



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**



The International Treaty
**ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**

Item 17.1 of the Provisional Agenda

SEVENTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY

Kigali, Rwanda, 30 October – 3 November 2017

Report on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity

Executive Summary

This document responds to the provisions of the International Treaty, as well as to the request from the Governing Body to the Secretary, to report on cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at each Session. Specifically, the document reports on actions taken during the biennium in following up on decisions made by the Governing Body through Resolution 7/2015. It also provides a summary of key areas for decision-making by the Governing Body on cooperation with the CBD, as well as of recent developments in the continuing close relationship between the its Secretariat and Secretariat of the CBD. The document also highlights the outcomes of both the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 13) to the CBD and the 2nd meeting of COP serving as the Meeting of Parties (COP-MOP 2) to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (Nagoya Protocol) that are relevant to the International Treaty.

The report of the Executive Secretary of the CBD on cooperation with the International Treaty is provided in document IT/GB-7/17/Inf.13, *Report of the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on Cooperation with the International Treaty*.

Guidance Sought

The Governing Body is invited to take note of the report and provide further guidance on the continuing close cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, taking into account the elements for a possible Resolution provided in Appendix 3 to this Document.

*This document can be accessed using the Quick Response Code on this page;
an FAO initiative to minimize its environmental impact and promote greener communications.
Other documents can be consulted at [http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-
detail/en/c/888771/](http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/meetings/meetings-detail/en/c/888771/)*



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I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 1.2 of the International Treaty stipulates that its objectives “will be attained by closely linking this Treaty to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to the Convention on Biological Diversity”. In addition, Article 20.5 requires the Secretary, *inter alia*, to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in achieving the objectives of the International Treaty. Article 19.3 (l) further provides that the Governing Body shall take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the CBD. As a result, the Governing Body decided to retain the relationship with the CBD as a standing item on its Agenda at every Session.¹

2. Cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, its subsidiary bodies and the Secretariat has continued to develop and expand in recent biennia, particularly following the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (Nagoya Protocol), for which the COP serves as the Meeting of Parties. In Section II, this document describes cooperation between the Governing Body and the Conference of the Parties to the CBD. In Section III, it reports on cooperation between the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the CBD during the current biennium.

II. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TREATY’S GOVERNING BODY AND THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CBD

3. The 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP-13), and the 2nd meeting of the Conference of Parties serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol (COP-MOP-2), were held in Cancun, Mexico between 4 and 17 December 2016. Both meetings adopted a number of decisions of immediate relevance to the International Treaty, many of which relate to matters already addressed by the Governing Body through Resolution 7/2015.

A. The Convention’s Financial Mechanism – the Global Environment Facility

4. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), which serves as the financial mechanism of the Convention, promotes the delivery of integrated solutions to tackle environmental and development challenges. GEF’s project portfolio for biodiversity, including agricultural biodiversity, is currently the largest within the institution. There are a number of GEF programmes of direct relevance to implementation of the International Treaty. Negotiations for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund is ongoing and will be concluded in spring 2018.

5. The Governing Body, through Resolution 7/2015, welcomed COP Decision XII/30 and in this context:

4. *Request[ed]* the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat, to develop elements of advice for the Global Environment Facility concerning the funding of the objectives and priorities the Treaty, consistent with the mandates of the Global Environment Facility, and *request[ed]* the Secretary to transmit the elements of advice, as developed, to the thirteenth meeting of Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, consistent with COP decision XII/30, so that they may be referred to the Global Environment Facility, and *further request[ed]* the Secretary to include the elaboration of elements of advice to the Financial Mechanism of the Convention in the Agenda of future Sessions of the Governing Body, as appropriate.

6. The Bureau of the Seventh Session of the Governing Body developed the elements of advice for GEF during 2016. The document *Elements of Advice for the Global Environment Facility in relation to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture* was

¹ Resolution 8/2011, paragraph 11

finalized by the Bureau in September 2016, and submitted to the CBD Executive Secretary for transmission to COP-13, and made available to COP-13 document UNEP/CBD/COP/13/12/ADD4. The *Elements of Advice* is also available to the Governing Body as document IT/GB-7/17/Inf.15.

7. COP-13 adopted Decision XIII/21 on the financial mechanism, in which it noted with appreciation the elements of advice received from the International Treaty for consideration in developing the four-year framework of programme priorities (2018-2022) for the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund. Attention is drawn, in particular, to the following elements of Decision XIII/21:

The Conference of the Parties

8. *Notes* that the elements and input that fall within the mandate of the Global Environment Facility are reflected at a strategic level, in the four-year framework of programme priorities annexed to the present decision and that this will further enhance programmatic synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions;

9. *Invites* the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions, further to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of decision XII/30, to repeat the exercise described therein for the development of strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, in time for consideration by the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fifteenth meeting;

10. *Emphasizes* that the elements of advice need to be (a) in accordance with the mandate of the Global Environment Facility, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Council of the Global Environment Facility as per decision III/8, (b) formulated at a strategic level, and (c) formally adopted by the governing bodies of the respective biodiversity-related conventions.

8. Guidance of the Governing Body is therefore sought on how it might wish to respond to the invitation of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD. The Governing Body may also wish to request Contracting Parties, in accordance with Article 18.4 (a) of the International Treaty, to ensure due attention to is given to plans and programmes relevant to the implementation of the International Treaty within the governing bodies of GEF during the negotiations and adoption of the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund.

