



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

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ENGLISH ONLY

MEETING OF THE INFORMAL ADVISORY
GROUP ON SYNERGIES AMONG
BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS
Montreal, Canada, 17-18 December 2017

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

1. At its thirteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted decision XIII/24 on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, including options to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. The decision includes two substantive annexes: Annex I, identifying options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level, and Annex II providing a road map for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the international level 2017-2020.
2. 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 on prioritization and implementation of actions foreseen in the “road map”.
3. In response to paragraph 15 of the decision, the Secretariat:
 - a) issued a notification¹ on 28 August 2017 inviting Parties to submit nominations of qualified representatives by 30 September 2017. A total of 27 nominations from 22 Parties were received, compiled and analysed by the Secretariat;
 - b) consulted with the COP 13 bureau in selecting the membership of the group;
 - c) issued a notification² on 3 November 2017 to inform Parties of the composition of the informal advisory group;
 - d) convened a GoToMeeting on 7 December 2017 to discuss the mandate, modalities, organization of work and introductory matters;
 - e) prepared relevant material and an online discussion platform to facilitate the deliberations of the informal advisory group;
 - f) organized the present meeting of the informal advisory group.

¹ Notification SCBD/MCO/AF/NP/CR/CE/86576 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2017/ntf-2017-081-cooperation-en.pdf>

² Notification SCBD/MCO/AF/NP/CR/86576 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2017/ntf-2017-114-iag-en.pdf>

4. The informal advisory group on synergies among biodiversity-related conventions is scheduled to meet in Montreal, Canada, from 17 to 18 December 2017 to advance its work as mandated by decision XIII/24. The outcomes of the meeting will contribute to the preparation by the group of its report to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting, scheduled to be held in Montreal, Canada, from 9 to 13 July 2018.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. A representative of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity will open the meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday 17 December 2017 and hand over to the elected Chair to preside over the meeting. This will be followed by self-introductions by the members of the group.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Election of officers

6. At its virtual meeting held on 7 December 2017, the members of the informal advisory group on synergies elected Mr. Hesiquio Benítez (Mexico) to serve as its Chairperson. Members may wish to consider the need to elect any other officers, such as Rapporteur for the meeting,

2.2. Adoption of the agenda

7. The informal advisory group will be invited to consider and adopt the agenda of the meeting on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat (CBD/BRC/OM/2017/1/1/).

2.3. Organization of work

8. The informal advisory group will be invited to consider and adopt the proposed organization of work for the meeting, as contained in annex to the present document. The work will be conducted in plenary, with the possible establishment of working groups, as appropriate.

ITEM 3. BACKGROUND, SCOPE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

9. Under this item, representatives of the Secretariat and resource persons will provide background information related to work being undertaken relevant to advancing implementation of decision XIII/24 and related decisions, including the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” being conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre, UNEP-WCMC. Such inputs will be provided during the course of the meeting at relevant points of the discussions.

10. The informal advisory group is invited to assess the scope of its work for the present meeting. The Group may wish to consider identifying specific tasks that could be delegated and advanced by individual members or by sub-groups.

11. The informal advisory group is invited to define the expected outcomes for this meeting, taking into account that the Group will prepare a report to be submitted to the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

12. The road map for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the international level 2017-2020 contained in Annex II of decision XIII/24, and the table of desirable key actions contained in this annex, outline three expected outcomes / areas for activity, as follows:

- a) Enhancing cooperation and coordination mechanisms;
- b) Enhancing management of and avoiding duplication related to information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators;
- c) Enhancing the provision of capacity-building and guidance.

13. 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 proposed action. A number of elements of the table were incomplete on adoption of the decision. For several key actions, these include the timeline and the mandate provided under the conventions. For this reason, in paragraph 13 of decision XIII/24, the COP requested the CBD Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, and in consultation with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, to enter the information missing from the table. To initiate this process, the CBD Secretariat has entered relevant information missing from the table. A preliminary draft of the revised table will be made available to the informal advisory group. All changes to the original table contained in document CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/24 (i.e. information added) are shown in track changes. Clearly no decisions or resolutions of other conventions taken prior to CBD COP 13 can provide guidance exactly on the key actions described in decision XIII/24. However, the decisions/resolutions cited appear to have relevant bearing on the action proposed. In most cases, the key actions are only partially reflected in, or related to, the decisions, resolutions or recommendations cited. The secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions have been invited to review the added information and indicate the relevance and/or limitations of the cited decisions/resolutions as providing mandate for the key actions.

