informal advisory group on synergies consisting of Party representatives with balanced representation, including regionally, to provide advice to the Executive Secretary, the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, as relevant, on (a) further prioritization of actions in the table contained in annex II of decision XIII/24, and (b) implementing the prioritized actions, and to report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting.

B. Background

4. The work of the informal advisory group on synergies builds on previous work undertaken under auspices of the CBD, including the results of the work of an informal advisory group established through decision XII/6 in 2015-2016. That group was mandated to prepare, in consultation with the Secretariat, a workshop with the task of preparing options which could include elements for a possible road map, for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them, with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels.

5. The workshop was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 8 to 11 February 2016 and convened representation of Parties to seven global biodiversity-related conventions drawn from among their bureaux, standing committees or equivalent bodies.⁶ The report of the workshop containing its recommendations was presented for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its first meeting⁷. The outcomes of the workshop had built on a range of earlier work, including work conducted in 2013-2015 by the United Nations Environment Programme through its project on cooperation and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions.

6. Based on this work, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation made recommendations to COP 13, which adopted decision XIII/24.

C. Composition of the Group

7. As requested in paragraph 15 of decision XIII/24, and communicated through CBD Notification 2017-114 dated 3 November 2017,⁸ the informal advisory group consists of Party representatives with balanced representation, including regionally. The Group contains a diversity of experience relevant to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other biodiversity-related conventions. The list of members and their expertise is provided in annex 2 of this report. The overall size of the group was not prescribed by the decision.

Balance among regional groups⁹

Africa	4 members
Asia-Pacific	4 members
Latin America and the Caribbean	4 members
Central and Eastern Europe (CEE)	2 members (1 from EU)
Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG)	4 members (2 from EU, 2 from JUSCANZ)
European Commission	1 member (serves both EU and CEE countries)
Total	19 members

⁶ Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) and Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention).

⁷ UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/21 and corresponding recommendations in UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/9/Add.1

⁸ Notification 2017-114 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2017/ntf-2017-114-iag-en.pdf>

⁹ UN/ CBD regional groups: Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC), Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), and Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG).

Balance between developed and developing countries

Developed countries ¹⁰	7 members (including European Commission)
Developing countries / economies in transition ¹¹	12 members
Total	19 members

Gender balance

Female	14 members
Male	5 members
Total	19 members

8. Noting a gap in the representation of small island developing States (SIDS), the Group requested the Secretariat to invite further nominations of a qualified representative from the Pacific and another from the Caribbean, but no nominations were received.

III. DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP

9. This section describes the organization of work, the meetings and other working methods of the Group.

10. To initiate the work of the Group, the Secretariat convened an online conference on 7 December 2017 to discuss the mandate, modalities, organization of work and other introductory matters.

11. The Group elected Mr. Hesiquio Benítez of Mexico as its Chair. The Group considered the need to identify, involve and consult other relevant experts, however, considering the expertise contained in the Group, as demonstrated in annex 2 of this report, members concluded that no additional expertise was required to execute their mandate.

12. To facilitate its work, and with the generous financial support of the Government of Finland, the Secretariat organized an in-person meeting of the informal advisory group held from 17 to 18 December 2017 in Montreal, Canada. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Benítez and attended by 13 members of the informal advisory group, including one participant by videoconference, with representatives from each of the regions. The meeting elected Ms. Marina von Weissenberg of Finland as its Rapporteur. In addition to staff members of the CBD Secretariat, a representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) participated in the meeting, and a representative of the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands joined the meeting via videoconference.

13. During the meeting, the CBD Secretariat gave presentations on synergies across biodiversity-related conventions and co-benefits derived from implementing actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on protected areas; capacity-building; national reporting; and the InforMEA Initiative and Data Reporting Tool for Multilateral Environmental Agreements. A representative of UNEP-WCMC reported on the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, which is being conducted in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat and the United Nations Environment Programme with financial support from the governments of Finland and Switzerland and the European Union. The representative of the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention briefed the meeting on relevant work under the Ramsar Convention, including its intersessional work leading up to the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties that will be held in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, from 21 to 29 October 2018.

14. The Group discussed key actions contained in the table in Annex II of decision XIII/24, under areas A (Enhanced cooperation and coordination mechanisms), B (Enhancing management of and avoiding duplication related to information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators) and C (Enhanced provision of capacity-building and guidance). It developed notes and suggestions regarding the implementation of the key actions. The Group also decided that, in addition to the key

¹⁰ For the purpose of the present analysis, this includes those countries that are members of WEOG and/or EU; and Japan

¹¹ For the purpose of the present analysis, this includes those countries on the *OECD DAC List of ODA Recipients*; and Kuwait

actions contained in the table in Annex II of decision XIII/24, additional actions could be noted and further considered by the Group and/or presented for the consideration of relevant actors.

15. The report of the meeting, including the outcomes of the discussions on the table, is available on the CBD website at the web page of the meeting.¹²

16. To conduct additional work and follow-up on pending issues, the Chair with the support of the Secretariat convened three follow-up meetings via the cost-effective means of an online conference facility, on 7 February 2018, 15 March 2018 and 30 April 2018. During these meetings, informed by relevant briefings of update provided by the Secretariat and by UNEP-WCMC and UN Environment on progress of their related work, the Group: analysed the desirable key actions contained in the table in annex II of decision XIII/24; developed notes and suggestions regarding the implementation of the desirable key actions; considered bottlenecks and difficulties in implementing the key actions; prioritized actions by scoring the desirable key actions; identified relevant activities additional to the desirable key actions that could be complementary and helpful to their objectives; considered the outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, managed by CBD Secretariat and UNEP and executed by UNEP-WCMC to support key actions of the Road Map 2017-2020 (CBD/SBI/2/INF/13); developed elements of advice on the implementation of the desirable key actions, applicable to the Executive Secretary, the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions; and prepared and finalized its report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

17. At its meeting on 30 April 2018, on the Chair’s suggestion the Group created a small team to undertake some remaining tasks, including reviewing the elements of advice in the table of its draft report and the recommendations resulting from the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”. The task team was composed of four members from three regions, and supported by representatives of CBD Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC. The task team met via online conference on 7 May 2018. The Chair incorporated the results of the work of the task team into a draft report, which was circulated to the members of informal advisory group for review and approval via electronic means.

18. To support this work, the Secretariat made available an online discussion platform and prepared relevant material. These include: an introductory note on the informal advisory group (mandate, role, etc.); agendas and reports of five meetings; a calendar of relevant international events; a list of members of the informal advisory group and their expertise on biodiversity-related conventions; a description of bottlenecks and difficulties for the desirable key actions; a note on the timeline for preparation of synergies documents; an overview of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” and activities to support implementation of the key actions; support to the work of the task team; draft possible advice of the informal advisory group to the Executive Secretary, bureau and Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions; a note on the report of the informal advisory group; and a draft report of the Group to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

IV. FORMULATING ADVICE ON THE PRIORITIZATION OF ACTIONS IN THE TABLE CONTAINED IN ANNEX II TO DECISION XIII/24 AND ON IMPLEMENTING THEM

19. The informal advisory group on synergies was requested by the COP to provide advice to the Executive Secretary, the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions on (a) further prioritization of actions in the table contained in annex II to decision XIII/24, and (b) implementing the prioritized actions.

20. At the request of the Chair, members of the informal advisory group individually prioritized the desirable key actions, taking into account their discussions and possible bottlenecks and difficulties to their implementation, and each submitted a list of the five they considered to be the highest priorities. The Chair compiled the inputs with support from the Secretariat. A table that summarizes the results of this exercise is provided in section 1 of annex 1 to the present document. However, the Group considers that all desirable key actions are important and should be implemented. The Group also noted that the

¹² At the following URL: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/BRCOM-2017-01>

prioritization is reflected in the possibilities and opportunities for implementation rather than in the scoring of the actions, as demonstrated by the fact that a number of key actions have already been undertaken or are ongoing.