B. Synergies among the Biodiversity-Related Conventions

9. The Governing Body, through Resolution 7/2015:

5. *Welcome[d]* the decision of the twelfth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity to hold a workshop to explore ways for Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them, without prejudice to the specific objectives and recognizing the respective mandates, and subject to the availability of resources of these conventions, with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels, and *request[ed]* the Secretary and the Bureau to facilitate the selection of the representatives to participate in this workshop and report on the outcomes to the Seventh Session of the Governing Body.

10. The workshop was held in February 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland, with participation by six members of the Bureau of the Governing Body. Details of the workshop and its outcomes are contained in document, IT/GB-7/17/25, *Report on Cooperation with International Bodies and Organizations*.

11. COP-13 adopted Decision XIII/24 on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, which includes options to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related

conventions, including the International Treaty. The Governing Body may wish to consider, in particular, the following elements of the decision:

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling decision XII/6,

3. *Appreciates* the work of the governing bodies and their bureaux, standing committees and equivalent bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions in contributing to the Party-led process established under decision XII/6;

10. *Invites* the governing bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions to further strengthen cooperation and coordination at the global level within their respective mandates and enhance synergies among themselves, to encourage mutually supportive decisions, pursue their efforts to align their own strategies with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, where appropriate, and to support implementation of the options for action by Parties contained in annex I to the present decision, and the road map contained in annex II of the present decision;

17. *Invites* the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, the governing bodies of the conventions, and the international organizations that provide the secretariats for these conventions, as well as representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities, global non-governmental organizations and other relevant international organizations, to undertake, where appropriate and subject to the availability of resources, the actions foreseen in annex II, and *further invites* the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions to facilitate the involvement of relevant experts in the work of the informal advisory group on synergies;

18. *Calls* on the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Union for Conservation of Nature, as well as United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, to continue to strengthen its work to enhance coherence and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, including in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and any follow-up to this strategic plan, and *requests* the Executive Secretary to provide information on progress made to the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting and the Conference of the Parties at its fourteenth meeting, including any proposals to further advance this work.

12. *The Options for Enhancing Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the National Level* are contained in *Appendix 1* of this document. *The Road Map for Enhancing Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the International Level 2017-2020* is contained in *Appendix 2*. The Governing Body may wish to consider these two documents, together with the outcomes of the above-mentioned workshop, and to adopt the relevant parts of the attached draft Resolution on Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

C. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020

13. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which was adopted by COP-10, provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, including the International Treaty, but for the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development.

14. The current focus of the COP and all biodiversity partners lies in supporting the monitoring and implementation of the Strategic Plan, and in reaching the Aichi Targets by 2020. The Governing Body, through Resolution 7/2015:

3. *Call[ed]* on Contracting Parties, in the review and updating of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, to ensure that their commitments under the Treaty are fully reflected, especially through enhanced involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

15. At the same time, COP-13 started the preparatory process for follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010-2020. In 2020, COP-15 is expected to update the Convention's strategic plan. In preparation for COP-14, the Subsidiary Body on Implementation will consider a proposal for a comprehensive and participatory preparatory process and timetable for follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This preparatory process is expected to provide for consultations with, *inter alia*, biodiversity-related conventions. The CBD Secretariat has recently published a note that provides an overview of matters related to updating the Strategic Plan, providing further background information.² In the note, consideration is given to the need for early engagement of partners in the process, including with biodiversity-related conventions such as the International Treaty, which are holding meetings of their governing bodies in 2017.

16. At its Seventh Session, the Governing Body may wish to make a number of initial considerations and identify issues to be taken into account in the process to update the plan, including that:

- The follow up to the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 provides an opportunity to further enhance coherence and cooperation between the International Treaty and the Convention;
- Targets for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture should be maintained and strengthened, including by relying on monitoring information available through the reporting processes of the International Treaty and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and the experience gained in monitoring Target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Such targets should deal not only with conservation of genetic diversity, but also with its sustainable use.
- Targets on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable use of the benefits arising out of their use should expressly take into account the International Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing;
- The follow-up process to the Strategic Plan 2011-2020 should be integrated in the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Governing Body, so that the Governing Body would have the opportunity to provide further inputs at its eighth session, and to support or endorse the post-2020 global framework for biodiversity action.

17. Finally, the Governing Body may wish to request its Secretary to cooperate closely with the Executive Secretary of the Convention in the context of follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2010-2020, and transmit the initial considerations made by the Governing Body on updating the plan to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.

D. Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources

18. Various United Nations fora have recently begun to assess the potential implications of 'digital sequence information'³ on the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, and the benefits arising from their use. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body made a number of decisions are relevant to this emerging area, including the request to the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to

² <https://www.cbd.int/post2020/doc/Approaches-Post2020Biodiversity.pdf>

³ The term is subject to further discussion and agreement.

enhance the functioning of the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing to consider issues regarding genetic information associated with material accessed from the Multilateral System.

19. Based on the mandate of the Working Group, and the need and request for more information, the Secretariat commissioned a first scoping study to inform the International Treaty community about how current technologies and practices related to the exchange, use and benefits of genomic information are relevant to the International Treaty. In this context, the Secretariat is coordinating with the Secretariats of the CBD and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture. The Secretariat has also facilitated coordination between the team of experts conducting the study with the experts commissioned by the CBD Secretariat to conduct a scoping study on digital sequence information based on the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD (see below).

