



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/PREP-COP/2016/1/2
3 December 2016

ENGLISH ONLY

REPORT OF THE ASIA REGIONAL JOINT PREPARATORY MEETING FOR THE SEVENTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA AND THE THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE ASSOCIATED MEETINGS OF THE PARTIES TO THE PROTOCOLS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY, BANGKOK, 1-5 AUGUST 2016

1. In line with decisions XII/6 on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives, and XII/29 on improving the efficiency of structures and processes under the Convention, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) jointly implemented, together with the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), a project entitled: “Strengthening the capacity of developing countries in multilateral environmental decision-making: enhancing preparations for CITES CoP 17 and CBD COP 13”.
2. The project, initiated by the CITES Secretariat and funded by the European Union, comprised four regional joint preparatory meetings for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP 17) and the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 13) and the associated meetings of the Parties to the Protocols on Biosafety (COP-MOP 8) and on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing (COP-MOP 2). The meetings were held for Asia, Africa, the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. The report adopted by the regional preparatory meeting for Asia, held in Bangkok, from 1 to 5 August 2016, is presented herewith.

REPORT OF THE REGIONAL JOINT PREPARATORY MEETING

INTRODUCTION

1. The Asia regional joint preparatory meeting for the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP 17) and the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 13) and the associated meetings of the Parties to the Protocols of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-MOP 8 and COP-MOP 2) was held at the United Nations Conference Centre of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok, from 1 to 5 August 2016. The meeting was convened to assist Parties to the conventions from the region in preparing for the respective meetings of the CoP/COP and COP-MOPs that would be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 24 September to 5 October 2016 and in Cancun, Mexico, from 4 to 17 December 2016.

2. The meeting was made possible with the generous financial contribution by the European Union and the organizational support provided by the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and the Regional Office for West Asia. Representatives of the following countries participated in the meeting: Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. Representatives of the following organizations also participated in the meeting: United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The Asia regional joint preparatory meeting for CITES CoP 17 and CBD COP 13, COP-MOP 8 and COP-MOP 2 opened at 9 a.m. on Monday, 1 August 2016. At the opening session, representatives of the Government of Thailand, the European Union and the United Nations Environment Programme in its capacity as the host of the meeting, made welcoming statements. Representatives of the Secretariats of CITES and CBD also addressed the meeting and highlighted the main issues before the meeting. A recorded video message of the Secretary General of CITES was projected.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

4. The meeting elected Ms. Zhou Zhihua (China) serve as the co-Chair of the meeting for CITES and Mr. Suho Seong (Republic of Korea) to serve as the co-Chair of the meeting for CBD. Mr. Wahito Yamada (Japan) and Ms. Shereefa Al-Salem (Kuwait), who are also regional members of the CITES Standing Committee, acted as co-Chairs of the CITES segment of the meeting.

5. The meeting adopted its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/CITES/PREP-COP/2016/1/1) and decided to organize its work in accordance with the proposal for the organization of work for the meeting as contained in annex I to the annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/PREP-COP/2016/1/1/Add.1).

6. In accordance with agenda item 3.1, the representative of the CITES Secretariat briefed the meeting on the organization of CITES CoP 17. In accordance with agenda item 4.1, representatives of the CBD Secretariat briefed the meeting on the organization of COP 13, COP-MOP 8 and COP-MOP 2, including on the proposed arrangements for the concurrent holding of the meetings of COP 13, COP-MOP 8 and COP-MOP 2 in a two-week period in accordance with CBD COP decision XII/27.

7. The meeting then divided into two working groups, one that addressed matters of CITES CoP 17 and another that addressed matters of CBD COP 13, COP-MOP 8 and COP-MOP 2.

ITEM 3. CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA

8. Under this item, the meeting addressed matters on the agenda of CITES CoP 17 as provided in the provisional agenda of CoP 17 (CoP17 Doc. 2). During the afternoon session of the first day of the meeting, participants considered and agreed on the items of the CoP 17 agenda to address during the remainder of the regional preparatory meeting on the basis of proposed areas of attention submitted by Parties in response to Notifications 2016-077 and 2016-084 contained in annex III to the annotated agenda of the meeting and items identified by the Secretariat as needing particular attention.

