



## Convention on Biological Diversity

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### CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Eleventh meeting

Hyderabad, India, 8-19 October 2012

Items 5.2 of the provisional agenda\*

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

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### I INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 6 its decision X/20, the Conference of the Parties proposed joint activities among the Rio conventions (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)) and called for strengthened cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, and its scientific bodies and national focal points (paragraphs 4, 8, 9, 10 & 11), including the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) (paragraph 12), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) (paragraph 13) and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (paragraph 14). Specifically, the Conference of the Parties requested the Working Group on the Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI) at its fourth meeting, in order to increase the involvement of Parties in the work of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, to determine the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national level synergies among the biodiversity conventions.

2. In the same decision, the Conference of the Parties called for continued and enhanced cooperation with UNFF (paragraph 15), with UNESCO on the joint programme of work on biological and cultural diversity (paragraph 16), with the World Health Organization (WHO) and other relevant organizations and initiatives with a view to promoting the consideration of biodiversity issues in health programmes and plans (paragraph 17), with the World Trade Organization (including to renew the Convention's pending applications for observer status in relevant WTO bodies) (paragraph 18), with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on the Biotrade Initiative and other trade related matters, as well as with CITES in this respect (paragraph 19) and with the World Tourism Organization, including on a review of the application of the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism Development.

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\* UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1.

3. This note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/17) provides an update on the activities of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, and on the implementation of memoranda of cooperation and joint programmes of work with partner organizations.

4. Cooperation with other organizations, conventions and initiatives in respect of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has been reported to Parties to the Protocol in document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/5. Additional information on collaborative activities with regards to specific areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, is reported in the respective pre-sessional documents made available for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## **II IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS ADOPTED AT THE TENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES REGARDING COOPERATION WITH OTHER BODIES**

### ***A. Cooperation among the Rio conventions***

5. This section of the note reports on cooperation among the Rio conventions: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD).

6. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity participated in the sixteenth and seventeenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to UNFCCC, held, respectively, in Cancun, Mexico from 29 November to 10 December 2010, and in Durban, South Africa from 28 November to 9 December 2011. The Secretariat also participated in the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNCCD, held in Changwon, Republic of Korea from 10-21 October 2011. At each of these meetings, the Secretariat organized and managed the Rio Conventions Pavilion, a recent collaborative outreach activity of the secretariats of the Rio conventions and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) that aims to enhance linkage between measures addressing biodiversity, climate change and sustainable land management at the national level (see below). In addition, the Secretariat participated in the thirty-fourth session of the Subsidiary Bodies of UNFCCC held in Bonn, Germany from 6-10 June 2011, where it organized side-events on biodiversity in relation to REDD-plus and climate-related geo-engineering, and in the thirty-sixth session of the Subsidiary Bodies of UNFCCC, held in Bonn from 14-25 May 2012. The Secretariat also participated in the UNFCCC Climate Change Conference held in Panama City from 1-7 October 2011 and in a UNFCCC expert meeting related to safeguards for REDD+ activities held in Panama City from 8-9 October 2011.

7. Based on decisions IX/16 and X/33 on biodiversity and climate change, the Executive Secretary transmitted the invitation from the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to develop joint activities at the national level to the secretariats of UNCCD and UNFCCC and submitted a background note related to this to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to UNCCD. The Secretariat also delivered a statement transmitting the invitation to the thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technical Advice. The secretariats of CBD and GEF have established a partnership to support joint activities at national-level in pilot countries. With the aim of enhancing project interventions already identified as priorities, support will include training and technical assistance to identify, plan, mobilize funding and implement joint activities. To guide joint work based on the requests from the conferences of the parties, enhance synergies at the national level and support implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the ten-year strategic

plan and framework of UNCCD, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the secretariats of CBD and UNCCD on 3 September 2011.<sup>1</sup>

8. The Joint Liaison Group (JLG) of the Rio conventions held its eleventh meeting in Bonn on 11 April 2011. Chaired by the Executive Secretary of UNCCD, the meeting considered: the purpose of the JLG; options for joint implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) under CBD, the UNFCCC National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and the UNCCD National Action Programmes (NAPs); cooperation on gender integration into thematic areas; preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD or Rio+20); exchanges between the scientific subsidiary bodies of the Rio conventions; the harmonization of reporting requirements by Parties; and outreach and communication.<sup>2</sup>

9. Based on the meeting, a number of follow up actions were identified, including: the development of a proposed *modus operandi* and terms of reference for the Joint Liaison Group (see UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/18); agreement on the publication of joint brochures on: (i) forests, (ii) climate change adaptation and (iii) gender; a mandate to further develop joint actions on gender mainstreaming; and agreement to joint activities at Rio+20, including the organization of the Rio Conventions Pavilion, and the hosting of a breakfast meeting at the margins of the conference to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Rio conventions, focusing on synergy and inviting the current and incoming Presidents of the respective conferences of the parties.

10. The Rio Conventions Pavilion (RCP) was initiated in October 2010 at the margins of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and held subsequently at the margins of UNFCCC COP-16 and COP-17, UNCCD COP-10 and, from 13-22 June 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD or Rio+20). It will next convene from 8-19 October 2012 at the margins of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The Rio Conventions Pavilion 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. Over thirty organizations have participated as active partners. Since its establishment, the success of the forum has been made possible by the generous support, both financial and in-kind, of the Governments of Brazil, Germany, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Norway, South Africa and the United Kingdom, as well as thanks to contributions, both financial and in-kind, from the collaborating secretariats and organizations participating in the forum. At Rio+20, the Rio Conventions Pavilion served to emphasize the relevance of the Rio conventions to the themes, objectives and expected outcomes of the conference: instruments for sustainable development, relevant to social and economic issues, including health, food security, livelihoods and poverty eradication. Through more than 40 sessions, involving many and diverse partner organizations, the Rio Conventions Pavilion provided a well-attended platform for dialogue and exchange of knowledge and experience in areas cutting across the conventions, and on opportunities for synergy and complementarity in their implementation. Serviced by staff of the secretariats of the three conventions and the GEF, it provided opportunity to emphasize the importance of common cross-cutting themes relevant to the objectives of the conventions, including gender mainstreaming and the engagement of business. Among many initiatives presented or launched, on 17 June 2012 the Rio Conventions Pavilion hosted the global observance event to mark the World Day to Combat Desertification on the theme of Securing Healthy Soils and Stopping Land Degradation; and, on 21 June 2012, hosted a series of events, focusing on sustainable development objectives, designed to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Rio conventions. The International Institute for Sustainable Development Reporting Services (IISD-RS) was engaged as a partner in the Rio Conventions Pavilion at Rio+20 and produced daily news bulletins of the proceedings and a concluding summary and analysis.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/agreements/agmt-uncd-2011-09-03-mou-web-en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/reports/jlg-11-report-en.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.iisd.ca/uncsd/rio20/pavilion/>

11. In addition, on 21 June 2012, the JLG hosted a breakfast meeting at the margins of the conference to mark the twentieth anniversary of the Rio conventions, focusing on synergy, and inviting the current and incoming Presidents of the respective COPs. The meeting agreed a joint statement on synergy and complementarity among the Rio conventions, signed by the executive secretaries and witnessed by the representatives of the COP Presidents. In other joint outreach activity, three new publications were prepared by the secretariats of the three conventions and launched during Rio+20. The JLG brochures are dedicated to the thematic topics of gender, forest, and climate change adaptation. The secretariats also continued their longstanding collaboration in the production of a promotional Rio Conventions wall calendar, published for 2011, 2012 and in preparation for 2013.