20. In the Vision of the Global Information System of Article 17 (GLIS), which the Governing Body approved at its Sixth Session, one component is the promotion of transparency of rights and obligations related to accessing, sharing and using information associated with germplasm, and the establishment of ways to exercise those rights and obligations within the Global Information System. The GLIS Programme of Work foresees an analysis of the institutional, organizational, policy and legal factors for PGRFA information access, sharing and use in the context of the International Treaty's provisions, in particular Articles 12 and 13 on the Multilateral System. In furtherance of those elements of the Vision and Programme of Work, the Secretariat informed the GLIS Scientific Advisory Committee of developments related to genomic information, which included processes within the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol.⁴

21. A number of decisions made by COP-13 of the CBD and COP-MOP-2 of the Nagoya Protocol deal with digital sequence information on genetic resources. COP-13 adopted Decision XIII/16, setting up a process that includes the realization of a fact-finding and scoping study and the establishment of an *Ad Hoc* Technical Expert Group, to enable the COP, at its fourteenth meeting, to consider any potential implications of the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources for the three objectives of the Convention. Decision XIII/16 invited relevant international organizations to submit views and relevant information to the Executive Secretary on these potential implications. The third Meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol will also consider potential implications for the objectives of the Nagoya Protocol.

22. Furthermore, in decision NP-2/5, the Meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol

5. *Further requested* the Executive Secretary to continue to engage with relevant ongoing processes and policy debates, including in the [...]International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, [...] to collect information on current discussions on the relationship between the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources and access and benefit-sharing arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, and to include relevant information gathered during these engagements in the compilation of views referred to in decision XIII/16, paragraph 3(a) of the Conference of the Parties;

23. The Secretariat will continue collaborate and, as appropriate, coordinate with the Secretariat of the CBD and other relevant partners to provide information and raise awareness on the issue of digital sequence information and report to the Governing Body..

E. Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol

24. Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol specifies that Parties shall consider the need for and modalities of a global multilateral benefit-sharing mechanism. At its Sixth Session, the Governing Body, through Resolution 7/2015:

⁴ See <http://www.fao.org/3/a-bq619e.pdf>.

9. [Drew] the attention of Contracting Parties to the ongoing work regarding Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol and urge[d] the Secretariat to consider engaging in it.

25. The second Meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, in decision NP-2/10, took note of developments under other international processes and organizations, such as the International Treaty, and requested the Executive Secretary to compile the information available on developments in relevant international processes and organizations, with a view to informing future discussions on Article 10. It also invited stakeholders, including *ex situ* collections, to submit information, including practical experiences, if any, on situations in which it is not possible to grant or obtain prior informed consent in relation to *in situ* or *ex situ* genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.

26. The Governing Body may wish to request the Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the CBD by providing information on developments and practical implementation experiences within the International Treaty, with a view to informing future discussions on Article 10.

III. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO SECRETARIATS

27. The Governing Body, in Resolution 7/2015, requested the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the CBD, practical means and activities to further enhance their cooperation along the lines established in the Memorandum of Cooperation, the Joint Initiative and Roadmap between the two Secretariats.

28. During the current biennium, the Secretariat of the International Treaty continued its close and excellent collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD, on the basis of their Memorandum of Cooperation and Joint Initiative. Particular progress has been made in capacity-development activities, information and knowledge management, and in supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals.

Joint capacity-development activities

29. The Governing Body repeatedly acknowledged the need for harmonious and mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty, the CBD and its Nagoya Protocol, and for continued capacity-building and capacity-development support to Contracting Parties, especially for developing country Contracting Parties in this regard.

30. During the current biennium, the Secretariat continued its close collaboration with the CBD Secretariat on capacity-development for harmonious implementation of the International Treaty and the CBD, particularly its Nagoya Protocol, as well as on awareness-raising and information sharing, partly in conjunction with other partners, such as Bioversity International and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative.

31. In the context of the project, *Mutually Supportive Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and Plant Treaty*, funded by the Darwin Initiative, the Secretariats provided technical inputs from the conceptualization of the project through its ongoing implementation and to the related the process of draft legislation being prepared in Benin and Madagascar.

32. Following the successful tandem workshop for the Africa Region held in 2014, organized together with the Secretariat of the CBD, Bioversity International and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative, in March 2017 the same partners held the Tandem Workshop for Asian National Focal Points of the International Treaty and of the Nagoya Protocol, in Los Baños, the Philippines.

33. Both Secretariats are also active partners of the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and regularly participate in coordination meetings, such as the Meeting of the African Steering Committee 2016, which was held on 2-3 March 2016, at the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF),

in Paris, France, and its General Assembly, which was held at the occasion of the UN Biodiversity Conference in December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico.

Information systems and knowledge management

34. The Secretariat of the CBD participated in the second meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on the Global Information System of Article 17 of the International Treaty (SAC-GLIS-2) in June 2017 in Rome, Italy, and delivered a presentation on the Access and Benefit-Sharing Clearing-House (ABS-CH). The Committee highlighted the opportunity of collaboration.