21. The Secretariat was requested to prepare draft advice on each of the desirable key actions targeted to the Executive Secretary, the bureau and the Liaison Group on Biodiversity-related Conventions, building upon the observations and suggestions developed by the group in its meetings, and addressing difficulties and bottlenecks to their implementation that were identified. The draft advice was reviewed by the Group at its fourth online meeting and further considered and revised by the task team. The results of this work were incorporated into a revised draft prepared by the Chair and finalized and agreed through electronic review.

22. The recommendations resulting from the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” have been considered by the Group and, where relevant, have been noted in their advice on implementation of desirable key actions.

23. The outcome of the work undertaken by the Group on further prioritization and implementation of actions in the table contained in annex II of decision XIII/24 is presented in annex 1 to the present document. This includes a table in section 2 of the annex that summarizes the Group’s notes and observations relevant to implementation of each of the desirable key actions; the status of their implementation and any bottlenecks and difficulties identified; and the advice of the Group arising from these.

V. ADVICE OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY GROUP ON SYNERGIES

24. The advice of the informal advisory group is presented in Part 1 of this report.

25. A representative of the Group will present the Group’s advice to the Executive Secretary and the bureau at the meeting of the bureau to be held in July 2018 in Montreal, and its advice to the Liaison Group on Biodiversity-related Conventions at the next meeting of the Liaison Group, which is planned to be held in the fall of 2018 and prior to COP 14, at the World Heritage Centre, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, France.

26. In view of the fact that the advice of the Group concerns the implementation of concrete actions for strengthening coherent implementation of biodiversity-related conventions, the majority of its advice targets the Executive Secretary and members of the Liaison Group on Biodiversity-related Conventions. Considering that the bureau does not have a mandate or resources to be involved in the implementation of such actions, advice of the Group to the bureau is of a different nature, for example, to make use of the bureau members’ function of communication within their regional group to encourage dialogues and exchanges on issues of synergies among biodiversity-related conventions at the national level. This and other additional activities/key actions suggested by of the Group are addressed in section VI, below.

VI. ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GROUP TO ENHANCE RELATED WORK ON SYNERGIES

27. In reviewing the desirable key actions included in the road map 2017-2020, the informal advisory group also identified a number of additional actions that could contribute to enhancing coherent implementation and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions. These additional actions would be complementary to the desirable key actions presented in the table contained in annex II of decision XIII/24. A list of the additional desirable actions identified by the Group is therefore also presented in Part 1 of this report.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON IMPLEMENTATION

28. The informal advisory group also contributed to the formulation of the draft recommendations related to its work that are presented for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting in document CBD/SBI/2/10.

ANNEXES

Annex 1

Advice on prioritization of actions in the table contained in annex II to decision XIII/24 and on implementing the prioritized actions

1. Advice on prioritizing the desirable key actions in Annex II of Decision XIII/24

1. The following table (Table 1) summarizes the results of the prioritization exercise described in section IV in Part 2 of this report, by which members of the informal advisory group each identified the five key actions in the table contained in Annex II to Decision XIII/24 that they considered to be of highest priority. To facilitate communication and for ease of reference, the Group introduced a different numbering system to the table, referring to key actions #1 to #27 (please refer to table 2, below). The shading used in table 1 is replicated in table 2 to indicate the ranking of each key action.

Table 1: Ranking of desirable key actions contained in Annex II of Decision XIII/24

Ranking	Desirable key action #
HIGH (5 to 7 votes)	1, 6, 11, 19
MEDIUM (2 to 4 votes)	2, 4, 5, 9, 12, 15, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27
LOW (0 to 1 vote)	3, 7, 8, 10, 13, 14, 16, 24

2. The IAG considers that all desirable key actions are important. Specific advice on each action, and additional advice, has been provided by the Group. Actions can be and are being implemented. The Group notes that the prioritization is reflected in the possibilities and opportunities for implementation rather than in the scoring of the actions, as demonstrated by the fact that a number of key actions have already been undertaken or are ongoing.

3. Several key actions are related to one another and in some cases their implementation would be sequential, for example, the key actions of the Activity “Capacity Building” (C2). First one would “Identify common areas of national capacity-building needs, across the conventions” (key action #23, C2 (a)); then one would “Share information on ongoing, planned and upcoming capacity-building programmes, etc.” (key action #24, C2 (b)); and then one would “Deliver coordinated capacity-building, etc.” (key action #25, C2 (c)) and “Conduct webinars, regional workshops, etc.” (key action #26, C2(d)).

2. Advice on implementing the desirable key actions for enhancing synergies at the international level from 2017 to 2020

4. The following table (Table 2) has been adapted from the table contained in Annex II of CBD COP decision XIII/24. The text in normal font is drawn directly from that table. Text inserted as a result of the work of the informal advisory group on synergies is shown in bold font.

5. The advice of the informal advisory group on synergies on implementing the desirable key actions for enhancing synergies at the international level from 2017 to 2020 can be found under the column “Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)”.

6. The table should be read in conjunction with the full text in annex II of decision XIII/24.

Table 2. Table of desirable key actions for enhancing synergies at the international level from 2017 to 2020 including advice from the informal advisory group on synergies

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i> <i>(Description of activity)</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i> <i>(Description of key action)</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i> <i>(Indicati on of the start and the period)</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i> <i>(Lead organizatio n, partner organizatio ns, Parties)</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
A. Enhanced cooperatio n and coordinatio n mechanism s	1. Enhancemen t of the efficiency of the work and processes of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity -related Conventions (Biodiversit y Liaison Group, BLG)	Key action #1 Counterpart staff working on specific areas ^a	2017- 2020	Convention secretariats *	The Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions could identify issues with potential for synergies, such as biodiversity mainstreaming, post-2020 framework, and scenarios for the 2050 vision for biodiversity, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, climate change and protected areas. <u><i>Note on future work of the IAG and relevant ongoing work to support the key action:</i></u> The Secretariat is asked to prepare a table showing actions that have been taken by the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions under specific thematic areas, as referenced in paragraph 6 of annex II, including in	This is being acted upon. It is an agreement and wish of the BLG that there will be such cooperation among counterpart staff on relevant issues. Some interagency liaison/coordination mechanisms (joint work plans and agreements) are also relevant to this action.	<u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the BLG:</u> Taking into account relevant existing liaison/coordination mechanisms and work undertaken by communication and capacity development officers: a) to continue to strengthen collaboration among counterpart staff working on specific areas ^b ; b) to further identify issues with potential for synergies.

^a The informal advisory group suggested the following areas, among others: biodiversity mainstreaming, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, post-2020 global biodiversity framework, scenarios for the 2050 vision for biodiversity, climate change and protected areas.

^b Idem.