### ***B. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development***

12. The CBD Secretariat participated in the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD or Rio+20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 13-22 June 2012 that spanned the third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee (13-15 June), the stakeholder dialogue days (16-19 June) and the UNCSD (20-22 June 2012). The Executive Secretary delivered a statement at the roundtable of UNCSD. In addition to co-hosting the Rio Conventions Pavilion, the secretariat organized and delivered an inter-agency side-event on biodiversity and sustainable development and, together with the United Nations Goodwill Ambassador for Biodiversity, Mr. Edward Norton, participated in numerous parallel events organized by key partners. Together with the Minister of Environment of Japan and Mr. Norton, the Executive Secretary held a press conference on the importance of biodiversity for sustainable development based on the message that had been prepared for Rio+20 by the Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention at its fourth meeting (WGRI-4). At a special event organized on 15 June 2012 by the Government of Brazil to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, the Executive Secretary delivered a statement on the Convention on Biological Diversity. Similar statements were delivered by the Executive Secretary of UNCCD and a representative of the UNFCCC Secretariat.

### ***C. Cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions***

13. This section of the note reports on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention), and the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention). It includes review of actions undertaken by the secretariats and by the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions in response to outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets and promotion of synergies through revision and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP); and actions undertaken in the context of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

14. The Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (Biodiversity Liaison Group, BLG) convened in a special meeting, held at the CITES Secretariat in Geneva on 13 April 2011, at which it considered, *inter alia*, collaboration for: the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 (the Strategic Plan); the implementation of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB); and the early entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (the Nagoya Protocol). It further convened at a Second Retreat of the BLG, held at Chateau de Bossey in Geneva on 4

September 2011, where a *modus operandi* for the Liaison Group was agreed and signed by the executive heads of the secretariats of the six biodiversity-related conventions (UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/18).<sup>4</sup>

15. The Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) convened its fourth meeting in Gland, Switzerland on 13 February 2011, hosted by the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention. Among other agenda items, the meeting considered opportunities for the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions to mobilize the scientific community for the implementation of the Strategic Plan, the UNDB and the Nagoya Protocol; and ways to strengthen its support to improve the effectiveness of the BLG. The CSAB recommended that the Convention on Biological Diversity should engage with the biodiversity-related and Rio conventions to integrate the Strategic Plan into other implementation processes and that, to this end, with the assistance of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), an exercise be conducted to review and cross-map the various strategic plans, priorities and targets of the biodiversity-related conventions.<sup>5</sup> The fifth meeting of the CSAB was held in Dublin, on 25 March 2012. The CSAB considered the results of the cross-mapping exercise, undertaken with support of IUCN, on how the implementation of the strategies (and equivalent objectives) of the biodiversity-related conventions can contribute to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, thus: the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013 (Objectives); the updated CMS Strategic Plan 2012-2014 (Targets); the Global Plan of Action of ITPGRFA (Priority Activity Areas); the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 (Strategies) and; the World Heritage Convention (Responsibilities of Parties and Criteria for inscription to the World Heritage List). The CSAB also considered the scientific and technical challenges arising from the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the opportunities for the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions to coordinate their efforts to address these. In addition, the CSAB developed a joint statement which was submitted as an information document to the second session of the plenary meeting on IPBES held in Panama City, Panama, from 16-21 April 2012.<sup>6</sup>

16. Since the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, a high level of cooperation between the CBD and Ramsar secretariats has continued, including CBD Secretariat participation in Ramsar COP-11 and provision of guidance on cross-linkages between CBD decisions and Ramsar Resolutions. The main technical work undertaken under the Joint Work Plan (JWP) of CBD and Ramsar, has been with regards to CBD decision X/28, paragraph 39, that requested the Executive Secretary, and invited the Secretariat and Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention, and other relevant partners, to establish an expert working group, building upon the relevant core expertise of the STRP, to review available information, and provide key policy relevant messages, on maintaining the ability of biodiversity to support the water cycle. This work is reported under agenda item 13.3 (SBSTTA recommendation XV/5 and documents UNEP/CBD/COP/11/30 and UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/2). In addition, the CBD and the Ramsar secretariats have drafted the fifth Joint Work Plan (2011 – 2020),<sup>7</sup> the key features of which are an emphasis on the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

17. A memorandum of cooperation between the secretariats of CBD and ITPGRFA was signed on 28 October 2010, designed to enhance their cooperation.<sup>8</sup> The memorandum focuses on capacity-building, in particular in the area of access and benefit-sharing as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. In the context of the memorandum and the GEF medium-sized project entitled Capacity-Building for the Early Entry into Force of the Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, approved by the GEF CEO on 4 February 2011, the secretariats of CBD and ITPGRFA jointly organized

<sup>4</sup> Available also at: <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/doc/blg-modus-operandi-en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> The report of the meeting is available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/csab/csab-04/official/csab-04-02-en.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Document UNEP/IPBES.MI/2/INF/16, available at [www.ipbes.net](http://www.ipbes.net)

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/cop11/doc/cop11-doc20-e-cbd.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Available at: <http://www.cbd.int/doc/agreements/amt-itpgrfa-2010-10-28-moc-en.pdf>

capacity-building workshops in June 2011, November 2011 and June 2012. On 21 June 2012, at a high-level roundtable event of ITPGRFA held at the margins of UNCSD, and within the context of their memorandum of cooperation, the Executive Secretary of CBD and the Secretary of the Treaty signed and launched a Joint Initiative of the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity on Sustainable Development, Technology Transfer and Capacity-Building.<sup>9</sup> The Joint Initiative identifies a number of concrete actions to support the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol and its harmonious implementation with ITPGRFA and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS). The Joint Initiative also identifies joint actions for on-farm conservation, protected areas and the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. The CBD Secretariat participated in the fourth session of the Governing Body of ITPGRFA and the secretariat of ITPGRFA participated in CBD COP-10, the fifteenth and sixteenth meetings of SBSTTA, the fourth meeting of the WGRI and the first and second meetings of ICNP.