35. The Secretariat of the CBD suggested that the Secretariat of the International Treaty attend the meetings of the Informal Advisory Committee to the ABS-CH, and continue discussions on what types of information could be exchanged between the Global Information System and the ABS-CH. The GLIS Portal and its further development is expected to facilitate the exchange of data between the Global Information System and the ABS-CH.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

36. The Secretariats of the CBD and the International Treaty have also been collaborating on implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with coordination provided by FAO. A particular focus is SDG target 15.6 “Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed.”

37. To improve on indicator 15.6.1 – “Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits” – the CBD, as the custodian agency for the indicator, and FAO, as a contributing partner agency for which the International Treaty Secretariat is the focal point, jointly developed a work plan for data collection methodology and produced a first data set. As a result, the indicator has been upgraded to Tier II category, together with the supplementary data to be provided on the “number of Standard Material Transfer Agreements (SMTAs) reported to the Treaty’s Governing Body.” With Tier II classification, the data provided and progress made on indicator 15.6.1 will be reported to the United Nations Statistical Division, and made available at global level.

Other activities

38. In order to present the results and purposes of joint activities to Contracting Parties and stakeholders, the Secretariats of the International Treaty and of the CBD again held a number of joint side events. One such initiative was organized on the occasion of the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation under the CBD in May 2016 in Montreal, Canada, on the theme of Collaboration between the International Treaty and the CBD: ABS and Farmers’ Rights. The CBD Secretariat also participated in a side event organized by the Secretariat of the International Treaty on the margins of the sixth meeting of the *Ad Hoc* Open-ended Working Group to Enhance the Functioning of the Multilateral System in March 2017 in Rome, Italy. Here, the theme was the technological, institutional and legal landscapes of genetic information: research directions for the International Treaty.

39. In addition to these joint activities, the Secretariat of the CBD provided specific inputs to the Global Consultation on Farmers’ Rights,⁵ articulating Article 9 of the International Treaty vis-à-vis

⁵ Initiative of the Governments of Indonesia and Norway, held in Bali, Indonesia, 27-30 September 2016

Article 8(j) and related provisions of the CBD, as well as some of the COP decisions,⁶ and recommendations to COP-13⁷ of relevance to Farmers' Rights.

40. The Secretariat of the International Treaty invited the Secretariat of the CBD to be a key partner in joint research on Aichi Targets related to sustainability in agriculture, and the linkages between *in situ* conservation/on-farm management and community-based initiatives and programmes for the sustainable use of crop wild relatives, landraces and underutilized species.⁸

IV. GUIDANCE SOUGHT

41. The Governing Body is invited to take note of the information contained in this report and provide further guidance on continuing the close cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, taking into account the elements for a possible Resolution provided in *Appendix 3* to this Document.

⁶ Such as: COP Decision XI/14, B, paragraphs 17-21; COP XII/12, CBD's Global Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity and the Programme of Work on Agricultural Diversity

⁷ UNEP/CBD/COP13/3 Rec. 9/1 and 9/3

⁸ See IT/GB-7/17/16, *Implementation of the Programme of Work on Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*.

Appendix I: Options for Enhancing Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the National Level⁹

OPTIONS FOR ENHANCING SYNERGIES AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

A. Introduction

1. *Background*

1. The present annex focuses on options for action by Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies at the national level. These are derived from the outcomes of the workshop on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and actions as presented in the note by the Executive Secretary on possible recommendations arising from the options for action identified by the workshop,¹⁰ which themselves had been built on a range of earlier work, including that conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme through its project on cooperation and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions,¹¹ and each of which collectively respond to the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, “The future we want”.¹²

2. *Purpose and scope*

2. The options for action are voluntary and intended to serve as suggestions and guidance, where needed, for Parties to enhance synergies and cooperation in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

3. They are intended to provide options for actions that Parties could take in support of effective and coherent implementation of the conventions at the national level.

4. The implementation of these options should be to the mutual benefit of the conventions concerned and be compatible with their provisions, obligations, mandates and objectives, respecting their independent nature.

5. Options that Parties choose to pursue should be adapted to suit national circumstances. Not all options for action would be applicable to all countries and additional options not included in the present note could also be taken up by countries.¹³

6. Some options for action may be relevant to enhancing synergies between just two of the conventions or among a subset of them, rather than among all conventions. Some options may have particular relevance to the Protocols of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

7. Parties could be encouraged to select among the various options for enhancing synergies as appropriate to national circumstance, taking into account their NBSAPs, and to report on any actions taken to enhance synergies at the national level in their national reports, where possible.

⁹ See CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/24, Annex II (available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-13/cop-13-dec-24-en.pdf>).

¹⁰ [UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/9/Add.1](#).

¹¹ “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies”. See UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/36 and UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/37.

¹² General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

¹³ For example, the UNEP “Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels” provides a broad spectrum of options based on best practices and lessons learned from national experience.

B. Options for action by Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies at the national level

1 *Planning frameworks and coordination mechanisms*

8. Common planning frameworks and coordination mechanisms can serve as useful tools for promoting synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level.

(a) *The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and national biodiversity strategies and action plans*

(i) *Rationale*

9. The NBSAP aligned to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets could serve as a unifying framework to promote synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. National plans aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals¹⁴ could also contribute in this regard.