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
					the areas of climate change and invasive alien species, on which attention had been requested by COP 9 and COP 10, and in the area of “mainstreaming”.		
	2. Involving other relevant organizations in the work of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions to, among others: facilitate coordinated system-wide action on capacity-building; clarify roles and responsibilities in mutually-supportive activities;	Key action #2 Invitation to contribute to discussions of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and their preparation	2017-2020	Convention secretariats* and relevant organizations	IAG recognizes the importance for the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions to convene meetings with other organizations whose work is relevant to the biodiversity agenda and implementation of the conventions. Continue to invite relevant organizations. Such involvement should be in line with the mandates and COP decisions, and should not duplicate the decisions. Involvement of others should lead to efficient actions in support of implementation. Invite suggestions for the agenda and share information and outcomes of such sessions. The Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform under FAO is an important initiative to take into consideration. The Environment Management Group should also be involved. Share information on the work of the	This is being acted upon. Meeting of the BLG and other relevant organizations held September 2017 and subsequent work has been carried out with other relevant organizations in context of decision XIII/23 related to capacity-building. No particular difficulties or bottlenecks envisaged at this point.	<u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the BLG:</u> 1/ To continue to convene meetings with other organizations whose work is relevant to the biodiversity agenda and implementation of the conventions, and: (a) to invite suggestions for the agenda and share information and outcomes of such meetings; (b) to continue to involve FAO in such sessions, particularly in support of the Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform; (c) to involve the Environment Management Group Secretariat in such

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
	provide links with appropriate processes related to the SDGs, and; facilitate strengthened support to Parties at the regional level				<p>Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions on a web page.</p> <p>Find ways for Parties to the conventions to provide feedback on the work of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions.</p> <p>Identify a channel for the IAG to communicate with the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions so that the IAG can bring forward ideas and advice that could be addressed at the next meeting of the Liaison Group^c.</p> <p>Make available the minutes of the meetings of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in timely manner.</p> <p>Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions could consult with the bureaux regarding their agendas, and share information such as minutes of their meetings.</p>		<p>sessions.</p> <p>2/ To share information on the work of the BLG on a web page including the minutes of BLG meetings, in a timely manner.</p> <p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to bureau and the BLG:</u></p> <p>To consider ways for Parties to the Conventions, through bureaux and standing committees or other mechanisms, to provide feedback on the work of the BLG.</p>

^c Note that the Secretariat informed the IAG that the CBD Secretariat serves as the secretariat of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions.

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
					<p><u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”^d:</u></p> <p>1. Consider when and how to communicate each of the project deliverables to the Informal Advisory Group (IAG) on Synergies and the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity- related Conventions, so as to both inform the discussion within those fora, and to get their feedback on next steps to be taken.</p>		
		<p>Key action #3</p> <p>Participatio n at meetings of the Liaison Group of Biodiversit y-related Convention s</p>	2017- 2020	Convention secretariats* and relevant organizatio ns		<p>Meeting of BLG and other relevant organizations held September 2017 and will be repeated in 2018 and beyond involving wider set of relevant organizations^e.</p>	<p>See under key action #2</p>

^d The project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” is facilitated by CBD Secretariat and UNEP and conducted by UNEP-WCMC to support key actions of the Road Map 2017-2020. The results of the project are presented in full in CBD/SBI/2/INF/12.

^e The Secretariat informed the Group that the organizations that participated at the meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and other organizations held in September 2017 were FAO, IUCN, UNEP and UNESCO and that it had been agreed that the next such meeting would involve a larger group of relevant organizations.

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
	3. Fostering cooperation in areas of common interest and within the mandates of two or more conventions	Key action #4 Continued development and strengthening of joint work programmes and memoranda of understanding.	2017-2020	Convention secretariats*	<p>Avoid unnecessary bureaucracy (if there is no need for an agreement) and focus on useful joint activities.</p> <p>Take into account work of existing partnerships and coalitions (CPW, CPF, GSPC, IAS-LG), and invite them to share reports/outcomes.</p> <p>Provide a full list of agreements between the convention secretariats.</p> <p>Review current agreements between conventions to see if there is a need to update or not, or to include new activities, or if there is a need for new agreements.</p> <p>IAG notes the relevance of regional joint preparatory meetings for COPs.</p> <p>Compile information on successful joint initiatives between the secretariats, including joint work in preparing decisions for Parties (example of CMS and CITES).</p> <p>This key action is linked to key actions #25 and #27.</p>	<p>This is needs-driven, ongoing, dependent on priorities of respective conventions and their secretariats. No particular difficulties or bottlenecks envisaged but relies on aforementioned conditions and capacities of the staff of the secretariats.</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>Taking into account work of existing initiatives and coalitions ((CPW, CPF, GSPC, IAS-LG);</p> <p>(a) to continue to develop and strengthen joint work programmes and agreements, avoiding unnecessary bureaucracy and focusing on useful joint activities;</p> <p>(b) to collaborate with existing partnerships and coalitions, and invite them to share relevant reports/outcomes;</p> <p>(c) to make available a full list of agreements between the convention secretariats;</p> <p>(d) to review current agreements, include new activities/ update existing agreements or establish new agreements, as needed.</p>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
	4. Enhancing the work of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity related Conventions (CSAB)	Key action #5 Coordinati on of the CSAB including to enable the CSAB to serve as a mechanism between the convention s, IPBES and their secretariats	2017- 2020	Convention secretariats, * IPBES Secretariat	The IAG encourages the role of the CSAB. CSAB could identify issues with potential for synergies, such as the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011- 2020, biodiversity mainstreaming, post- 2020 framework, and Scenarios for the 2050 Vision for biodiversity, consult with the bureaux regarding their agendas, and share information such as minutes of their meetings. CSAB could meet at the margins or back-to-back with IPBES, and via cost- efficient means of communication Chairs could participate as observers in multilateral expert panels.	CBD Secretariat encouraged informal consultation among chairs/secretariats of conventions present at the last IPBES Plenary. BLG recognizes potential value of CSAB. Financial resources are necessary for enabling formal meetings of CSAB with full participation.	<u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the BLG:</u> 1/ To utilize the work of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) as a mechanism between the conventions, IPBES and their secretariats; 2/ To facilitate the CSAB: (a) to meet at the margins or back-to-back with IPBES Plenary; (b) to participate as observers in multilateral expert panels; (c) to further identify issues with potential for synergies; (d) to consult with the bureaux regarding their agendas and share information such as minutes of their meetings.

Area/ expected outcome	Activity	Desirable key action	Timeline 2017- 2020	Potential lead organizatio ns	Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work	Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation	Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)
B. Enhancing manageme nt of and avoiding duplication related to informatio n and knowledge , national reporting, monitoring and indicators	1. Collaboratio n in the management of information and knowledge and alignment in national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators	Key action #6 (a) Undertake an analysis of gaps and duplication s of existing tools and approaches in informatio n manageme nt and knowledge manageme nt and an assessment of their effectivene ss	2017- 2020	UNEP MEA- IKM/Infor MEA and the UNEP WCMC, in collaboratio n with the secretariats of the biodiversity related convention s	IAG recognizes the importance of accessing information and of interoperability and standardization of information, in particular on areas of importance to more than one convention. <u>Suggested addition to potential lead organizations for B.1.(a): Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP)</u> <u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</u> 4.c. Carry out a gap analysis of where additional guidance is needed related to data management systems in the context of synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, either through the development of new material or through the strengthening of existing guidance. The aim would be to promulgate the guidance in order to support the further development of national systems for biodiversity information management and reporting in part as a means for supporting implementation of conventions at the national level. This would help to fulfil key action C2(a). This action also related to key actions #15 and #10.	The work of the project, “Supporting imple mentation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” has contributed to advancing this. The development of the compendium of guidance for capturing, managing and using data and information serves as a first step to prepare for the gap analysis. Financial resources are required to undertake the study (i.e. analysis of gaps and duplications and assessment of their effectiveness) . Consultancy, raising with and drawing information from the convention secretariats.	<u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to ES and members of the BLG:</u> Taking into account the outputs and outcomes of the project, “Supporting imple mentation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”^f and the ‘Sixth National Report: Technical reporting guidance’ and other relevant tools and initiatives, (a) to continue to collaborate with UNEP MEA-IKM/InforMEA, UNEP WCMC and the BIP in the manage ment of information and knowledge and alignment in national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators; (b) to catalyse funding appropriate imple mentation arrangements to undertake an analysis of gaps and duplications of existing tools and approaches in information manage ment and knowledge management and an assessment of their effectiveness

^f Relevant components of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, managed by , managed by CBD Secretariat and UNEP and executed by UNEP-WCMC and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the Bureau of the Executive Secretary (ES). The project is part of the Compendium of guidance for capturing, managing and using data and information and Compendium of key global databases.

