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**AD HOC OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP
ON REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE CONVENTION**

Fourth meeting
Montreal, 7-11 May 2012

**COOPERATION WITH OTHER CONVENTIONS: SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION ON
WORKING ARRANGEMENTS**

This document presents working frameworks referenced in UNEP/CBD/WG-RI/4/8, as follows:

The Modus Operandi for the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions adopted by the executive heads of the secretariats of the six biodiversity-related conventions at the Second Retreat of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions held in at Chateau de Bossey on 4 September 2011;

A proposed terms of reference and *modus operandi* for the Joint Liaison Group between the three Rio Conventions prepared by the Executive Secretary of the CBD for consideration by the JLG;

The Joint Work Plan for the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) for the period 2012-2014 as reviewed in document UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.36 and welcomed by the Conference of the Parties to the CMS by Resolution 10.21 (UNEP/CMS/Res.10.21).

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1. MODUS OPERANDI FOR THE LIAISON GROUP OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS (BLG) ADOPTED BY THE BLG ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2011

The text of the *Modus Operandi* for the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions adopted and signed by the executive heads of the secretariats of the six biodiversity-related conventions at the Second Retreat of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions held in at Chateau de Bossey on 4 September 2011 is presented below. An electronic copy of the signed document is available at: <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/doc/blg-modus-operandi-en.pdf>.

Modus Operandi for the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions

Introduction

The six secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions currently comprising the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) are:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- 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 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar);
- The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC); and
- The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

Mandate

The mandate for establishing the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions was set out by the Parties to the CBD, in decision VII/26 (paragraphs 1 and 2) which states that:

“Recognizing the role of the Joint Liaison Group in supporting cooperation between the Rio conventions, and the role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in enhancing cooperation and coordination on Forest issues, where the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is the focal agency on forest biodiversity and traditional forest-related knowledge,

- 1. Urges further enhanced cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and all relevant international conventions, organizations and bodies, strengthening and building on existing cooperative arrangements to enhance synergies and reduce inefficiencies in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programs, within existing resources;*

2. *Requests in this context, the Executive Secretary, to invite the secretariats of the other four biodiversity conventions (CITES, Ramsar, CMS and World Heritage Convention¹) to form a liaison group to enhance coherence and cooperation in their implementation, and to report on progress made to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;”*

This mandate has been further supported by several follow up decisions of the governing bodies of the member secretariats, namely:

- CBD Decisions VIII/16, IX/27 and X/20 (excerpts are given below);
- CITES Resolutions 10.4 and 14.2;
- CMS Resolutions 8.11 and 9.6;
- Ramsar Resolutions IX.5; X.1 and X.11;
- World Heritage Convention Decisions 30 COM 6 and 33 COM 5C; and
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT/GB-1/06/Report and Resolution 8/2011)

Through CBD COP decision IX/27 (paragraphs 3 and 4) the Conference of the Parties to the CBD underlined the important role of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, encouraged more regular meetings and invited the Group to identify options for improved implementation of and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions. CBD COP decision X/20 then sought a strengthening of the effectiveness of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, enhanced cooperation and a coherent approach on cross-cutting issues, paragraphs 4, 8 and 9 state that:

“4. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the executive heads of the other biodiversity-related conventions, proposals on ways to strengthen the effectiveness of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, its relevance to the needs of Parties, and its linkages to the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio conventions;

8. Invites the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue giving consideration to the harmonization of national reporting and, in this context, welcomes the progress made in the GEF Project on Facilitating National Reporting to Rio Conventions (FNR-Rio), as well as the project to streamline reporting by Pacific island countries to the biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements;

9. Invites the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to address at their future meetings options for enhanced cooperation, inter alia, with regard to work on cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, scientific criteria for the identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas in need of protection, and invasive alien species, in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes of work and with a view to developing a coherent approach on these matters;”

Guiding Principles

¹ ITPGRFA joined the BLG at its 5th meeting in September 2006

The following principles guide the work of the BLG:

Principle 1: The BLG is a platform to exchange information and to enhance implementation at the national level of the objectives of each respective convention whilst also promoting synergies at the national level.

