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### COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND INITIATIVES

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present document provides for the consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, a summary of cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives during the present intersessional period. Particular focus is given to the contribution of other conventions and international organizations to the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and towards its implementation, given the significance of this process in the present biennium. Section II reports on progress with particular attention to the implementation of decision [14/30](#). Section III addresses interagency cooperation in the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Section IV provides consideration to cooperation mechanisms for the period 2021-2030. Section V provides elements of a draft recommendation. This is supplemented by the documents outlined below.

2. Pursuant to the request of the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 26 of decision 14/30 concerning cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in relation to nature and culture and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, document [CBD/WG8J/11/5](#) is also made available for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body.

3. The information document CBD/SBI/3/INF/31 provides a report of activities concerning cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives during the present intersessional period. An information document CBD/SBI/3/INF/32 provides an update on progress in implementing actions to enhance synergies among biodiversity-related conventions at the international level. The information document [CBD/SBI/3/INF/29](#) presents the outcomes of the consultation workshop of biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Bern II), convened by the United Nations Environment Programme from 18 January to 2 February 2021. The report of the first Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held from 10 to 12 June 2019, is available on the web page of the workshop (CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/6/2). Other documents relevant to cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives and the implementation of decision 14/30 are referenced elsewhere in the present document.

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\* CBD/SBI/3/1.

## II. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DECISION 14/30

### A. Road map for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the international level 2017-2020

4. In decision [14/30](#), the Conference of the Parties encouraged the consideration of actions for enhanced synergies among biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions in the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and invited the active involvement of these conventions in the development process. This is addressed in section III of the present document. The Conference of the Parties also requested the Secretariat, and invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other international organizations, to continue to undertake key actions identified in the road map for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the international level, 2017-2020, adopted in decision [XIII/24](#). A summary of progress in the implementation of the road map is provided in an information document.

5. The road map groups measures for enhancing synergies among the conventions in three broad areas: (a) enhancing cooperation and coordination mechanisms; (b) enhancing management of and avoiding duplication related to information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators, and; (c) enhancing the provision of capacity-building and guidance. Accordingly, the Secretariat has taken up actions identified in the road map in its work on substantive thematic and cross-cutting areas, including those in relation to capacity-building, information and knowledge management, monitoring and reporting, and communications. Information on cooperation and enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions in the implementation of capacity-building activities, the development of the long-term strategic framework for capacity development and in technical and scientific cooperation, including activities implemented through partnerships and cooperative programmes, are included in document CBD/SBI/3/7. Cooperation in the context of knowledge management is described in document CBD/SBI/3/8 and, in relation to the development and implementation of the proposed knowledge management component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, is addressed in document CBD/SBI/3/8/Add.1. Options for enhancing synergies on national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions are presented in document CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.2. The opportunity provided by the Conference of the Parties in decision XIII/21 to enhance programmatic synergies among biodiversity-related conventions by inviting elements of advice from biodiversity-related conventions to inform its guidance to the financial mechanism is addressed in document CBD/SBI/3/6/Add.3. Cooperation on communications is described in document CBD/SBI/3/4/Add.1.

6. In response to the invitation by the Conference of the Parties, UNEP has continued to support the implementation of key actions of the road map through its project on realizing synergies for biodiversity, conducted with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). The project has provided technical inputs to inform the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and on options for enhancing synergies on national reporting among biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, presented in document CBD/SBI/3/11/Add.2. In collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), it prepared technical inputs to support the preparation of the long-term strategic framework for capacity development, in particular concerning capacity-building for synergistic implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. It has also prepared and disseminated guidance materials related to enhancing synergies, supported cooperation among the communication officers of the biodiversity-related conventions, and provided support for regional and national level work to benefit from implementing the objectives of biodiversity-related conventions in a synergistic manner. In addition, further progress has been made in the development of the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (DaRT) and its roll-out to national authorities. Information on DaRT is provided in the information document CBD/SBI/3/INF/8. UNEP also organized a consultation workshop among biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, addressed in section III below.