18. The CITES secretariat prepared and circulated a “Draft Guide for CITES Parties on contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs)”.<sup>10</sup> Parties were invited to make use of the draft guide and to provide the secretariat with comments on its usefulness, content and format in order to assist in its finalization and help to ensure that it is a useful implementation tool. The CITES Secretariat participated in two of the regional and subregional capacity-building workshops organized by the CBD Secretariat with financial support of the Government of Japan, to support Parties to revise their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), integrate the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into national biodiversity targets and implement the Strategic Plan. The CITES Secretariat also collaborated with the CBD Secretariat and other partners in organizing a joint meeting of the CBD Bushmeat Liaison Group and the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group in Nairobi, from 7-10 June 2011. The meeting resulted in revised recommendations of the CBD Liaison Group, as well as recommendations for small-scale alternatives to unsustainable bushmeat harvesting for consideration by SBSTTA.

19. The CMS Secretariat also collaborated in the joint meeting of the CBD Bushmeat Liaison Group and the CITES Central Africa Bushmeat Working Group in June 2011 and participated in two of the subregional capacity-building workshops for the Strategic Plan and NBSAP. To assist Parties in the preparation and revision of NBSAPs, and promote the common objectives of the CMS and CBD, the CMS Secretariat prepared a toolkit of guidelines on the integration of migratory species into NBSAPs (see below). The CMS Secretariat also collaborated with the CBD Secretariat in the preparation of a joint work plan to guide their collaboration from 2012-2014.

20. The following paragraphs report on progress within the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions during the biennium, to take account of the outcomes of CBD COP-10, in particular the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and the potential for enhancing the synergies.

21. The CITES Standing Committee, at its sixty-first meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 15-19 August 2011, broadly mandated by Decision 15.10 of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, established an inter-sessional working group to report to the Committee at its subsequent meeting on whether to extend the validity of the CITES Strategic Vision 2008-2013 to 2016, 2019 or 2020; and how to incorporate the “Post-2010 Biodiversity Targets” into the Strategic Vision. To this end, a revised draft of the Strategic Vision, that included extended validity to 2020 and amendments to contribute to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the CITES relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets, was presented to the Standing Committee at its sixty-second meeting, held in Geneva from 23-27

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<sup>9</sup> available at [www.planttreaty.org](http://www.planttreaty.org)

<sup>10</sup> available at <http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E026A.pdf>

July 2012.<sup>11</sup> Based on interventions made during the discussion, a revised draft will be considered by the COP to CITES at its sixteenth meeting, in Bangkok, from 3-15 March 2013.

22. The Conference of the Parties to the CMS, at its tenth meeting, held in Bergen from 20-25 November 2011, welcomed the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as a framework relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions (resolution 10.18). It adopted an Updated Strategic Plan for the triennium 2012-2014 that, *inter alia*, represents the Convention's planned contribution to achieving the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets and established a Working Group to develop a new CMS Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2023 for its consideration at its eleventh meeting (resolution 10.5). By resolution 10.18, the Conference of the Parties recommended that CMS Parties make use of the "Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)", prepared by the CMS Secretariat.<sup>12</sup> By resolution 10.21, the COP welcomed the joint work plan for 2012-14 between the CMS Secretariat and the CBD Secretariat.<sup>13</sup> The Joint Work Plan 2012-2014 is presented for review by the Conference of the Parties to the CBD in document UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/INF/18.

23. The Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), at its eleventh meeting, held in Bucharest, from 6-13 July 2012, noted the adoption of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets that, it observed, provides "a useful flexible framework that is relevant to all biodiversity-related conventions", and stressed the significant contribution that the Ramsar Convention can make to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity through implementation of the Strategies of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015 (Resolution XI.6). The contracting parties also adopted adjustments to the Strategic Plan 2009-2015 for the triennium 2013-2015,<sup>14</sup> *inter alia*, to reflect the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (Resolution XI.3). By Resolution XI.6, the contracting parties also welcomed the fifth CBD-Ramsar Joint Work Plan<sup>15</sup>.

24. The Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), at its fourth session, held in Bali, from 14-18 March 2011, noted the outcomes of CBD COP-10, and in particular the Nagoya Protocol and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and their potential for enhancing the synergies and improving the coherent implementation of the Convention and the Treaty. The Governing Body acknowledged the ongoing fruitful collaboration between ITPGRFA and CBD and made a number of requests to its contracting parties, national focal points and secretariat, designed to enhance cooperation with CBD, in particular in respect of the Nagoya Protocol (Resolution 8/2011). Pursuant to the request of the Governing Body, the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA conveyed Resolution 8/2011 to the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (ICNP).

25. The World Heritage Committee, at its thirty-fifth session, held in Paris from 19-29 June 2011, considered the relationship of the World Heritage Convention with CBD in the context of sustainable development.<sup>16</sup> This included the participation of the World Heritage Centre in the BLG; the Joint Programme between UNESCO and the CBD Secretariat; and progress in implementation of the WHC Action Plan for 2012<sup>17</sup> endorsed by the Committee at its thirty-fourth session, including efforts to strengthen linkages between the World Heritage Convention and other multilateral environmental agreements.

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<sup>11</sup> Annex to document SC62 Doc. 13

<sup>12</sup> UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.27

<sup>13</sup> UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.36

<sup>14</sup> COP11-DR-3 available at <http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/cop11/dr/cop11-dr03-e-plan.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Annexed to Resolution XI.6 available at <http://www.ramsar.org/pdf/cop11/res/cop11-res06-e.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Document WHC-11/35.COM/5E

<sup>17</sup> Contained in document WHC-10/34.COM/5D

***D. Cooperation with other relevant conventions and agreements***

26. The Executive Secretary reported to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its sixteenth meeting, on the progress of collaborative work with various international organizations and processes with regards to biodiversity and agriculture, forests and biodiversity and health (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/16).

27. Collaborative work between the Secretariats of CBD and UNFF has been reported in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/16. As requested by COP in its decision X/36, and undertaken in the framework of a memorandum of understanding signed in December 2009, this work comprised a number of targeted joint activities to support Parties in the implementation of the expanded programme of work on forest biological diversity and the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests. This cooperation serves also to respond to paragraph 19 of the resolution on forests for people, livelihoods and poverty eradication adopted by UNFF at its ninth session held in New York from 24 January to 4 February 2011, that requests the Secretariat of the Forum to continue to further cooperate with the secretariats of the Rio conventions to promote cooperation towards a comprehensive approach to the multiple values of forests and sustainable forest management.

