



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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"The second multi-stakeholder expert meeting on elaboration of options for synergies among biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements"

Geneva, Switzerland, 13-15 May 2015

Background Information: An overview of existing initiatives for enhancing coordination and collaboration at various levels across the biodiversity-related conventions

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1. Introduction

Synergies and the need for enhanced collaboration and coordination across Biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) is not a new concept, and it has been emphasized in policy and academic discussions since the early 2000s (*for key terms such as cooperation, coordination, collaboration, and synergies see Box 1*). These discussions originate from the mounting concern over the potential for fragmentation, conflict and the burden on state capacity to implement numerous environmental obligations simultaneously. As a result, there have been calls by MEA governing bodies as well as the UNEP governing body to explore possible synergies between MEAs, with the specific aim of making their implementation more coherent, efficient and effective.

Under the UNEP project *Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies* a first multi-stakeholder expert meeting on elaboration of options for synergies among Biodiversity-related MEAs was held in Interlaken, Switzerland, in August 2014. The objective of the meeting was to explore and develop options for enhanced collaboration and coordination at the global level across the biodiversity-related conventions. Based on the outcome of this expert meeting, a draft options paper was produced, detailing opportunities to enhance coordination and collaboration, clustered under 7 themes (*National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Aichi Targets; Reporting, monitoring and indicators; IPBES and strengthening the Science-Policy Interface; Information management and awareness raising; Capacity building; Funding and resource efficiency; and Institutional Collaboration*). Following this meeting, the outcomes were circulated for review and comment to National Focal Points (NFPs) and authorities of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Convention Secretariat and the paper has now been revised based on comments received.

This document has been prepared as a means to recognise and review existing initiatives and mechanisms for coordination and collaboration between the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the second expert meeting. Rather than providing a comprehensive review, this paper is aimed at providing information pertinent to the draft options to be discussed at the meeting, in order to draw on lessons learnt and avoid overlap.

This paper is structured around initiatives relating to the 7 themes, listed above.

BOX 1 KEY TERMS RELATED TO COOPERATION

- **Coordination:** the organization of the different elements of a complex body or activity so as to enable them to work together effectively and without duplication (within an organization or among organizations/ different actors)
- **Collaboration:** working with someone to produce a discrete output
- **Cooperation:** working together towards a common aim or objective
- **Synergies:** linking processes in a way that increases the effects of the sum of the joint activities beyond the sum of individual activities, and thus making efforts more effective and efficient

2. On-going processes to explore and enhance synergies

In further developing the options for enhanced collaboration and coordination developed through the UNEP project, it is important to recognise the existence of a number of key parallel initiatives, which are also exploring means to address synergies, relating to the cluster of 7 themes in the options paper. The second expert meeting will discuss in more detail how the development of the options paper can inform and be informed by these initiatives.

1. **UNEP MEA Task Team¹ [this is broader than biodiversity synergies and only the programmatic cooperation aspect seems relevant to this UNEP project]**
 - **Initiated by:** The Executive Director of UNEP
 - **Timescale:** February 2014 – May 2016 (*UNEA-2*)
 - **Objective and scope/key tasks:** Two working groups have been established to facilitate the work of the task team. One working group intent to examine the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the UNEP administered MEAs, and address how these could be improved, including on support to parties (i.e. technical assistance), tools for information sharing (i.e. UNEP live and InforMEA), awareness raising, etc. Relating to strengthened programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the convention secretariats, the other working group of the task force intends to identify priority areas for such programmatic cooperation based on directions from the relevant governing bodies and general and specific mandates including identifying thematic and functional areas for potentially greater synergies.
 - **Expected outputs:** The full report of the task team (based on final reports from the two working groups) will be submitted to the UNEP Executive Director in May/June 2015. This will provide input to the Executive Director report (as mandated by UNEA Resolution 1/12) covering the relationship between UNEP and MEAs for consideration at the second session of the UNEA in May 2016.

2. **UN System Wide Strategy on the Environment [this is much broader than biodiversity synergies – it should take into account the SPB and AT and not duplicate/overlap with them]**
 - **Initiated by:** Environment Management Group (EMG), chaired by UNEP
 - **Timescale:** December 2014 - September 2016 (*Strategy to be considered and endorsed by the 71st session of the UNGA*)
 - **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The UN system-wide strategy on the environment is intended to ensure the coherence of relevant policies and the effective coordination of the diverse services, activities and programmes provided by the UN system in the field of the environment, in light of the mandate given to UNEP in the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development. It is thus intended to strengthen the coordination and collaborative partnerships among UN system organizations in the field of the environment. The UN system-wide strategy, as a framework of such collaborative partnerships, will:
 - a) Set out a UN system-wide medium- and long-term vision in the field of the environment;
 - b) Identify common and/or complementary policies and approaches concerning emerging and important environmental issues of global concern;
 - c) Establish processes to coordinate the planning and execution of UN system activities supporting the implementation of internationally agreed environmental objectives and goals; and
 - d) Suggest a mechanism for assessing the effectiveness of the UN system wide activities undertaken in the context of the Strategy

¹ UNEA Resolution 1/12 - Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements

- **Expected output(s):** The final strategy will be submitted to the secretariat of the UNEA, where after it will be considered and approved at the UNEA-2, before its endorsement at the 71st session of the UNGA
 - **More information:** The strategy is still under development, however the draft TOR is available at:
unemg.org/images/emgdocs/UN_sws/191214_ToR_SWS_for_EMG_comments.pdf
3. **CBD informal advisory group on preparing options to enhance synergies and improve efficiency amongst various Biodiversity-related Conventions**
- **Initiated by:** Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), as mandated by CBD COP decision XII/6
 - **Timescale:** 2014 – April 2016 (*first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI)*)
 - **Objective and scope/key tasks:** a regionally balanced informal advisory group, composed of two members per region, selected by the Bureau of the CBD COP on the basis of nominations by Parties, to prepare, in consultation with the Secretariat, prior to the first meeting of SBI, a workshop with the task to prepare options which could include elements for a possible road map, for Parties of the various Biodiversity-related Conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them, without prejudice to the specific objectives and recognizing the respective mandates and subject to the availability of resources of these conventions, with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels; and invites the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) to participate in the informal advisory group². The workshop was welcomed in the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) Resolution 11.10, paragraph 15, which requested the Executive Secretary and the Standing Committee to facilitate the selection of the representatives to participate in the workshop.
 - **Expected outputs:** Options which could include elements for a possible road map, for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them.

3. Existing initiatives

A wide range of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration between the Biodiversity-related Conventions already exists, ranging from **thematic cooperation**, (e.g. the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Management of Wildlife), **Joint Memoranda of Understanding/Cooperation (MoU/Cs) and work plans/ programmes** between MEAs to **generic mechanisms and bodies**, including the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB).

The activities and mechanisms presented in this section are listed according to their relevance to the 7 focal areas of the options paper, namely NBSAPs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and Aichi Targets; Reporting, monitoring and indicators; IPBES and strengthening the Science-Policy Interface; Information management and awareness raising; Capacity building; Funding and resource efficiency; and Institutional Collaboration. Due to the broad mandate of the BLG, references are made to it under most of the focal areas, though the details on the Group, and means to strengthen the Group itself are elaborated under "Institutional Co-operation".

² CBD COP decision XII/6, paragraph 6: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-12/cop-12-dec-06-en.pdf>

In addition to those relating to the focal areas of the existing options paper, two additional categories of existing initiatives are presented- one addressing programmatic/thematic collaboration and the other Joint work plans/ programmes and MoC's, as mentioned above.

NBSAPs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

4. Related activities of the BLG (for more detail on the BLG see "Institutional Collaboration")

At the first high level retreat of BLG members in 2010 it was agreed by all of the convention secretariats to cooperate in the implementation of the Plan. It was agreed that this will include the revision and updating of NBSAPs, which should cover the full range of activities needed to implement all the Biodiversity-related Conventions. At the last meeting of the BLG in August 2014 the BLG members reviewed the implementation of joint activities during the 2013–2014 biennium to support the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and considered other collaborative activities in different areas, e.g. on collaborative participations at events and communication and public awareness.

5. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force

- **Initiated by:** CBD
- **From (Year):** 2011
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force was established as part of a Memorandum of Cooperation on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, between the CBD and 27 of the largest international agencies, organizations and environmental conventions, including the secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), CMS, the International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. The Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force is comprised of the heads or deputy heads of the signatory organizations and its purpose is to promote information exchange and, where appropriate, to coordinate the activities of the respective institutions to achieve the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. By the agreed modalities of cooperation, the Task Force will build upon and complement the work being carried out by the EMG of the UN through its IMG on biodiversity and by the BLG on issues related to the implementation of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets³.
- **Opportunities:** At the ninth ordinary meeting of the BLG (August 2014), members were informed that the mandate for the work being carried out by the EMG of the UN through its Issue Management Group (IMG) would soon be winding down, and it was proposed that the Task Force should build upon and complement the work of the IMG in the future, as an effective vehicle for closer cooperation on the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Furthermore the Task Force provides a significant opportunity for mainstreaming biodiversity.

6. NBSAP Forum

- **Initiated by:** The CBD, UNEP and UNDP
- **From (Year):** 2012
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The NBSAP Forum is a global partnership and community aiming to support NBSAP revisions. The purpose of the NBSAP Forum web portal is to support countries in finding the information they need to develop and implement effective NBSAPs. The portal helps to develop a community of practice across a wide range of stakeholders, from national NBSAP practitioners who need access to timely information regarding best practices, guidance and resources, to individuals and organizations who wish

³ <http://www.cbd.int/doc/health/cop-11-17-en.pdf>

to share their information, knowledge, support and resources. The NBSAP Forum portal provides a number of support functions, including an online forum where members can ask advice and share experiences with fellow practitioners and technical experts, organised by country, theme or region.

- **Opportunities:** As NBSAPs have been recognised as a vehicle for articulating commitments under a number of the Biodiversity-related MEAs, the Forum portal provides a place for all interested parties to gather and share experiences and seek best practices on any number of topics, including how to achieve enhanced synergies between MEAs.
- **More information:** nbsapforum.net/

Reporting, monitoring and indicators

7. Activities and discussions of the BLG

These include:

- **Post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs.** The CBD Secretariat has represented the views of BLG members in this process. At the last meeting of the BLG in August 2014, members agreed to continue to coordinate and share information both during and after the adoption of the SDGs, and that the CBD Secretariat would solicit inputs from members for the development of indicators to monitor the progress against the agreed SDGs and associated targets.
- **Harmonization of reporting/ joint reporting initiative.** In 2009 BLG oversaw the production of a paper on pre-conditions for harmonization of national reporting, prepared by UNEP-WCMC for distribution by the convention secretariats⁴. At the last meeting in August 2014, participants agreed to explore opportunities for interoperability and interconnection based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