(ii) *Options for action*

10. Parties are encouraged:

(a) To include in their NBSAP, relevant actions to implement commitments and recommendations under each of the biodiversity-related conventions to which they are a Party, in line with the commitments and recommendations agreed to under the conventions concerned. In doing so, Parties may wish to take account of existing guidance of the Conference of the Parties related to updating or revising and implementing NBSAPs, including decisions IX/8, X/2, X/5 and XI/6 of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as resolutions 8.18, 10.18 of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, resolution 6/2013 of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, decision 37 COM 5A of the World Heritage Committee, resolution XI.6 of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, and resources prepared by the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;¹⁵

(b) To conduct a mapping and gap analysis of relevant implementation actions, including those described in subparagraph (a) above and those related to contributions under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, and to identify potential needs;

(c) In revising or updating other related strategies and action plans, consider alignment with the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in national implementation of biodiversity-related conventions;

(d) Make use of relevant indicators of other conventions in implementing measures towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and, as appropriate, prepare relevant national indicators for other biodiversity-related conventions to track effective implementation and monitoring of actions and also to feed into national actions related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals;

(e) Ensure the appropriate participation of all relevant stakeholders, including women, youth, and indigenous peoples and local communities in the finalization and implementation of the NBSAP for better articulation and planning to achieve synergies;

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 70/1, annex.

¹⁵ NBSAP capacity building modules (CBD 2015), online at: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/training/default.shtml>; *Contributing to the development, review, updating and revision of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) - A Draft Guide for CITES Parties* (CITES 2011), online at: <http://www.cites.org/eng/notif/2011/E026A.pdf>; *Guidelines on the integration on migratory species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Actions Plans (NBSAPs)* (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.27), CMS Secretariat and Prip, C (2011), online at: http://www.cms.int/sites/default/files/document/doc_27_guidelines_nbsap_e_0.pdf.

(f) Link the NBSAP and other relevant national implementation plans and strategies to the national clearing-house mechanism and/or other information-sharing hubs.

(b) *Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms*

(i) *Rationale*

11. Coordination mechanisms and coordinated actions serve as the foundation for enhancing coherence and synergies in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions across all issue areas.

12. Institutional and coordinative arrangements are made at the discretion of the Party so any consideration of coordination mechanisms needs to take account of: (a) the great variation in national circumstances, including the conventions to which a country is a Party, which has a bearing on the need; and (b) differences between the conventions in their requirements of national authorities.

13. Consideration could be given to building or enhancing coordination mechanisms around national focal points and equivalent authorities of the conventions at the individual and the institutional levels. Advantage should be taken of relevant existing institutions to work on common issues under biodiversity-related conventions.

(ii) *Options for action*

14. Parties are encouraged to undertake an assessment of national needs for coordination and synergy of commitments and recommendations under the biodiversity-related conventions.

15. Parties are encouraged to establish or strengthen a formal coordination mechanism for efficient coordination among national focal points and relevant authorities of biodiversity-related conventions and to consider further strengthening such coordination mechanisms by providing for meaningful engagement of other stakeholders, including women, young people and indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with relevant legislation, regulations and practice.

16. Such national coordination mechanisms could, inter alia:

(a) Facilitate collaboration and coordination between national focal points or equivalent authorities of biodiversity-related conventions, including the exchange of information on priorities with regard to actions for implementation and resource needs so that there is a common understanding;

(b) Foster provision of coordinated input into national priority-setting, including funding options, for action on areas of common interest and to achieve synergies;

(c) Facilitate coordinated needs assessments, for example on joint actions for implementation of biodiversity-related conventions in the framework of NBSAPs, and for targeted capacity-building;

(d) Facilitate a national coordination process related to national reporting to the various biodiversity-related conventions to, inter alia:

(i) Align data collection and reporting, inter alia, through modular reporting;

(ii) Link focal points and institutions to assist each other in meeting reporting requirements;

(iii) Foster quality control and consistency of reporting of similar information across conventions where appropriate;

(e) Facilitate enhanced coordination among the conventions at national level with respect to communications, information-sharing and awareness-raising, that would:

(i) Enable the national entities responsible for the various biodiversity-related conventions to collaborate in the development of communications and awareness-raising, including through the international observances that relate to the conventions, in conducting joint information and awareness campaigns; and to

integrate and coordinate messages related to the various biodiversity-related conventions to which they are a Party;

- (ii) Enable preparation of a national biodiversity-related communication and awareness strategy and implementation plan;
- (f) Facilitate coordination among the conventions at the national level with regard to resource mobilization and utilization in the framework of NBSAPs that could:
 - (i) Enable development of a joint resource mobilization strategy, taking into account the strategic plans of individual biodiversity-related conventions and mainstreaming of biodiversity into different sectors;
 - (ii) Strengthen coordination and collaboration between the national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions and the operational focal point of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as the focal points for other conventions for which GEF serves as a financial mechanism, as appropriate;
 - (iii) Enable the consideration of conducting pilot projects for promoting synergies on thematic areas, such as plant and animal health to support food security, food safety and environmental protection, including designing innovative projects for funding by GEF to contribute to collaborative action;
 - (iv) Enable, where relevant, the national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions to coordinate their funding efforts to leverage synergies among the conventions by engaging with donor country representatives in their countries.
- (g) Facilitate coordination among the conventions at the national level with regard to capacity-building, for example the training of national focal points, the conducting of joint workshops on common areas of responsibility among the conventions, such as national reporting and resource mobilization, the identification of common areas of capacity-building needs and the delivery of coordinated capacity-building for implementation of the conventions (see subsection 6 below);
- (h) Help to facilitate the holding of national preparatory meetings before the meetings of the governing bodies of biodiversity-related conventions, involving officials and stakeholders associated with the other biodiversity-related conventions.
- (i) Enable the national focal points, or equivalent authorities, of biodiversity-related conventions to collaborate with other sectors, as appropriate (e.g. climate change, inter-ministerial dialogue).