14. In conducting its work, the informal advisory group could address item 4 (prioritization) and item 5 (implementation) sequentially, as proposed in annex I of the present document or, alternatively, prepare advice on prioritization and implementation as part of one exercise when considering areas a), b), and c) noted in paragraph 12, above.

ITEM 4 PREPARING ADVICE ON FURTHER PRIORITIZATION OF ACTIONS IN THE TABLE CONTAINED IN ANNEX II TO DECISION XIII/24

15. In developing advice on the prioritization of key actions, the meeting will consider each of the three areas noted in paragraph 12. Relevant to advice on prioritization, among other things, will be consideration of the timeline and mandates provided under the CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions.

4.1 Enhancing cooperation and coordination mechanisms

16. The informal advisory group is invited to refer to paragraphs 5 to 11 of Annex II of CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/24 and to the key actions listed under Area / Expected Outcome A. of the table contained in that annex.

4.2 Enhancing management of and avoiding duplication related to information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators

17. The informal advisory group is invited to refer to paragraphs 12 to 13 of Annex II of CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/24 and to the key actions listed under Area / Expected Outcome B. of the table contained in that annex.

4.3 Enhancing the provision of capacity-building and guidance

18. The informal advisory group is invited to refer to paragraphs 14 to 16 of Annex II of CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/24 and to the key actions listed under Area / Expected Outcome C. of the table contained in that annex. In considering enhanced provision of capacity-building and guidance, the group is invited to take account of the work being conducted in the context of the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24”, referred to in paragraph 9, above.

ITEM 5 PREPARING ADVICE ON IMPLEMENTING THE PRIORITIZED ACTIONS

19. In developing advice on implementing key actions outlined in the “road map” (Annex II of decision XIII/24), the meeting will consider each of three expected outcomes / areas for activity noted in paragraph 12 above. Relevant to advice on implementation, among other things, will be consideration of the timeline and potential lead organization(s).

5.1 Enhancing cooperation and coordination mechanisms

20. The informal advisory group is invited to refer to paragraphs 5 to 11 of Annex II of CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/24 and to the key actions listed under Area / Expected Outcome A. of the table contained in that annex.

5.2 Enhancing management of and avoiding duplication related to information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators

21. The informal advisory group is invited to refer to paragraphs 12 to 13 of Annex II of CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/24 and to the key actions listed under Area / Expected Outcome B. of the table contained in that annex.

5.3 Enhancing the provision of capacity-building and guidance

22. The informal advisory group is invited to refer to paragraphs 14 to 16 of Annex II of CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/24 and to the key actions listed under Area / Expected Outcome C. of the table contained in that annex. In considering implementation of relevant actions, the group is invited to take account of work being conducted in the project “Supporting implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24” referred to in paragraph 9, above.

ITEM 6. CONCLUSIONS AND WAYS FORWARD

23. In the light of the discussions under agenda items 4 and 5 above, the informal advisory group will be invited to consider the conclusions of its work in the present meeting, and to identify possible ways forward to facilitate future discussions and actions related to decision XIII/24 and on synergies among biodiversity-related conventions. The informal advisory group may wish to discuss working arrangements and a timeline for advancing elements of its work and the preparation of its report to the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

24. Under this item, members may raise other matters relevant to the subject matter of the meeting including the modalities, working arrangements and future meetings of the Group.

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

25. Members will be invited to consider and adopt a report of the meeting on the basis of a draft to be prepared by the Chair/Rapporteur with the support of the Secretariat.

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

26. The meeting is expected to close at 4 p.m. on Monday, 18 December 2017.

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Annex

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Sunday, 17 December 2017

- 10.00 a.m. Opening of the meeting (agenda item 1)
- Morning Organizational matters (agenda item 2)
Background, scope and expected outcomes (agenda item 3)
- 1.00-2.00 p.m. Lunch
- Afternoon Background, scope and expected outcomes (agenda item 3) (continued);
Preparing advice on further prioritization of actions in the table contained in annex II
of decision XIII/24 (agenda item 4).
- 6.00 p.m. Closure of the session

Monday, 18 December 2017

- 9.00 a.m. Opening of the second day of the meeting
- Morning Background (agenda item 3, continued);
Preparing advice on implementing the prioritized actions (agenda item 5).
- 12.30-1.30 p.m. Lunch
- Afternoon Conclusions and ways forward (agenda item 6);
Other matters (agenda item 7);
Adoption of the report (agenda item 8).
- 4.00 p.m. Closure of the meeting (agenda item 9)
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