8. The On-line Reporting System (ORS)

- **Initiated by:** CMS and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) [an earlier version was initiated between MEAs and UNEP-WCMC in 2008]
- **From (Year):** 2011
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The ORS was developed by UNEP-WCMC in partnership with the secretariats of CMS and AEWA, and was first used for the submission of AEWA national reports to the fifth Meeting of the Parties (MOP5) in 2012. It is designed as a first step towards improving the reporting process within MEAs by streamlining the reporting process, creating efficiencies, improving reporting rates and ultimately leading to better assessment and management of natural capital. It is a sophisticated, web-based tool for questionnaire creation and management that aims to streamline the process of reporting to Multilateral Environmental Agreements by Parties.
- **Uptake:** Using the ORS, AEWA achieved the highest national report response rate in the Agreement's history. The ORS has subsequently been used by other Agreements in the CMS Family, such as the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), and for the 2014 CMS national reports to COP11. The ORS has also been customized for use by CITES and the Bern Convention and application of the system for future reporting cycles is in preparation. Projects related to the ORS are currently being discussed by the IKM Initiative and CITES and CMS/AEWA are collaborating on further development of the ORS through the Initiative. Positive feedback on the ORS, and on online reporting in general, has been received from several countries, for example within the 2014 national reports to CMS.

⁴ [Online] Available from <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/preconditions-harmonization-unesp-wcmc-en.pdf>. [Accessed: 26 February 2015]

- **Opportunities:** The uptake of the ORS across the Biodiversity-related Conventions also has the potential to bring opportunities for increased harmonisation of national reporting templates and information-sharing, which would help to reduce the reporting burden on Parties needing to submit reports to multiple conventions. Relating to this, one of the key actions highlighted by experts on national reporting and the development of national reporting systems⁵, was the importance of increasing both the efficiency and effectiveness of reporting processes, including recognition of the importance of increasing access to reported data and information was also highlighted at the meeting.
- **Next Steps:** Challenges and areas for further improvement have been identified by users, such as the dependency on internet connectivity and addition of an analytical component to automate analysis of responses. Improving online reporting tools, by e.g. introduce offline capabilities, integrated with Office suite, analytical module, pre-filling from previous reporting cycles, to address these challenges was among the key short term actions, identified by experts at the before mentioned expert meeting on Enhancing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of MEA.

9. The Biodiversity Indicator Partnership (BIP)

- **Initiated by:** CBD
- **From (Year):** 2006
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The BIP is the global initiative to promote and coordinate development and delivery of biodiversity indicators in support of the CBD, other MEAs, IPBES, national and regional governments and a range of other sectors. The Partnership brings together over forty organizations working internationally on indicator development to provide the most comprehensive information on biodiversity trends.
- **Opportunities:** Indicators have become an important tool for providing a scientific basis to measure progress in convention implementation and joint indicator processes can foster streamlining and/or harmonisation of national reporting.
- **More information:** bipnational.net/

10. The European Environment Agency (EEA) – Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) Working group on “Sharing information on implementation and reporting on progress between global, regional and national levels”

- **Initiated by:** The European Environment Agency (EEA)
- **From (Year):** 2013
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The working group was set up to explore options for “Sharing information on implementation of national strategies and reporting on progress towards biodiversity targets between global, regional and national levels”. The working group particularly aims to avoid duplicate reporting at the global and EU levels, by encouraging the re-use of country information for assessing progress towards the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the CBD and the Aichi Targets. National biodiversity policies may also set out national requirements for monitoring and internal reporting on progress. The working group decided that the most appropriate way to harmonize these three layers of reporting would be to look at targets.
- **Outputs and next steps:** As a response to the recommendation to look at targets, a trial of a Biodiversity 2020 Target Cross-Linking Tool, in short TCT, has been developed. This tool will allow countries to see the inter-linkages between the Aichi Targets, the EU Biodiversity Strategy and any national strategy, in terms of the thematic content of implementation and

⁵ (December 15-16 2014) Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of MEA Implementation: Interoperability between Reporting Systems for Biodiversity Data, Co-hosted by the CITES Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC under the auspices of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative

the reporting requirements. An online demonstration version was developed by Belgium, with support from EEA, and contains data from the Belgian Biodiversity Strategy 2006-2016 and the 3rd National Report to the CBD. An official version of the Belgian use of the tool has been available since May 2014, based on the revised Biodiversity Strategy 2020 and information from the fifth National Report to the CBD. Further development of the tool will take into account the national, EU and global indicators for each target. This might be done in collaboration with the Biodiversity Indicators Partnership (BIP).

Pilot projects to develop harmonised reporting templates

11. FNR RIO project

- **Initiated by:** UNEP and The Global Environment Facility (GEF)
- **From (Year):** 2010-2012
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** “*Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to Facilitate National Reporting to the Rio Conventions*” (The FNR Rio project) was established to explore options for increasing integration at the national level in reporting to the Rio Conventions, focussed on supporting the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The project was initiated with the overall aim of piloting nationally-driven integrated processes and approaches to reporting to the three Rio Conventions. More specifically, the objectives of the project were: to develop integrated approaches to data collection/analysis and information management of relevance to the three Rio Conventions; to increase synergies in the process of reporting to the three conventions without compromising COP decisions in this regard; and to contribute to improved overall planning and decision-making processes at the country level related to the implementation of these conventions.
- **Outputs, challenges and lessons learnt:** A joint reporting format built on existing reporting requirements, with a Joint section on sustainable land management was trialled in four pilot countries, noting benefits including the possibility of centralising coordination; enhancing cooperation between focal points; and reducing duplication. Challenges include coordination difficulties, repetitiveness of some of the questions, lack of guidance to the responses required in the reporting format and insufficient time to complete the report. The project identified further options for streamlining, either by arranging questions by key subject areas or in relation to strategic planning and development. Key options for improving alignment of reporting formats and processes based on the lessons learnt from the pilot projects included; Ensuring that common elements in reports are addressed in the same way; Agreeing on which convention requests reports on which issues; Moving towards joint thematic reporting; Developing a shared glossary and use of common definitions and; Alignment of indicator-based reporting.