## **B. Liaison mechanisms among the conventions**

### *1. Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions*

7. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity continued to facilitate the operation of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions as a mechanism to foster cooperation and collective action among the conventions.<sup>1</sup> The fourteenth meeting of the Liaison Group, held from 26 to 27 September 2019 at the International Whaling Commission, Cambridge, United Kingdom, focused on a post-2020 global biodiversity framework supportive of and benefiting from all the conventions. During 2020, several meetings of the Liaison Group were held by videoconference in order to provide updates on the respective processes, including the post-2020 process, and exchange information, including on the impacts of the pandemic on the work of the conventions, the rescheduling of their statutory meetings, and the convening of meetings using online technology. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity also convened videoconferences between the Liaison Group and the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, held on 28 January 2020, 8 September 2020 and 16 October 2020. The meetings further discussed ways in which the conventions can contribute to the development of the post-2020 framework and identify specific elements that could be included in the framework. Consultation in the Liaison Group and actions by its members also contributed to preparation and participation in the workshops on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework described in section III.

8. Joint statements, focused largely on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, were prepared and delivered on behalf of the Liaison Group at the seventh session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (April 2019), the first and second meetings of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (August 2019 and February 2020), the eighth session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (November 2019) and the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (February 2020). A joint statement was also delivered in the Voices for Nature, multi-stakeholder segment, at the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity, held on 30 September 2020.

9. Bilateral work plans between conventions contribute to joint action in areas of specific common interest between two or more conventions. In this regard, the memorandum of cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), that focuses on access and benefit-sharing as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, was renewed in 2018 and its joint work plan has been updated; the joint work plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), focusing on invasive alien species, was renewed in June 2019 for the period 2019-2020; and work is underway to renew the joint work plan between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Convention on Wetlands or Ramsar Convention). A review of the fifth joint work plan, 2011-2020,<sup>2</sup> between the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Wetlands, prepared by the secretariats of the two conventions to provide an overview of progress in its implementation, identify lessons learned and inform the preparation of an updated joint work plan, is provided for the information of the Subsidiary Body in an information document (CBD/SBI/3/INF/33).

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<sup>1</sup> The eight conventions represented by the Heads of their Secretariats in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions are the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), 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), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), and International Whaling Commission (IWC).

<sup>2</sup> Fifth Joint Work Plan 2011-2020: [https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/moc/CBD-Ramsar5thJWP\\_2011-2020.pdf](https://www.ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/moc/CBD-Ramsar5thJWP_2011-2020.pdf)

## 2. *Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions*

10. The executive secretaries of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) have met through videoconference on a regular basis to exchange information on the work and the processes of the conventions, the use of online modalities for their meetings, and towards making links between the forthcoming meetings of their Conference of the Parties and the outreach opportunities these provide, including through a common narrative on the synergies and complementarity between the conventions and their potential contribution to pandemic recovery efforts. Such videoconferences were held in May, July and November 2020, and in February and April 2021. Areas for enhanced cooperation have been identified and are being enacted, including joint communications and the development of a joint capacity-building initiative focusing on synergies and complementarity in the implementation of the three conventions and the role of the conventions in recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The secretariats are also cooperating closely in the frameworks of the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit<sup>3</sup> and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.<sup>4</sup>

### C. **Implementation of other elements of decision 14/30**

11. *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations:* Pursuant to the cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) requested by the Conference of the Parties in paragraphs 23 and 24 of decision 14/30, a review of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity and an updated plan of action has been prepared and submitted for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its twenty-fourth meeting (CBD/SBSTTA/24/7/Rev.1), together with a report on the state of knowledge of soil biodiversity (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/8). Further work was conducted on the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) towards improved reporting on primary forests, of particular relevance to Aichi Biodiversity Target 5. A report has been prepared summarizing past, current and emerging assessment methods for assessing the extent and trend in primary forests (CBD/SBI/3/INF/36). FAO has undertaken to bring together FRA National Correspondents and other experts through a series of regional consultations to improve the operational methods for data collection and reporting on the extent of primary forests. The goal is to increase the consistency of data collection methods and enhance the comparability of estimates among countries. The Secretariat is keeping abreast of these discussions and provided input to the first two consultations held for boreal forest and Latin American countries, respectively. A report by FAO on its progress in mainstreaming biodiversity in its work is provided for the information of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in the information document CBD/SBI/3/INF/6.