Principle 2: The BLG recognises the distinct and specific objectives of each convention and their different Parties, as well as the individual mandates and independent status of their treaty bodies and Secretariats.

Principle 3: The aim should be to maximise effectiveness and efficiency and avoid duplication of effort in joint activities of BLG members.

Principle 4: Activities on the ground are contingent upon the availability of financial and other resources.

History

The BLG held seven regular meetings between 2004-2009, plus a special meeting in April 2011. In addition one retreat was held with the participation of BLG members in September 2010. The BLG meeting of 16 August 2004 agreed upon modalities for the operation of the BLG, which form the basis of this Modus Operandi. A record of all of these meetings (and future meetings, once held) can and will be found at: www.cbd.int/blg.

Areas of Activity

Cooperative activities will include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

- Provide support for achieving the objectives of the Strategic Plans of its members, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in line with respective mandates;
- Explore practical ways that identify and reinforce mutual coordinated support for the implementation of relevant decisions adopted by the respective COPs;
- Support Parties in the revisions and implementation of updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPs);
- Support Parties activities in public awareness and education including the respective International Days of the Conventions;
- Support Parties in capacity-building activities and other forms of technical assistance; and
- Assist Parties with any future priorities identified by the respective COPs of the BLG members.

Modus Operandi

Secretariat

The CBD will act as the secretariat for the BLG.

Officers

The meetings of BLG will be chaired by rotation amongst the Executive Heads of the conventions being a member of the BLG on an annual basis unless otherwise agreed.

Date and Place of Meeting

An annual face-to-face BLG meeting in the form of a retreat will be held on 4th September in Château de Bossey, Switzerland. An alternative venue for the annual meeting can be proposed and agreed by the BLG members. Arrangements for a second annual meeting, and any additional BLG meetings, can be proposed and agreed by the BLG members, and may involve video conferencing.

Membership and Participation

BLG members are the Executive Heads (or their deputies or representatives, in the absence of the Executive Head) of the following conventions: CBD, CITES, Ramsar, CMS, World Heritage, and ITPGRFA, plus any other biodiversity-related conventions which may be adopted in the future and invited by BLG to join as a member. Supporting staff may attend meetings as necessary. Others (e.g., subsidiary body chairs, other convention secretariats) may be invited to participate in BLG meetings at the invitation of the Chair, as mutually agreed with the other members.

Agenda and Documentation

The provisional agenda and documentation for BLG meetings will be prepared by the Chair in consultation with, and with support from, the CBD as the secretariat for the BLG. The documentation will be circulated for comments of other BLG members, finalized and distributed at least four weeks in advance of any meeting. Agenda items will be mutually agreed by the members and include matters of mutual or common interest emanating from governing body decisions, subsidiary body recommendations and other items proposed by the members. Documentation prepared for a meeting will not normally be available publicly unless mutually agreed by the members.

Conduct of Business

BLG meetings will normally not be open to the public unless mutually agreed by the members.

Decision-making

Decisions will be taken by consensus.

Reports of meetings

BLG meeting reports will be prepared by the Chair in consultation with the CBD as the secretariat in consultation with other BLG members, and finalised and distributed to members within 30 days of the meeting's closure. Meeting reports will be archived and available at www.cbd.int/blg and may also be made available through hyperlinks on the websites of the other BLG members. Reports on the activities of the BLG will be submitted to the respective meetings of the COP of the members for their information and attention. Members will also bring the issues discussed at the meetings to the attention of the respective subsidiary bodies such as standing committees, scientific councils/committees, as well as to national focal points, as appropriate, with a view to promoting synergies and coordination in the implementation of the conventions.