12. Consolidated reporting template for Pacific Island countries to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements

- **Developed by:** The Australian Government’s Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA), in consultation with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Pacific Island countries
- **From (Year):** 2008
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Australian Government, in collaboration SPREP, initiated a project to develop a comprehensive reporting format for five of the six Biodiversity-related Conventions: CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar Convention and the WHC. The consolidated reporting template is designed to facilitate reporting by reducing duplication and by making the process simpler and less resource-intensive. This will decrease the amount of time Pacific Island countries spend on national reporting yet still enable them to communicate their progress and achievements in implementing the MEAs. Instead of preparing multiple reports, countries would develop only one national report per reporting

period. The template consists of a core report of information needed for all five conventions, and supplementary annexes for specific information necessary for each convention.

- **Uptake:** The template was trialled in 2008-2009 by the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, and received positive responses from country Parties and MEA secretariats. It helped to demonstrate that streamlining the reporting process can eliminate duplication of effort and provide countries with useful information with which to track progress towards the implementation of national, regional and global action plans.
However it has not been approved for use, so remains an example to use in discussions
- **More information:** environment.gov.au/node/13062

13. Workshop on harmonized reporting in the ASEAN region

- **Organised by:** The ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, supported by experts from UNEP-WCMC and other institutions
- **From (Year):** 2009
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The main aim of the ASEAN workshop on harmonization of reporting to biodiversity-related conventions, was to build the reporting capacity of ASEAN countries and strengthen the collaboration between focal points at the national level. The meeting resulted in an action plan for harmonization of reporting to the biodiversity-related conventions in the ASEAN region.

14. Harmonized reporting template for Caribbean countries

- **Developed by:** The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat
- **From (Year):** 2013
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** This Caribbean harmonised reporting template (CHART) was prepared by the CARICOMs Secretariat through a consultancy as part of the project for Capacity Building related to MEAs in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (known as the ACP-MEAs project). The CARICOM Secretariat has used the Australian Government/SPREP template (*as described above*), as the basis for their harmonised reporting template for Caribbean countries.

The CHART was designed to be used as a tool for Caribbean countries to report to CBD, CITES, Ramsar Convention and the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol).

- **Uptake:** Thus far, the CHART is a working draft that has not been endorsed by the convention secretariats, and thus remains as an example used in discussions.
- **More information, see the draft template:**
http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community_organ/sustainable_development/mea_documents/meas_docs_feb_13/Harmonised%20Reporting/Proposed_Caribbean_Template_Final.doc

IPBES and strengthening the Science-Policy Interface

15. Related activities of the BLG

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 to develop requests to IPBES. The CBD Secretariat coordinated a joint submission to the second meeting of IPBES. At the last meeting in 2014, the BLG agreed that the IPBES Secretariat should be invited to the next meeting of the BLG and to have a dedicated agenda item on IPBES cooperation, focusing especially on scientific and technological cooperation, and the agreed IPBES thematic assessment on sustainable use.

16. The Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB)

- **Initiated by:** CBD, as part of decision VIII/16, calling for enhanced cooperation between scientific and technical bodies in addition to secretariats

- **From (Year):** 2007
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** At the global level, CSAB fosters collaboration by meeting to discuss cooperation regarding shared scientific issues and their translation into policy. Its core membership is composed of the chairs of the scientific advisory bodies to the CBD, CITES, CMS, the Ramsar Convention, the WHC and the ITPGRFA. Areas of collaboration have included exploring opportunities related to IPBES, collaborative (thematic) activities related to ecosystem restoration and to sustainable use, and work to harmonize nomenclature (CITES/CMS). The group also aims to carry out some horizon scanning and the joint identification of emerging issues of concern. Strategic priorities have mainly constituted examining areas of cooperation and translating scientific considerations into clear policies, alongside identifying emerging issues with reference to problems and priorities within the individual scientific for a of the participating regimes⁶.

Information management and awareness raising

17. MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (MEA IKM)

- **Initiated by: MEAs and coordinated by** UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP/DELIC, co-chaired by the CITES Secretariat and UNEP/DELIC)
- **From (Year):** 2009
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The overall aim of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative is to contribute to more effective MEA implementation by improving coherence in the area of data and knowledge sharing within and across clusters of MEAs and UN Organisations which host MEAs, including UNEP, UNESCO and FAO. It aims to facilitate discussions amongst the MEAs on issues related to environmental governance by demonstrating the effectiveness of collaborative activities and harmonized approaches and processes in the field of information and knowledge management. To this end, the Steering Committee of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management initiative was established. It is co-chaired by the CITES Secretariat and UNEP/DELIC and consists of one representative from each participating MEA and is open to observers involved in information and knowledge management. The Steering Committee is tasked to examine issues of common interest in the area of data and information management and to provide recommendations on possible collaborative activities to the undersigned heads of MEAs. The Steering Committee will designate working groups and task forces to implement agreed upon strategies and collaborative activities amongst several or all participating MEAs as required⁷.
- **Activities**
 - a) InforMEA**
Is the first project established by the MEA IKM Initiative. InforMEA harvests COP decisions and resolutions, news, events, MEA membership, national focal points, national reports and implementation plans and other information under the custodianship of MEA secretariats and organizes this information around a set of agreed terms.
For more information visit: infornea.org/
 - b) Opportunities:** MEA IKM plays a key role in supporting and establishing initiatives on harmonised and interoperable information systems, and at the recent Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of MEA Implementation⁸, MEA IKM was identified as a key player to support a range of actions and recommendations, including; *to implement an API for data sharing on each online*

