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COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. The present document provides information on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and partnerships, supplementary to documents CBD/SBI/2/10, CBD/SBI/2/10/Add.1 and CBD/SBI/2/10/Add.2. Pursuant to decision [XIII/24](#), paragraph 2, of the Conference of the Parties, this includes information on results and achievements of existing cooperation activities.

I. COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS

A. Biodiversity-related conventions

2. This section reports on cooperation with and among global biodiversity-related conventions. It reviews actions undertaken by the secretariats and the governing bodies of the conventions as well as in the context of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions.¹ Work undertaken in response to decision XIII/24 on enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions is addressed in document CBD/SBI/2/10/Add.1.

1. *Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions*

3. The twelfth ordinary meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions was held on 28 September 2017, at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy. The CBD Secretariat served as secretariat for the meeting that was chaired by the Secretary of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA). The International Whaling Commission was welcomed as a new member of the Liaison Group. The Liaison Group highlighted the increased quality and number of practical actions taken by the secretariats to enhance cooperation and synergies in the last few years, and welcomed further

* CBD/SBI/2/1.

¹ 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), Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention) and International Whaling Commission (IWC).

opportunities to cooperate including through bilateral collaboration and joint work plans and activities. Among other actions, the members of the Liaison Group agreed to: coordinate their participation in the 2018 High-level Political Forum with a view to increasing the visibility of the role of biodiversity in the sustainable development agenda; share information about best practices related to collaboration among the secretariats and for the creation of local and national liaison groups on biodiversity; and provide inputs in the context of the development of the post-2020 framework.

4. A meeting among agencies and convention secretariats was convened by the CBD Secretariat back-to-back with the meeting of the Liaison Group, and in response to decision XIII/24 paragraph 18. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Union for Conservation of Nature, UN Environment and its World Conservation Monitoring Centre were invited to join the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions in their capacity as host organizations of these secretariats. UNESCO participated through the World Heritage Centre. The meeting provided an opportunity to initiate a dialogue on ways for strengthening interagency coordination and cooperation in support of the biodiversity and sustainable development agendas, particularly implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level, and to exchange views on mutually supportive activities including capacity-building. As a follow up to one of the meeting's recommendations, the Secretariat convened teleconferences with the capacity development coordinators from biodiversity-related convention secretariats and relevant international organizations to review existing mechanisms, programmes, projects and activities, identify common areas and gaps across the Conventions requiring capacity-building, propose means for exchanging best practices, and identify concrete joint actions. Further meetings of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and of relevant organizations and secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions are scheduled to take place in 2018.

2. *Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
(World Heritage Convention)*

5. At its 41st session, held in Krakow, Poland, from 2 to 12 July 2017, the World Heritage Committee welcomed the proactive role of the World Heritage Centre for enhancing synergies among the culture and biodiversity-related conventions and programmes and particularly, the integration of relevant synergies aspects in the revised Periodic Reporting format and the launch of a synergy-related web page on the Centre's website. The CBD Secretariat will continue to collaborate with the World Heritage Centre on issues of scientific credibility and transparency of the ecologically or biologically significant marine areas process, in the context of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, and other relevant activities and processes.

3. *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*

6. The 69th meeting of the Standing Committee of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), was held in Geneva from 27 November to 1 December 2017. The CITES Secretariat reported on bilateral activities with secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions, including on a meeting registration system and data management tool (Kronos) shared by the CBD Secretariat and adapted for use in CITES meetings. The Standing Committee was also invited to offer inputs on how the CITES Secretariat could contribute towards the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, to follow the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

7. The CBD Secretariat continues to collaborate with the CITES Secretariat on a number of other issues of common interest including youth engagement, capacity-building and sustainable wildlife management. Information on cooperation in the context of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management is provided in section V of the present document.

4. *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals*

8. The twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP 12) was held in Manila, Philippines, from 23 to 28 October 2017. At the margins of the meeting, the secretariats of CBD, CMS, CITES and Ramsar conducted a joint side-event to sensitize participants to opportunities to contribute to the process for the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The convention secretariats and participants confirmed their keen interest in the process, and acknowledged the leadership role of the Convention on Biological Diversity in developing a follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity beyond 2020, which should continue to provide a global biodiversity framework for the work of other biodiversity-related conventions.

9. In Resolution 11.10 (Rev.COP12), the CMS COP welcomed the decision taken by CBD Parties on cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. In paragraph 10 of the resolution, the COP requested the CMS Secretariat to prepare proposals to strengthen cooperation, coordination and synergies, with other biodiversity-related conventions for consideration at future meetings of the Conference of the Parties. The COP extended several invitations for the attention of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (e.g. paras 17 to 20). In paragraph 23, COP 12 urged Parties to establish close collaboration at the national level between the focal point of the CMS and the focal points of other relevant conventions in order for Governments to develop coherent and synergistic approaches across the conventions and increase effectiveness of national efforts, for example by developing national biodiversity working groups to coordinate the work of focal points of relevant multilateral environmental agreements and other stakeholders, *inter alia*, through relevant measures in national biodiversity strategies and action plans, harmonized national reporting and adoption of coherent national positions in respect of each multilateral environmental agreement.

10. CMS Resolution 12.25 “Promoting Conservation of Critical Intertidal and other Coastal Habitats for Migratory Species”, called for concerted action on conserving coastal habitats worldwide, including options to build a “Caring for Coasts” initiative as part of a global movement to restore coastal wetlands. Parties were encouraged to consider engaging in the development and implementation of the proposed initiative. Involvement of the CBD Secretariat with the Caring for Coasts initiative is further discussed under the section on cooperation with the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

11. The secretariats of CBD and CMS continue to collaborate through the Joint Work Plan for the CBD and CMS Secretariats for the period 2016-2018. Among other actions, the CMS Secretariat provided inputs to the draft guidance for better governance towards a sustainable, participatory and inclusive wild meat sector, presented to SBSTTA-21. This guidance contains technical guidelines and recommendations prepared in response to decision XIII/8.

5. *Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands)*

12. Through CBD COP decision III/21 and the Memorandum of Cooperation between the secretariats of CBD and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands has a lead role for wetlands for the CBD. Collaboration between the secretariats is framed in the context of their Fifth Joint Work Plan 2011-2020. The Ramsar Secretariat provides inputs to different processes such as the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, synergies among biodiversity-related conventions and capacity building, and participated in the Bogis Bossey Dialogue for Biodiversity Meeting in November 2017 and CBD SBSTTA 21 in December 2017.

13. The Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016-2024 is aligned with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Sustainable Development Goals. This alignment is useful for Parties reporting under both conventions and also for reporting on achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. On the basis of

National Reports submitted by Contracting Parties, the Ramsar Secretariat is preparing global and regional implementation reports for the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, which will refer to the contribution of the Ramsar Convention to specific areas of the Joint Work Plan and Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

14. The *Global Wetlands Outlook: State of the World's Wetlands and their Services to People*, which is about all wetlands (beyond Ramsar sites) and SDG indicator 6.6.1, will be published in the fall of 2018, providing an opportunity for biodiversity-related conventions to communicate about water-related ecosystems.

15. Following CBD COP decision XII/19 "Ecosystem conservation and restoration", Ramsar parties called, through Resolution XII.13 on "Wetlands and disaster risk reduction", for concerted action on the conservation and restoration of coastal wetlands, including the establishment of a 'Caring for Coasts', initiative as part of a global movement to restore coastal wetlands. The CBD Secretariat initiated in 2016 the first activities under a 'Caring for Coasts' initiative, in partnership with Birdlife International, with seed funding from the Canadian government. These activities included a study on the state, trends and threats to coastal wetlands, with a consultation process among CBD Parties. A full report on these activities can be consulted in the information document CBD/SBI/2/INF/20.

16. The study concluded that coastal wetlands are of critical importance to the provision of many valuable ecosystem services, especially the sequestration of vast quantities of 'blue carbon' and underpinning of economically important fisheries and shellfisheries. Coastal wetlands support diverse biological communities, including many of the world's most threatened migratory species. However, fragmented governance mechanisms at the regional, national and sub-national level, including between separate bodies with responsibilities for terrestrial and marine systems, and between habitats and the wildlife they support, has led to coastal wetlands being overlooked and under-protected around the world. Moreover coastal ecosystems are increasingly imperilled by development, pollution, unsustainable fisheries, sea-level rise and increased disaster impacts, associated to weather events and other climate change impacts.

17. Drawing from the outcomes of the consultation process carried out from August to December 2017, CBD Parties participating in the consultation: (1) acknowledged and affirmed the roles played by coastal wetlands in climate change and disaster risk mitigation, and livelihood support, (2) recognised that both government and non-government led coastal wetland restoration is being implemented, and (3), that infrastructure development, alongside other threats (e.g. agriculture, lack of political support) remain major challenges in relation to coastal wetland work. CBD Parties and other stakeholders consulted recognised an urgent need to strengthen coastal wetland conservation efforts, and identified capacity building, provision of scientific guidance and funding to be important next steps. However, the strengthening of national government commitments' to coastal wetland restoration remains essential, and underpins the next steps to be taken.

18. In addition, the majority of CBD Parties that responded to the consultation expressed interest and commitment towards supporting a global initiative on coastal wetland restoration, and listed communication, education and public awareness (CEPA), capacity-building and provision of technical capacity as the main areas they are willing to support, but not direct funding. Responses from non-government stakeholders agreed that coastal wetland restoration efforts need to be strengthened globally, but that the most important next step should involve securing stronger commitments and political support from governments. Non-government stakeholders indicated capacity-building, improving policy and technical capacity to be the key areas they are willing to support to contribute to a global initiative on coastal wetland restoration. Results of the Caring for Coasts initiative will be presented at COP 13 of the Ramsar Convention in October 2018.

19. In line with decision XIII/26 on enhancing integration among the Convention and its Protocols and the organization of meetings, the secretariats of the CBD and Ramsar Convention on Wetlands examined options for holding joint regional preparatory meetings for the fourteenth meeting of the CBD Conference of the Parties and the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands however, considering that the pre-COP regional meetings for Ramsar were to be held from 26 February 2018 to 23 March 2018, collaboration for this cycle was not opportune.