9. The CoP 17 agenda items and proposals for amendment to Appendices I and II that were covered at this meeting were chosen by the Parties participating in the meeting through a consultative process. Some of the topics were “clustered” together so that documents dealing with related issues would be presented on the same day. The following documents were covered:

| Document | Issue | Presenter(s) |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Doc.4 | Adoption of the Rules of Procedure | China |
| Doc.7.1, 7.3, 7.4 | Administration, finance and budget of the Secretariat | Japan |
| Doc.8 | Sponsored delegates project | Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of) |
| Doc.10 | Committee reports and recommendations (election of new regional and alternate regional members) | Japan, Kuwait |
| Doc.13 | Rural Communities Committee | Thailand |
| Doc.15 | Capacity building | Maldives, Nepal |
| Doc.24 | National Ivory Action Plans | Sri Lanka |
| Doc.26 | Illegal international trade in wildlife | Bhutan |
| Doc.27 | Actions to combat wildlife trafficking | Bangladesh, Japan |
| Doc.43 | Review of the definition of ‘artificially propagated’ for plants | China |
| Doc.49 | Illegal trade in cheetahs | Kuwait |
| Doc.53 | Agarwood-producing taxa (<i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp.) | Kuwait |
| Doc.57.2 | Closure of domestic markets for elephant ivory | Japan |
| Doc.59 | Hawksbill turtle | Iran |
| Doc.64 | Pangolins | Philippines |
| Doc.66 | Tibetan antelope: enforcement measures | Kuwait |
| Doc.69 | Illegal trade in the helmeted hornbill | Indonesia |
| Prop.10 | <i>Manis culionensis</i> (Philippine pangolin) | Philippines |
| Prop.17 | <i>Falco peregrinus</i> (Peregrine falcon) | Kuwait |
| Prop.19 | <i>Psittacus erithacus</i> (African grey parrot) | Kuwait |
| Prop.33 | <i>Shinisaurus crocodilurus</i> (Chinese crocodile lizard) | China |
| Prop.36 | <i>Cyclanorbis elegans</i> , <i>C. aubryi</i> , <i>C. frenatum</i> , <i>C. triunguis</i> , <i>C. euphraticus</i> (flapshell turtles) | Iran (Islamic Republic of) |
| Prop.41 | <i>Paramesotriton hongkongensis</i> (Hong Kong warty newt) | China |
| Prop.42 | <i>Carcharhinus falciformis</i> (Silky shark) | Maldives |
| Prop.43 | <i>Alopias</i> spp. (Thresher sharks) | Sri Lanka |
| Prop.44 | <i>Mobula</i> spp. (Devil rays) | Sri Lanka |
| Prop.53 | <i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i> (Siamese rosewood) | Thailand |
| Prop. 55 | <i>Dalbergia</i> spp. (Rosewoods, Palisanders) | Thailand |
| Prop.60 | <i>Aquilaria</i> spp. and <i>Gyrinops</i> spp. (Agarwood) | Kuwait |

10. For each agenda item or proposal, the Party (or Parties) that acted as the presenter(s) gave a brief summary, noting the background of the issue as well as the key discussion points of the relevant document, and also provided views on the possible consequences of adopting or rejecting the proposed actions (Resolution/Decision/Proposal), if any. After each presentation, Parties shared relevant information and exchanged views on the issue(s) covered by the document or the proposal. For further capacity-building purposes, the participants felt that continued information sharing in the region would be useful outside the meeting, for example on national CITES legislation (in particular on fines and penalties imposed).

11. As a background to the CITES session, the CITES Secretariat gave a presentation on the general overview of the CITES CoP 17 agenda items as well as the decision-making process, and on the listing criteria for CITES Appendices I and II. Furthermore, the representative of FAO gave a presentation on the report of the Fifth Expert Advisory Panel of FAO for the assessment of proposals to amend appendices I and II of CITES concerning commercially exploited aquatic species.

12. On the Sponsored Delegates Project (Doc. 8), the participants expressed strong support for the establishment of an improved mechanism for ensuring that all Parties in need of financial assistance could attend meetings of the CoP. In particular, there were a number of Parties in the Asian region that might have socioeconomic and political situations which needed to be taken into account. Furthermore, the co-Chairs expressed their concern regarding the memorandum sent to a number of Parties, including 12 Asian Parties, regarding the possible unavailability of funds to support their participation at CoP 17, which would likely result in their absence from the meeting. The participants agreed that an official communication would be sent from Kuwait (on behalf of the SC members) to the Secretariat to express their concern and to request the Secretariat to give additional consideration to providing those Parties with the opportunity to attend CoP 17. An intervention by an SC member would also be made at CoP 17 on behalf of the Asian region on the matter.