⁶ **Information from:** International Environmental Law: Contemporary Concerns and Challenges : Papers Presented at the First Contemporary Challenges of International Environmental Law Conference, Ljubljana, June 28-29, 2012

⁷ **MEA IKM TOR,** <http://www.cbd.int/doc/external/mea/meaikm-sc-01/meaikm-sc-01-a3-tor-en.pdf>

⁸ (December 15-16 2014) Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of MEA Implementation: Interoperability between Reporting Systems for Biodiversity Data, Co-hosted by the CITES Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC under the auspices of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative

reporting system; provide an online catalogue listing all existing online reporting systems with their open access status and features to facilitate knowledge sharing across Conventions and avoid “reinventing the wheel” and; Assess areas of commonality across MEA reports.

- **More information:** cbd.int/mea/ikm/default.shtml

18. UNEP Live

- **Initiated by:** UNEP
- **From (Year):** 2014
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** UNEP Live is an online knowledge management platform that provides a user-friendly capability to search for national regional and global data and knowledge to support assessments of the state and trends of the environment. UNEP Live provides access to reports, data, maps (including near real-time data), and links to UNEP knowledge assets such as the PIMS database, InforMEA etc. UNEP Live has a thriving Community of Practice portal that enables experts to share ideas, data and knowledge. UNEP Live also enables users to create maps by dragging and dropping geo-referenced data onto base maps.

An new, additional functionality of UNEP Live, includes a **Reporting Obligations Database** that lists global (MEA) reporting obligations for countries. This list contains templates for reporting as well as reporting deadlines.

The ROD is also connected to the National Reporting System, a tool developed by UNEP to facilitate national, regional and global level reporting from a country.

- **More information:** <http://uneplive.unep.org/>

19. The Rio Conventions Pavilion (RCP) (Only of relevance for the RIO Conventions)

- **Initiated by:** The three Rio Conventions (CBD, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)) and GEF
- **From (Year):** 2010
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Rio Conventions Pavilion is a collaborative outreach activity of the Secretariats of the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD), the GEF, and 25 other international, national and local partners. It aims to promote and strengthen synergies between the Rio Conventions at implementation levels by providing a coordinated platform for awareness-raising and information-sharing about the linkages in science, policy and practice between biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification/land degradation. It is designed to promote and build synergy in implementation by providing a forum for dialogue, awareness-raising, information-sharing and capacity-building on policy and practices in the framework of the Rio conventions.
- **More information:** riopavilion.org/

20. TEMATEA

- **Initiated by:** UNEP
- **From (Year):** 2005
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** TEMATEA structures the multitude of commitments and obligations from regional and global biodiversity-related agreements in a logical, issue-based framework. This framework is built around issue-based modules which provide activity-oriented information on national commitments by identifying and grouping implementation requirements from different agreements on a selected issue. This facilitates the understanding by national experts of their national obligations and commitments in relation

to a specific issue and lowers the threshold for experts to understand how commitments from other conventions and across sectors relate to their own.

- **More information:** tematea.org/

Capacity building

In 2004, as a response to requests from governments and to Decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 of the Governing Council of UNEP, a strategic plan for the provision of technology support and capacity-building to developing countries as well as to countries with economies in transition was developed. The Bali Strategic Plan builds upon UNEP's earlier efforts in these areas, and establishes a framework for assisting States in realizing, based on their priority needs, the practical measures necessary for effective implementation, compliance, and enforcement of MEAs.

Since the adoption of the plan, several COP decisions have supported studies and initiatives, aimed at capacity development to support cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements at national level, to ensure efficient and effective implementation. As a recent example from the last CBD COP 12, Decision XII/6, the Executive Secretary was requested;

(a) To prepare, subject to the availability of resources, a study on key capacity-building and awareness-raising needs regarding cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements at the national level as an input for the workshop;

(b) To transmit the report of the workshop to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation for consideration at its first meeting and subsequently to the Conference of the Parties for consideration at its thirteenth meeting;

Governing body decisions in MEAs such as CITES address various aspects of capacity building and these decisions lead to implementing activities at national, regional and global levels.

The following three initiatives provides examples of how MEA secretariats have collaborated on the preparation of regional workshops, as a means to develop capacity at national level to increase cooperation and collaboration between MEA NFPs, as well as expert workshops, as a means to identify opportunities for synergies at the interface between conventions.