28. Cooperation with Regional Seas Conventions is taking place in the context of the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity and in connection with marine invasive species and is summarized in the respective section in the documents on thematic programmes of work. In respect of invasive alien species, and in the context of the Joint Work Programme of the secretariats of CBD and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the CBD Secretariat contributed to the IPPC International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures noted below. Cooperation with the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention) in the context of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety has been reported to Parties to the Protocol in document UNEP/CBD/BS/COP-MOP/6/5 presented to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Cooperation with the biodiversity-related conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements and international organizations in respect of the Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (InforMEA) led by UNEP is presented in the pre-session document on the clearing-house mechanism. (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/13/Add.2)

***E. Cooperation with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies and other intergovernmental agencies***

29. In its decision X/20, COP welcomed the report coordinated by the Environment Management Group of the United Nations on the contribution of the United Nations system to the advancement of the biodiversity agenda post-2010 and welcomed also the commitment by the executive heads of members of the Group to contribute individually and collectively to the international biodiversity agenda, in particular by identifying opportunities for cooperation and mainstreaming biodiversity into the relevant policy sectors of the United Nations. COP-10 called on the Environment Management Group (EMG) to continue its contribution to the international decade on biodiversity 2011-2021. It specifically invited EMG “in building on its Biodiversity Report to identify measures for effective and efficient implementation of the Strategic Plan across the United Nations system and provide a report on its work to CBD COP-11”. Consequently, Senior Officials of EMG, at their 17th meeting in September 2011, decided to continue the work of EMG Issue Management Group on biodiversity (IMG) to develop a United Nations system common approach for implementation of the Biodiversity Strategic Plan. The Issue Management Group is currently engaged in preparing a system wide approach to the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

30. The Issue Management Group (IMG) on biodiversity of EMG held its 4th meeting on 16 February 2011 at the EMG secretariat in Geneva to discuss its approach to implement the decisions on biodiversity taken by EMG senior officials. The 5th meeting of the IMG was held in Montreal, Canada on



9 November 2011 to take stock of the progress made, focussing on the IMG's approach and strategy for implementation of the Strategic Plan, and the role and contributions of the IMG members, as well as a road map and milestones for further work of IMG. The 6th meeting of IMG was held on 8 May 2012 in Montreal, hosted by the Secretariat of CBD. The meeting reviewed a synthesis report on the mapping of IMG members' strategic objectives and key functions vis-à-vis the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The IMG agreed to prepare a progress report on its work in response to the relevant COP-10 decisions and submit it as an information document to COP-11 in Hyderabad, India in October 2012.

31. On 20 September 2011, the Executive Secretary and the executive heads of 26 organizations—comprising international non-governmental organizations, intergovernmental organizations and United Nations entities, including the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions—signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The stated aim of the memorandum is to contribute to the successful and timely implementation of the Strategic Plan and, more specifically, to provide a platform to exchange information and coordinate activities amongst the signatories in support of the efforts of their member countries and stakeholders towards achieving the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The memorandum established the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force, whose membership<sup>18</sup> is limited to the heads or deputy heads of the signatory organizations and whose 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 United Nations through its IMG on biodiversity and by the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions on issues related to the implementation of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

32. The Secretariat of CBD remained an active member of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).<sup>19</sup> In this capacity, the Secretariat participates in the CPF Advisory Group on Finance (AGF) led by the UNFF Secretariat in preparation for the tenth session of the Forum (UNFF 10) and, *inter alia*, participated in a meeting of the AGF held in New York on 14 December 2011. The Secretariat participated in a retreat of the CPF, held in Rome, from 23-24 June 2011 and co-organized, in collaboration with CIFOR and UNEP-WCMC, 'Forest Day 5' on 4 December 2011 at the margins of UNFCCC COP-17. The UNFF and CBD Secretariats and FAO initiated the organization of a meeting of the CPF Task Force on Streamlining Forest-related Reporting, held in Rome, from 16-17 April 2012. The CBD Secretariat commissioned, and made available to the meeting, a report that provides background for improving forest biodiversity monitoring and reporting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/25). Cooperation

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<sup>18</sup> The 28 signatories of the Memorandum of Cooperation and Members of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force comprise the international non-governmental organisations Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE), BirdLife International, Conservation International, Rare Conservation, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), TRAFFIC (that joined on 4 November 2011), the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF); the intergovernmental organisations Bioersity International, the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN); and United Nations entities comprising the Secretariats of the CBD, CITES and CMS, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), the Secretariat of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Secretariats of the ITPGRFA and the Ramsar Convention, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO).

<sup>19</sup> The fourteen members of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) are: the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Secretariat of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Forum on Forests Secretariat (UNFF), Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), and the World Bank.

with FAO in the area of forest is reported below. Progress in collaborative work undertaken in the framework of the memorandum of understanding between the CBD Secretariat and the Secretariat of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) is provided in information document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/30.

33. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), together with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is collaborating closely with the CBD Secretariat to provide technical support and guidance to Parties for the revision of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP).

34. A number of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies have supported the ongoing series of workshops undertaken in 2011 and 2012 by the Secretariat of CBD with financial resources of the Japan Biodiversity Fund provided by the Government of Japan. The agencies that have supported the Secretariat of the CBD in the NBSAP capacity-building workshops, include UNEP, UNDP, UNESCAP, the CMS and CITES secretariats, UNU-IAS, UNCCD Global Mechanism and GEF. In the context of the UNDP-UNEP Poverty-Environment Initiative, UNEP is also collaborating closely with the CBD Secretariat to strengthen capacity in five pilot countries in Africa for the development and implementation of second-generation NBSAPs that help integrate biodiversity into development strategies, and vice-versa.

35. UNESCO has continued to take an active role in CBD. The Director-General launched the UNESCO Biodiversity Initiative on 9 November 2011 with the purpose to address, in a holistic and integrated manner, all aspects relating to the conservation and sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity from the standpoint of the organization's mandate and its relevant programmes and activities as requested by the UNESCO Executive Board at its 185th session. The Initiative will provide the framework for UNESCO support towards the objectives of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (UNDB) and the Strategic Plan and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The launch took place in the context of events held at UNESCO to mark the launch of the UNDB 2011-2020. Collaboration between the Secretariat of CBD and UNESCO include their joint programme on biological and cultural diversity, welcomed by COP in its decision X/20 and reported below. The CBD Secretariat also serves on the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) for the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) to which UNESCO serves as coordinating body. In this capacity, the Secretariat participated in the 2011 Annual Meeting of the IAC at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, that comprised an interagency workshop on addressing biodiversity through ESD, held on 17 November, and the meeting of the IAC held on 18 November 2011. The CBD Secretariat also participated in an International Biodiversity Learning Workshop: Multiple Perspective Approaches to Biodiversity Education, held in Paris from 2-4 May 2012.