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2. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MODUS OPERANDI FOR THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP BETWEEN THE THREE RIO CONVENTIONS²

Mandate³

The mandate of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) comprising the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is to:

- Enhance coordination between the three conventions, including the exchange of relevant information; and
- Explore options for further cooperation between the three conventions, including the possibility of a joint work plan.

Guiding Principles⁴

The work of the JLG will be defined by a set of guiding principles intended to ensure that the mandate and purpose of the JLG is reflected in its outputs.

Principle 1: As synergies and coordination can be best implemented at the national level, the JLG will primarily support Parties in the achievement of national level synergies and coordination among the Rio Conventions.

Principle 2: The activities undertaken by the JLG will be country-driven and needs-based.

² The following document has been prepared by the Executive Secretary of the CBD for consideration by the JLG. It has been reviewed by technical staff of the UNFCCC and UNCCD secretariats

³ Adopted by UNFCCC (FCCC/SBSTA/2001/2 paragraph 42(d)) and reaffirmed by the CBD (decision VI/20, paragraph 13).

⁴ The guiding principles described herewith were initially discussed among the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions at the 11th meeting of the JLG held in Bonn on April 11, 2011.

Principle 3: The JLG recognizes the distinct and specific objectives of each convention and their different Parties, as well as the individual mandates and independent status of their treaty bodies and secretariats.

Principle 4: The JLG aims to add value to work already ongoing within each secretariat while minimizing duplication of activities and promoting cost-effectiveness.

Principle 5: The JLG can only undertake activities that can be completed with existing resources or have identified funding.

Areas of activity

Decisions and recommendations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have already outlined a number of tools and tasks for the JLG. These areas of activity can be considered to represent the priorities of Parties with regards to the work of the JLG and, as such, will continue to be pursued as appropriate using an issue-based approach in line with the distinct and specific objectives of each convention (biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification / land degradation). These areas include:

1. Sharing information and raising awareness
2. Providing information on interlinkages
3. Developing technical papers to clarify and elaborate on specific policy and technical issues
4. Contributing to relevant workshops mandated by pertinent bodies under each Convention
5. Encouraging and promoting better coordination among national focal points and stakeholder groups

Modus operandi

Membership and Participation

1. The membership of the JLG is comprised of the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions. The Executive Secretaries will be assisted by relevant senior staff of the three Secretariats.
2. The Chair, in consultation with the members, may invite representatives of other relevant instruments and bodies to attend the meetings.

Officers

The chairmanship of the JLG will rotate annually amongst the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions.

Place of Meetings

Meetings of the JLG will be organized at the seat of the chair of the JLG, unless otherwise agreed.

Date of Meetings

1. Ordinary meetings of the JLG will take place at least once a year.
2. Other meetings of the JLG will take place as mutually agreed by the three Executive Secretaries.

Agenda and Documentation

1. The provisional agenda for a meeting of the JLG will be prepared by the chair, in consultation with the other members, and circulated six weeks before a meeting.
2. Relevant documentation will be prepared by the secretariat proposing an agenda item.
3. The sources of agenda items may include: (a) COP decisions; (b) subsidiary body recommendations and conclusions; and (c) items proposed by the Executive Secretaries, as mutually agreed by them.
4. Documentation prepared for a meeting will not be made publicly available unless mutually agreed by the three Executive Secretaries.

Conduct of Business

Meetings of the JLG will normally not be open to the public unless mutually agreed by the three Executive Secretaries.

Decision-making

Decisions will be taken by consensus.

Reports of meetings

1. Reports of meetings of the JLG will be prepared by the chair, in consultation with the other members of the JLG, and finalized within 30 days of the closure of the meeting.
2. Meeting reports will be available to the Parties of the Conventions as well as to the public at large.

3. JOINT WORK PLAN FOR THE SECRETARIATS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD) AND THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS) FOR THE PERIOD 2012-2014

The text of the joint work plan presented to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species in document UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.36 is reproduced below.