Area/ expected outcome	Activity	Desirable key action	Timeline 2017- 2020	Potential lead organizatio ns	Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work	Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation	Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)
		<p>Key action #7</p> <p>(b) Provide support in designing data collection and monitoring systems</p>	2017-2020	UNEP-WCMC, Convention secretariats*	<p>Suggested addition to potential lead organizations for B.1.(b): IUCN. Note: relates also to C2.</p> <p><u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</u></p> <p>4.a. Facilitate easy access to the guidance material through development of an online interactive database. Regardless of where the online database would be hosted, it will be important to promote it via relevant websites, including the convention websites. Part of the work on this has already been undertaken, with development of a wire frame.</p> <p>15. Develop a programme for supporting national biodiversity data management, which will support national efforts in data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators, including with regard to the development of national reports to CBD. This could include organizing activities to foster experience sharing, taking into account and utilizing relevant initiatives including those under the CBD CHM, InforMEA and GBIF. This builds on the compendia described above and relevant case studies, any new guidance developed, and would include capacity-building activities, and conducting pilot studies on database planning and management. This would respond to key actions</p>	<p>Action pending.</p> <p>Dedicated financial resources required. Could be delivered through a project aimed at the national level and informed by the needs of the various conventions: project development, funding and implementation</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES and members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>Taking into account the outputs and outcomes of the project, “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, in collaboration with UNEP, UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for a project facilitate easy access to the guidance material and provide support in designing data collection and monitoring systems aimed at the national level and informed by the needs of the various conventions.</p> <p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES:</u></p> <p>To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.</p>

Area/ expected outcome	Activity	Desirable key action	Timeline 2017- 2020	Potential lead organizatio ns	Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work	Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation	Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)
		<p>Key action #8</p> <p>(c) Advance and make use of relevant case studies on information management, such as those described in the UNEP Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related convention states at national and regional levels (the UNEP Sourcebook)</p>	2017-2020	UNEP-WCMC, Convention secretariats*	<p><u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</u></p> <p>4.a. Facilitate easy access to the guidance material through development of an online interactive database. Regardless of where the online database would be hosted, it will be important to promote it via relevant websites, including the convention websites. Part of the work on this has already been undertaken, with development of a wire frame.</p> <p>6.a. Increase access to case studies by building a user-friendly online interactive database. The aim would be to create or make use of a structure that ensures ownership of all of the biodiversity-related conventions as well as regular updating once new case studies become available. This could, for example, be achieved through a joint conventions website or by adding another dimension to a future online database for the guidance included in the three compendia. It should be highlighted that the maintenance of an online library of case studies on synergies is more resource-intensive than the maintenance of a database for the type of information included in the compendia, since it requires active sourcing of additional case studies and support for their development, as well as review of submitted case studies to ensure their quality/usefulness. This</p>	<p>This is positively progressing under the project, “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, which is supporting key actions of the Road Map 2017-2020. Additional resources are being sought for the online library of case studies, conceived as a “living” and updateable resource/tool.</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to ES and members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>Building on the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”^g: to catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for a project to further support the online library of case studies, conceived as a “living” and updateable resource/tool.</p> <p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES:</u></p> <p>To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.</p>

^g Relevant components of the proposed Compendium of guidance for capturing, managing and using data and information; Compendium of key global databases; Making available further case studies based on national experience of delivering synergies.

Area/ expected outcome	Activity	Desirable key action	Timeline 2017- 2020	Potential lead organiza- tions	Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work	Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation	Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)
		<p>Key action #9</p> <p>(d) Provide guidance on national databases, data access and use, and share experience in national database development and use, taking into account and utilizing relevant initiatives including those under the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity,</p> <p>MEA IKM/Infor MEA and the Global Biodiversity</p>		<p>UNEP MEA- IKM/Infor MEA and the UNEP WCMC, in collaboration with the secretariats of the biodiversity related conventions*</p>	<p>Note: also relates to C2. Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</p> <p>6.a. Increase access to case studies by building a user-friendly online database. The aim would be to create or make use of a structure that ensures ownership of all of the biodiversity-related conventions as well as regular updating once data is available. This could, for example, be achieved through a joint conventions website or by adding another dimension to a future online database. This would help to fulfil key action C1(b) of the road map.</p> <p>15. Develop a programme for supporting national biodiversity data management, which will support national efforts in data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators, including with regard to the development of sixth national reports to CBD. This would respond to key actions B1(d), B1(e), B1(h), B2(a) and B2(b) of the road map.</p> <p>This action also related to key actions #8, #9 and #13.</p>	<p>The work of the project, “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” has contributed to advancing this through the development of the compendium of guidance for capturing, managing and using data and information.</p> <p>The focus of the key action is to support national databases etc. Dedicated financial resources are required.</p> <p>The above-mentioned online library of case-studies (see key action #8) will assist in the sharing of national experience. A guidance facility/mechanism could perhaps be provided</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES and members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>In collaboration between the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, and building on the online library prepared under the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”^h and other relevant initiatives: to catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for a project to develop guidance on national databases, data access and use through a dedicated project.</p> <p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES:</u></p> <p>To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.</p>

^h Relevant components of the 2017/2018 CBD Secretariat/UNEP Environment/ UNEP WCMC and the UNEP WCMC are: Compendium of guidance for capturing, managing and using data and information; Compendium of key global databases; Making available further case studies based on national experience of delivering synergies.

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		<p>Key action #10</p> <p>(e) Support national efforts in national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators, building on the work of InforMEA and the mapping exercises identified in the UNEP Sourcebook</p>		Convention secretariats, * BLG** in collaboration with UNEP	<p><u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</u></p> <p>15. Develop a programme for supporting national biodiversity data management, which will support national efforts in data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators, including with regard to the development of sixth national reports to CBD. This could include organizing activities to foster experience sharing, taking into account and utilizing relevant initiatives including those under the CBD CHM, InforMEA and GBIF. This would respond to key actions B1(d), B1(e), B1(h), B2(a) and B2(b) of the road map.</p> <p>This action also related to key actions #8, #9 and #13</p>	<p>Action pending.</p> <p>Relates to key action #9. Could be delivered through a dedicated project. Financial resources for such would be required.</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES and members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>Building on key action #9, and the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for a project to develop a programme to support national efforts in national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators.</p> <p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES:</u></p> <p>To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.</p>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		Key action #11 (f) Maximize data compatibility and enhance links between the data systems of the conventions and relevant global knowledge products; improve harmonization, links and interoperability of all relevant biodiversity-related data initiatives ⁱ	2017-2020	Convention secretariats, * BLG** and relevant reciprocal organizations	<p><u>Suggested addition to potential lead organizations for B.1.(f): UNDP (GEOBON). InforMEA and UNEP-WCMC with regards to online reporting systems</u></p> <p><u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</u></p> <p>5.d. Make recommendations on how to maximize data compatibility and links between databases by engaging in relevant discussion of the IKM initiative (re InforMEA) and the CHM network. This would draw on the work done in compiling the compendium and take this further in developing understanding on how links could be made to these databases in ways that increase their accessibility and utility for conventions and their implementation.</p>	<p>Action pending.</p> <p>Dedicated financial support for staff effort of convention secretariats. Establishment of an agreed initiative among them and with custodians of relevant global knowledge products.</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES and members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>Building on the outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”ⁱ, and in collaboration with UNDP (GEOBON). InforMEA and UNEP-WCMC: to consider supporting the establishment of an agreed initiative in support of key action #11.</p>

ⁱ Relevant components of the 2017-2018 CBD Secretariat/UNEP-WCMC project are: Compendia of Guidance; Compendium of key global databases; and Overview of initiatives on synergies at the international and regional levels.