12. *United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization:* Pursuant to the cooperation between the Secretariat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization requested by the Conference of the Parties through paragraphs 25 and 26 of decision 14/30, and informed by document CBD/WG8J/11/5, the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, at its eleventh meeting, considered options for possible elements of work aimed at an integration of nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and adopted a recommendation in this regard (recommendation [WG8J-11/3](#)). At its twenty-third meeting, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice also considered this matter<sup>5</sup> and adopted its recommendation [SBSTTA-23/5](#). The Subsidiary Body on Implementation may wish to take note of these recommendations.

13. *United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration:* Pursuant to the invitation by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 39 of decision 14/30, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2021 to 2030 the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.<sup>4</sup> Reflecting an emphasis placed on the Rio conventions in the resolution, UNEP and FAO have established close liaison with the secretariats of the

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit>. See also General Assembly resolution [75/235](#), para. 2.

<sup>4</sup> See General Assembly resolution [73/284](#).

<sup>5</sup> CBD/SBSTTA/23/4.

Rio conventions in the preparation of the strategy for the Decade and towards its launch<sup>6</sup> and implementation.<sup>7</sup> The Secretariat has provided substantive inputs in this regard. In relation to this, and in line with decision XIII/5, paragraph 11, the Forest and Landscape Restoration Mechanism of FAO continues to be a major partner of the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative<sup>8</sup> in the development and implementation of policy to support the implementation of Aichi Targets 5, 14 and 15 and the Short Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration. Examples of partnership with FAO over the past biennium in this regard include: the joint organization of a subregional exchange on ecosystem restoration for the Pacific,<sup>9</sup> which reviewed national commitments on ecosystem restoration and identified common needs to accelerate implementation; the development of The Economics of Ecosystem Restoration, a multi-partner initiative to establish a standard framework and database on the costs and benefits of ecosystem restoration; as well as active participation of the Secretariat in the Task Forces on Best Practices and Monitoring of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, both coordinated by FAO.

14. *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation*: Pursuant to paragraph 32 of decision 14/30, the Executive Secretary has provided for the information of participants at the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, an information document prepared by the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation on the development of a post-2020 global strategy for plant conservation as a component of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/20).

15. *Initiative of the Government of Egypt to promote a coherent approach for addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ecosystem degradation*: In contribution to the objectives of the initiative of the Government of Egypt to promote a coherent approach for addressing biodiversity loss, climate change and land and ecosystem degradation and pursuant to guidance of the Conference of the Parties contained in paragraph 14 of decision 14/30, the Government of Egypt, with the support of the Secretariat and the participation of the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Development Programme, the Global Environment Facility, and other relevant entities of the United Nations, convened a webinar on 10 September 2020 entitled “Building back better: Protecting biodiversity, combating land degradation and mitigating climate change to reduce the risks of future pandemics and the importance of a coherent approach”. A report on the webinar is provided in document CBD/HB/OM/2020/1/2).

16. *International Tropical Timber Organization*: Pursuant to cooperation with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) under the Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity requested by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 28 of decision 14/30, a report of progress under the initiative is provided in an information document CBD/SBI/3/INF/34. An evaluation of the Collaborative Initiative between ITTO and the Convention on Biological Diversity informed the design of the next phase of the Collaborative Initiative through to 2025, for which a renewed memorandum of understanding was established in January 2021.<sup>10</sup>

17. *Collaborative Partnership on Forests*: Pursuant to the request by the Conference of the Parties in paragraph 35 of decision 14/30 concerning cooperation in the context of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), the Secretariat took part in the consultation of members of the CPF on its Strategic Vision to 2030, adopted at the meeting of the CPF principals held in Rome on 27 January 2020. The Secretariat committed to notifying members of the CPF of meetings related to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for their participation and invited them to provide inputs on the draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework by June 2020. The Secretariat also provided input to the CPF work

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<sup>6</sup> World Environment Day 2021: <https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration: <https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/>

<sup>8</sup> Supported by the Korea Forest Service of the Republic of Korea and implemented by the Secretariat of CBD

<sup>9</sup> Workshop report CBD/ECR/OM/2020/1/1

<sup>10</sup> Memorandum of understanding between the secretariats of CBD and ITTO, extension for the period 2021-2025, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/agreements/agmt-itto-2021-01-25-mou-web-en.pdf>

plan 2021-2024, which describes how its proposed lines of action contribute to a number of international agreements, including the CBD (CBD/SBI/3/INF/35).