36. The United Nations Development Programme is developing a system-wide UNDP Ecosystems and Biodiversity Strategy under which their country offices will provide national-level support to the objectives of CBD and the Strategic Plan and support mainstreaming of biodiversity into multiple sectors and national development plans. UNDP and the CBD Secretariat are also collaborating in the framework of the Satoyama Initiative in a programme (the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Project) aimed to support local communities enhance resilience of production landscapes through biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities. Funded by the Secretariat-managed Japan Biodiversity Fund, the support is delivered to communities through the UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme. The CBD Secretariat and UNDP also continue to collaborate on the community-based UNDP-led Equator Initiative.

37. Cooperation between CBD and FAO is aided by a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat of CBD and FAO, renewed in 2005. Pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 of CBD decision X/34 and that of paragraphs 97, 98 and 99 of the report of the Twelfth Regular Session of the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under FAO, the CBD Secretariat and FAO have developed

the second phase (2011-2020) of the Joint Work Plan of the Secretariats of CBD, FAO and its CGRFA, presented for review by COP in information document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/33. Within their respective processes, the CBD Secretariat participated in the Thirteenth Regular Session of the CGRFA, held in Rome, from 18-22 July 2011. FAO participated in CBD COP-10, SBSTTA-15 and 16, WGRI-4 and ICNP-1 and 2. Cooperation between FAO and the CBD Secretariat focuses on the CBD programmes of work on agricultural biodiversity, forest biodiversity and marine and coastal biodiversity, and in the cross-cutting areas of invasive alien species (IAS), access and benefit sharing (ABS) and indicators. In September 2011, the Director General of FAO and the Executive Secretary of CBD co-signed the Memorandum of Cooperation on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In May 2012, the Executive Secretary met with the Director General of FAO, senior officials and members of the FAO Inter-Departmental Working Group on Biodiversity to discuss future cooperation.

38. In respect of agricultural biodiversity, in addition to the three international initiatives, cooperation covers multiple areas of work, including the conservation and use of genetic resources for food and agriculture, sustainable use of land, Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) and the Global Soil Partnership. A progress report of FAO on the implementation of the international pollinators initiative is provided as an information document (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/29). With regards to forest biodiversity, areas of cooperation have included the assessment and monitoring of forest biodiversity through the Forest Resources Assessment (FRA), including in the development of the 2015 release, and the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources; mainstreaming biodiversity in sustainable forest management; and sustainable use and management of wildlife, including bushmeat, for improved livelihood and food security of rural communities. Areas in which collaboration is under development include the REDD+ and biodiversity safeguards as part of sustainable forest management (SFM), and support to member countries in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol for forest species. With regards to inland waters biodiversity, cooperation between the CBD Secretariat and FAO on the issue of water is enhanced through their respective representations in UN-Water. The CBD Secretariat participated in a FAO Expert Workshop to Develop a Strategy for Assessing the State of Inland Capture Fishery Resources, held in Rome, from 7-9 December 2011.

39. In respect of marine and coastal biodiversity, pursuant to the request of COP (paragraph 53 of decision X/29), with financial support from the Governments of Norway and Japan, and in collaboration with FAO, UNEP and IUCN-CEM FEG, the CBD Secretariat convened a Joint Expert Meeting on Addressing Biodiversity Concerns in Sustainable Fisheries, hosted by the Government of Norway in Bergen, Norway, from 7-9 December 2011. A report on the progress of this collaboration was submitted to the sixteenth meeting of SBSTTA. FAO and CBD are now working jointly on workshops and the associated data collection programmes related to vulnerable marine ecosystems (VMEs) and to ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs). The first collaborative, back-to-back workshops on these topics took place in Flic en Flac, Mauritius in July 2012, where, with the financial support of the Government of Japan, the Southern Indian Ocean Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) was convened by the Executive Secretary from 30 July to 3 August 2012, immediately after the FAO Regional Workshop on Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems (VMEs) in the Indian Ocean. Taking into account the increased attention of Parties to the CBD on marine and coastal issues, including on fisheries management, the FAO Committee on Fisheries, at its thirtieth session held in Rome, from 9-13 July 2012, strongly encouraged further cooperation with the CBD Secretariat

40. With respect to invasive alien species, the CBD Secretariat cooperates with FAO, and in particular the FAO International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), through the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (see below) and the global invasive alien species information partnership. With respect to indicators, FAO continues to work on the development of indicators related to biodiversity for food and agriculture, integrating considerations of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. At its Fourteenth Regular Session, in April 2013, the CGRFA will consider a set of indicators to monitor the

implementation of the second Global Plan of Action on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the first Plan of Action on Animal Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and their contribution to Aichi Target 13. In respect of access and benefit-sharing, the Nagoya Protocol recognizes the special nature of genetic resources for food and agriculture. The CGRFA established an *Ad Hoc* Technical Working Group on Access and Benefit-sharing for Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The first session of the Working Group will be held in Longyearbyen (Svalbard), Norway from 11-13 September 2012. With regard to supporting implementation of the Strategic Plan, FAO participated in the Global Workshop on National Experiences in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, held in Brasilia, Brazil from 12-14 March 2012; contributed to the regional and subregional process; and contributed to updating the training module on subnational biodiversity planning. In September 2011, FAO wrote to all CBD National Focal Points inviting them to liaise with the several national sectoral focal points established by FAO, including when revising and updating their NBSAPs.

41. Pursuant to decision X/38, the Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species<sup>20</sup> met twice at the World Trade Organization in Geneva, Switzerland on 14-15 February 2011 (UNEP/CBD/LG-IAS/2/3) and 13 July 2012. In addition the Liaison Group provided information on the existing international standards and codes of conduct that can address invasive alien species to the CBD *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) meeting on addressing the risks associated with the introduction of alien species as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, and as live bait and live food, and contributed to preparing the report of the meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/INF/1). Other cooperative work on addressing invasive alien species included the following actions:

(a) The CBD Secretariat has participated in the International Plant Protection Convention Expert Working Group to develop International Standard for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM) on sea containers and provided comments on the draft ISPM to address invasive alien species introduced as contaminants of sea containers;

(b) The CBD Secretariat participated in the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Expert Meeting on Risk Assessment and Invasive Animal Species held in Paris, from 30 November to 1 December 2011. The outcome of the meeting, “Guidelines to Assessing the Risk of Non-native Animals Becoming Invasive” is published on the OIE website ([www.oie.int](http://www.oie.int));

(c) The Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF), in collaboration with IPPC and OIE, organized a seminar on international trade and invasive alien species in Geneva from 12-13 July 2012. The workshop was to develop capacity among members of WTO to implement the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures. The CBD Secretariat provided a presentation on the Convention on Biological Diversity and relevant decisions of COP, including the Guiding Principles for the implementation of Article 8(h) annexed to decision VI/23<sup>21</sup> and highlighted the importance of mainstreaming biodiversity in national measures for implementation of the SPS;

(d) With the financial support of the Government of Japan, the CBD Secretariat produced a draft document entitled “Considerations for implementing International Standards and Codes of Conduct

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<sup>20</sup> The Inter-agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species includes representatives of the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee (SPS) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) and the Standards Trade and Development Facility (STDF).