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21. Workshop on “indicators and integration of CITES and CMS objectives as part of NBSAP updating” for Francophone Africa

- **Initiated by:** UNEP and the BIP
- **From (Year):** 2013
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** This capacity building workshop for eight countries of francophone Africa was held from the 25th to the 28th June 2013 in Douala, Cameroon. Its overall objective was to strengthen capacity for the development of indicators and for the identification of synergies between the three different MEAs, as part of the NBSAP updating process. The workshop brought together a total of 36 delegates from Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, Senegal and Togo. Four participants were invited from each country, including one participant involved with CMS, one involved with CITES and two who work directly on their country's NBSAP. Participants included representatives from government ministries, national environmental agencies, NGOs and research centres. Representatives from international bodies also participated to contribute their expertise in information sources, monitoring systems, synergies and NBSAPs.
- **Outcome:** The workshop conclusions included the importance for information exchange mechanisms between NFPs as well as the necessity of high level political support. Also, even

though dialogue between NFPs takes place in most countries, this informal exchange has been insufficient to ensure coordinated action and enhanced implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

22. Regional capacity-building workshop on integration of CMS and CITES objectives into NBSAPs

- **Initiated by:** UNEP, in collaboration with the CBD and CMS Secretariats
- **From (Year):** 2012
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** This workshop brought together 46 national focal points of CBD, CMS and CITES to discuss how to integrate the objectives of biodiversity related conventions into the updating of the NBSAPs. Through a series of panel discussions, group exercises and case studies to encourage information and experience sharing, the representatives, gained insight into the issues of integration of other biodiversity MEAs objectives into NBSAPs
- **Outcome:** The workshop helped participants understand the issues of integrating other Biodiversity-related Conventions objectives into NBSAPs, and participants expressed their interest in replicating this workshop in their respective countries. Participants also planned to develop common best practice guidelines with tangible targets to improve policy, legal and administrative coordination of biodiversity-related MEAs in the NBSAP process. The important role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) in supporting the biodiversity agenda was also repeatedly stressed as a factor that raises the issue of synergies among biodiversity related MEAs to a higher political level

23. Tandem workshop for NFPs of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol (NP)

- **Initiated by:** ABS Capacity Development Initiative In collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD and the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA
- **From (Year):** 2013
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The expert workshop explored the interfaces between the ITPGRFA and the NP and aimed to shed light on the potential issues for consideration with a view to promoting the harmonious implementation of the ITPGRFA and the NP. In addition to that, it endeavoured to identify basic parameters for national measures to achieve mutual supportiveness in the implementation of the two instruments.
- **Uptake:** The workshop stimulated fruitful discussions between different actors involved in the implementation of the ITPGRFA and the NP and succeeded in gaining commitments to future collaboration, including a tandem workshop for National Focal Points of the ITPGRFA (IT NFPs) and the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP ABS NFPs) on the mutually supportive implementation of both instruments (*Subsequently held in June 2014*).

Funding and resource efficiency

24. The opportunities under GEF-6

- **Initiated by:** The GEF and CBD, together with other biodiversity-related conventions
- **From (Year):** 2014
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:**
 - a) **Biodiversity focal area Strategy.**

The GEF-6 Biodiversity Strategy encompasses **four Biodiversity Objectives and ten programmes**. NFPs of the other Biodiversity-related Conventions can find opportunities within the Biodiversity Strategy, for example, programme 3 under the second objective aims to prevent the extinction of known threatened species. This reflects Aichi Biodiversity Target 12 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as

well as CITES objectives and activities. Parties that are eligible to seek GEF finance could use this to finance their efforts to tackle wildlife crime and protect threatened species.

- **Opportunities:** Although the GEF is the financial mechanism for the CBD only (among the Biodiversity-related Conventions), the GEF can support projects that provide benefits under multiple conventions. The Biodiversity Strategy under GEF-6 includes a specific paragraph on synergies, which can provide a basis for collaboration with other Biodiversity-related Conventions, especially in NBSAP revision and implementation processes. This emphasises that there is ample opportunity for proposals to include a range of eligible activities, identified in NBSAPs, which advance the shared objectives of the conventions. This potential is strengthened by recent supportive decisions by CBD and CMS COPs.
- **More information:** thegef.org/gef/GEF6-Programming-Directions

25. Related activities of the BLG

- **Facilitation of access to financial resources from GEF for conventions other than CBD.** BLG members agreed that a joint approach by the Biodiversity-related Conventions could facilitate access to the GEF resources. In 2013 the BLG therefore met with GEF officers to address the relationship between the BLG Conventions and the GEF. In a subsequent letter to the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF, BLG members welcomed the direction of the GEF-6 programme, as a means to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. They agreed that GEF-6 presents opportunities for programmatic synergies, especially at the national level. Most recently, at the last meeting of the BLG in August 2014, the BLG considered the relationship between its members and GEF, under the auspices of GEF's Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy. The BLG emphasised synergies in the implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions under the direction of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and agreed to identify common issues/countries/regions where joint activities/projects could be undertaken.

Institutional Collaboration

26. The BLG

- **Initiated by:** CBD
- **Members:** CBD, CMS, CITES, ITPGRFA, the Ramsar Convention, WHC and IPPC
- **From (Year):** 2004
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** Established in order to enhance coherence and cooperation between the major Biodiversity-related Conventions, as a platform to exchange information and to enhance implementation at the national level of the objectives of each respective convention whilst also promoting synergies at the national level. The BLG aims at maximising 'effectiveness and efficiency and avoiding duplication of effort in joint activities of BLG members'. The BLG consists of the heads of the secretariats of the conventions, and they meet at least annually to explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination, and to exchange information. The mandate for the liaison group came as a result CBD COP 7 in 2004, and is specified in decision VII/26 (paragraphs 1 and 2)⁹.
- **Opportunities:** In establishing the informal advisory group on synergies (see Section 1.) CBD COP 12 invited the BLG to participate in this group. This should provide a means to strengthen the involvement of Parties in the work of the BLG.
- **Related Initiative(s) led by the BLG:**
 - **Enhancing coordination, coherence and national-level synergies.** In 2014 the BLG consulted on the CBD COP 11 request to the CBD Executive Secretary to propose

⁹ All BLG reports can be accessed on the CBD website, Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, <http://www.cbd.int/blg/>.

options for *the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national-level synergies*. The following areas of possible coordination were identified: legislative needs and rule of law, support for the legislative needs for implementation more broadly, including through developing additional guides or manuals on how to develop and implement biodiversity-related legislation; NBSAP revision, in which BLG members are already collaborating; communication strategy related to the UN decade on Biodiversity; UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) guidelines; IPBES process; SDGs process; and cooperation on specific Aichi Targets.