### **III. COOPERATION ON THE PREPARATION OF THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION**

18. In decision [14/34](#), the Conference of the Parties invited other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), international organizations and all stakeholders to actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to foster strong ownership of the framework to be agreed and strong support for its immediate implementation (para. 6). In response, there has been a high level of engagement in the process, including in the meetings of the subsidiary bodies and the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity, in the thematic, regional and global workshops and through written submissions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its monitoring framework, as referenced in the overview of the process provided in document CBD/SBI/3/4.

19. To help facilitate engagement, mechanisms were established to further involve other conventions in the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to facilitate United Nations system-wide attention to its preparation and implementation. These are reported in the following sections.

#### **A. Consultations among conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework – the Bern consultations**

20. The importance of the participation of other MEAs, including biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, in the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework was reflected in the preparatory process adopted by the Conference of the Parties in decision [14/34](#) (annex, para. 9) and in paragraph 6 of the decision. In decision [14/30](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary and the co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to organize a workshop among parties to the various biodiversity-related conventions to explore ways in which the conventions can contribute to the elaboration of the framework and identify elements that could be included in it. The members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions were invited to participate in the workshop (para. 12).

21. Accordingly, the Secretariat convened the Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework<sup>11</sup> in Bern, Switzerland, from 10 to 12 June 2019, hosted by and with the financial support of the Government of Switzerland and with additional financial support of the European Union. Parties to Convention on Biological Diversity, the biodiversity-related conventions<sup>12</sup> and the Rio conventions<sup>13</sup> were represented by members of the standing bodies of these conventions, in most cases their bureau or standing committee, nominated in a manner to provide regional balance. Some of the party representatives were members of the informal advisory group on synergies. In addition, representatives of the secretariats of these conventions, the chemicals and wastes conventions<sup>14</sup> and other relevant organizations<sup>15</sup> participated. The United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) contributed to the organization and delivery of

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<sup>11</sup> See <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/brc-ws-2019-01/documents>

<sup>12</sup> Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Convention on Wetlands or Ramsar Convention), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), and International Whaling Commission.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

<sup>14</sup> Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions, Secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.

<sup>15</sup> Among others, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



(c) *Review of implementation and reporting:*

*Conclusion 4:* Ensuring clarity on how the objectives, roles and responsibilities of each MEA are integrated into the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its implementation will make it easier for other MEAs to play an active role in its implementation. As a result, national reports and communications to each MEA will necessarily have content that is relevant to assessment of progress in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

*Conclusion 5:* If multiple MEAs are involved in implementation of particular aspects of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, then a process should be developed to bring together reported information for the global review of progress in implementation (also referred to as a ‘global stocktake’). Avoiding duplication necessitates a more integrated system for reporting, but any new system will need to build on current tools and processes and use reports that are already there, which may require use of new tools and approaches;<sup>19</sup>

(d) *Potential areas for cooperation on means of implementation:*

*Conclusion 6:* Cooperation and collaboration is not only critical to the cost-effective implementation of MEAs, it is also attractive to donors and is a key part of developing the integrated approaches such as nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches that may be necessary for implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This includes identifying opportunities for collaboration in addressing all means of implementation such as capacity-building, resource mobilization and knowledge management, as well as communication;

*Conclusion 7:* Implementation may be facilitated by the development of joint work programmes on specific topics across MEAs, and by clearer understanding of who is doing what and with whom to promote and facilitate implementation. Development of such approaches at the global level could be facilitated by existing coordination mechanisms such as the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (JLG);

(e) *Implementing synergies at the national level:*

*Conclusion 8:* At the national level, close interaction amongst the national focal points for the different MEAs is essential for strengthening cooperation and collaboration in implementation. Conducting this in the context of the national mechanism that coordinates actions on the Sustainable Development Goals may provide additional benefits and may be an option for some. Additional steps may need to be taken to further encourage interaction among focal points where it is not already happening;

*Conclusion 9:* At the national level it is also critical to encourage, promote and facilitate collaboration in development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) so that they effectively address all relevant conventions with respect to biodiversity. Again, further steps may need to be taken to help ensure that this happens;

*Conclusion 10:* Although NBSAPs are national tools, effective implementation of MEAs requires consideration of transboundary and regional issues, and in developing and implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework it is also important to consider how to work across national borders to address shared objectives and common challenges;