6. *International Plant Protection Convention*

20. The Secretariat participated in the twelfth and thirteenth sessions of the Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (governing body of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)), held in Rome from 5 to 11 April 2017 and 16 to 20 April 2018, respectively. The outcomes of CPM 12 relevant to the CBD include: cooperation among international organizations under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement and Biodiversity-related Conventions; ways forward to address the risk related to e-commerce; risk of sea containers moving pests; preparation for the International Year of Plant Health 2020. The Secretariat reported on the outcomes of COP 13 and activities conducted in collaboration with the IPPC Secretariat on Invasive Alien Species and other biodiversity-related matters, delivered a presentation “Increasing risk of biological invasion posed by trade in wildlife via e-commerce and associated materials”, and organized a side session “Facilitation of international trade and safeguarding biodiversity from pest spread”.

21. At CPM 13, under the theme “IPPC and Environment”, the Executive Secretary provided the keynote address and highlighted the long history of collaboration between the IPPC and CBD secretariats on management of invasive alien species and pests and called for enhanced collaboration on shared objectives in the context of the final years of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Secretariat also reported on the activities on the collaborative approach to engage the World Customs Organization to address the risk of invasive alien species and pests sold via e-commerce, development of new guidance to address the risks associated with trade in live species, and capacity building activities to apply DNA technologies involving National Plant Protection Organizations which are the national authorities for implementation of the IPPC.

22. At the margins of the meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in September 2017, the secretariats of the IPPC and CBD signed a joint work plan 2017-2018.²

7. *International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*

23. The seventh session of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) was held in Kigali from 30 October to 3 November 2017. In Resolution 9/2017, the Governing Body welcomed Annexes I and II of Decision XIII/24, invited Contracting Parties to consider supporting implementation of the options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, and requested the Secretary to undertake relevant actions foreseen in these options. In the same resolution, Contracting Parties requested the Secretary to continue collaborating and, as appropriate, coordinate with the CBD Secretariat, the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and other relevant partners, on issues related to digital sequence information. Contracting Parties also requested the Secretary to cooperate with the CBD Executive Secretary by providing information on developments and practical implementation experiences within the International Treaty, with a view to informing future discussions on Article 8(j) of the CBD and Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol. In line with these resolutions, the secretariats of CBD and ITPGRFA are

² The joint work plan is available at the following URL: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/agreements/agmt-ippc-2017-09-28-en.pdf>.

collaborating to update the Joint Initiative between the two secretariats on areas of work such as Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) and Article 8(j).

24. In resolution 12/2017, the Governing Body requested its Secretary to continue and further strengthen and expand the collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other capacity building providers, in support of implementation of the instruments in a harmonious and mutually supportive manner. In the same resolution, the Governing Body requested the Secretary to continue participating actively in the relevant activities of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and urged Contracting Parties to take measures to enhance synergies in their implementation of or participation in biodiversity-related conventions to promote policy coherence, improve efficiency and enhance coordination and cooperation at all levels, and invited international organizations and donors to provide financial resources to support efforts that encourage synergies in policy development and the fulfilment of obligations under the biodiversity-related conventions.

B. The Rio conventions

25. This section of the note reports on cooperation among the Rio conventions: the CBD, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The report by the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the implementation of United Nations environmental conventions, submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, compiles the reports on the three conventions provided by the Secretariats of UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD.³

1. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

26. The CBD Secretariat participated in the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNCCD held in Ordos, China, from 6 to 16 September 2017, and in the sixteenth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the Convention held from 7 to 13 September 2017. The CBD Executive Secretary moderated the ministerial roundtable discussion on “Land Degradation Neutrality – from targets to actions”, which drew on many connections between ecosystem health and resilience for sustainable land management. The Executive Secretariat also participated in numerous events, including the small island developing States ministerial breakfast, which addressed the impacts to biodiversity and the role that biodiversity plays in many vulnerable and risk-prone low-lying states. Challenges arising from impacts of climate change and unsustainable management of land and marine resources reinforce the compounding difficulties to meet development priorities. The meeting underscored the importance of nature-based solutions underpinned by biodiversity, in the context of sustainable land and natural resource management and sustainable development, reinforcing land, water, and biodiversity nexus. The Executive Secretary highlighted the synergies between the biodiversity and land-degradation neutrality global agendas, and the importance of increasing political visibility and support to global biodiversity issues, including towards accelerating the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and mobilizing political support to shaping the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

27. The Secretariats of UNCCD and CBD maintained their joint liaison arrangements at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. Through the liaison office, the Convention is provided a cost-effective liaison mechanism with the United Nations processes in New York.

³ [A/72/152](#).

2. *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*

28. The Secretariat contributed to an informal consultation under UNFCCC on the development of a gender action plan, held on 27 and 28 March 2017 in The Hague, Netherlands. The Secretariat also developed a survey in collaboration with the secretariats of the UNFCCC and the UNCCD on knowledge and training needs for mainstreaming gender in efforts to implement the Rio Conventions. Results will be analysed by the CBD Secretariat and made available to Parties and other stakeholders.

29. The Secretariat participated in the Bonn Climate Change Conference November 2017,⁴ including the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 23). At the margins of COP 23, the Executive Secretary hosted a High-Level Breakfast Roundtable on the topic of “One Action, Five Outcomes: Aligning National Actions to Amplify Achievement of Global Goals”. Moderated by Luc Gnacadja, former Executive Secretary of the UNCCD, the 13 high-level participants expressed their convictions on the importance to achieve multiple outcomes at the national, regional and global levels, particularly on: poverty eradication, climate change, disaster risk reduction, land degradation and desertification, and biodiversity goals, by acting to conserve, sustainably use and restore biodiversity and ecosystems.⁵

30. The Secretariat participated in several other meetings under UNFCCC, including the thirty-first meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in March 2017; forty-sixth Subsidiary Body meetings of UNFCCC in May 2017; the UNFCCC Least Developed Countries Expert Group regional training workshops on national adaptation plans for the Pacific in July 2017, and for Latin America and the Caribbean in September 2017. As a result of these activities, there is a better understanding within the climate change community of the role and contribution of the CBD, and work taken under it, to the work of the UNFCCC. Parties have a better understanding of the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, how to integrate climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, and will have a better overview of available resources supporting them in their efforts to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to climate change, in particular Targets 10, 14 and 15. More information on the collaboration between the CBD Secretariat and UNFCCC and other processes related to climate change is provided in CBD/SBSTTA/22/8.

C. Other relevant conventions and agreements

1. *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*

31. The CBD Secretariat participated in the third and fourth sessions of the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, held in New York, United States of America in March-April 2017 and July 2017, respectively. The Secretariat delivered statements on behalf of the Executive Secretary, contributed to substantive deliberations during the meetings and organized side events on (a) ecologically or biologically significant marine areas, and

⁴ The twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23); thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 13); the second part of the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1.2); forty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 47); forty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 47), and; the fourth part of the first session of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1.4)

⁵ IISD coverage: <http://enb.iisd.org/climate/cop23/cbd>

(b) Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogues⁶ with regional seas organizations and regional fisheries bodies. As a result, relevant work and developments under the CBD were highlighted to the intergovernmental deliberations on marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, enhancing the visibility of the Convention and the efforts of Parties.

32. The Secretariat provided substantive input to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea for the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly. The report focused on the theme of “the effects of climate change”.⁷ The Secretariat provided an input to the report in two parts, with the first part focusing on specific activities and developments under the CBD related to the theme of the report (“the effects of climate change”) and the second part focusing on all other activities and developments under the CBD that are relevant to oceans and the law of the sea. The report provides an opportunity to highlight CBD’s work in the deliberations of the United Nations General Assembly and further enhances the visibility of the Convention and the efforts of Parties.

33. Work under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative, a global capacity-building partnership coordinated by the Secretariat, was noted with appreciation by the United Nations General Assembly at its seventy-second session in its resolution [72/73](#). Work under the CBD on marine debris, the voluntary specific work plan on biodiversity in cold water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention, Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, marine and coastal protected areas, and ecologically or biologically significant marine areas was also noted in the resolution.

2. Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution (Barcelona Convention)

34. The CBD Secretariat attended the twentieth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution (Barcelona Convention) held from 17 to 20 December 2017 in Tirana, Albania. As a result, relevant work and developments under the CBD were highlighted to the intergovernmental deliberations of the Barcelona Convention, enhancing the visibility of the Convention and the efforts of Parties. The two secretariats also met on the margins of the meeting to identify upcoming opportunities for collaboration, including at CBD COP14. Also in December 2017, a representative of the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas of the Barcelona Convention delivered a theme presentation to the CBD Expert Workshop to Develop Options for Modifying the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas, for Describing New Areas, and for Strengthening the Scientific Credibility and Transparency of this Process.

35. The CBD Secretariat continues to collaborate with the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention in relevant activities and forums, including the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative and specific marine and coastal platforms.

II. COOPERATION WITH UNITED NATIONS BODIES AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

A. High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

36. In line with decisions XII/1, XIII/1 and XIII/3, the Secretariat continued to engage in processes related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, including in cooperation with other United Nations entities. The Secretariat actively participated in the

⁶ The aim of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogues is to facilitate exchange of experiences and lessons learned, and to identify options and opportunities to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies with a view to support their key role in facilitating achievements of the Aichi Targets and relevant SDGs. Information on the first SOI Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SOIOM-2016-01>. The dialogues will be held every two years.

⁷ [A/72/70](#) and [Add.1](#).

2017 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) held under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in New York in July 2017, notably in activities related to Goal 14.⁸ Work undertaken by the Secretariat has been reported in document CBD/SBSTTA/21/2/Add.1.