- **The BLGs modus operandi, available at:** cbd.int/cooperation/doc/blg-modus-operandi-en.pdf

27. **The Environment Management Group (EMG)**

- **Initiated by:** UN General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/53/242 of August 1999)
- **From (Year):** 1999
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** UN system-wide coordination body on environment and human settlements, chaired by UNEP and with a secretariat provided by UNEP. The EMG identifies issues on the international environmental agenda that warrant cooperation, and finds ways of engaging its collective capacity in coherent management responses to those issues. It established an Issue Management Group on biodiversity, which has since completed its work.
- **Activities:** Its work has included co-ordination of a UN-system wide response to the CBD Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It has also issued a number of reports on options to enhance MEA synergies. As a means to identify measures for effective and efficient implementation of the Strategic Plan across the UN System, by understanding how each agency can help to advance it, the EMG also led a mapping exercise on the contributions of the UN agencies and conventions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- **More information:** unemg.org/

28. **Joint Liaison Group (JLG) (only of relevance for the RIO Conventions)**

- **Initiated by:** The three Rio Conventions
- **From (Year):** 2001
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** Established as an informal forum for exchanging information, exploring opportunities for synergistic activities and increasing coordination, including the possibility of a joint work plan. The JLG comprises the officers of the Conventions' scientific subsidiary bodies, the Executive Secretaries, and members of the secretariats
- **More information:** cbd.int/cooperation/liaison.shtml

Other programmatic collaborations

The following list provides a non-comprehensive overview of other programmatic collaboration initiatives. It should be noted however that a wide range of initiatives, not included in this list exists, and thus the following provides a mere snapshot of activities.

29. **Improving the integrated management system of protected areas with overlapping multiple international designations**

- **Initiated by:** IUCN
- **From (Year):** 2012
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** This project is a partnership between IUCN and the Jeju Self-Governing Province of South Korea, implemented together with UNESCO and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. The project aims to realise opportunities for synergies and

identify solutions for management problems that can occur at sites with multiple designations, and to prepare a best practice guidance document. Jeju Province is one of the project pilot areas as it includes overlapping international protected areas related to UNESCO (World Heritage, Global Geopark and Biosphere Reserve) and wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention, as well as various protections under domestic law. The best practice guidance on integrated management of protected areas with overlapping international designations will be developed through three project stages running from 2013-2016. The first stage will collate information on the issues and best practices for the integrated management of these protected areas, including updating the global geographic information on overlapping sites. The second stage will document case studies of protected areas with overlapping international designations. The third stage will finalise the best practice guidance document through seminars, and will establish a network of site managers and NFPs.

30. The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation

- **Initiated by:** CBD
- **From (Year):** 2004
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation brings together a wide range of international, regional and national organizations in order to contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) worldwide. The Partnership is working to support national implementation and the GSPC, and to provide tools and resources on how each country can plan and act to meet the targets. The GSPC was included by CBD as part of the flexible coordination mechanism of the GSPC and plays a significant role in helping to monitor and promote GSPC implementation.
- **More information:** <http://www.plants2020.net/gppc/>

31. The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)

- **Initiated by:** The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is an innovative interagency partnership on forests comprising 14 international organizations, institutions and secretariats, including CBD, UNEP and FAO
- **From (Year):** 2001
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** As part of the International Arrangement of Forests, the CPF's overarching objective is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. The CPF was created to: support the work of the UNFF and its member states; and enhance cooperation and coordination among CPF member organizations. The agencies share their experiences and build on them to produce new benefits for their respective constituencies. They collaborate to streamline and align their work and to find ways of improving forest management and conservation and the production and trade of forest products. The members are also forming increasingly close and valuable strategic partnerships with one another, benefiting from shared expertise and pooled resources.
- **More information:** <http://www.cpfweb.org/>

32. Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species

- **Initiated by:** CBD
- **From (Year):** 2010
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The general purpose of the Liaison Group is to facilitate cooperation among relevant organizations to support measures to prevent the introduction and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species. In the period up to 2020 the Strategic Plan

for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and in particular Aichi Target 9, will provide the main focus of the work of this group. Specifically, the Liaison Group will aim:

- a) To address the gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species;
- b) To promote inter-sectoral cooperation and capacity development activities for the prevention, control and mitigation of invasive alien species;
- c) To raise awareness across the multiple sectors on the impacts of invasive alien species and on the best practices for addressing the issue;
- d) To promote cooperation at all levels, and specifically at the national level, through each organization's national and regional focal points or the equivalents;
- e) To promote cooperation in the gathering, access and use of relevant and reliable information.