2. *Actions in specific issue areas*

17. In addition to the options for actions that would be facilitated by enhanced coordination mechanisms, described in paragraphs 14 to 16 above, the following sections outline specific options for action in the areas of: the management of information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators; communication and awareness-raising; the science-policy interface; capacity-building; and resource mobilization and utilization.

- (a) *Management of information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators*
 - (i) *Rationale*

18. Collaboration in information-sharing and knowledge-management can provide mutual benefits in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, particularly with regard to reporting and monitoring. Opportunities to reduce reporting burdens may lie in overlapping data requirements and accessing relevant data from shared sources. The development and refinement of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals will have implications for biodiversity-related conventions and agencies that act as custodians for indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals.

(ii) *Options for action*

19. Parties are encouraged:

(a) To develop and/or promote where possible thematic databases, or strengthen existing databases that are open and interoperable between conventions;

(b) To exchange information and experience across conventions on tools, mechanisms and best practices for data collection and reporting as well as information and knowledge management;

(c) To undertake an inventory of their datasets, where feasible, to better understand the availability of information and approaches across conventions and identify commonalities of data across some or all of the conventions;

(d) To optimize monitoring and data gathering to meet information needs shared across some or all of the conventions, and to review the extent to which national databases and indicators being used to support coherent implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions to which the country is Party are already providing inputs to national statistical database;

(e) To update clearing-house mechanisms to streamline reporting under the different biodiversity-related conventions;

(f) To consider how reporting under each biodiversity-related convention could benefit from the collection of information from other biodiversity-related conventions;

(g) To contribute mutually to discussions regarding biodiversity-related indicators under each of the conventions and to discussions on the development and refinement of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals;

(h) To establish linkages of the national focal points with the agency designated for reporting on achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (national statistical agency in many countries) to harmonize information on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Indicators;

(i) To explore the possibility of linkages of the national databases of biodiversity-related conventions to the national statistical database;

(j) To make use of global tools, including UNEP Live and InforMEA.

(b) *Communication and awareness-raising*

(i) *Rationale*

20. Understanding of the social and economic importance of the objectives of the biodiversity-related conventions and their mutually supportive relationship is essential to enhance synergies in their implementation.

(ii) *Options for action*

21. Parties are encouraged:

(a) To take measures to improve understanding of the specific and related objectives of each of the biodiversity-related conventions;

(b) To take measures to ensure that the national entities responsible collaborate on the various international observances relevant to and promoted by the biodiversity-related conventions to which they are a Party in order to increase awareness of the conventions, the issues they address and their interrelationship;

(c) To utilize information from all the biodiversity-related conventions;

(d) to develop web-based communication tools for national audiences relevant to all the biodiversity-related conventions, their objectives and synergies between them, which could include a

single entry point to channel users to the information sought and other related information and interactive features including for sharing success stories.

(c) *Science-policy interface*

(i) *Rationale*

22. The conventions have a common objective to base the advancement of policy and assessment of progress on the best available science and, in areas of overlap, draw from shared bodies of information and knowledge. The work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services can contribute to each of the conventions.

(ii) *Options for action*

23. Parties are encouraged:

(a) To consider establishing and making use of a national roster of experts across all biodiversity-related conventions for cross-cutting subjects;

(b) To facilitate the collaboration and involvement of national scientists engaged in the processes of the biodiversity-related conventions in the science-policy interface, for example that related to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services;

(c) To establish a science-policy platform or coordination mechanism at national level, involving all relevant institutions, to promote use of the best available knowledge and strengthen implementation of the conventions; including to facilitate discussions between the national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and the focal point of the Platform concerning national priorities for work to be undertaken by the Platform;

(d) To establish institutional arrangements to enable interface between scientists and the national officials responsible for the development and implementation of policy related to the biodiversity-related conventions.

(d) *Capacity-building*

(i) *Rationale*

24. Strengthening national capacity for implementation is of common concern to each of the biodiversity-related conventions. This includes, as appropriate, the need to strengthen knowledge and skills, including on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions; increase coordinated capacity-building and awareness-raising efforts among the biodiversity-related conventions; increase human and financial resources dedicated to the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions and towards greater cohesion in their implementation, and; strengthen the sustainability of capacity-building.