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		<p>Key action #12</p> <p>(g) Contribute to the ongoing processes on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, including their refinement, and to the discussion of biodiversity-related indicators under each of the other conventions</p>		<p>Convention secretariats* BLG**</p>	<p>IAG encourages joint and coordinated work.</p> <p><u>Suggested addition to potential lead organizations for B.1.(g):</u> BIP, IAEG (interagency and expert group on SDG indicators), Environment-Live</p> <p><u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</u></p> <p>14. Enhance synergies in the development and use of biodiversity indicators and the SDGs. Creation of a mapping of BIP indicators currently used to measure progress in achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Sustainable Development Goals and biodiversity-related convention targets and goals, as well as identifying suitable indicators to measure progress under the different processes in the future that are not currently used for this purpose. Among other things, this would contribute to implementing key action B1(g) of the road map.</p> <p>This action also related to key action #10.</p>	<p>This is ongoing. Convention secretariats (and their host organizations) have participated in the meetings of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and contributed to this ongoing process. Several convention secretariats serve as custodian agencies or partner agencies for indicators for specific SDG targets. For example, Ramsar is custodian agency for indicator 6.6.1 together with UNEP; CITES is custodian agency for indicators 15.7.1 and 15.c.1 together with UNODC; CBD is custodian agency for indicators 15.6.1 and 15.9.1; FAO (host of</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the BLG:</u></p> <p>Building on the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, in collaboration with BIP, IAEG (interagency and expert group on SDG indicators) and Environment-Live: to continue joint and coordinated work on key action #12.</p>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		<p>Key action #13</p> <p>(h) Provide, at the regional and subregional levels, capacity-building related to data management and national reporting, including training on database systems</p>		Convention secretariats, * UNEP and other international organizations that have a mandate in addressing biodiversity-related matters	<p>Note: Relates also to section C.2</p> <p><u><i>Recommendations resulting from the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</i></u></p> <p>4.a. Facilitate easy access to the guidance material through development of an online interactive database. Regardless of where the online database would be hosted, it will be important to promote it via relevant websites, including the convention websites. Part of the work on this has already been undertaken, with development of a wire frame.</p> <p>This action also related to key actions #9 and #16.</p>	<p>Action pending.</p> <p>This would need to be provided through a dedicated capacity-building project endorsed by participating countries: project development, funding and implementation.</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to and members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>Taking into consideration the outcomes and outputs of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for a dedicated capacity-building project endorsed by participating countries to provide, at the regional and subregional levels, capacity-building related to data management and national reporting, including training on database systems.</p> <p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES:</u></p> <p>To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium</p>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
							and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.
		Key action #14 (i) Keep under review opportuniti es for cooperatio n in reporting under the convention s, in line with CBD COP decision XIII/27 on national reporting, and for ensuring interoperab ility between reporting systems or	2017- 2018	CBD Secretariat, convention secretariats, * UNEP and other relevant internationa l organizatio ns	<u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</u> 13. Further explore options for enhancing synergy on national reporting with regard to the post-2020 agenda for biodiversity, including with regard to common sets of indicators and modular approaches to reporting. As the process for a post-2020 global biodiversity framework proceeds, work needs to progress in parallel on indicator and reporting processes, so that these are defined as soon as possible after the post-2020 global biodiversity framework is approved to allow for a very active process for review of implementation. All aspects – the framework itself, the indicators and the reporting – should be considered in the context of all biodiversity-related conventions so as to reinforce opportunities for consistent approaches and collaboration in implementation. This is anticipated in COP decision XIII/24 on cooperation and COP	Work under imple mentation of CBD decision XIII/27 is contributing to this. Action would require direction from the governing bodies of each of the conventions. Further dedicated financing would be required for IT development. Financial support may be required to each of the convention secretariats to enable dedicated staff effort.	<u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES and members of the BLG:</u> Taking into consideration the outcomes and outputs of the project “Supporting imple mentation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, and taking account of the work under imple mentation of CBD decision XIII/27: to seek direction from the governing bodies of the conventions to enable imple mentation of key action #14, including to provide funds for IT development and to enable dedicated staff effort.

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		platforms (BLG), making use of and continuing the development of approaches and possible tools ¹			decision XIII/27 on national reporting, and in SBSTTA recommendation XXI/1 with respect to preparation for discussing the process for development of the post-2020 global biodiversity agenda. It would help to fulfil key action key action B1(i) of the road map.		
	2. Provide countries with capacity-building at the national level in the area of information and knowledge management	Key action #15 (a) Provision of appropriate tools and technology for database development		UNEP, UNDP and other relevant international organizations	Note: Relates also to C2. Refer to existing guidance from GEF. Refer to the “Connect” project by UNEP-WCMC. Identify potential partners including from the private sector. <u>Suggested addition to potential lead organizations for B.2.(a): CBD Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC (i.e. UNEP including UNEP-WCMC)</u>	Action pending. Would need to be provided through a dedicated project endorsed by participating countries: project development, financing and implementation.	<u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the members of the BLG:</u> Taking into account the outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”^k, existing guidance from the GEF, the “Connect” project, in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP, UNEP-WCMC and other potential partners, and with the

^j Such as the modular approach to reporting in FOEN, UNEP-WCMC, NatureConsult (2016). Elements for a modular reporting against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge (UNEP/CBD/COP/13/INF/24).

^k Relevant components of the 2017 CBD Secretariat/UNEP-WCMC project are: Compendium of guidance for capturing, managing and using data and information; Compendium of key global databases; and Overview of initiatives on synergies at the international and regional level.

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
					<p><u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</u></p> <p>4.a. Facilitate easy access to the guidance material through development of an online interactive database. Regardless of where the online database would be hosted, it will be important to promote it via relevant websites, including the convention websites. Part of the work on this has already been undertaken, with development of a wire frame.</p> <p>4.b Research and incorporate additional information on guidance. Drawing on feedback received during the review phase, in particular from members of the CHM IAC and a number of focal points, include information on who should be using the guidance, and how.</p> <p>15. Develop a programme for supporting national biodiversity data management, which will support national efforts in data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators, including with regard to the development of sixth national reports to</p>		<p>endorsement of participating countries: catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for a dedicated project to implement key action #15.</p> <p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES:</u></p> <p>To include action above in the proposed activities for the 2019-2020 biennium and associated voluntary budget for consideration and approval at COP 14.</p>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
					<p>CBD. This could include organizing activities to foster experience sharing, taking into account and utilizing relevant initiatives including those under the CBD CHM, InforMEA and GBIF. This builds on the compendia of guidance and relevant case studies, any new guidance developed, and would include capacity-building activities, and conducting pilot studies on database planning and management. This would respond to key actions B1(d), B1(e), B1(h), B2(a) and B2(b) of the road map.</p> <p>This action is also related to key action 10.</p>		

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		Key action #16 (b) Pilot studies on database planning and manageme nt, for example in two countries per region		UNEP, UNDP and other relevant internationa l organizatio ns	Note: Relates also to C2.	Action pending. Would need to be provided through a dedicated project endorsed by participating countries: project development, financing and implementation.	<u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the members of the BLG:</u> Building on the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, in collaboration with UNEP, UNDP and other relevant organizations, and with the endorsement of participating countries: to consider supporting the development of a dedicated project to implement key action #16.