- **More information:** cbd.int/invasive/lg/

33. **Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds.**

- **Initiated by:** CMS, in close cooperation with AEWA
- **From (Year):** 2005
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Task Force aims to bring together the best scientific advice on the conservation impact of the spread of avian influenza, assessing the role of migratory birds as vectors of the virus. It is also intended to issue advice on the root causes of the epidemic as well as on technically sound measures to combat it and to develop early warning systems. The Task Force draws on the expertise of conservation scientists, hunters, veterinarians, epidemiologists, virologists, land managers and other experts comprising of 14 members and observers, including UN bodies, wildlife treaties and specialist intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.
- **More information:** cms.int/en/workinggroup/scientific-task-force-avian-influenza-and-wild-birds

34. **Ramsar Culture Network (RCN)**

- **Initiated by:** Ramsar Convention
- **From (Year):** 2014
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** Bring together and create synergy among organisations and individuals that can contribute to an approach to the conservation and wise use of wetlands, which integrates cultural and natural aspects, and thereby achieves greater effectiveness in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

The expected results of the RCN include;

- a) Strengthened international policy
Global and regional policymaking reflects where necessary the best current knowledge and thinking on culture and wetlands, including ways of taking account of cultural values in decision-making, and ways of increasing understanding of the cultural ecosystem services of wetlands;
- b) Better documented values
Cultural values associated with wetlands are more completely identified, understood and documented at national and site level;
- c) More widely shared and applied good practices
Good practices, experiences and lessons learned in wetland planning and management that integrates cultural aspects are investigated, shared, promoted and applied more widely and successfully, resulting in better outcomes for wetlands and for people;

- d) Enhanced partnerships
Strategic collaborations and partnerships are enhanced, broadening stakeholder engagement and producing efficient synergies of action; and
- e) Effective coordination
The programme and relevant associated activities are efficiently coordinated, resourced in ways which do not dilute any other Ramsar programmes, and the results are promoted to wide audiences, building further support for the long term

- **More information:** www.ramsarculture.org/RCN/RCN_Home.html

Joint work plans/ programmes and MoCs

The biodiversity-related conventions have established a range of bilateral or multilateral **Memoranda of Understanding/ Cooperation** as well as joint work plans or programmes with other conventions, some of which are outlined in the table below.

	CBD				
CMS	MoC 1996 JWP 2012-2014	CMS			
CITES	MoC 1996, amended 2000/2001 to include JWP	MoU 2002 JWP 2015-2020	CITES		
Ramsar	MoC 2011 JWP 2011-2020	MoU 1997 MoC 2012 JWP 2012-2014	N/A	Ramsar	
WHC	JWP 2010-20	UNESCO and CMS MoU 2002	N/A	MoU 1999 MAB Joint Programme of Work 2002	WHC
ITPGRFA	MoC 2010 FAO/CBD JWP 2011-2020	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 1 Memorandums of Cooperation (MoC), Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) and Joint Work Programmes (JWP)

The following initiatives provide a snapshot of some of such MoCs and joint work plans or programmes between conventions, however it should be noted that there are many other ongoing efforts and initiatives between MEAs, and the list is not comprehensive. .

35. **CBD and Ramsar Convention 5th Joint Work Plan (JWP) 2011 – 2020**

- **Initiated by:** CBD and the Ramsar Convention
- **From (Year):** 2011
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The goal of this Joint Work Plan is the conservation, sustainable and wise use of biodiversity especially in wetlands, helping to assure the full achievement of the Vision, Mission and Goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and it's Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Mission and Strategies of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015.
- **More information:** ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/moc/CBD-Ramsar5thJWP_2011-2020.pdf

36. **Joint programme between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and CBD**

- **Initiated by:** CBD and the UNESCO

- **From (Year):** 2011
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** With the CBD acting as global focal point for biodiversity and UNESCO acting as global focal point for cultural diversity, strengthen the linkages between biological and cultural diversity initiatives, and enhance synergies between interlinked provisions of conventions and programmes dealing with biological and cultural diversity at relevant scales.
- **More information:** unesco.org/mab/doc/iyb/JointProgramme.pdf

37. **CMS CITES Joint Work Programme 2015–2020**

- **Initiated by:** CITES and CMS
- **From (Year):** 2005
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The CMS/CITES Joint Work Programme 2015–2020 comprises a non-exhaustive list of joint activities. They are organized around four main themes: (A) Harmonization of species-specific information; (B) Joint activities addressing shared species and issues of common interest; (C) Implementation and fundraising; (D) Outreach and capacity building.
- **More information:** <http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/common/disc/sec/CITES-CMS-wp-en.pdf>

38. **MoC between the secretariats of the CBD and the ITPGRFA**

- **Initiated by:** CITES and CMS
- **From (Year):** 2010
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** The objective of the MoC between the CBD and ITPGRFA is to enhance cooperation between the conventions in areas of mutual interest within the respective mandates.
This includes cooperation on capacity building activities dealing with access and benefit-sharing as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture as well as to mutually support undertaking and promoting activities relevant to their respective mandates, i.e. workshops, seminars as well as coordination of technical assistance, including for implementation of access and benefit-sharing regimes.
- **Uptake:** Among a range of activities, following the MoC, a series of jointly organised capacity-building workshop on access and benefit-sharing have been held, as a means to contribute to the identification of the capacity-building needs and priorities of Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol and to build on the experience and lessons learned from the implementation of the ITPGRFA.
- **More information:**
http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/Signed_MoU_CBD_ITPGRFA_2010.pdf

39. **MoC between the secretariats of the CMS and the Ramsar Convention**

- **Initiated by:** CMS and the Ramsar Convention
- **From (Year):** 2012
- **Objective and scope/key tasks:** In recognition of the significance of migratory species of wild animals in wetland ecosystems, with associated benefits to people, and the dependence of a significant proportion of these species on conservation and wise use of these wetlands, this MoC builds on the similarities of the objectives between the two conventions. The aim of the MoC is strengthen the implementation of the two conventions by enhancing corporation, coordination, synergy and joint working between them, including on: policy compatibility, institutional cooperation, exchange of information and expertise, work plans and conservation activities and review and reporting on implementation.