37. The Secretariat prepared and submitted documents to the President of the Economic and Social Council, on behalf of the Convention, as inputs to the meetings of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held in 2017⁹ and 2018.¹⁰

38. The Secretariat has actively engaged in the preparatory processes for the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, to be held in New York from 9 to 18 July 2018. Biodiversity is particularly relevant, as Goal 15 (Life on Land)¹¹ is one of the Sustainable Development Goals that will be given in depth review. Biodiversity and ecosystems and the work of the Convention are also highly relevant to the other SDGs that will be reviewed: Goal 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), Goal 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Goal 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals / Means of Implementation).

39. The Secretariat issued a notification to Parties on 12 January 2018¹² to encourage countries to highlight the role of biodiversity and ecosystems for sustainable development during the high-level political forum, in voluntary national reviews that will be presented by 47 countries during the forum, in interventions, including during the ministerial segment, and/or through active participation in other associated activities and special events.

40. The Secretariat participated in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Regional Forum held in Geneva from 1 to 2 March 2018, including in moderating a Round Table and disseminating the Technical Note. Comments were provided on forum report. The Secretariat also participated in the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) Regional Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, held in Beirut on 24-26 April 2018, along with moderating a panel at its preparatory meeting in Cairo from 11 to 12 April. In addition, the Secretariat participated in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) Africa Regional Forum, held in Senegal from 2 to 4 May 2018. In preparation, comments on ECA's forum background paper were provided. At the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Regional Forum held in Bangkok from 28 to 29 March 2018, the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific set up a CBD booth in the Partnership Pavilion and distributed 100 copies of the CBD Technical Note and Policy Brief on biodiversity and the SDGs.

41. The Secretariat also participated in the Expert Group Meeting on SDG 15 organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in New York from 14 to 15 May 2018. The Secretariat organized and moderated a panel session on 14 May with panellists from IPBES, GEF and the Wildlife Conservation Society. The Executive Secretary delivered a keynote speech on 15 May at the meeting. A two-page background paper was prepared and submitted to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for inclusion in meeting background document. The objective of the meeting was to take stock of where we are in terms of progress towards SDG 15; share knowledge as to success stories, good practices and challenges; identify particular areas of concern; and suggest ways forward in terms of policies, partnerships and coordinated actions at all levels. These messages will help inform the

⁸ General Assembly resolution 70/299.

⁹ HPLF 2017: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/14519SCBDinput_2017HLPF.pdf

¹⁰ HPLF 2018: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18277CBD_input_to_2018_HLPF.pdf

¹¹ Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

¹² [Notification 2018-005: 2018 high-level political forum on sustainable development](#)

HLPF, assist in planning its sessions, and serve to influence collaborations and programmes of work going forward from 2018.

42. The Secretariat was also requested by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Global Compact to suggest biodiversity partnership examples to be featured during the HLPF's Partnership Exchange on 13 July 2018. Three of the proposed partnerships will be featured at this event, including the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI), and Life Certification, Brazil (a member of the CBD's Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity).

43. In addition to the provision of inputs to the preparatory processes for the 2018 High-level Political Forum, the Secretariat is collaborating with other convention secretariats and international organizations to organize and participate in a series of events to be held at its margins, with a view to highlighting the contributions of the Convention and its partners, and enhancing cooperation among them, towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. These include two evening receptions and four proposed side events during the ministerial segment of the HLPF.

44. Lastly, the Secretariat is also producing a series of information products, including a brochure on biodiversity's role in supporting the SDGs, a primer on the mainstreaming of biodiversity in key economic sectors, and a biodiversity-specific guidance note for countries preparing Voluntary National Reviews (the latter for discussion and finalizing after the 2018 HLPF).

B. United Nations General Assembly

45. A report by the Executive Secretary on the Convention and its Protocols was provided to the General Assembly at its seventy-second session in the note by the Secretary-General entitled "Implementation of United Nations environmental conventions" (A/72/152, sect. III). A similar report had been provided to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session (A/71/216, sect. III). A report by the Executive Secretary for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-third session is being prepared by the Secretariat.

46. The General Assembly adopted resolutions on the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development at its seventy-first and seventy-second sessions (A/RES/71/230 and A/RES/72/221). The Secretariat, through its joint liaison office, provided additional information and responded to the queries of delegates during the preparation of the draft resolutions the negotiation of these resolutions by the Second Committee.

47. In Resolution A/RES/71/230, adopted on 21 December 2016, the General Assembly, *inter alia*:

(a) Reaffirms the importance of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 by the Parties to the Convention (para 11);

(b) Stresses the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as part of national implementation plans for the Sustainable Development Goals (para 18);

(c) Recognizes the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and encourages the conferences of the parties to the conventions to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of those instruments (para 21).

48. In resolution 72/221, adopted on 20 December 2017, the General Assembly, *inter alia*:

(a) Stresses the importance of the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 by the parties to the Convention, and, given the limited time remaining, calls upon all parties to accelerate and scale up efforts to implement them, acknowledging the contribution of such efforts to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (para. 13);

(b) Highlights the importance of parties raising high-level political engagement for the achievement by 2020 of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the related Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (para. 14);

(c) Reaffirms the need for a comprehensive and participatory process towards developing proposals for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, fully in line with decision XIII/1 and other relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (para 17);

(d) Stresses the importance of the engagement of the private sector and other stakeholders in the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention and in the achievement of the biodiversity targets (para. 26).

49. The Secretariat also provided substantive input to the Secretary-General's Report on Oceans and the Law of the Sea for the seventy-second session of the United Nations General Assembly. The General Assembly noted with appreciation the work under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative in its resolution 72/73 (section I.C.1 above).

C. United Nations Environment Assembly

50. The Executive Secretary and staff participated in the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEA 3), held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 December 2017. UNEA 3 adopted several resolutions of particular relevance to the work of the Convention, including resolutions 3/2 (Pollution Mitigation by Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Key Sectors), 3/4 (Environment and health), 3/6 (Managing soil pollution to achieve Sustainable Development), 3/7 (Marine litter and microplastics) and 3/10 (Addressing water pollution to protect and restore water-related ecosystems).¹³ In addition to bilateral ministerial meetings, the Executive Secretary addressed the Plenary and participated in the Leadership Dialogue on Science, Evidence and Citizens' Awareness held on 5 December 2017. Among other events, the Executive Secretary participated in the Women Ministers/Leaders Breakfast and also contributed to a session on market oriented green solutions for biodiversity challenges by presenting the relevance of COP 14 thematic areas in relation to pollution among other relevant issues. In addition, at the margins of the meeting the Executive Secretary participated in a meeting of the Head of UN Environment with the Heads of MEA Secretariats on 6 December 2017 and in the UN Environment Leadership Group Retreat on 7 and 8 December 2017. The CBD Secretariat also participated in the Science-Policy- Business Forum, held at the margins of UNEA 3.

D. United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

51. The Secretariat participated in the sixteenth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) from 24 to 28 April 2017 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, to report on mandated areas (traditional knowledge, customary and sustainable use and indigenous participation) and to garner support for the work of the Convention and strengthen partnerships with indigenous peoples. UNPFII recommendations for the Convention were considered by the Working Group on Article 8(j) at its tenth meeting in Montreal, and will be further considered by COP 14. More

¹³ [UNEP/EA.3/Res.2](#); [UNEP/EA.3/Res.4](#); [UNEP/EA.3/Res.6](#); [UNEP/EA.3/Res.7](#); [UNEP/EA.3/Res.10](#);

information is available in document CBD/WG8J/10/9¹⁴ and in the annual report of the CBD Secretariat to the UNPFII at its 17th session.¹⁵

52. On the margins of the sixteenth session of UNPFII, the Secretariat also participated in the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples Issues (IASG). The Secretariat chairs the IASG working group on indicators with a view to increasing cooperation and planning between agencies working on land tenure and changes in land use to operationalize this multipurpose indicator, which is adopted as an indicator for traditional knowledge under the Convention and as an indicator of poverty under the Sustainable Development Goals. The working group is also considering how to operationalize other common indicators, such as traditional occupations, secure land tenure and the effective participation of indigenous peoples. The work on indicators will be highly useful for measuring Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 on traditional knowledge and customary use of biodiversity in light of the 2020 deadline.

E. United Nations Ocean Conference 2017 and follow-up processes

53. This section discusses cooperation with Parties and various organizations in the context of the United Nations Ocean Conference, held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2017, including with regards to activities during the Conference and as part of its follow-up processes. During the Conference, the Secretariat collaborated with several Parties and with other organizations in the following contributions:

(a) Registering of two voluntary commitments for the Conference: (i) The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity Building Platform for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, #14849, and (ii) Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogues with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals, #14827;

(b) Co-organizing six side events during the Conference: (i) Marine Pollution: A critical challenge and opportunity for sustainable development; (ii) Ocean Acidification - what can we do about it? (iii) Facilitating cross-sectoral regional collaboration to support implementation towards SDG 14: Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies; (iv) Strengthening national capacity and empowering indigenous peoples and local communities to accelerate implementation towards SDG 14: Sustainable Ocean Initiative Capacity Development Platform; (v) Ecologically or biologically significant marine areas: special places to accelerate implementation towards SDG 14, and (vi) Mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries for human well-being;

(c) Co-organizing, during the Conference, a high-level reception at the United Nations Headquarters on the theme “Sustainable Ocean Night: Biodiversity for the Future We Want”.

54. These activities¹⁶ served to highlight the central importance of the CBD to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in marine areas. In particular, it showcased the efforts of Parties and relevant organizations with regards to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and how these efforts contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

55. The Secretariat has also been actively engaged in collaborative activities as part of the follow-up process to the Ocean Conference. The Executive Secretary is the focal point of the Ocean Conference Community of Ocean Action on Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Management, together with Ms. Maria

¹⁴ Available the following URL: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/tk/wg8j-10/official/wg8j-10-09-en.pdf>

¹⁵ Available at the following URL: https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/02/SCBD_UNPFII-QUESTIONNAIRE-SCBD-Response-27-December-2017_vf_JSc-2.pdf

¹⁶ Description of CBD activities at the margins of the United Nations Oceans Conference: <http://enb.iisd.org/oceans/sdg14conference/cbd-partners/about.html>

Damanaki, Global Managing Director for Oceans at The Nature Conservancy. The Executive Secretary has also been invited by Ambassador Peter Thomson of Fiji and Ms. Isabella Lövin, Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden, to join the Friends of Ocean Action, a group of 40 high-level leaders focused on maintaining the political momentum of the Ocean Conference.

F. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

56. The CBD Secretariat participated in the fifth session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES 5) from 6 to 11 March 2017 and the sixth session of the Plenary (IPBES 6) from 17 to 24 March 2018. Among the outcomes of the fifth session were a decision on capacity-building and a decision on a general approach to the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge in all IPBES functions. The sixth session approved four regional assessments of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Europe and Central Asia. The regional assessments are relevant to, among other things, the global scientific review of the progress made in the implementation of the global targets and the objectives of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. In decision 6/1, IPBES 6 also approved “the undertaking of a thematic assessment of the sustainable use of wild species in accordance with the procedures for the preparation of the Platform’s deliverables” and requested the IPBES Executive Secretary to convene workshops to consult with multilateral environmental agreements and United Nations partners, including CBD, CITES, CMS, and others, on the assessment. The plenary’s conclusions will directly feed into the preparation of Global Biodiversity Outlook five and the Convention’s work on sustainable wildlife management.

57. In April 2017, the Secretariat attended the fifth Meeting of the Task Force on Capacity-building of IPBES. The meeting consolidated and aligned the contributions by various organizations to the implementation of the IPBES Capacity-building Rolling Plan and to further strengthen collaboration.

58. The Secretariat is a member of the IPBES Task Force on Indigenous and Local Knowledge Systems which addresses the implementation of the IPBES Programme of Work on issues related to indigenous and local knowledge. The Secretariat contributed to the sixth meeting of the Task Force in May 2017. The secretariats of the CBD and IPBES collaborated on the organization of a “Global Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on the IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services” held in December 2017. The Dialogue brought together authors of the IPBES Global Assessment of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and 41 indigenous peoples and local communities representatives from seven geo-cultural regions: Africa; Asia; Arctic; North America; Latin America and the Caribbean; Eastern, Central Europe and the Caucasus; and Pacific.

III. COOPERATION WITH UNITED NATIONS FUNDS, PROGRAMMES, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ENTITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

59. In response to COP decision XIII/15, the Secretariat, issued a notification calling for relevant national initiatives and activities to promote the conservation and sustainable use of pollinators and to contribute to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) survey on the status of honey bees worldwide and other pollinator populations. The information will be used to populate the Domestic Animal Diversity Information System (DAD-IS) hosted by FAO. In response to paragraph 10 of decision XIII/15, together with the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), FAO and other partners, the Secretariat reviewed the implementation of the International Initiative on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Pollinators and prepared a plan of action for consideration by SBSTTA 22.

60. FAO prepared a report in response to decision X/34, paragraph 11, whereby COP invited FAO to provide an expanded progress report on the implementation of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity. The report is presented in information document CBD/SBI/2/INF/24. In 2012, the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) was established as a mechanism to develop a strong interactive partnership and enhanced collaboration and synergy of efforts on soil between all stakeholders, from land users through to policy makers. In 2013, the Intergovernmental Technical Panel on Soils (ITPS) was established at the first Plenary Assembly of the Global Soil Partnership held at FAO Headquarters. The ITPS is composed of 27 top soil experts representing all the regions of the world. The main function of the ITPS is to provide scientific and technical advice and guidance on global soil issues to the Global Soil Partnership primarily and to specific requests submitted by global or regional institutions. Since then, FAO, GSP and ITPS have been working in numerous actions to address sustainable soil management, soil conservation and degraded land restoration in the different global agendas, including food security, climate change, desertification and biodiversity. Soil biodiversity is an important topic that needs more attention and the strong cooperation between CBD, FAO, GSP and ITPS can contribute to address the current gaps and to implement the decisions of the Convention.

61. The Fortieth Session of the Conference of FAO, held in Rome from 3 to 8 July 2017, considered the outcome of CBD COP 13: Mainstreaming Biodiversity across Agricultural Sectors. In paragraph 55 of the report C 2017/REP,¹⁷ the Conference: (a) welcomed FAO's initiative to act as Biodiversity Mainstreaming Platform; and (b) requested FAO to facilitate, in collaboration with its partners, such as the CBD and other United Nations organizations, the integration in a structured and coherent manner of actions for the conservation, sustainable use, management and restoration of biological diversity across agricultural sectors at national, regional and international levels. Accordingly, FAO held a first Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming across Agricultural Sectors, at FAO Headquarters from 29-31 May 2018. The mainstreaming of biodiversity across the agricultural sectors will be further considered at the 2018 meetings of the Organization's technical committees.

62. The FAO Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has continued its work to finalize the preparation of its report on the State of the World's Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture. The Revised Draft Report has been opened for comments, including on the needs and possible actions contained in Appendix I to the document, until June 2018. The first meeting of the Group of National Focal Points on Biodiversity for Food and Agriculture will convene from 18 to 20 June 2018 in Rome to review and revise, as appropriate, draft needs and possible actions that can help secure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity for food and agriculture. The launch of the Report is foreseen for the end of 2018.

63. The Secretariat followed up in partnership with FAO on the FAO component of the UN Environment implemented, European Commission programme on "Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries" - ACP MEAs Phase 2. This component focuses on integrating ecosystem services and biodiversity into agricultural for sustainable management of natural resources and livelihoods. The project aims to strengthen regional and national institutional capacity for finding synergies and implementing target MEA clusters on agrochemicals and biodiversity.

64. The Secretariat is working with FAO and the Fisheries Expert Group of the Commission on Ecosystem Management of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, in collaboration with the European Bureau on Conservation and Development, to identify opportunities for reporting mechanisms under to contribute to assessing progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 6. In particular, this ongoing work is focused on the identification of potential revisions and additions to the FAO Questionnaire for the

¹⁷ Available on line at the following URL: <http://www.fao.org/3/a-mu208e.pdf>

Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries to better reflect issues and considerations related to Aichi Biodiversity Target 6.

65. In September 2016 and April 2018, the Secretariat worked together with FAO and many other global and regional organizations to convene the first and second meetings of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals. This initiative, aims to facilitate dialogue and coordination among regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies. FAO has also played an active role in collaborating in other activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative.

66. The Secretariat participated in the expert consultation on the Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) held in Joensuu, Finland in June 2017. The consultation concluded, among other considerations, on the need to improve the accuracy and consistency of the national data reported under the 'primary forest area' variable of the FRA. A working group was created with participants from the FRA team, interested national FRA correspondents and other organizations such as the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, to devise a strategy for the improving the quality of the data reported under this variable in the 2020 edition of the FRA. The Secretariat is taking an active part in these discussions and, subject to the availability of resources, is planning to further participate in the capacity-building activities deployed by the FAO FRA team and partners on this matter.

B. Global Environment Facility

67. Detailed information concerning collaboration between the CBD Secretariat and the Global Environment Facility is provided in CBD/SBI/2/8.

68. The Secretariat contributed to the GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop for the Caribbean held from 16 to 19 May 2017 in Grenada. The Secretariat developed and issued a survey to Parties of the Caribbean on their needs for implementing ecosystem based approaches to climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Secretariat will follow-up with Parties on future capacity-building efforts, based on the results of the survey conducted and will present the results of this and a broader needs assessment in UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/22/INF/5 for the consideration of SBSTTA 22.

69. The Secretariat is a member of the GEF Gender Partnership and participated in the annual meeting of the partnership in July 2017 to provide input into plans to address gender issues in GEF-7, including the update of the GEF Gender Policy and proposed participants, and GEF monitoring, among other issues. The Secretariat has also contributed to the development of a gender and environment online course being developed by the GEF, GEF Small Grants Programme and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

C. United Nations Development Programme

70. The Secretariat collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the NBSAP Forum and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in organizing a six-week massive open online course on "Greening Consumption and Production" held from 31 May to 12 July 2017. The course was hosted on TNC's Conservation Training website¹⁸. At least 1,371 participants from 138 countries, including policymakers and practitioners working in the area of sustainable consumption and production took part in the course. Similarly in October 2017, the Secretariat collaborated with UNDP, in partnership with SwedBio at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, Pronatura, El Colegio de la Frontera Sur and the NBSAP Forum, in organizing a two-part massive open online course on the "Introduction to Resilience for

¹⁸ TNC's Conservation Training website: <http://www.conservationtraining.org/course/index.php?categoryid=37>

Development”. Part One of online course, “Understanding Resilience Thinking”, was conducted from 31 October to 27 November 2017 and Part Two “Applying Resilience Thinking to National Biodiversity Plans” was conducted from 23 January to 13 February 2018.

71. In response to paragraphs 11 and 12 of decision XIII/20, the Secretariat continued its close collaboration with the UNDP biodiversity finance initiative (BIOFIN), including by contributing to the series of global webinars held by the CBD-BIOFIN regional technical support nodes. The Secretariat participated in the BIOFIN International Workshop on Sustainable Production and Consumption and Novel Economic Instruments for Biodiversity Conservation, held in Bangalore, India, from 17-18 November 2017, as well as the third Global BIOFIN Conference on Finance for Nature, held in Chennai, India, from 6-8 March 2018, and highlighted the importance of the finance work and the associated BIOFIN support for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in the remaining years until 2020; and the need to foresee a further strengthened finance component in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

72. The Secretariat, jointly with UNDP, through the NBSAP Forum, in collaboration with the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, and the Indigenous Women’s Network on Biodiversity, organized three online forums in preparation for the Capacity Development Programme on national arrangements on Traditional Knowledge for achieving Target 18 and contributing to Target 16 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The forum served as a needs analysis to determine regional training priorities within the mandate of the CBD and articles 8(j) and related provisions.