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
C. Enhanced provision of capacity- building and guidance	1. Make existing guidance material more widely known and readily available or prepare new materials to address any gaps	Key action #17 (a) List of existing guidance materials on synergies	2017- 2018	UNEP- WCMC	Key action (a) “List of existing guidance materials on synergies”, should include : -decisions and resolutions -guidance and documents provided by MEAs for other organizations (reporting, NBSAPs) -other resources such as web platforms Make guidance easily available. This action also related to key action #21.	This has been carried out in the context of the project “Supporting imple mentation of CBD COP de cision XIII/24” through the production of three compendia of guidance. Further financial resources would bene fit dissemination and mainte nance.	<u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES and members of the BLG:</u> Building on the outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting imple mentation of CBD COP de cision XIII/24”¹, support the dissemination and maintenance of guidance material, and prepare new materials to address any gaps.

¹ Relevant components of the 2017/2018 CBD Secretariat/UN Environment/ UNEP-WCMC project are: Compendium of guidance for capturing, managing and using data and information; Compendium of key global databases; Making available further case studies based on national experience of delivering synergies; and Overview of initiatives on synergies at the international and regional level.

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		<p>Key action #18</p> <p>(b) A guide and other communications material about the biodiversity-related conventions, their relationships and synergies among them</p>	2017-2018	BLG,** convention secretariats, * UNEP	<p>Have available a yearly calendar of events and meetings of biodiversity-related conventions including with regards to International Day on Biological Diversity (IDB).</p> <p><u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</u></p> <p>2. Follow-up activities to the three compendia of guidance (3-5):</p> <p>a. Create a “one-stop shop” for all guidance material identified in the three compendia of guidance to facilitate access and promote its use. The aim would be to create a structure that ensures ownership by all of the biodiversity-related conventions as well as regular updating once new guidance becomes available. This could, for example, be achieved through a joint conventions website.</p> <p>b. Carry out promotional activities to advertise the existence of the materials and a future online database/ joint website, for example via a joint notification, producing a one-pager that explains the project.</p> <p>c. Consider making available e.g. the Sourcebook and/or the future online database itself in the other UN languages.</p> <p>d. For each of the compendia consider whether needs periodic update, and if so how frequently.</p> <p>e. Review of the use of the available guidance material and potentially its</p>	<p>Action pending</p> <p>Need dedicated time of convention secretariat staff or additional funding for consultant. Funding for production of guide/communication material</p> <p>Important to do this across conventions, and not just within CBD.</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>Building on the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” and in collaboration with UNEP:</p> <p>(a) prepare and make available yearly calendars of events and meetings of biodiversity-related conventions;</p> <p>(b) support the production of a guide and other communication material about the biodiversity-related conventions, their relationships and synergies among them.</p>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		<p>Key action #19</p> <p>(c) Guidance on synergies in implementing the national biodiversity strategy and action plan and similar strategies and action plans of other biodiversity-related conventions</p>	2016-2018	BLG,** CBD Secretariat, convention secretariats, * UNEP	<p>Notes importance of 2018 regional workshops on synergies organized by UN Environment.</p> <p><u>Suggested addition to potential lead organizations for C.1.(c): UNEP regional offices (i.e. UNEP including regional offices), other regional coordination mechanisms, UNDP</u></p> <p>Notes the existing guidance under other MEAs (e.g. CMS guidance for the integration of migratory species in the NBSAPs)</p> <p><u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</u></p> <p>11. Develop guidance on synergies in implementing NBSAPs and similar strategies and action plans to implement other biodiversity-related conventions. This recommendation responds to feedback by stakeholders involved in other biodiversity-related conventions than CBD, that the focus of the synergies discourse with respect to biodiversity and ecosystem service planning is always only on NBSAPs. The target audience would be national</p>	<p>Action pending.</p> <p>Need dedicated time of convention secretariat staff or additional funding for consultant.</p> <p>While NBSAPs are a key tool for synergies at the national level, the criticism is that nevertheless broader awareness related to all convention planning tools (such as national wetland policies under the Ramsar Convention) is crucial to identify entry points for synergy.</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES and members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>Building on the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, in collaboration with UNEP (including UNEP regional offices), other regional coordination mechanisms and UNDP, and taking into account existing guidance and activities under the conventions and UNEP, to consider supporting the development of further guidance material as described in key action #19.</p>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
					<p>focal points of biodiversity-related conventions and other stakeholders involved in the implementation of the convention. This would help to fulfil key action C1(c) of the road map.</p> <p>This action also related to key action #18.</p>		
		<p>Key action #20</p> <p>(d) Guidance document on possible opportunities for a coordinated approach to funding from the GEF and other multilateral systems including the Green Climate Fund where appropriate</p>	2018-2020	<p>CBD Secretariat in collaboration with GEF secretariat and consultation with the Secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions, FAO</p>	<p>Notes the importance of synergies in the documents about GEF replenishment.</p> <p>Notes the importance of the Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at national and regional levels.</p> <p>Recommends making use of BIOFIN and its notebook, and exploring other opportunities including in the private sector.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> this key action could be under a) (key action #17)</p> <p>Highlights the COP decision XII/30 inviting other MEA COPs to provide advice to GEF through the CBD COP and notes the need to discuss this in the BLG to fully take advantage of this structure. (see also action #26)</p>	<p>Action pending.</p> <p>Need dedicated time of convention secretariat staff or additional funding for consultant/contract.</p>	<p><u>(relate to key action #26)</u> <u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES:</u></p> <p>Building on the positive outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” and in collaboration with GEF and convention secretariats: develop a guidance document as described under key action #20 that would:</p> <p>(a) note the importance of synergies in documents about GEF replenishment;</p> <p>(b) note the importance of the Sourcebook of opportunities for</p>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		and/or possible			<p><u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</u></p> <p>12. Develop a briefing note on possible opportunities for a coordinated approach to funding from GEF-7 and other multilateral systems, where appropriate. This could be prepared in time for CBD COP 14. This work would build up on section 6 of the UN Environment Sourcebook and in particular Annex 3 on Opportunities for accessing GEF funds for the coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions and thus be targeted at national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions as well as national GEF focal points. This would help to fulfil key action C1(d) and contribute to key action C2(d) of the road map.</p> <p>This action also related to key action #26.</p>		<p>enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels;</p> <p>(c) recommend making use of BIOFIN and its notebook, and exploring other opportunities including in the private sector;</p> <p>(d) highlight the COP decision XII/30 inviting other MEA COPs to provide advice to GEF through the CBD COP</p> <p>(e) note the need to discuss this in the BLG.</p>
		<p>Key action #21</p> <p>(e) Success stories of</p>	2018-2020	CBD Secretariat, BLG,** convention secretariats	<p>Success stories should be made available on the CHM</p> <p>Explore location(s) for the online library.</p>	This action has been strongly advanced through the project “Supporting	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES and members of the BLG:</u></p>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		synergies in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions are compiled and made available, including through the Clearing-house Mechanism and the NBSAP Forum		* and GEF	<p>Note: relates also to section B 1 c).</p> <p><u><i>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</i></u></p> <p>6. Follow-up activities to further foster experience exchange at the national level development of design options for an online library of case studies/ success stories on synergies; and activities to further communicate the value of the UN Environment ‘Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels’ a. Increase access to case studies by building and making available a user-friendly online database. The aim would be to create or make use of a structure that ensures ownership of all of the biodiversity-related conventions as well as regular updating of new case studies. This could, for example, be achieved through a joint conventions</p>	<p>implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, including through the development of an online repository.</p> <p>A future/ongoing difficulty is that the maintenance of an online library of case studies on synergies is more resource-intensive than the maintenance of a database for the type of information, since it requires active sourcing of additional case studies and support for their development, as well as review of</p>	<p>To collaborate to develop and find an accessible location for the concept of an online library developed under the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”^m.</p>

^m Relevant components of the 2017/2018 CBD Secretariat/UN Environment/ UNEP-WCMC project are: Compendium of guidance for capturing, managing and using data and information; Compendium of key global databases; Making available further case studies based on national experience of delivering synergies and initial ideas for an online library of case studies; and Overview of initiatives on synergies at the international and regional level.