(f) *Operationalization of the global biodiversity framework by conventions:*

*Conclusion 11:* A key element of operationalization is for relevant elements of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be picked up in the strategies and work plans of MEAs other than the Convention on Biological Diversity, which implies that they will each need to take action in their own processes following adoption of the framework by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. This is important for increasing ownership and building response, and in this regard,

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<sup>19</sup> Such as DaRT - the Data Reporting Tool for MEAs (<https://dart.informea.org/>) and InforMEA (<https://www.informea.org>)

there may be value in allocating specific responsibilities to relevant MEAs in implementing parts of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

*Conclusion 12:* Given the expected level of engagement of MEAs in implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, coordination will be valuable, both for enhancing cooperation and facilitating synergy. This should build wherever possible on existing mechanisms, only developing something new if it is clearly shown to be necessary (with clearly defined purpose and identifying why existing processes would be insufficient).

25. In presenting these conclusions, the report summarizes observations made in the workshop related to each of them. These include the importance for the ongoing processes to take account of the submissions to the post-2020 process that have been made by biodiversity-related conventions and other MEAs concerning the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its monitoring framework; and ideas about potential mechanisms to facilitate dialogue across conventions, involving representatives of Parties to these conventions and of their intergovernmental bodies, concerning the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

26. The report also provides a summary of the views of the co-leads of the workshop relevant to its follow-up. These include the importance for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to reflect the mandates, terminologies and issues of the MEAs working on biodiversity-related issues, and to reflect the importance of cross-convention coordination, cooperation and synergies; the importance for the system for planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the framework to be informed by inputs from all biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant MEAs and international organizations through a well-defined process with clear roles and responsibilities and agreed metrics, and; the importance of establishing coordination mechanisms at the national level. Their summary also refers to key technical elements that they believe need to be addressed to set up an effective synergistic system for planning, monitoring, reporting and review of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and technical and political options to advance the synergies agenda in the context of the framework, such as the establishment of a cross-convention working group mandated with the creation of a collaborative approach to operationalization of the framework. Further details are contained in the paper prepared by the co-leads to help guide the consultation.<sup>20</sup>

27. In addition to being relevant to the preparation and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and cooperation between the conventions, the conclusions of the workshop are relevant to several key issues being addressed by the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation related to resource mobilization and the financial mechanism (item 6); capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer, knowledge management, and communication (item 7), and; mechanisms for reporting, assessment and review of implementation (item 9). The relevance of the conclusions to particular agenda items is indicated in the report.

#### **B. United Nations interagency cooperation on the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and to support its implementation**

28. Through the interagency mechanism of the United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) and work conducted under the auspices of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), entities of the United Nations have worked together to provide system-wide inputs to the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (EMG) and to establish collective action to support its implementation (EMG and CEB).

29. At its first meeting, the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework invited the EMG to facilitate the contribution of the United Nations system to the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.<sup>21</sup> The 25th Senior Officials Meeting of the EMG, held in September 2019, agreed to establish a Consultative Process on the post-2020 global

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<sup>20</sup> Co-leads' paper - <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/34774/BCP.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>21</sup> See [CBD/WG2020/REC/1/1](https://www.cbd.int/doc/2020/REC/1/1)

biodiversity framework. The consultative process met on 29 November 2019 and 27 February 2020 at the margins of the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the second meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, respectively. It met again on 28 April 2021.

30. The consultative process prepared and submitted two contributions to support the development of the framework<sup>22</sup> and prepared a UN wide-report describing the UN system's approach to engage in and support Member States in the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, including a UN system high-level commitment to this engagement. The report, entitled "Supporting the Global Biodiversity Agenda: a United Nations System Commitment for Action to Assist Member States Delivering on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework", was approved at the 26th Senior Officials Meeting of the EMG in October 2020 and is published on the EMG website.<sup>23</sup>

31. The report provides information from the 51 EMG members on the relevance of biodiversity to their mandates, current activities and programmes. It addresses key roles that the members of the EMG could play to support United Nations Member States, as well as how their activities can help to address the direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss within their mandates and in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report contains a high-level statement by heads of agencies of 51 United Nations entities committing to support Member States in the implementation of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework. The United Nations agencies have agreed on four main areas of action to support Member States during 2021-2030:

- (a) Support country abilities to halt biodiversity loss and to sustainably use and enhance biodiversity through policies and programmes;
- (b) Establish strong coalitions for biodiversity;
- (c) Mainstream biodiversity in United Nations internal programmes and operations;
- (d) Enhance United Nations-wide coherence and follow-up on biodiversity.