73. The Secretariat is also working with UNDP on the Nature4Climate and NatureForLife initiatives. Nature4Climate is a new campaigning vehicle – supported by a multi-stakeholder coalition. Its purpose is to use strategic communications to drive action on nature-based climate solutions. The Nature4Climate coalition of actors argues that nature-based solutions are too often limited to technical discussions that are fragmented and with relatively limited engagement of politicians, private sector and the general public. To address this, it proposes to establish a communications platform that can strengthen the case for Nature-based climate solutions, connect related organizations working on the topic and inspire action from the public and private sectors. The role of the Secretariat within the coalition will be to ground the nature-based climate solutions proposed in the framework of CBD decisions and ensure that appropriate linkages are made with global and national objectives on biodiversity. NatureForLife is a web-based campaign aiming to raise awareness of the benefits of ecosystems to society through impactful infographics and video material including support from high-profile personalities. The Secretariat would participate through the personal engagement of the Executive Secretary as one of the personalities profiled in the campaign.

74. UNDP also contributed to the organization of the first and second Bogis-Bossey Dialogue for Biodiversity held, respectively, in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, from 12 to 14 November 2017 and Chexbres, Switzerland, from 4 to 6 March 2018 (section VI below).

D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

75. The CBD Secretariat and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have a joint programme on the links between biological and cultural diversity,¹⁹ which is culminating in a Summit on Nature and Culture, to be held at the margins of COP 14. The goal of the Summit, entitled “Biological and Cultural Diversity for Biodiversity and Human Resilience, and for

¹⁹ Decision X/20, paragraph 16, *Notes* the 2010 Declaration on Bio-cultural Diversity and *welcomes* the joint programme of work between UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as useful coordination mechanism to advance the implementation of the Convention and deepen global awareness of the inter-linkages between cultural and biological diversity and *invites* Parties and other relevant stakeholders to contribute to and support the implementation of this joint programme. The current Joint Programme of Work concludes in 2020.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement”, will be to present and share experiences from indigenous peoples and local communities, Parties and international organizations on lessons learnt, with a view to contribute to the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework. The joint programme challenges Parties to consider how to bring nature and culture together in the post-2020 framework. A progress report on the activities of the joint programme of work was made available as an information document to the tenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Intersessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention (CBD/WG8J/10/INF/9).

76. The joint programme of work is evidence of effective collaboration between the Secretariat and UNESCO in pursuit of common objectives. The body of work produced since the establishment of the programme in 2010 has raised awareness of the links and kept this issue of biocultural diversity on the political agenda. This has been highly appreciated by international organizations, governments, civil society, academia and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities. Recognizing the current joint programme, having fulfilled its mandate, is coming to an end in 2020, and that consideration should turn towards a rapprochement of Nature and Culture in the post-2020 framework, the joint programme will make recommendations concerning post-2020 arrangements.

E. United Nations Environment Programme

77. To enhance programmatic cooperation between the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the multilateral environmental agreements (MEA) for which it provides the secretariat or performs secretariat functions, UN Environment has established a practice of convening regular consultations, with the MEA secretariats. The Secretariat participates in these meetings for sharing of information and update from sub-programme coordinators, MEAs and UN Environment as a whole. The overall objective is to foster mutual supportiveness between its programmes of work and those of relevant multilateral environmental agreements. This contributed to the development of its projects for the implementation of its medium-term strategy 2018–2021. The experience gained will inform similar and strengthened procedures in future cycles.²⁰

78. The United Nations Environment Programme and the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) have provided support to the ongoing processes to enhance synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, pursuant to decision XIII/24. The Secretariat contributed to the development of the UN Environment project ‘Environmental Treaties Programme - realizing synergies for biodiversity’ and serves as a member of its steering committee. The project aims to strengthen synergies and support the implementation of CBD COP decisions XIII/24 (cooperation), XIII/22 (communications), XIII/23 (capacity-building) and XIII/27 (national reporting), as well as related resolutions of the United Nations Environment Assembly, in particular resolution 2/17, and decisions of other biodiversity-related conventions. Further information is reported in CBD/SBI/2/10/Add.1.

79. The Secretariat participated in the Biodiversity Public Information Meeting, held on 5 and 6 September 2017, in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting was convened by UN Environment as part of its project, “Environmental Treaties Programme – realizing synergies for biodiversity”, to explore ideas on joint approaches to communication among the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements. The meeting provided an opportunity for sharing experiences and communications goals across the different multilateral environmental agreements.

80. Collaboration is also provided through the UN Environment implemented, European Commission programme on “Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries” - ACP MEAs Phase 2.

²⁰ <http://papersmart.unon.org/resolution/uploads/k1708859.pdf>

81. In September 2016 and April 2018, the Secretariat worked together with UN Environment and many other global and regional organizations to convene the first and second meetings of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals. This initiative aims to facilitate dialogue and coordination among regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies. UN Environment has also played an active role in collaborating in other activities under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative.

82. UNEP-WCMC with other partners and in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, organized a workshop held in July 2017 in Cambridge, United Kingdom, to develop a draft outline and identify key inputs for the voluntary guidelines for effective design and implementation of ecosystem based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction requested in decision XIII/4. UNEP-WCMC contributed to the review of subsequent drafts of the guidelines by participating in a workshop organized by the Secretariat held in November 2017 in Bonn, and by submitting comments.

83. The Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC organized a workshop on mainstreaming biodiversity into the energy and mining sectors on 12 October 2017 in London, United Kingdom. The CBD Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC are together responsible for component four “upscaling” of the “CONNECT project” that aims at mainstreaming biodiversity information into the heart of government decision-making. The Secretariat is part of the steering committee of CONNECT.

84. In response to decision XIII/27, the Secretariat convened, in collaboration with UN Environment, UNDP and FAO, two workshops on the preparation of the sixth national reports on 9 and 10 December 2017, and worked with UN Environment and UNDP in the development of additional technical guidance/supporting materials for the preparation of the sixth national report.

85. In the lead to the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the Secretariat is collaborating with the UN Environment Regional Offices and the United Nations Regional Commissions to support the consideration of SDG 15 and other biodiversity-related targets during the regional preparatory meetings.

86. The Secretariat collaborated with UN Environment Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, and other partners, on the development of a project proposal to mainstream gender in the implementation and monitoring of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations countries. The Secretariat also engaged with UN Environment – Asia-Pacific Region in the organization of a Regional Expert Workshop on Gender and Biodiversity Training Materials for South East Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 28-30 November 2017. The workshop generated considerable engagement and extensive constructive feedback on draft training materials by participants, who constituted CBD focal points and biodiversity experts, and gender specialists from across the region. Workshop participants committed to taking forward a range of actions at the country level, including such things as incorporating gender considerations in NBSAP revision and implementation processes. Inputs from the workshop are being incorporated into a revised set of training materials, for which opportunities for pilot testing will be sought.

87. The Secretariat continued to collaborate with UN Environment and other conventions and organizations in the context of the UN Environment facilitated Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management (MEA-IKM) initiative (section V, below).

F. United Nations System Staff College

88. On 1 March 2017, the Secretariat launched the Biodiversity e-Learning Platform²¹ developed in collaboration with the United Nations System Staff College with financial support from the Government of Japan through the Japan Biodiversity Fund. It seeks to promote the use of advanced technologies to further enhance capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and technology transfer as requested by the Conference of the Parties. Currently, the platform has 16 modules on protected areas, eight modules on access and benefit-sharing, four modules on biosafety and two modules on biodiversity valuation.

G. UN Women

89. During the present biennium the Secretariat has worked to strengthen cooperation with UN Women, with whom it is working to support increased capacity and attention on gender issues under the Convention. This builds on similar input and experience of UN Women in supporting the UNCCD and UNFCCC. As part of this, the Secretariat and UN Women have developed content, materials and methodology for a workshop to engage country Party representatives, civil society and other stakeholders, to build their capacity to understand and apply gender considerations in implementation of the Convention. The workshop will be held on the margins of the twenty-second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 22) and second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 2).

H. United Nations World Tourism Organization

90. The Secretariat participated in the 22nd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) in September 2017 in Chengdu, China. The Executive Secretary addressed the General Assembly on the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in tourism development. In collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Commission on Protected Areas, the Secretariat launched a new publication on Guidelines for tourism partnerships and concessions for protected areas: generating sustainable revenues for conservation and development.

91. The Secretariat has continued to liaise with UNWTO to further strengthen their cooperation on biodiversity mainstreaming in the tourism sector towards supporting implementation of relevant aspects of decision XIII/3, in accordance with paragraph 109 of that decision. UNWTO is contributing to the preparation of a review of experience in mainstreaming biodiversity in the tourism sector which is being conducted by the Secretariat in response to paragraph 109 (f) and (g) and paragraph 111 (a) and (b) in the light of actions undertaken by Parties in response to paragraphs 81 and 82 of the same decision. The Executive Secretary and the Secretary-General of UNWTO have agreed to review the Memorandum of Understanding established in 2009 with a view to its update and renewal.

92. As a contribution to the 2017 International Year on Sustainable Tourism for Development, UNWTO and the CBD Secretariat collaborated in the designation of the theme of the International Day for Biological Diversity for 2017, Biodiversity and Tourism Development. A logo was selected, videos and fact sheets were produced, and related social media reached 7 million viewers. At least 95 countries and 14 other organizations/entities celebrated the 2017 International Day for Biological Diversity.

93. The Secretariat also participated in the UNWTO and UNESCO Tourism and Culture Conference held on 11 and 12 December 2017 in the Sultanate of Oman and provided input on the importance of biodiversity to this nexus.

²¹ Available at the following URL: <https://scbd.unssc.org>

I. World Health Organization

94. Pursuant to a Memorandum of Cooperation established in July 2015, the Secretariat continued to strengthen its relationship with the World Health Organization in the context of their joint work programme. On the recommendation of the WHO Executive Board, the interlinkages between biodiversity and human health²² recognized by the Conference of the Parties in decision XIII/6²³ was examined at the seventy-first World Health Assembly in May 2018 with a view to WHO making a contribution to COP 14. Among other things, the Secretariat and WHO initiated an Interagency Liaison Group on Biodiversity and Health, established in 2017 (section V, below).