<sup>21</sup> One representative entered a formal objection during the process leading to the adoption of this decision and underlined that he did not believe that the Conference of the Parties could legitimately adopt a motion or a text with a formal objection in place. A few representatives expressed reservations regarding the procedure leading to the adoption of this decision (see UNEP/CBD/COP/6/20, paras. 294-324).

in National Invasive Species Strategies and Plans” that is intended to assist Parties to apply the existing international regulatory framework to address invasive alien species. The document incorporates information provided by FAO, the CITES Secretariat, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, OIE, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN);

(e) With the financial support of the European Union, the CBD Secretariat held a workshop on the development of a global invasive alien species information partnership in London, on 9-10 July 2012. The workshop produced an operational plan for the partnership and agreed on the development of an invasive alien species information gateway to assist Parties to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 9;

42. Pursuant to decision X/39, with financial support from the Government of Japan, in collaboration with relevant organizations and in the context of the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), the Secretariat organized subregional capacity-building workshops on taxonomy, taking into account that taxonomic capacity-needs relate largely to addressing invasive alien species, as follows:

(a) A regional workshop for Latin American countries on invasive alien species and taxonomy was held in collaboration with the FAO Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture, in Montreal, Canada on 12-13 November 2011 (the report is available as UNEP/CBD/WS-IAS-GTI/LA/1/INF/1);

(b) A subregional workshop for African countries to strengthen capacity for the CBD programmes of work relevant to invasive alien species was held in collaboration with IUCN, OIE, the National Museum of Kenya and ICIPE, in Nairobi, on 7-9 December 2011 (the report is available as UNEP/CBD/WS-CB-IAS-AFR/1/2);

(c) The GTI Sub-regional Capacity-building Workshop to Address Invasive Alien Species and to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in East and South East Asia was jointly organized with the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity in Bangkok, from 30 July to 1 August 2012 (the report is presented in document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/28).

#### ***F. Cooperation with the World Trade Organization and other economic and trade-related organizations***

43. Pursuant to paragraph 18 of decision X/20, the Executive Secretary renewed the Convention’s pending applications for observer status in relevant bodies of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and continued to liaise and cooperate closely with WTO. The Secretariat continued to follow discussions and negotiations in the relevant WTO committees, including by liaising with staff of the WTO Secretariat, and provided briefings to the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) on pertinent decisions of the Conference of the Parties and recent development under the Convention, including the Nagoya Protocol. The Secretariat holds observer status in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment in regular session and is invited, on a regular basis, to the formal meetings of the CTE in special (negotiating) session. Information submitted by the Secretariat of WTO on capacity-building activities undertaken by WTO, including information on technical assistance activities related to the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, was provided in an information document to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing at its second meeting, held from 2-6 July 2012 in New Delhi, (UNEP/CBD/ICNP/2/INF/4).

#### ***G. Cooperation on biodiversity and health***

44. In paragraph 17 of decision X/20, COP requested the Executive Secretary to further strengthen collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as other relevant organizations and initiatives, to promote the mainstreaming of biodiversity issues in health programmes and plans and to investigate how implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 can best support efforts

to address global health issues, including avenues for bridging gaps between work on the impacts of climate change on public health and the impacts of climate change on biodiversity.

45. In response to this request, the Secretariat of the Convention:

(a) Jointly organized a workshop on the inter-linkages between human health and biodiversity with WHO on 2 April 2012 in Geneva, at the WHO headquarters, with financial support from the Government of Japan. The objectives of the workshop were to: (i) share biodiversity and health knowledge; (ii) collaboratively examine common areas of work and potential joint work activities in the light of the respective mandates; and (iii) discuss challenges, ways to overcome barriers and establish future collaborative steps. All relevant documents can be accessed on the website for the meeting;<sup>22</sup>

(b) Participated as a Core Affiliate, in June 2011, at the launch of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife and Ecosystem Health (co-convened by FAO and the Convention on Migratory Species) and subsequently contributing to communication materials and Task Force decisions;

(c) Delivered presentations on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and linkages to global health issues at (i) the United Nations China One Health Event, in June 2011; (ii) the ICLEI Liveable Cities Forum in August 2011 (iii) the Healthy by Nature Forum co-organised by British Columbia Parks/Healthy Families, in September 2011 and iv) Planet under Pressure Conference, London in March 2012;

(d) Is collaborating with a range of organizations and initiatives in compiling and disseminating relevant information on the inter-linkages between biodiversity and human health, and between healthy ecosystems and healthy people including a CBD Technical Series, CBD Good Practice Guide and updated CBD website content. In particular, the Secretariat is working with the WHO headquarters in Geneva, WHO Regional Offices, IUCN, OIE, UNEP, FAO, DIVERSITAS, Center for Health and the Global Environment at Harvard Medical School, EcoHealth Alliance, the COHAB INITIATIVE (Cooperation on Health and Biodiversity) and the International Association for Ecology and Health (eco-health);

(e) Is collaborating with WHO Headquarters and the regional WHO office for the Americas (PAHO), along with key regional partners, to plan, jointly deliver and continue to support capacity-building and implementation activities that aim for human health and biodiversity co-benefits with Ministries responsible for the environment/biodiversity and for health. A workshop for the Americas is confirmed for September 2012 and workshops are in planning stage with relevant WHO regional offices and partners for other regions in 2013;

46. Bearing in mind that the Convention on Biological Diversity and its implementation are of fundamental importance to the key international agreements on health and that a major challenge is getting the health sector to recognize the value of biodiversity and to translate that into national health strategies, the Secretariat is working closely with WHO to highlight policy linkages and connect the aims of CBD with the aims of health policies. A WHO-led Discussion Paper was co-authored by the Secretariats of the three Rio conventions and released by WHO at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, Rio+20) with the title “Our Planet, Our Health, Our Future”.<sup>23</sup>

47. In addition, the Secretariat also contributed to the following publications on biodiversity and health inter-linkages: (i) a chapter in the book from the Symposium on Sustainable Diets which took place in Rome, from 3 to 5 November 2011, with FAO and Biodiversity International; (ii) an article titled “The relationship between water, health and global environmental change, as interpreted through five key

<sup>22</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WSHB-01>

<sup>23</sup> Available at: [http://www.who.int/globalchange/publications/reports/health\\_rioconventions.pdf](http://www.who.int/globalchange/publications/reports/health_rioconventions.pdf)

Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)” in the journal *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability* (COSUST); (iii) the Editorial for the May 2012 edition of the *Eco-Health* journal, in collaboration with WHO, DIVERSITAS, EcoHealth Alliance and IUCN Species Survival Commission.