13. On the election of new regional and alternate regional members (Doc. 10, *Committee reports and recommendations*), the participants were reminded that there were a number of members of the Standing Committee (SC), the Animals Committee (AC) and the Plants Committee (PC) whose terms would end at CoP 17, and that new members would need to be elected. A particular call was made to nominate candidates for the Animals Committee, which currently did not have enough candidates to fill the posts that would become vacant, noting the guidelines for the election of representatives in the Animals and Plants Committees as laid out in Resolution Conf. 11.1 (Rev. CoP16).

14. In order to facilitate the selection process, the following schedule of the regional meetings at CoP 17 was suggested:

(a) During the meeting of Parties on a regional basis (Sunday, 25 September 2016, at 9 a.m. – 12 noon), the candidates for SC, AC, and PC will be reviewed and discussed. At this time any new candidatures may be announced;

(b) On Sunday, 4 October 2016, from 8 to 9 a.m., a meeting of the Asian Parties will take place in order to hold the elections for the new members of SC, AC and PC.

15. In addition to the above, the Parties requested the Secretariat to secure a meeting room for the Asian region every morning from 8 to 9 a.m. for the entire duration of CoP 17 so as to allow the representatives from the region to meet on a regional or subregional basis to discuss relevant issues.

16. Parties considered that this meeting was important for the region to share information and exchange opinions before CoP 17, and encouraged the organization of a similar meeting before each CoP.

ITEM 4. CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND THE PROTOCOLS TO THE CONVENTION

17. Under this item, the meeting considered matters of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols to be addressed by COP 13, COP-MOP 8 of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and COP-MOP 2 of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, with reference to the provisional

agendas of those meetings in (UNEP/CBD/COP/13/1, UNEP/CBD/BS/MOP/8/1 and UNEP/CBD/ABS/MOP/2/1, respectively). During the afternoon session of the first day of the meeting, participants considered and agreed on the agenda items of the three meetings that they would address during the remainder of the regional preparatory meeting. Those items were selected taking into account areas of attention proposed by Parties in response to CBD Notifications 2016-077 and 2016-084 and presented in annex III to the annotated agenda of the meeting, as well as items that were identified by the Secretariat as needing particular attention. The items selected are listed in the table below in the order in which they were taken up by the meeting.

| Agenda Item | Issue |
|--------------------|--|
| All | Nagoya Protocol COP-MOP 2 |
| All | Cartagena Protocol COP-MOP 8 |
| | CBD COP 13 |
| 11 | Resource mobilization and financial mechanism. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resource mobilization, including the resource mobilization targets (SBI 1/6) - Guidance to the financial mechanism (to be developed on basis of SBI 1/7(5)) - GEF 7 needs-assessment questionnaire - Financial Reporting Framework |
| 12 | Other means of implementation: enhancement of capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation and other initiatives to assist implementation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets |
| 19 | Guidelines for the sixth national reports, modalities for future editions of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and indicators. |
| 9 | Interim review of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and related means of implementation. |
| 10 | Strategic actions to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including with respect to mainstreaming and the integration of biodiversity within and across sectors |
| 15 | Marine and coastal biodiversity: ecologically or biologically significant marine areas; specific work plan on biodiversity and acidification in cold-water areas; addressing impacts of marine debris and anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity; and marine spatial planning and training initiatives |
| 17 | Other scientific and technical issues, including synthetic biology, implications of the assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services on pollinators, and sustainable wildlife management |

18. The items listed above were addressed, in sequence, on the second day, the fourth day and the morning of the fifth day of the meeting. Prior to the consideration of each of the items, a representative of the CBD Secretariat made an introductory presentation, highlighting, as applicable, the main issues under the different sub-items and the outcomes of the relevant intersessional processes and related documents. For consideration of item 11, one of the five members of the expert team preparing an assessment of the funds needed for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund (GEF 7), gave a presentation on the aims and methodology of the assessment exercise. The discussions on several the items were chaired by different country representatives.

19. Discussions on most of the above items of the COP 13 agenda focussed on the respective draft decisions recommended by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 1) at its first meeting and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its nineteenth and twentieth meetings (SBSTTA 19 and SBSTTA 20). Some participants noted that a number of countries in the region had been unable to send delegates to the meetings of the subsidiary bodies because of lack of funding and may therefore wish to contribute their views on the draft decisions at COP 13. They noted the importance

of financial support to ensure the full and effective participation of all Parties in the meetings of the subsidiary bodies as well as those of the COP.