(ii) *Options for action*

25. Parties are encouraged:

(a) To prioritize skills and capacities of human resources, including national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions, and assign or delegate roles and responsibilities appropriately;

(b) To provide common training and other learning opportunities to the national focal points of the biodiversity-related conventions and other relevant staff to build capacity and mutual understanding of:

(i) Each of the biodiversity-related conventions, including their specific objectives, with a view to promoting synergies, pooled resources, and the retention of skills and knowledge;

(ii) The role of indigenous and local knowledge for coordinated integration in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions;

- (iii) Communication methods to raise awareness on the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services with their respective high-level policy decision-makers;
- (iv) Technical knowledge on synergy and coordination.
- (c) To conduct joint capacity-building workshops for entities with responsibilities for the biodiversity-related conventions on common areas of responsibility among the conventions, such as national reporting and resource mobilization;
- (d) To identify common areas of capacity-building needs through a coordinated and collaborative approach;
- (e) To conduct coordinated capacity-building for implementation of biodiversity-related conventions;
- (f) To undertake measures designed to ensure the sustainability of national capacity-building that could include, where applicable:
 - (i) Providing training on the biodiversity-related conventions to trainers, including scientists and policymakers;
 - (ii) Creating, updating and/or improving databases and platforms for information-sharing to ensure institutional memory and consolidation of human resources available for implementation of biodiversity-related conventions;
 - (iii) Developing a curriculum on biodiversity and advocating its inclusion in relevant university faculties to support and ensure sustainability in capacity-building and synergistic implementation of biodiversity-related conventions;
 - (iv) Conducting targeted community capacity-building for effective assimilation and coordinated implementation of biodiversity-related conventions at site and national level.

26. Parties should take advantage of existing networking opportunities for capacity-building to help synergistic implementation of biodiversity-related conventions.

(e) *Resource mobilization and utilization*

(i) *Rationale*

27. The common recognition among the biodiversity-related conventions of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and NBSAPs as common frameworks provide opportunities to strengthen synergies among the conventions in the areas of resource mobilization and utilization, including through relevant international financial mechanisms and instruments.

(ii) *Options for action*

28. Parties are encouraged:

- (a) To ensure adequate staffing dedicated to the biodiversity-related conventions for their effective implementation and leverage appropriate financial support for effective implementation of the conventions through advocacy and by demonstrating benefits;
- (b) To build into funding proposals, where appropriate, provision to utilize some of the national GEF funding allocation to implement aspects of the NBSAP that serve common objectives of biodiversity-related conventions, mindful of the specific needs and mandates of each of the conventions;
- (c) To collaborate regionally to explore regional opportunities for fundraising to foster synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and to share, at regional and subregional levels, best practices and lessons learned from successful access to the GEF biodiversity focal area.

Appendix 2: Road Map for Enhancing Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the International Level 2017-2020

ROAD MAP FOR ENHANCING SYNERGIES AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL 2017-2020

A. Introduction

1. *Background*

1. The measures outlined in the present annex are aimed at enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, in a manner consistent with the mandates of the conventions and their secretariats, and those of the international organizations concerned that have a mandate in addressing biodiversity-related matters. In accordance with the consultative work requested of the Executive Secretary by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation in its recommendation 1/8, these measures refine, consolidate and streamline the outcomes of the workshop on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions and actions as presented in the note by the Executive Secretary on possible recommendations arising from the options for action identified by the workshop,¹⁶ which themselves had been built on a range of earlier work, including that conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme through its project on cooperation and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions,¹⁷ and each of which collectively respond to relevant needs and actions identified by the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development “The Future We Want”.

2. *Scope*

2. The implementation of these measures should be to the mutual benefit of the conventions concerned and be compatible with their provisions, obligations, mandates and objectives, respecting their independent nature. They should also respect ongoing efforts to enhance synergies, take into account the need to make an efficient use of resources and result in improved implementation of the relevant conventions and more efficient and streamlined processes.

3. The present annex streamlines these measures into three areas:

- (a) Enhancing cooperation and coordination mechanisms;
- (b) Enhancing management of and avoiding duplication related to information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators;
- (c) Enhancing the provision of capacity-building and guidance;

4. The annex further provides an outline for actions that would be undertaken in these three areas between 2017 and 2020.

B. Enhancing cooperation and coordination mechanisms

5. Many options for action to enhance synergies would be based on or require cooperation and coordination mechanisms. Efforts would therefore be taken to enhance cooperation and coordination mechanisms at the international level.

1. *Enhancing the work of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions*

6. The Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, comprising the convention secretariats, serves an important function in facilitating cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions. One area for enhanced synergies is to further enhance the work of the liaison group, including among counterpart staff of the respective secretariats to address specific areas as needed,

¹⁶ [UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/9/Add.1](#).

¹⁷ “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies”. See UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/36 and UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/37.

such as resource mobilization, capacity-building and Internet technology. Areas for additional common work could include communications,¹⁸ reporting and indicators, including those related to the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the preparation of guidance materials for Parties outlined in the relevant section below.

2. *Involving other relevant organisations in the work of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions*

7. Relevant international and regional organizations have an important role to support Parties in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions and to enhance synergies in their implementation. In order to enhance efficiencies, these organisations should be invited to contribute to the preparation of discussions in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and participate in its meetings where relevant. Such involvement would be complementary to other relevant mechanisms such as the United Nations Environment Management Group and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force. This would concern, in particular, international organizations that have a mandate in addressing biodiversity-related matters. These include the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme. They also include the Secretariats of the Global Environment Facility and of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.