48. The report on collaborative work on biodiversity and health prepared for SBSTTA-16 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/16/INF/34) contains further information that is relevant to this agenda item, including the inter-linkages between human health and biodiversity, in the context of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. Further information regarding the Regional Capacity-building Workshops held in September 2012 and other relevant collaborative and biodiversity mainstreaming activities with the health sector are contained in the information document prepared for the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties in information document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/27.

49. The Executive Secretary gratefully acknowledges the secondment of a Programme Officer provided by the State Government of Victoria (Parks Victoria, Australia) for the period from October 2010 to November 2012 to support the Secretariat in particular regarding biodiversity and human health activities.

#### *H. Cooperation on the linkages between biodiversity and cultural diversity*

50. In paragraph 16 of decision X/20, COP welcomed the joint programme of work between UNESCO and the Secretariat of CBD as a useful coordination mechanism to advance the implementation of the Convention and deepen global awareness of the inter-linkages between cultural and biological diversity and invited Parties and other relevant stakeholders to contribute to and support the implementation of this joint programme.

51. Further to this, the Executive Secretary of CBD and the Assistant Director-General for Natural Sciences of UNESCO jointly established an informal Liaison Group on Biological and Cultural Diversity composed of experts working on biological and cultural diversity issues, along with funders and potential donors. The main objective of the liaison group is to provide technical advice in view of assisting the Secretariats of the CBD and UNESCO in advancing the joint programme, assessing the progress made and providing guidance for next steps.

52. Thanks to the generous contribution from the Government of Japan, the first meeting of the Liaison Group on Biological and Cultural Diversity took place at the UNESCO Liaison Office in New York on 28 and 29 April 2012. The liaison group discussion highlighted the importance of the links between biological and cultural diversity in building resilience of complex socio-ecological systems; valuing bio-cultural landscapes and associated heritage and increasing their productivity; promoting sustainable customary use of biodiversity; and assessing environmental knowledge by building bridges between traditional and scientific knowledge systems.

53. Acknowledging the increasing number of international, national and local initiatives on the interface between biological and cultural diversity, as well as the growing number of examples, case-studies, reports and other resources in this area, the liaison group recommended focusing the efforts of the joint programme on the following:

(a) Documenting and raising awareness of the value added from the integration of the links between biological and cultural diversity in the achievement of the Aichi Targets, the implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the interlinked provisions of UNESCO’s conventions dealing with cultural diversity;

(b) Compiling relevant existing resources and communicating good examples and success stories;

- (c) Strengthening the dialogue between policy makers, experts, practitioners, local communities and indigenous peoples on the links between biological and cultural diversity;
- (d) Providing decision- and policy-makers with better tools to integrate the links between biological and cultural diversity in the design and implementation of strategies addressing sustainable development and key environmental, social and economic challenges, and;
- (e) Fostering the creation of a Global Partnership for Biological and Cultural Diversity.

54. Based on this, and subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat of the Convention and UNESCO, along with a number of partners, including other United Nations organizations, NGOs and academia, are currently developing a number of communication and awareness raising tools, including an issues series on the links between biological and cultural diversity and an online Global Knowledge Platform designed to provide policymakers with resources, examples and tools to integrate the links between biological and cultural diversity in the design and implementation of strategies and policies addressing the erosion and loss of biological and cultural diversity. The results of the liaison group meeting and the cooperation between CBD and UNESCO were also brought to the attention of the 36<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee (St. Petersburg 24 June to 6 July 2012).

### **III ENHANCING COORDINATION, COHERENCE AND NATIONAL-LEVEL SYNERGIES AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS**

55. The importance of strengthening coherence and synergy of implementation among the multilateral environmental agreements (MEA), including the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, have been noted by numerous intergovernmental processes and bodies, and the dialogue has been ongoing for a number of years: the establishment of the JLG in 2001, for example, was one response. Recent acknowledgement of the need for enhancing synergy and cooperation is summarized in the following paragraphs.

56. The Conference of the Parties to CBD, at its tenth meeting in decision X/20, *inter alia*, requested “the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation at its fourth meeting to, in order to increase the involvement of Parties in the work of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions, determine the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national level synergies among the biodiversity conventions”.

57. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council, at its twelfth special session, held in Nairobi from 20-22 February 2012, in decision SS 12/3 on international environmental governance, recognized the importance of enhancing synergies, including at the national and regional levels, among the biodiversity-related conventions, without prejudice to their specific objectives and recognizing their respective mandates, and encouraged the conferences of the parties to those conventions to strengthen efforts further in that regard, taking into account relevant experiences. It invited the Executive Director to undertake, as appropriate, further activities to improve the effectiveness of and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements, taking into account the autonomous decision-making authority of the conferences of the parties. And it requested the Executive Director to explore the opportunities for further synergies in the administrative functions of the multilateral environmental agreement secretariats administered by UNEP and to provide advice on such opportunities to the governing bodies of those multilateral environmental agreements.

58. The United Nations General Assembly, at its sixty-fifth session, in its resolution 65/161 on the Convention on Biological Diversity, noted the ongoing work of the JLG and of the BLG and acknowledged the importance of improving coherence in the implementation of the Rio conventions. It further recognized “the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions,



without prejudice to their specific objectives”, and encouraged “the conferences of the parties to the biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements to consider strengthening efforts in this regard, taking into account relevant experiences and bearing in mind the respective independent legal status and mandates of these instruments” (A/RES/65/161).

59. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) recognized “the significant contributions to sustainable development made by the multilateral environmental agreements”. Acknowledging “the work already undertaken to enhance synergies among the three conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster (the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants)”, it encouraged “parties to multilateral environmental agreements to consider further measures, in these and other clusters, as appropriate, to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination and cooperation among the multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field”. (Paragraph 89 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”).

60. In response to the request of COP, at its fourth meeting the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention invited the views of Parties by 30 June 2012, regarding the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and requested the Executive Secretary to compile these views and prepare options to enhance coordination, coherence, and national level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh meeting (WGRI 4 Recommendation 4/6). It further recommended that COP, at its eleventh meeting, adopt a decision requesting the Executive Secretary, in consultation with other convention secretariats, to draft suggestions to COP for increasing the involvement of Parties in the work of the BLG and the JLG.