Joint Work Plan for the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) for the period 2012-2014

Introduction:

The following table comprises a non-exhaustive list of joint activities which implement the mandates and decisions asking the CBD and CMS Secretariats (“the Secretariats”) to work together.

The secretariats of CMS Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) are invited by the Secretariats to participate in joint activities. Contact between CMS Agreements and MOUs and the CBD Secretariat would be coordinated by the CMS Secretariat.

In 1996, a Memorandum of Cooperation was concluded between the CBD and CMS Secretariats which continues to govern our cooperation to date.

The Joint Work Plan takes account of the shared objectives and targets of most relevance to both Secretariats. The CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011 (proposed to be extended to 2014) has four main objectives:

1. To ensure that the conservation and management of migratory species are based on the best available information;
2. To ensure that migratory species benefit from the best possible conservation measures;
3. To broaden awareness and enhance engagement in the conservation of migratory species amongst key actors; and
4. To reinforce CMS’s overarching and unifying role in the conservation and management of migratory species.

In this respect, the most relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 are:

Target 5: By 2020 the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.

Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Funding of activities: Many of the activities will not incur significant extra cost, but for those that do, the Secretariats will jointly continue to seek external funding. In addition, carrying out activities jointly should make it possible to optimize the utilization of the funds secured.

Review and reporting: The activities will be regularly reviewed and updated, and the Secretariats will submit regular reports on their activities to their respective governing bodies, such as Standing Committees and, if appropriate, to other stakeholders, including the other biodiversity-related conventions.

Focal Points: The focal points are as follows, for the:

- CBD Secretariat – the Principal Officer for Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters.
- CMS Secretariat – the Inter-Agency Liaison Officer.

Activities:

Activity	Timeframe
1. Strategic cooperation	
1.1 The Secretariats will participate in the meetings of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and consult on ways to strengthen the effectiveness of the Group, its relevance to the needs of Parties, and its linkages to the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (JLG).	2012-14
1.2 The Secretariats will support the chairs of the CMS Scientific Council and the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in their work with the group called Chairs of Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB), for example when considering enhanced cooperation on cross-cutting issues.	2012-14
1.3 The Secretariats will invite each other to relevant meetings under each Convention, including the Conventions' Conferences of the Parties, subsidiary bodies and other relevant workshops on technical meetings of mutual interest.	2012-14

<p>1.4 As the CBD Secretariat has recognized the CMS Secretariat as its lead partner in conserving and sustainably using migratory species, the CBD Secretariat will contribute to the implementation of the CMS Strategic Plan, through the activities listed in this Joint Work Plan.</p>	<p>2012-14</p>
<p>1.5 The CMS Secretariat will contribute to assessment of progress towards Aichi Targets, including the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and will provide details of activities undertaken that will contribute to achieving these targets.</p>	<p>2012-14</p>
<p>2. Joint activities to support achieving CMS Strategic Plan objectives and Aichi Biodiversity Targets of key shared interest</p>	
<p><u>Natural Habitats:</u></p> <p>2.1 The Secretariats will, resources permitting, cooperate to further initiatives for ecological networks and protected areas, for example by supporting coordination and communication intended to strengthen synergies with global conventions, regional conventions and other international initiatives, as well as national policies and strategies, in particular in the implementation of the CBD Secretariat's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) and the LifeWeb initiative.</p>	<p>2012-14</p>
<p><u>Invasive alien species:</u></p> <p>2.2 The Secretariats will collaborate through their joint membership of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Diseases.</p>	<p>2012-14</p>
<p><u>Protected areas:</u></p> <p>2.3 The Secretariats will share the results of their work, such as the CMS Secretariat's joint work with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to identify key wetlands of significance, and to support the establishment of coherent networks of critical sites, for migratory species.</p> <p>2.4 The Secretariats will encourage their respective national focal points to collaborate effectively in the implementation of the CBD Secretariat's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA).</p> <p>2.5 The CMS Secretariat will encourage its national focal points to use the PoWPA e-learning module, user-friendly comprehensive website and other capacity building measures including participation in training of trainers and regional workshops.</p> <p>2.6 The Secretariats will collaborate in their capacity building initiatives to avoid duplication.</p>	<p>2012-14</p>
<p><u>Threatened species:</u></p> <p>2.7 In the event of a conservation crisis affecting migratory species, such as a mass die-off:</p> <p>(a) The CMS Secretariat will play a facilitative role if requested, by bringing together species management authorities, experts and other relevant stakeholders across national borders in order to help resolve such a crisis.</p> <p>(b) The CBD Secretariat will collaborate closely and make available their</p>	<p>2012-14</p>