32. In parallel to the attention provided by EMG, and at the initiative of the Secretary-General, at a meeting held on 14 May 2020 the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) endorsed a stronger focus on nature across the whole United Nations system and tasked its High-level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) to develop a common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the Organization's policy and programme planning and delivery. Developed through the mechanism of an inter-agency task team led by the United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Development Programme, the common approach was agreed by the HLCP in March 2021. The final draft will be presented for endorsement at the CEB spring meeting in 2021.

33. The common approach to integrating biodiversity and nature-based solutions for sustainable development into the UN's policy and programme planning and delivery is structured around three areas under which impact would be achieved over the next decade: (a) human rights, peaceful societies and planetary stability; (b) a green and inclusive economic recovery, and; (c) strengthened institutions, accountability and justice. Fifteen medium-term objectives to contribute to the 2050 vision of living in harmony with nature have been defined under these three areas. In addition, it identifies twelve outcomes, at the global level, the regional level or in supporting national implementation that can be achieved by the UN system through increased collaboration. It also proposes a framework for accountability and reporting

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<sup>22</sup> EMG submissions 20 December 2019, <https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/EMG-final-overview-of-UN-system-inputs-to-the-post2020-global-biodiversity-framework.pdf> (document updated 17 January 2020) and 20 February 2020, [https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/EMG-CP-contribution-to-2OEWG-20.02.20\\_.pdf](https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/EMG-CP-contribution-to-2OEWG-20.02.20_.pdf) also accessible at <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/submissions-zero-draft>

<sup>23</sup> Supporting the Global Biodiversity Agenda: a United Nations System Commitment for Action to assist Member States delivering on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: <https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/EMG-Biodiversity-WEB.pdf>

to monitor the progress achieved in creating coherent and collective actions on biodiversity and nature-based solutions in the UN system.

34. The Common Approach provides a structure to organize collective action and joint delivery to mainstream biodiversity and nature-based solutions in UN policy and programming. Through the Common Approach, the UN system has expressed a shared recognition of the urgency to act, and a commitment to mainstream biodiversity through better coordinated efforts that will connect and build on strategies and programmes of work of UN system entities and facilitate the implementation of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

35. It is envisaged that the EMG will take forward the outcomes of the Consultative Process and the UN Common Approach and support their implementation through an EMG Issue Management Group on Biodiversity. In addition, ongoing work of the EMG Issue Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management will ensure the integration of biodiversity considerations in phase II of the 2020–2030 strategy for sustainability management in the United Nations system, addressing environmental and social sustainability in UN system policies, programming, facilities and operations, being prepared for endorsement by the CEB.

#### **IV. COOPERATION MECHANISMS FOR THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**

36. The UN system-wide mechanisms for liaison and coordination, including the EMG and an Issue Management Group on Biodiversity, described above, will play an important role in supporting the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. They can also provide structures to support the related strategies concerning means of implementation that are expected to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties, including those related to mainstreaming, capacity development, technical and scientific cooperation, resource mobilization, and planning, reporting and review. The long-term strategic framework for capacity development, for example, envisages a role for the EMG, in collaboration with the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, in fostering UN system-wide synergy, coherence and effectiveness in the provision of capacity development support for the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBI/3/7 and CBD/SBI/3/7/Add.1).

37. Other interagency mechanisms facilitated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity or in which the Secretariat is an active participant, will also play an important role. In addition to the EMG, the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, these include the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, the Interagency Liaison Group on Biodiversity and Health, the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, among others. Such mechanisms serve as an essential means of liaison and coordination between the secretariats of the conventions and organizations concerned.

38. In addition, a number of informal advisory groups or committees and technical expert groups of the Convention, addressing specific issues, are expected to continue their work or be established. These typically comprise experts or representatives nominated by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and experts or representatives from observer organizations, in some cases including United Nations agencies, convention secretariats and organizations representing stakeholder groups.