J. World Trade Organization

95. The Secretariat provided a statement on pertinent issues arising from COP 13, COP/MOP 2 and COP/MOP 8 to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Committee on Trade and Environment regular session held on 20 June 2017. The Secretariat also provided updated information on the Convention and its Protocols for pertinent documentation of the WTO Secretariat. The WTO Secretariat is represented in the Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species and technical collaboration on this topic is ongoing.

IV. COOPERATION WITH INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. International Union for Conservation of Nature

96. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) continued to contribute to the work of the Convention in numerous areas, including its support to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the development and implementation of NBSAPs. This includes actions involving cooperation between the Secretariat, IUCN and its Commissions, including the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), Species Survival Commission (SSC), and World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). Examples of recent actions include the following.

97. In the area of marine and coastal biodiversity, the Secretariat is working with the Fisheries Expert Group of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management and FAO to identify opportunities for reporting mechanisms under to contribute to assessing progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 (reference CBD/SBSTTA/22/7).

98. In the area of biodiversity and climate change (ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction), IUCN has worked in collaboration with the Secretariat to undertake a project entitled “Resilience through investing in ecosystems – knowledge, innovation and transformation of risk management”, whose outcomes are reported in CBD/SBSTTA/22/8.

99. In the area of invasive alien species, IUCN and the IUCN Species Survival Commission’s Invasive Species Specialist Group have developed tools, guidance and information systems related to the prevention, control and management invasive alien species (CBD/SBSTTA/22/9). They have contributed to develop methodologies for prioritizing the pathways of introduction of invasive alien species and for characterizing risks, and to facilitate information exchange related to invasive alien species. Guidance documents have been produced to address invasive alien species for the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9. In collaboration with the Secretariat and in the framework of the Global Invasive Alien Species

²² *Connecting Global Priorities: Biodiversity and Human Health. Summary of the State of Knowledge Review.* World Health Organization and Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2015. <https://www.cbd.int/health/SOK-biodiversity-en.pdf>

²³ CBD COP decision XIII/6. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-06-en.doc>

Information Partnership, the Invasive Species Specialist Group continues to lead the Global Register of Introduced and Invasive Species (GRIIS) in support of achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

100. In support of the implementation of decision XIII/23 (capacity-building), as part of inter-agency work being coordinated by the Secretariat, IUCN is contributing to the process for preparing a long-term strategic framework for capacity-building beyond 2020, ensuring its alignment with the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. IUCN is also contributing to this through collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme in the project “Environmental Treaties Programme – realizing synergies for biodiversity” supported by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland, which will feed into the preparations for the long-term strategic framework for the post-2020 period (CBD/SBI/2/9).

101. In relation to biodiversity and tourism development, the Secretariat also collaborated with IUCN and members of the Tourism and Protected Areas Specialist Group of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas in the preparation of a new publication on “Guidelines for tourism partnerships and concessions for protected areas: generating sustainable revenues for conservation and development”, published in September 2017.

102. In support of the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Convention’s programme of work on island biodiversity, IUCN also hosts the coordination office of the Global Island Partnership (section VI. B., below).

B. International Tropical Timber Organization

103. The Secretariat took part in the 53rd Council of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), in November 2017, where a progress report on the projects under the ITTO and CBD Collaborative Initiative for Tropical Forest Biodiversity was presented as well as the final report of the Emerald Triangle project. In 2018, the CBD Secretariat intends to continue and strengthen its engagement with the initiative through the development of an impact framework and associated indicators to measure the contribution of the initiative to the achievement of the forest-related Aichi Biodiversity Targets and other objectives of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020 as well as the establishment of a dedicated website to communicate on such impacts.

C. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development

104. In response to paragraph 24 of decision XIII/20,²⁴ the Secretariat participated in the meetings of the Working Party on Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Water of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), providing a post-COP debrief, and commenting on the various work streams of the group with a view to ensure that OECD knowledge products respond to the Convention, and to achieve work plan consistency. The Secretariat also participated, through electronic means, in the work under the OECD Development Assistance Committee to revise the methodology and associated guidance of the biodiversity Rio marker.

105. The Secretariat also participates in an interagency partnership led by the OECD Secretariat involving over 40 international organizations for effective international rule-making to foster collective

²⁴ Paragraph 24 “takes note of the work of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on developing indicators to monitor Aichi Biodiversity Target 3, and invites, inter alia, the Organisation’s Environmental Policy Committee to continue and intensify this work to support the implementation of this target by Parties”.

action among international organizations and their constituencies to promote greater quality, effectiveness and impact of international rules.²⁵

D. Secretariat of the Green Climate Fund

106. The Executive Secretary visited the Green Climate Fund Secretariat in the Republic of Korea in October 2017, and discussed collaboration to raise awareness of the Fund as a complementary financing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, in alignment to climate change agenda, and to support national level coordination to develop project proposals relating to ecosystems and ecosystem services. The Secretariat issued a notification on 14 August 2017 informing Parties of opportunities for funding under the Green Climate Fund. The Secretariat formally requested, and has now been granted, observer status to the meetings of the Green Climate Fund Board.

E. Regional intergovernmental organizations

1. ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity

107. The Secretariat has longstanding collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) established through a memorandum of cooperation. ACB supports ASEAN States in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. The Executive Secretary visited the ACB in October 2017. The ACB participated in and contributed expertise to the Regional Expert Workshop on Gender and Biodiversity Training Materials for South East Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 28-30 November 2017 (section III. E., above). The Secretariat organised a regional capacity-building workshop on the Clearing-House Mechanism for Asian countries in collaboration with the ACB in Bangkok, Thailand from 29 January to 3 February 2018. Participants were trained on how to establish and sustain effective national clearing-house mechanisms to support the implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans. Further information regarding collaboration between the Clearing-House Mechanism and the ACB is available in CBD/SBI/2/9.

2. Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

108. The Secretariat has collaborated with the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in supporting the development of a Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the Caribbean. This is being supported by the UN Environment implemented project, “Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries” - ACP MEAs Phase 2. The Secretariat serves on the steering committee of the CARICOM component of this project.

3. Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

109. The Secretariat has longstanding collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in support of the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. This is established through a memorandum of understanding, most recently updated in November 2014. SPREP supports its member States in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and in the work programmes of the CBD and its Protocols. This is reflected in the SPREP Strategic Plan 2017-2026. SPREP is supporting its members in the implementation of their National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans.

²⁵ [OECD partnership for effective international rule-making; International Organisations: Their Role in International Regulatory Co-operation; International Regulatory Cooperation – the Role of International Organisations in Fostering Better Rules of Globalisation.](#)

V. COOPERATION WITHIN INTERAGENCY AND COORDINATION NETWORKS

A. Collaborative Partnership on Forests

110. The Secretariat participated in the organization of the International Conference Working across Sectors to Halt Deforestation and Increase Forest Area – from Aspiration to Action, organized jointly by all 14 members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) at the Headquarters of FAO in Rome, Italy, from 20-22 February 2018. A co-chair summary of the meeting has been produced which contains a set of key messages from the conference addressed to the 2018 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development via UNFF 13 (to be held in May 2018). The Secretariat led, together with UNCCD and the World Bank, the organization of a session on cross-sectoral policy coordination which provided country examples and recommendations on coordination across sectors to develop forest smart policies that help halt deforestation and forest degradation.

111. On 23 February 2018 the Secretariat took part in a meeting of the CPF organized in the margins of the above-cited conference. The UNFF Secretariat informed other CPF members of preparations for UNFF 13 in May 2018, which aims to ensure that a focus and priority is placed on forests at the High Level Political Forum in July 2018, including by highlighting the key messages coming out of the conference held in Rome. It also called upon other members of the CPF to consider additional ways to contribute to UNFF 13 through participation in the ministerial roundtable and the organization of side-events. The meeting also considered progress under the Global Core Set of Forest Indicators, noting the importance to continue to work to improve the indicators and to consider how they can be used in reporting processes across all CPF members, including for the sixth national report to the CBD.

112. In response to the request of the COP in Decision XIII/7, paragraph 7, the Secretariat prepared a subsequent study to the one presented in November 2015, on the ways in which international organizations and secretariats with substantial programmes on forests are assisting in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This has been submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation in document CBD/SBI/2/10/Add.2. It follows and updates UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/19/INF/3, prepared in response to an earlier, similar request of COP 12.

B. Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management

113. In paragraph 5(a) of decision XIII/8,²⁶ the Executive Secretary was requested to further elaborate technical guidance for better governance towards a more sustainable bushmeat sector in collaboration with the members of the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW) to support Parties' implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. As a result, the Secretariat prepared draft guidance for better governance towards a sustainable, participatory and inclusive wild meat sector in collaboration with the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR). The guidance also received inputs from additional CPW members and peer review comments from Parties, and was presented to CBD SBSTTA 21 in December 2017. It contains an assessment of research findings, with technical steps, guidelines and recommendations prepared in response to decision XIII/8. The detailed technical report will be prepared for SBSTTA 22 as an information document, and COP 14 is expected to consider this information along with the recommendations from SBSTTA 21.

114. Additionally, the Secretariat hosted the 8th Meeting of the CPW, held on 9-10 December 2017, in Montreal, Canada. Key outcomes of the meeting included the development of a work plan for 2018 and the revision of an internal briefing on high-level policy messages to be used by CPW members in varied communications, notably when making interventions in high-level events globally.

²⁶ CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/8 is available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-08-en.pdf>

115. Furthermore, the Secretariat and other members of the CPW organized a side-event at CBD SBSTTA 21 on 11 December entitled “How Do We Conserve and Sustainably Use Wildlife to Meet Conservation and Community Needs?” The side event brought together over 50 participants from diverse international organizations, research institutions, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), as well as Parties to the CBD. Participants concluded the meeting with seven key messages revolving around increased participation and voice of IPLCs in governance and sustainable management of wildlife, improved recognition of wildlife for food security, and stronger partnerships among communities, governments, businesses and NGOs in tackling unsustainable wildlife hunting.

116. Finally, the Secretariat is currently exploring the options to organize a wildlife forum at CBD COP 14, in November, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in collaboration with other CPW members. The organization of the forum is in response to Parties’ request to the Executive Secretary as described in paragraph 5(b) of decision XIII/8.

C. Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration

117. The CBD Secretariat took part in the meetings of the Global Partnership on Forest Landscape Restoration (GPFLR) and the Global Restoration Council held in Bonn, Germany, from 17-18 December 2017. The GPFLR is a network of governments, organizations, academic and research institutes which responds directly to the Bonn Challenge to restore 150 million hectares of deforested and degraded land by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030. The Bonn Challenge is itself an ‘implementation vehicle’ for, inter alia, Aichi Biodiversity Target 15, and the Secretariat’s representation in this initiative is important to ensure that the implementation of Forest Landscape Restoration that the Partnership is supporting aligns with the Short Term Action Plan for Ecosystem Restoration adopted at CBD COP 13 as a voluntary guidance for the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Target 15. 48 participants representing 30 GPFLR member organizations, including Canada, that observed the meeting, met on 17 December 2017 to review the Partnership’s existing collaborative initiatives and discuss opportunities to stimulate further joint work. This was followed by a joint meeting of the GPFLR members with the Global Restoration Council members on 18 December 2017.

118. An important outcome of the meeting were the changes made to the governance of the Partnership, with an agreement reached on the composition, terms of reference and duration of term of the GPFLR Management Committee. Other governance arrangements were discussed to enhance regional and national interaction, coordination and information exchange with the Partnership, including through the nomination of voluntary country focal points, who would help coordinate the actions of members of the partnership in a given national context, and for which guidelines are being developed. A decision was also taken with the Global Restoration Council to develop a joint work plan with clear mandates and actions which will be reported on during the annual partners meeting. A report on activities of the partnership to date was presented at UNFF 13 in May 2018.

119. The partnership also discussed whether clearer standards for Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) were needed in order to ensure adhesion to the FLR principles and differentiate FLR from ‘business as usual’ activities, such as monospecific tree plantations. A decision was reached that a standard is not the right instrument to guide the FLR process and would risk the current positive momentum, best illustrated by the millions of hectares committed to FLR by governments and sub-national jurisdictions under the Bonn Challenge. Instead it was agreed that the “FLR Principles”, would be updated and strengthened. The revision process, which included input from many GPFLR members, has concluded. Revised principles are currently under review by the Steering Committee. This also links to the question of monitoring and accounting for the results of FLR, which calls for a clearer, more operational definition of what may or may not be considered as FLR.

120. The Secretariat also continues to collaborate closely with individual members of the GPFLR to ensure that biodiversity is taken into account in the planning of Forest Landscape Restoration, to avoid

any harm to natural forests and other ecosystems, as well as in its implementation, as a means to strengthen the likelihood of long-term success of restoration interventions and their resilience. In this regard, Parties may wish to refer to the “Biodiversity Guidelines for Forest Landscape Restoration Opportunities Assessments”, developed by IUCN as an addendum to their Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (‘ROAM’). Various types of restoration interventions can be planned as part of the planning of FLR, with varying degrees of consideration for ecological principles in their design. The “Standards for Ecological Restoration”, developed by the Society for Ecological Restoration can be used to enhance and evaluate the degree to which a particular restoration project or programme meets ecological restoration principles.

121. In 2018, the Secretariat will continue to mobilize efforts to implement the Short-Term Action Plan on Ecosystem Restoration through the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Initiative, working with GPFLR partners on capacity building and developing knowledge products on the importance of considering biodiversity in restoration to be presented at the African Ministerial Summit on restoration on the margins of COP14.

D. Global Partnership for Plant Conservation

122. The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation brings together more than 50 organizations and networks to support implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) with the Secretariat provided by Botanic Gardens Conservation International. Since the mid-term review of progress towards the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020, prepared in 2014,²⁷ and its 2016 update,²⁸ further significant progress has been made towards the achievement of several targets, for example:

(a) The development of a World Flora Online (GSPC Target 1) continues to make substantial progress towards its achievement by 2020, with 41 botanical organizations worldwide collaborating in this international project. The online portal for the Flora²⁹ was launched at the International Botanical Congress in Shenzhen, China in July 2017;

(b) Botanic Gardens Conservation International and partners from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, have assembled all currently available conservation assessments, including data from IUCN, into a single ThreatSearch database³⁰, which includes over 242,000 assessments representing over 150,000 taxa, and is the most comprehensive database of conservation assessments for plants (GSPC Target 2). Meanwhile work on a Global Tree Assessment, an initiative led by BGCI and the IUCN/SSC Global Tree Specialist Group, aims to provide conservation assessments of all of the world’s 60,000 tree species by 2020;

(c) Botanic garden collections now hold 41% of known threatened plant species but they are disproportionately temperate, with 93% of species held in the Northern Hemisphere. Consequently, an estimated 76% of species absent from living collections are tropical in origin (GSPC Target 8);

(d) There has been continued growth in membership and activities of the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation supporting national GSPC implementation. Important international plant conservation conferences have been held in several countries (such as the Global Botanic Gardens Congress - Switzerland, 2017; Eastern and Central European Botanic Gardens Congress - Hungary, 2017;

²⁷ Sharrock, S., Oldfield, S. and Wilson, O. (2014). Plant Conservation Report 2014: A review of progress in implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020. Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montréal, Canada and Botanic Gardens Conservation International, Richmond, United Kingdom. Technical Series No. 81, 56 pages.

²⁸ UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/32

²⁹ At the following URL: www.worldfloraonline.org

³⁰ At the following URL: www.bgci.org/threat_search.php

Caribbean Plant Conservation Congress - Cuba, 2018; European Botanic Gardens Congress - Portugal, 2018). Thematic and geographic plant conservation networks have continued to develop, such as the Ecological Restoration Alliance of Botanic Gardens that now includes 35 members and 39 model ecological restoration projects worldwide. The Global Seed Conservation Challenge continues to expand, with, for example, today more than 400 botanic gardens holding wild plant seeds in storage for conservation purposes (GSPC Target 16).

123. The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation also plays an active role in discussions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and on the links between plant conservation and the Sustainable Development Goals.³¹

124. In August 2018, the Global Partnership for Plant Conservation will organize a conference in Cape Town, South Africa, hosted by the South African National Biodiversity Institute, on achieving the 2020 targets and a follow-up framework for plant conservation linked to the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. A Liaison Group meeting on the GSPC will also be held there, as part of the GSPC flexible coordination mechanism.

E. Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

125. The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction held its fifth session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction from 22 to 26 May 2017 in Cancun, Mexico. The CBD Secretariat participated in several sessions, including on health and disaster risk reduction. A plenary working session on health and disaster risk reduction provided a platform to sensitize and mobilize Member States and key actors working in health, disaster risk reduction and development to identify ways and commit to working together to realize the objectives of the Sendai Framework at national and local levels. The need to strengthen collaboration with other sectors, including ecosystem approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, arose as a cross-cutting theme.

F. Global Taxonomy Initiative

126. In accordance with the capacity-building strategy for the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI) and in response to decision XI/39, the Secretariat collaborated with partners in producing the e-book “Introduction to ABS and the Nagoya Protocol: What DNA Barcoding Researchers Need to Know”.³²

127. The Secretariat issued notification 2017-110 on “Call for Proposals on the Global Taxonomy Initiative Training Courses to be hosted in Developing Countries in 2018” to all Parties and the Coordination Mechanism for the Global Taxonomy Initiative, and organized a webinar on “Getting Familiar with the Call for Proposals on the GTI Training Courses”³³ in collaboration with Guelph University, Canada. As a result, a total of eleven training course proposals were selected as indicated in notification 2018-021. The training courses will take place in 2018. The standard GTI training package will be tested at each training course, and after evaluation it will be further adjusted and disseminated at the occasion of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

³¹ <https://www.bgci.org/files/Plants2020/PC%20and%20the%20SDGs.pdf>

³² The e-book is published at: <https://ab.pensoft.net/article/22579/download/pdf/> as an open access book, and is available on the GTI website at the following URL: <http://www.cbd.int/gti/>

³³ The webinar is available in the GTI website at: <http://www.cbd.int/gti>.

G. Interagency Liaison Group on Biodiversity and Health

128. The Interagency Liaison Group on Biodiversity and Health was established in 2017 pursuant to a Memorandum of Cooperation concluded between the CBD Secretariat and the World Health Organization (WHO) in July 2015. The aim of the Group, which is comprised of representatives from United Nations agencies and partner international institutions, is to enhance coherence and cooperation in their implementation, and strengthen knowledge and awareness of the interlinkages between biodiversity and human health, with a view to maximizing health and biodiversity co-benefits, addressing trade-offs, and reducing the common drivers of ecosystem change, biodiversity loss and negative health outcomes. The first Meeting of the Group was held in May 2017 at WHO headquarters.³⁴ The outcomes were presented in document CBD/SBSTTA/21/4.

H. Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species

129. The Secretariat co-organized the eighth meeting of the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, in collaboration with the World Customs Organization in Brussels, Belgium from 22 to 23 November 2017. The Liaison Group considered a draft supplemental guidance to incorporate unintentional introductions to the existing Guidance on Devising and Implementing Measures to Address the Risks Associated with the Introduction of Alien Species as Pets, Aquarium and Terrarium Species, and as Live Bait and Live Food (decision XIII/13, annex). It also considered e-commerce risk management and appropriate tools for the national customs to address the risk of invasive alien species sold via e-commerce. A report of the meeting will be made available at <http://www.cbd.int/invasive/lg> in due course.

I. Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management Initiative

130. The Secretariat continued to engage as an active member of the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management (MEA-IKM) initiative on various topics, including the InforMEA website, thesaurus, and interoperability. The CBD Secretariat participated in the eighth MEA-IKM Steering Committee Meeting, held in Montreux, Switzerland from 20 to 23 June 2017, and organized by UN Environment. Recommendations were made on how to proceed with various initiatives, including the Law and Environment Ontology (LEO), interoperability, e-learning, the potential use of the Akoma-Ntoso format for UN documents, and synergies in national reporting through the Data Reporting Tool (DaRT).³⁵

J. Poverty Environment Partnership

131. The Secretariat participated in the twenty-second meeting of the Poverty Environment Partnership (PEP), in Tarrytown, New York, on 19 and 20 June 2017. The twenty-second PEP meeting, coordinated by the UNDP-UNEP Poverty and Environment Initiative, addressed the role of natural capital for an Inclusive Green and Blue Economy to implement the SDGs and Paris Agreement, under three main themes: mainstreaming and institutions; local solutions; and finance, for feeding into the revised PEP strategy and work plan, several elements of which link to CBD work streams. The Secretariat will follow up on the PEP work related to the compendium of mainstreaming tools, experiences and results, emerging work on environmental fiscal reform and its inclusion of biodiversity harmful subsidies, and on the revised PEP strategy and work plan.

³⁴ The report of the first meeting of the Interagency Liaison Group on Biodiversity and Health is available at the following URL: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/3ff0/ec82/94151f1a58f1d16ad21abe13/hb-lg-2017-01-01-en.pdf>

³⁵ These recommendations will be made available at www.informea.org/about.

K. Sustainable Ocean Initiative

132. The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) is a global capacity building partnership that is coordinated by the Secretariat. Through SOI, the Secretariat works together with a wide range of global and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations and other experts to provide capacity building support to developing country Parties to enhance their efforts towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. These activities have included contributions from UNEP, FAO, the Fisheries Experts Group of the IUCN Commission of Ecosystem Management, and many regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies. From February 2013 until February 2018, SOI has provided training opportunities for 627 participants from more than 100 country Parties, with some of these countries benefitting from multiple training activities, and numerous regional and national organizations/initiatives. Through its various capacity building activities, SOI has provided these participants with opportunities to enhance their skills and knowledge on integrated approaches to marine and coastal management, as well as access to scientific and technical resources, opportunities for partnership-building to support their efforts to achieve the Aichi Targets in marine and coastal areas.

133. Further information on activities of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative conducted during the intersessional period is provided in document CBD/SBSTTA/22/7.

L. United Nations Environment Management Group

134. The CBD Secretariat continued to participate in the United Nations Environment Management (EMG), in particular in its Consultative Process on a United Nations System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment, its Task Team on maximizing the Effectiveness of the EMG in the Context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Issues Management Group on Environmental Sustainability Management in the United Nations System. The Secretariat participated in Technical and Senior Segments of the 23rd Meeting of the Senior Officials of the Environment Management Group. The Meeting agreed to convene an EMG dialogue on biodiversity nexus in 2018 and to collaborate on the development of the post-2020 framework. The EMG Nexus Dialogue on Biodiversity Mainstreaming in the context of Human Security and Wellbeing was held in Geneva from 2 to 3 May 2017. Its outcomes will be reported at an event to be held at the margins of the 2018 HLPF, to the Senior Officials of the EMG at their 24th meeting, and at CBD COP 14.

M. United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

135. Further to paragraph 18 (b) of decision XIII/3, the Secretariat participated in the twelfth Meeting of the UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting, informed the committee on pertinent COP 13 decisions, and supported emerging work streams on the linkages between biodiversity-related expenditure review and the United Nations System of Environmental Economic Accounting, and the merging revision process for its element on Experimental Ecosystem Accounting.

N. UN Water

136. The CBD Secretariat continued its participation in UN Water, including through regularized meetings (August 2017 and January 2018) and task force meetings via conference calls towards delivering multiple products and events. The Secretariat collaborated with UN Environment and UNESCO in coordinating the celebration of World Water Day “Nature for Water” and 25 years of UN Water on the margins of the World Water Forum in Brasilia on 22 March 2018. Millions of people were reached with messages on social media and many thousands engaged in events on the ground using the material prepared for the campaign. The Secretariat has also contributed to the review of the World Water Development Report 2018, the review of UN Water, the review of the Synthesis Report on SDG 6, preparations for World Water Day 2019, and the preparations for the International Decade for Action - Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028.

VI. COOPERATION WITH NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NETWORKS

A. Non-governmental organizations

137. The CBD Secretariat continues to collaborate with international non-governmental organizations that are involved in supporting the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. These include but are not limited to the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE), BirdLife International, Conservation International, Rare Conservation, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), TRAFFIC, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF International).

138. In 2017, as part of its efforts to reach beyond the conservation community and in particular to communities active in public private partnership and innovation necessary to bring about transformational changes, the Executive Secretary has given particular effort to building relationships with new strategic partners. Significant in this regard is the World Economic Forum and for the first time, the Executive Secretary was invited to participate in the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in January 2018. Another is the Dutch Research Institute of Transitions. Among avenues of cooperation being explored with them, these institutes have contributed to the dialogues that were convened by the Secretariat in November 2017 and March 2018 with the goal of identifying a transformative agenda for action that will engage multi-level systemic change in sectors and domains that have an impact on or benefit from biodiversity, and with a view to contribute to discussions on an ambitious, innovative, yet pragmatic post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

139. The first Bogis-Bossey Dialogue for Biodiversity was held in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland, from 12 to 14 November 2017. The dialogue brought together close to 50 experts representing a variety of organizations and fields of work, with a view to providing a range of perspectives and insights on opportunities and approaches to scale and accelerate implementation of the Biodiversity Convention and its Protocols. Participants included experts in systems thinking and theory of change, transition management, finance and impact investment, behavioural change and communications, from institutions that included the Dutch Research Institute of Transitions, Stockholm Resilience Centre, Impact Investment Association, Permian Global, WWF International, Rare Conservation, Conservation International, Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, Avaaz, Media Impact, together with UNDP and its Green Commodities Programme, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre, and IUCN. The Executive Summary of the report of the meeting has been published in CBD/SBSTTA/21/INF/19.

140. The second Bogis-Bossey Dialogue for Biodiversity was held in Chexbres, Switzerland, from 4 to 6 March 2018. It brought together representatives of Parties to discuss the outcomes of the first dialogue and further work to identify a transformative agenda for action, with a view to contributing to discussions on an ambitious yet pragmatic and innovative post-2020 global biodiversity framework. In addition to representatives of Parties, participants included representatives of the Dutch Research Institute of Transitions, other research institutes (Humboldt Institute of Colombia, Stockholm Resilience Centre, the Wildlife Institute of India), the World Economic Forum, WWF International, civil society networks, (CBD Alliance, Global Youth Biodiversity Network), IUCN, UNDP, UN Environment, and the secretariats of other conventions.

B. Stakeholder networks

141. The CBD Secretariat continues to collaborate with networks of stakeholders involved in the processes of the Convention and its Protocols and in implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

142. *CBD Alliance*: The Secretariat cooperates on an ongoing basis with the CBD Alliance in coordinating requests related to participation of civil society representatives of its member organizations in CBD meetings, among other activities.

143. *Global Youth Biodiversity Network*: The Global Youth Biodiversity Network continues to be active in the processes of the Convention and in advocacy and action towards its implementation. With support from the Japan Biodiversity Fund, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network implemented Youth Voices, which aims to raise awareness of youth and promote action in support of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In 2017, three regional youth capacity-building workshops were held, in Colombia for Latin America and the Caribbean, in Singapore for Asia and in South Africa for Africa, during which over 100 participants were trained to support implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, in collaboration with governmental and non-governmental organizations. Youth-related activities support Aichi Biodiversity Target 1 and CBD COP decisions related to stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity 2011-2020.

144. *Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity*: The secretariat liaises on an ongoing basis with the 21 national and regional initiatives that are members of the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity, working towards greater business engagement on biodiversity-related issues. Newsletters were prepared in September 2017, February 2018 and May 2018. The seventh meeting of the Global Partnership was held in Paris in November 2017.³⁶ Preparations are ongoing for the Business and Biodiversity Forum as a parallel event at the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in November 2018.

145. *Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities*: The Secretariat continues to collaborate with non-governmental organizations and membership networks of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities towards the objectives of the Convention's Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020).³⁷ These include: ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI); the Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD) and the Group of Leading Subnational Governments (GoLS). Among other things, ICLEI, nrg4SD and GoLS are collaborating to establish an advisory committee comprising representatives of subnational governments to provide input and support to the implementation of the Plan of Action from the point of view of subnational governments. Cooperation with ICLEI during the present biennium has included the finalization of Guidelines for an Integrated Approach in the Development and Implementation of National, Subnational and Local Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, published in December 2017 and the preparation of the sixth summit of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities for biodiversity, to be held at the margins of the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in November 2018.

146. *Global Island Partnership*: A multi-stakeholder network of a different nature with which the Secretariat collaborates is the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) established to support implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity and subsequently active in catalysing action towards the Aichi Biodiversity Target among island States and States with islands. The partnership is led by island Parties and includes in its membership governments and relevant organizations. During the present biennium, with the benefit of financial support to its coordination functions provided through the Secretariat, GLISPA has been active in strengthening links in the implementation of the Convention and Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 with the Sustainable Development Goals, the SAMOA Pathway and the climate agenda. At the United Nations Oceans Conference in July 2017, GLISPA coordinated a

³⁶ 7th meeting for the Global Partnership for Business and Biodiversity: <https://www.cbd.int/business/meetings-events/2017/default.shtml>

³⁷ Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and other Local Authorities for Biodiversity (2011-2020) endorsed by the COP in decision X/22.

series of events that demonstrated the leadership of islands united in strong partnerships to implement Sustainable Development Goal 14 and support strong outcomes for the United Nations Oceans Conference. At the margins of UNFCCC COP 23, commitments were catalysed and launched to build island resilience by island Parties and Parties with islands and their supporters that strongly integrate biodiversity and climate change at national level. An initiative, “Front-line cities and islands” was launched by island leaders. Implementation of existing sustainable island commitments was also accelerated such as the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, Micronesia Challenge, Caribbean Challenge Initiative and BEST Challenge. GLISPA plans similar outreach activities at the 2018 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and CBD COP 14.

147. Further information on collaboration with the business sector and with cities and subnational governments are provided as part of document CBD/SBI/2/4 and on collaboration with women and gender-related organizations in document SBI/2/2/Add.3.