20. With regard to item 11, participants had a detailed discussion on the processes for completing the financial reporting framework and the GEF 7 needs-assessment questionnaire and underlined the need for all countries that had not yet done so to make their submissions in time prior to COP 13. Some participants described difficulties that their countries had experienced in seeking to access GEF funding.

21. With respect to item 12, the participants considered the draft revised short-term action plan on capacity-building prepared by the Secretariat and separated into four groups to discuss and prioritize the activities listed in the annex of the document from the perspective of the needs of the Asian region. Each of the discussion groups briefed the meeting on the priorities that they had identified and provided the Secretariat with a tabulation of their work. The Secretariat informed the participants that the priorities identified would be taken into account together with the priorities of other regions in the preparation of a revised short-term action plan that would be submitted to COP 13.

22. With respect to item 19, the participants discussed the guidelines for the sixth national report, its relation to the fifth national report, in particular on issues in which there had been no change in status, online reporting, and the benefits that could be gained from a common reporting format for the Convention and its Protocols.

23. Some participants raised concern about the representation of the Nagoya Protocol and the Cartagena Protocol at the upcoming meetings of the COP-MOPs, noting that, currently, only the CBD national focal points from developing country Parties had received invitations from the Secretariat to nominate one delegate to be considered for funding support. They requested that representatives to both Protocols be funded also in order to participate in the meetings of the respective COP-MOPs.

24. In a session closed to Parties, the meeting also had preliminary discussions on COP 13 agenda item 3 – Election of officers. Participants reviewed the mandate and functioning of the COP Bureau and the rules of procedures regarding the election of members to the Bureau, including alternate members in the event that any of the elected Bureau members is not a Party to one or both Protocols.

ITEM 5. SYNERGIES AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS, WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON CITES AND CBD

25. On the third day, the meeting convened in plenary and considered synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. In particular, this included the consideration of issues of common interest to CBD and CITES being addressed both by CITES CoP 17 and CBD COP 13; enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, including work undertaken in response to CBD COP decision XII/6; and tools to support Parties in the synergistic implementation of the conventions.

26. Introductory presentations were made by the CITES Secretariat on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions under CITES and by the CBD Secretariat on the intersessional work conducted in response to CBD decision XII/6 on options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions that would be considered at COP 13, based on the outcomes of the workshop on enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions held in Geneva in February 2016. Parties were encouraged to prepare their inputs to the upcoming intersessional work on synergies under CBD.

27. A representative of UNEP gave a presentation on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, including a brief summary of the outcomes of the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) with reference to synergies, options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions and examples of existing international and regional mechanisms and initiatives on synergies. Another representative of UNEP gave a presentation on existing guidance and tools to assist in promoting synergies among the conventions at the national, regional and global levels, including the online system, InforMEA, of the multilateral environmental agreement information and knowledge management initiative. A representative of the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

gave a presentation on the UNEP sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national and regional levels.

28. A representative of the CMS Secretariat reported on initiatives and experiences of CMS in advancing synergies between CMS and other biodiversity-related conventions. UNEP, on behalf of the Ramsar Convention Secretariat, presented Ramsar's perspective on synergies and presented the World Heritage Convention (WHC) decisions on synergies among multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity.

29. Participants discussed issues related to synergistic implementation of biodiversity-related conventions and shared examples of relevant ongoing initiatives and challenges, including coordination across offices, at the local, national and regional levels. In the afternoon of the third day, participants divided into four discussion groups which focussed on issues that would be addressed under CITES CoP 17 and CBD COP 13, as follows:

- (a) Coordination and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions at the national and international levels;
- (b) Resource mobilization, including access to GEF support;
- (c) Indigenous peoples and local communities, including matters concerning community-based resource management and rural livelihoods;
- (d) Sustainable wildlife management and bushmeat.

30. The discussion groups considered elements in common between the relevant agenda items of the respective COPs, how the topics are addressed differently under the two conventions, and possibilities for bringing their approaches closer together for their mutual benefit. They reported the results of their discussions to the plenary.

ITEM 6. SYNTHESIS AND CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

31. In the afternoon of the fifth day, the meeting reconvened in plenary. The participants considered and adopted the report of the meeting and requested the Secretariat to incorporate the proceedings of the last day and other key points that had not been captured in the draft report. The present report has been finalized on that basis.

32. Following closing remarks by representatives of the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in its capacity as the host of the meeting and the representatives of the CITES and CBD Secretariats, the co-Chairs declared the meeting closed at 5 p.m. on Friday, 5 August 2016.