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
					<p>website or by adding another dimension to a future online database. This would help to fulfil key action C1(b) of the road map.</p> <p>b. Seek to update the existing case studies in the Sourcebook. In preparation for a future online library of case studies, case study contributors to the Sourcebook could be contacted in order to request updates to the 2015 information. As these 63 case studies have already been prepared for sharing with peers, it should be a straightforward exercise to get them updated for re-submission. This would help to fulfil key action C1(e) of the road map.</p> <p>c. Organize further events to foster experience-sharing and sourcing of additional case studies. This can include sessions in the margins of relevant upcoming meetings. This could also include webinars, which would then be made available as a resource linked to the online library of case studies. This would help to fulfil key action C1(e) of the road map.</p> <p>d. Consider creating a series of short inspiring videos on selected synergies success stories, either by country or by theme, showing how fostering</p>	submitted case studies to ensure their quality/ usefulness	

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
					collaboration between the biodiversity-related conventions is leading to new opportunities for biodiversity action. These videos would be available on relevant websites, a future online library of case studies, as well as shared on social media. This would help to fulfil key action C1(b) of the road map. This action also related to key actions #16, #19 and #22.		

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		<p>Key action #22</p> <p>(f) Provide information on synergies, such as the UNEP Sourcebook, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, common issues for biodiversity-related conventions and sources of funding for biodiversity, on the websites of each of the biodiversity-related convention, for example through a dedicated “synergies” page</p>	2017-2018	Convention secretariats, * BLG**	<p><u><i>Notes on future work of the IAG and relevant ongoing work to support the key action:</i></u></p> <p>Gaps to be identified on the basis of the outputs of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”.</p> <p>Note: relates also to section B 1c).</p> <p><u><i>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</i></u></p> <p>8. Follow-up activities to the document ‘Improving access to existing guidance, data and information via biodiversity-related convention websites’:</p> <p>a. Consider follow up on the recommendations made on improving access to information on synergies through the conventions’ websites to increase recognition of what is already happening, as well as increasing access to key materials.</p> <p>b. Consider the potential value of developing of a joint convention website or webpage that would allow at a minimum for easy access to all guidance material and potentially also host databases such as for the compendia of guidance, the case studies and the overview of initiatives on synergies.</p> <p><u><i>Other recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD</i></u></p>	<p>Action pending.</p> <p>Dedicated funding required for establishment of central online hub that could be linked to by the convention websites.</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>Building on the outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”ⁿ:</p> <p>(a) catalyse funding and appropriate implementation arrangements for the development of a dedicated “synergies” online hub. Allocate sufficient staff time to maintain it;</p> <p>(b) identify of gaps;</p> <p>(c) follow-up activities to the document ‘Improving access to existing guidance, data and information via biodiversity related convention websites’.</p>
ⁿ Idem.							

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
	2. Capacity- building	Key action #23 (a) Identify common areas of national capacity- building needs, across the convention s	2018	Convention secretariats, * other relevant organizatio ns	<p>The Secretariat will identify and prepare a proposal on initial and detailed common areas on the basis of the work it is conducting in follow-up to decision XIII/23, the 2016 CBD Secretariat/UNEP-WCMC study on capacity-building and awareness-raising needs^o, UN Environment project in Africa, and UNEP/IUCN project in relation to capacity-building on implementation of biodiversity-related targets, other relevant reports, the calendar of upcoming activities, and through the work of capacity-building coordinators with a target of submission to SBI 2 and COP 14. The list will be provided to IAG for review and comments, and disseminated through appropriate means (also with a view to engaging other biodiversity-related conventions).</p> <p>The matrix will refer to common themes, areas and target groups, if possible and relevant.</p> <p>The list of common areas can support implementation of the Strategic Plan and serve in the development of the post-2020 framework</p>	<p>Work for key action #23 is ongoing in the context of implementation of decision XIII/23 and agreement from meeting of BLG/ meeting with agencies.</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>As agreed at the BLG meeting/meeting with agencies: to examine proposals resulting from the synergistic work conducted by the CBD Secretariat in follow-up to decision XIII/23.</p>

^o CBD Secretariat/ UNEP-WCMC Study on key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation among multilateral environment agreements at the national level (UNEP/CBD/BRC/WS/2016/1/INF/1) Online: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/biodiv/brcws-2016-01/information/brcws-2016-01-inf-01-en.pdf>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		<p>Key action #24</p> <p>(b) Share information on ongoing, planned and upcoming capacity-building programmes, projects and initiatives relevant to the biodiversity-related conventions in order to facilitate a coordinated approach, avoid duplication, ensure coherence of their delivery, maximize their utilization and enable cooperation in</p>	2017-2020	Convention secretariats * other relevant organizations	Prepare an integrated calendar of capacity-building activities and use it in support of implementation.	Ongoing. This will be an eventual result of work being led by CBD in cooperation with other secretariats and organizations in follow-up to decision XIII/23 noted above.	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>To make use of the calendar of capacity-building activities resulting from the synergistic work conducted by the CBD Secretariat in follow-up to decision XIII/23 in support of implementation.</p>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		<p>Key action #25</p> <p>(c) Deliver coordinated capacity-building, including through regional and subregional mechanisms and online mechanisms, taking advantage of existing networking opportunities for capacity-building and addressing common needs and areas of two or more conventions and including building capacity for synergistic</p>	2018-2020	Convention secretariats, * other relevant organizations	<p>Will be a product of C.2. a) and b).</p> <p><u><i>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</i></u></p> <p>6. c. Organize further events to foster experience-sharing and sourcing of additional case studies. This can include sessions in the margins of relevant upcoming meetings such as CBD SBSTTA-22, SBI-2 and COP 14 and the Ramsar COP 13. This could also include webinars, which would then be made available as a resource linked to the online library of case studies. This would help to fulfil key action C1(e) of the road map.</p> <p>15. Develop a programme for supporting national biodiversity data management, which will support national efforts in data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators, including with regard to the development of national reports to CBD. This could include organizing activities to foster experience sharing, taking into account and utilizing relevant initiatives including those under the CBD CHM, InforMEA and GBIF. This builds on the compendia described above and relevant case studies, any new guidance developed, and would include capacity-building activities, and conducting pilot studies on database planning and management. This would respond to key actions</p>	<p>Would be an eventual result of ongoing work related to decision XIII/23 noted above.</p> <p>Dedicated financial resources may be required for delivery/implementation of capacity-building.</p> <p>It should be highlighted that the maintenance of an online library of case studies on synergies is more resource-intensive than the maintenance of a database for the type of information included in the compendia, since it requires active sourcing of additional case studies and support for their development, as well as review of submitted case studies to ensure</p>	<p><u>(relates to key actions #23 and 24) The IAG has the following elements of advice to the members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>Building on the outputs and outcomes of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, collaborate in the development and implementation of capacity-building programmes and activities addressing common needs and areas, according to the results of the synergistic work conducted by the CBD Secretariat in follow-up to decision XIII/23.</p>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		<p>Key action #26</p> <p>(d) 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</p>	<p>Second half of 2018 and 2019</p>	<p>CBD Secretariat, GEF Secretariat, other convention secretariats, * other relevant organizations</p>	<p>IAG recognizes the importance of such activities and wishes that Parties support them.</p> <p>IAG recommends that a briefing on GEF mechanism and synergies with other conventions in implementing NBSAPs and Strategic Plan 2011-2020 should be included in COP 14 programme.</p> <p><u>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</u></p> <p>9. Develop appealing and practical communication material which focuses on key messages and practical steps for implementation. The objective is to support national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions and organizations involved in the implementation of the conventions to easily grasp and communicate key messages and identify suitable practical approaches in an efficient manner in order to facilitate behavioural change of key stakeholders. This could involve visualizing entry points and popular/promising options for cooperation at the national level, as well as the benefits to be obtained. Thematic briefs could for example be developed building up on each section of the Sourcebook. The communication material could be developed and refined through global or regional workshops or similar events. This would help to fulfil key</p>	<p>Action pending.</p> <p>Dedicated financial resources and staff time of relevant agencies/secretariats required: project development, financing, implementation.</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES and members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>1/ To support webinars, regional workshops and other activities for the national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions on accessing funds in the GEF biodiversity focal area;</p> <p>2/ To include a briefing on GEF mechanism and synergies with other conventions in implementing NBSAPs and Strategic Plan 2011-2020 in COP 14 programme.</p>