39. Currently absent, is a mechanism that enables dialogue between the intergovernmental bodies of related conventions and organizations through representatives of these bodies. In an informal manner, through their design, the workshops among conventions described in section III, served to facilitate dialogue among representatives of Parties to the conventions involved, in this case elected officials of the convention bodies. There may be benefit in considering the establishment of a mechanism to enable the continuation of such dialogue and reflect a shared ownership of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This could be undertaken either in an informal manner along the lines used in the Bern workshops or in a more formal manner, for example through the establishment of an intersessional working group to which other biodiversity-related conventions could be invited to consider nominating representatives. In either case, there would be a number of complexities to consider, including the size,

number of representatives from each instrument or body, its scope in terms of the conventions and/or organizations to seek to involve, and costs and resources required for its operation.

## V. SUGGESTED ELEMENTS OF A DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

40. Noting that the Conference of the Parties may wish to address cooperation with other conventions and international organizations related to the implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity in its decision on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and that other recommendations of the Subsidiary Body may address cooperation in the context of specific thematic and cross-cutting areas, the Subsidiary Body may wish to adopt a recommendation along the following lines:

*The Subsidiary Body on Implementation,*

*Recalling* the decisions of the Conference of the Parties concerning cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives, including those adopted at its thirteenth and fourteenth meetings,<sup>24</sup>

*Recalling also* the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting to establish a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,<sup>25</sup>

*Welcoming with appreciation* the participation and contributions to the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations, other multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental organizations,

*Also welcoming with appreciation* the participation and contributions to the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework by representatives of non-governmental organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities, women's groups, youth groups, the business and finance community, the scientific community, academia, faith-based organizations, representatives of sectors related to or dependent on biodiversity, among others,

*Recognizing* the important role of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a framework for all relevant stakeholders, organizations and conventions to contribute to biodiversity objectives, to foster cooperation among them, and the essential contributions they will make to its implementation,

1. *Takes note* of the recommendations of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, at its eleventh meeting, and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its twenty-third meeting, concerning options for possible elements of work aimed at an integration of nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;<sup>26</sup>

2. *Invites* the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting to take into consideration in the further development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the conclusions of the Second Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework contained in the document CBD/SBI/3/10 and in the report of the workshop, as well as the submissions made by multilateral environmental agreements concerning their views on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its monitoring framework;

3. *Further invites* the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting to take into consideration in the further development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the recommendations of the Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention, at its eleventh meeting, and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, at its twenty-third meeting,

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<sup>24</sup> Decisions XIII/24 and 14/30.

<sup>25</sup> Decision 14/34.

<sup>26</sup> Recommendations WG8J-11/3 and SBSTTA-23/2.

concerning options for possible elements of work aimed at an integration of nature and culture in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;<sup>27</sup>

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions and members of the informal advisory group on synergies, to consider options for the establishment of a liaison mechanism among Parties to the various biodiversity-related conventions at an intergovernmental level and to submit a proposal for the consideration of the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting;

5. *Recommends* that the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth meeting adopt a decision along the following lines:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions XIII/24 and 14/30,

*Reaffirming* the importance of enhancing cooperation and synergies in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other multilateral environmental agreements, including biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions at the global, regional and national levels,

*Emphasizing* the importance of cooperation among all relevant conventions, organizations and initiatives to achieve the objectives of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

*Welcoming with appreciation* the work conducted by the United Nations Environment Management Group and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to facilitate system-wide attention to biodiversity and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

*Also welcoming with appreciation* the support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme to the implementation of decisions XIII/24 and 14/30 with respect to enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, including in convening a workshop among biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework,

*Further welcoming with appreciation* the work conducted by other organizations to fulfil elements of decision 14/30, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the International Tropical Timber Organization,

*Welcoming with appreciation* the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly proclaiming the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 and the contribution that this may provide to objectives of the Convention and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

1. *Welcomes* the contributions of other biodiversity-related conventions to enhancing synergies in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, including through their contributions to the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources and in consultation with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, to continue to implement key actions to enhance synergies among biodiversity-related conventions at the international level;

3. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to implement key actions to enhance synergies among biodiversity-related conventions at the international level;

4. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to liaise closely with the Secretariats of the Rio conventions in the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and to provide a report on its progress at the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

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<sup>27</sup> Recommendations WG8J-11/3 and SBSTTA-23/2.

5. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Management Group to facilitate United Nations system-wide cooperation towards the objectives of the Convention, its Protocols and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

6. *Urges* Parties to continue to take action to enhance synergies in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions at the national level.

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