61. In response to Notification 2012-094 seeking views of Parties, submissions were received from Canada, the European Union and Grenada. Responses are compiled in information document UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/31. In light of the limited number of submissions received, further and more comprehensive consultation among CBD Parties would be one element to establish a process for enhanced coordination. Nonetheless a summary of the views and observations provided is presented below.

62. Canada noted that in any process to enhance coordination, cooperation and synergies, the independence of each of the conventions should be respected. Canada noted that the ultimate goal of any related process should be to promote synergies that result in greater coordination, efficiencies, and better results. Canada proposed that such process should also explore how to advance work that achieves the objectives of multiple conventions, including through joint work programmes and meetings between scientific advisory bodies and provided as examples of such an approach, the joint work programme of CBD and the Ramsar Convention and work undertaken to ensure that biodiversity benefits from measures taken to address climate change, such as REDD+. Canada noted the importance of cooperation not only among the conventions, but also with relevant organizations and bodies, including the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), IUCN and United Nations entities. In Canada’s view, mechanisms and bodies to advance collaboration among conventions and organizations are already in place, such as the BLG, and there is no need for the creation of new structures.

63. Canada also noted that any process to enhance synergies should also encourage coordination domestically. In this respect, they noted the benefits of regular interaction of the national focal points of the various biodiversity-related conventions and having frameworks in place to ensure appropriate

interdepartmental engagement. To this end, Canada provided the example of its Biodiversity Outcomes Framework, developed further to its national biodiversity strategy and approved by Ministers responsible for Environment, Forests, Parks, Fisheries and Aquaculture, and Wildlife. They also provided example of Canada's interdepartmental approach to assignment of responsibilities and to coordination at federal level, as well as coordination with provincial and territorial governments.

64. The EU and its Member States are of the view that the call made by UNCSD for enhancing synergies by clustering MEAs (referring to paragraph 89 of the outcome document, noted above) needs to be fully reflected in the decision on the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national level synergies among biodiversity-related conventions; and that the enhancement of synergies should be seen in the overall framework of strengthening international environmental governance as also reaffirmed at UNCSD.

65. The EU and its Member States noted the opportunity provided by the establishment of the IPBES to open new areas for synergy and collaboration in the science-policy fields related to biodiversity and ecosystem services. They also noted that the revision and updating of NBSAPs provide unique opportunity for enhanced cooperation at national level between focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and with all relevant sectors to promote implementation of CBD and the Strategic Plan. They noted that this could lead to more cost-effective action through better mainstreaming of biodiversity in relevant sectors as well as through allocating resources for NBSAP preparation and implementation in a way that it not only benefits CBD but also the implementation of other relevant biodiversity-related conventions. They noted that while harmonization of reporting is difficult due to differences among the conventions in the nature of reporting requirements and cycles, cooperation between national focal points and integration of national biodiversity-related information could lead to more harmonized implementation that, in turn, could ease the burden of reporting to each of the conventions.

66. Grenada provided the view that a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions should include the following components: undertaking joint activities of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions, including expert meetings and workshops; harmonization of programmes of work; establishing a network of liaison persons under each of the focal areas of the conventions; biennial meetings of the conventions; involving focal points from other conventions in the respective meetings of the conventions; establishing a database for all documents related to the conventions or linking existing databases and; dissemination of notifications to focal points of other conventions when applicable.

67. In considering approaches to enhance coordination and synergies, it is worth recalling that UNEP-WCMC has conducted a number of studies related to cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, including harmonized reporting, and in 2012 concluded a report commissioned by the Ministry of Environment of Finland on, "Promoting synergies within the cluster of biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements". This report follows on from other work on synergies undertaken by the Ministry of Environment of Finland and Nordic entities that include a symposium organized by the Ministry in Helsinki in April 2010 on "Synergies in the Biodiversity Cluster"; and a study undertaken for the Nordic Council of Ministers on "Possibilities of enhancing co-operation and co-ordination among MEAs in the biodiversity cluster".

68. In addition, the work and process undertaken to enhance synergies among the three conventions in the chemicals and waste cluster, may also provide valuable background and experience to draw upon when considering options for the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national-level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions .

69. The following elements would contribute to the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national-level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions:

(a) Utilizing and enhancing the existing mechanisms including BLG, JLG, CSAB, EMG and its IMG, and the international organizations involved in technical support and collaboration, including the United Nations Environment Programme that provides the secretariat to three of the biodiversity-related conventions.

(b) The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets providing an overall structure and objectives for common and coordinated action;

(c) The national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAP) providing a concrete framework at national level for building coherence and synergy in planning and implementing the biodiversity-related conventions. And the ongoing development, revision and implementation providing an opportunity and mechanism to ensure involvement and collaboration of all relevant stakeholders and bodies related to each of the conventions;

(d) The Ecosystems and Biodiversity Strategy being prepared by the United Nations Development Programme that provides opportunity as a mechanism to support national-level implementation and mainstreaming of biodiversity into all relevant social and economic sectors and into national development planning processes and frameworks in all countries supported by UNDP;

(e) The IPBES, providing opportunity to strengthen synergy and cooperation among the conventions at the interface of science and policy related to biodiversity and ecosystem services;

(f) The United Nations Decade on Biodiversity as a framework for strengthened joint outreach and communications among the biodiversity-related conventions to strengthen understanding and coherence of their common objectives, as well as their individually unique mandates.

#### **IV. DRAFT DECISION ELEMENTS RELATED TO COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS: THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS AND THE RIO CONVENTIONS**

70. Draft decisions on this agenda item for the consideration of the Conference of Parties have been prepared by WGRI and SBSTTA, and are available in the compilation of decisions (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/1/Add.2). They include:

(a) WGRI recommendation 4/6 on Cooperation with other conventions: the biodiversity-related conventions and the Rio conventions (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/4);

(b) SBSTTA recommendation XV/7, on Arctic biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/2);

(c) SBSTTA recommendation XVI/15 on collaborative work on biodiversity and agriculture, forests, and biodiversity and health (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/3);

71. In addition, the Executive Secretary proposed the following additional elements of a draft decision:

*The Conference of the Parties,*

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation of all United Nations agencies and specialized agencies, specifically, UNEP, UNDP, FAO, WHO, UNESCO in supporting the Parties to implement the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and encourages them to continue mainstreaming the Plan in their programs and priorities;

2. *Takes note* of the First Meeting of the Informal Liaison Group on Biological and Cultural Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/INF/11);

3. *Welcomes* further steps to explore, document and raise awareness of the value added from incorporating the links between biological and cultural diversity in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and;

4. *Invites* Parties and other relevant stakeholders to contribute and support the implementation of this work.

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