<p>expertise to the CMS Secretariat in order to address such conservation emergencies effectively.</p> <p>2.8 The Secretariats will continue to collaborate on issues related to bush meat, pending related decisions of CBD COP 11.</p> <p>2.9 The Secretariats will seek the inputs from each other's relevant technical officers when preparing and publishing Action Plans and Technical Reports on threatened species and regions of mutual interest.</p>	
3. Support the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020	
<p>3.1 The Secretariats will encourage their Parties to support the UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011- 2020. For example, the CBD Secretariat is preparing a global strategy to celebrate the Decade, and the CMS Secretariat will participate and support where possible.</p> <p>3.2 Both Secretariats will participate in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force, and consider joint cooperation on Task Force activities where possible.</p>	2012-14
4. Collaborate on providing support and guidance to Parties on the integration of migratory species considerations in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPs)	
<p>4.1 The CMS Secretariat will promote its "<i>Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)</i>" and make them available to CBD and CMS National Focal Points to use in the revisions of NBSAPs.</p>	2012
<p>4.2 The CBD Secretariat will keep the CMS Secretariat informed about regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops on reviewing NBSAPs, will invite the CMS Secretariat to attend, will welcome CMS Parties at such meetings, and will disseminate the CMS Guidelines at such meetings.</p>	2012
5. Develop a coherent approach to cross-cutting issues	
<p>5.1 The Secretariats will enhance cooperation, policy coherence and implementation with regard to work on cross-cutting issues, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate change; • scientific criteria for the identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas in need of protection; • human, animal and ecosystem health linkages; • community-based management of natural resources; and • invasive alien species. <p>This will occur in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes of work. This will be achieved by such measures as joint participation at relevant meetings.</p> <p>5.2 On climate change, the Secretariats will share the results of their work on:</p> <p>(a) The impact of climate change on migratory species in relation to how best the international community could assist migratory species in dealing with climate change, from monitoring, identification of most vulnerable species to the role of local people and adaptive management.</p>	2012-14

(b) The CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Climate Change preparation of an Action Plan to guide CMS Parties' response to conserving migratory species in the light of climate change.	
6. Collaborative information, outreach and capacity-building	
6.1 The Secretariats will broaden awareness and enhance engagement in the conservation of biodiversity and migratory species amongst key actors (for example by working with partner NGOs, including through joint work plans).	2012-14
6.2 The Secretariats will cooperate to seek opportunities for presenting compatible policy positions and advisory materials in relevant fora, and in their relationships with relevant organizations.	2012-14
6.3 The Secretariats will each take appropriate opportunities, including in publications and on websites, to promote awareness of and support for the other.	2012-14
6.4 The Secretariats will share information and the results of their work relevant to shared objectives and targets, including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) CMS-led scientific review on freshwater fish to identify candidate species for listing on CMS Appendices. (b) Implementation of a shark conservation plan for range states of the CMS MoU on conservation of migratory sharks. (c) A CMS-led global study on the effects of by-catch on CMS marine species, specifically by-catch in gillnets and the effectiveness of mitigation measures. (d) Information on invasive alien species that impact on migratory species/habitats. (e) Development of policy and management approaches in furtherance of the most recent scientific knowledge and best practice concerning ecological networks in relation to migratory species. 	2012-14