<i>Area/ expected outcome</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Desirable key action</i>	<i>Timeline 2017- 2020</i>	<i>Potential lead organizatio ns</i>	<i>Notes of the IAG regarding their recommendations and future work</i>	<i>Implementation status and bottlenecks and difficulties to implementation</i>	<i>Advice to the Executive Secretary (ES), the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG)</i>
		<p>Key action #27</p> <p>(e) To establish joint events, such as a pavilion for biodiversity-related conventions to be convened at international conventions and congresses;</p>	2018-2020	Convention secretariats, * BLG**	<p>IAG encourages secretariats to continue to organize joint events at the margins of COPs, including capacity-building, and communication/-awareness-raising activities, as relevant and depending on venue and resources.</p> <p><u><i>Recommendations of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”:</i></u></p> <p>6.c. Organize further events to foster experience-sharing and sourcing of additional case studies. This can include sessions in the margins of relevant upcoming meetings such as CBD SBSTTA-22, SBI-2 and COP 14 and the Ramsar COP 13. This could also include webinars, which would then be made available as a resource linked to the online library of case studies. This would help to fulfil key action C1(e) of the road map.</p> <p>9. Develop appealing and practical communication material which focuses on key messages and practical steps for implementation.</p> <p>10. Prepare briefs to inform the biodiversity mainstreaming agenda. The objective would be to provide guidance for enhancing sectorial planning through the creation of synergies, including to inform national planning in implementation of the SDGs. Targeted at national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions and organizations involved in the implementation of the conventions, the</p>	<p>BLG has already agreed the wish and intent for joint events. Appropriate time of secretariat staff would be provided. Dedicated financial resources would be required for some scenarios/activities .</p>	<p><u>The IAG has the following elements of advice to the ES and members of the BLG:</u></p> <p>To continue to organize joint events at the margins of COPs, including capacity-building, communication/awareness-raising activities, and promotional activities to advertise the existence of the materials and a future online database/ joint website, as relevant and depending on venue and resources.</p>

Annex 2

Membership of the informal advisory group on synergies, including aspects of relevant experience of Members

Region	Country	Conventions ²⁸ to which country is a Party	Name	Conventions with which Member has had direct experience / responsibility	CBD	CITES	CMS	Ramsar	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC	IWC	Cartagena	Nagoya	UNCCD	UNFCCC	IPBES
				<i>Number of Members:</i>	19	6	6	6	1	3	4	0	8	8	2	6	5
Africa	Cameroon	Party to each of the treaties	Ms. Prudence Galega	CBD, Nagoya Protocol, Cartagena Protocol, IPBES	1								1	1			1
Africa	Madagascar	Party to each of the treaties except IWC	Ms. Voahangy Raharimalala	CBD, IPBES, UNCCD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, IPPC, Cartagena Protocol, Nagoya Protocol, UNFCCC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1
Africa	Sudan	Party to each of the treaties except CMS and IWC	Ms. Sawsan Khair Elsieid Abdel Rahim Mustafa	CBD, UNFCCC, ITPGRFA, Nagoya Protocol	1					1				1		1	
Africa	Eswatini	Party to each of the treaties except IWC	Ms. Hlobisile Sikhosana-Shongwe	CBD, UNFCCC	1											1	
Asia-Pacific	China	Party to each of the treaties except CMS and ITPGRFA	Ms. Gu Li	CBD and its Protocols and <i>BRS</i>	1								1	1			
Asia-Pacific	India	Party to each of the treaties	Dr. Vinod B. Mathur	CBD, CITES, CMS, WHC, Ramsar	1	1	1	1			1						1
Asia-Pacific	Japan	Party to each of the treaties except CMS	Mr. Atsuhiko Yoshinaka	CBD, Ramsar, WHC, UNFCCC	1			1			1		1	1		1	
Asia-Pacific	Kuwait	Party to each of the treaties except CMS and IWC	Mrs. Leina Alawadhi	CBD	1												
GRULAC	Colombia	Party to each of the treaties except CMS, ITPGRFA and Nagoya Protocol	Ms. Jimena Nieto Carrasco	CBD, Cartagena Protocol, UNFCCC, <i>BRS</i> , etc.	1								1			1	
GRULAC	Mexico	Party to each of the treaties except CMS and ITPGRFA	Mr. Hesiquio Benítez	CBD, CITES, IPBES	1	1											1
GRULAC	Peru	Party to each of the treaties	Ms. Miriam Cerdán Quiliano	CBD, CBD Protocols, Ramsar	1			1					1	1			
GRULAC	Brazil	Party to each of the treaties except Nagoya Protocol	Ms. Iona ²⁹ Ossami de Moura	CBD	1												

²⁸ CBD and its Protocols, biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio Conventions: i.e. CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, IPPC, ITPGRFA, WHC, IWC, Cartagena Protocol, Nagoya Protocol, UNCCD, UNFCCC

²⁹ Was replaced by Mr. Ugo Eichler Vercillo in April 2018.

Region	Country	Conventions ²⁸ to which country is a Party	Name	Conventions with which Member has had direct experience / responsibility	CBD	CITES	CMS	Ramsar	IPPC	ITPGRFA	WHC	IWC	Cartagena	Nagoya	UNCCD	DMRC	IPBES
Eastern Europe	Georgia	Party to each of the treaties except ITPGRFA, IWC and Nagoya Protocol	Ms. Teona Karchava	CBD, CITES, and <i>Bern Convention</i>	1	1											
Eastern Europe	Slovakia	Party to each of the treaties	Dr. Ján Kadlečík	CBD, CMS, <i>AEWA</i> , <i>EUROBATS</i> , Ramsar	1		1	1									
CEE and WE members of EU	European Commission	EU is Party to each of the treaties except ITPGRFA, WHC & IWC	Mr. Anne Theo Seinen	CBD, CMS	1		1										
WEOG	Belgium	Party to each of the treaties	Ms. Ines Verleye	CBD & Protocols, CITES, CMS, UNFCCC	1	1	1						1	1		1	
WEOG	Finland	Party to each of the treaties	Ms. Marina von Weissenberg	CBD, IPBES, <i>coordination among BD-related conventions</i>	1												1
WEOG	Switzerland	Party to each of the treaties	Mr. Norbert Bärlocher	CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD, CITES, CMS, UNESCO, ITPGRFA, Cartagena Protocol, Nagoya Protocol, IPBES	1	1	1			1	1		1	1	1	1	1
WEOG	Norway	Party to each of the treaties	Ms Maja Stade Aarønæs ³⁰	CBD, Ramsar	1			1									

³⁰ Left her position in the Norwegian Environment Agency (and therefore the Group) on 31 March 2018. Was replaced by CBD focal point Ms. Tone Solhaug.