8. One of the areas where such enhanced preparation and dialogue within the liaison group would be useful is for cooperating on and coordinating system-wide action on capacity-building to facilitate the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. Another would be to help clarify roles and responsibilities in mutually-supportive activities. It would also be able to provide links with appropriate processes related to the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. In addition, such enhanced cooperation and coordination mechanism would benefit also the strengthening of collaboration and support provided by regional organizations and mechanisms to Parties, including in the areas of communications and awareness-raising, resource mobilization and utilization, capacity-building and synergies at the science-policy interface. In addition, relevant regional organizations play an important role in regional strategies and initiatives and could also contribute to ensuring that discussions and options for enhancing effective implementation and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions extend also to relevant regional agreements and conventions.

3. *Developing and strengthening joint work programmes between conventions*

10. Bilateral work programmes between the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions provide a means to foster cooperation in areas of common interest and within the mandates of the conventions concerned. Several of the secretariats have established memoranda of cooperation which provide a framework for ongoing joint work plans.¹⁹ Such mechanisms between two or more instruments should continue to be developed and strengthened.

4. *Enhancing the work of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions*

11. The Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) involves representatives of Parties to the conventions – the Chairs of the scientific advisory bodies – together with the secretariats. Typically, other organizations have joined its meetings. It has convened

¹⁸ The work of the communications group, already established, aims to enhance coordination between secretariats in their communications efforts in support of their Parties, including collaboration on international observances.

¹⁹ Among those involving the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols are bilateral work plans with the secretariats of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and the International Plant Protection Convention.

in the margins of meetings of the scientific bodies on an opportunistic and irregular basis, being without a formal mandate or budget. Renewed consideration and incentive could be given for the CSAB to serve as a mechanism between the conventions, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and their respective secretariats to enable the biodiversity-related conventions to contribute in a coordinated manner to the development of assessments, scenarios and models, and other tools catalysed by the Platform, their assessment of needs for input to the next work programme of the Platform, and to avoid duplication.

C. Enhancing management of and avoiding duplication related to information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators

12. Collaboration in the management of information and knowledge and alignment in national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators, where relevant, would serve as an important foundation to enhancing synergies and efficiencies among the biodiversity-related conventions. Actions aimed to support capacity-building in this regard are outlined in this section rather than in section C below on capacity-building and guidance. Actions would be required of the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions, including in the framework of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and by relevant organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme through the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management (MEA-IKM) Initiative and the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC). The important role of the MEA-IKM and InforMEA²⁰ to the Convention and to enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions would be emphasized and supported by Parties and other Governments. Such actions would respect the legal autonomy and mandates of the conventions, and could include the measures contained in section B.1 in the table presented in section E below.

13. Relevant organizations, including the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme, could also provide countries with capacity-building support at the national level in the area of information and knowledge management, including the activities presented in section B.2. of the table presented in section E below.

D. Enhancing the provision of capacity-building and guidance

14. Many options for action by international organizations, including the convention secretariats, focus on capacity-building, or the provision of guidance, to support synergies in the implementation of the conventions. These include a number of basic guidance materials that could be prepared or made more readily available through immediate action as well as capacity-building initiatives/mechanisms that may involve preparatory actions and process. Taking account of the short-term action plan (2017-2020) to enhance and support capacity-building for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols (Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity decision XIII/23), such actions could include the measures set out in section C of the table presented in section E below.

1. *Guidance materials*

15. Aimed at a target audience of the national focal points and authorities and other relevant national actors involved in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions, existing materials should be made more widely known and readily available or new materials be prepared to address any gaps, as set out in section C.1. of the table presented in section E below.

2. *Capacity-building*

16. The secretariats of the conventions and international organizations have an important role in supporting national capacity-building across the various relevant areas. Benefiting from the enhanced coordination mechanism outlined in section B above, this could include actions by the secretariats of

²⁰ InforMEA is the Internet platform of the Multilateral Environmental Agreement Information and Knowledge Management (MEA-IKM) Initiative.

the conventions and relevant organizations, as set out in section C.2 of the table presented in section E below.

E. Actions for the period 2017-2020

17. The table at the end of this section briefly outlines the desirable key actions for enhancing synergies at the international level from 2017 to 2020. Some actions may require a decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and, in some cases, by the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions and international organizations. There will also be financial and human resource implications related to some of the actions. Consideration could be given to these matters by the governing bodies of each of the biodiversity-related conventions between 2017 and 2020, taking into account the cycle of their meetings as follows:

(a) The General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage meets every two years (twenty-first session, November 2017) during the sessions of the General Conference of UNESCO; and the World Heritage Committee meets once a year (forty-first session, 2-17 July 2017);

(b) The Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat meets every three years (thirteenth meeting, 2018) and its Standing Committee meets once a year (fifty-third session, 29 May-2 June 2017);

(c) The Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture holds its regular sessions at least once every two years (seventh session, 2017);

(d) The Commission on Phytosanitary Measures²¹ meets once a year (twelfth session, 5-11 April 2017);

(e) The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals meets every three years (twelfth meeting, 22-28 October 2017); and during the intersessional period its Standing Committee usually meets once a year, as well as immediately before and after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties;

(f) The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora meets every three years (eighteenth meeting, 2019); and during the intersessional period its Standing Committee meets twice, as well as immediately before and after each meeting of the Conference of the Parties (sixty-ninth meeting, 27 November-1 December 2017);

(g) The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity meets every two years (fourteenth meeting, 2018).

²¹ Established under article XI of the New Revised Text (NRT) of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) approved by the FAO Conference in November 1997 to serve as the global agreement's new governing body.

Table of desirable key actions for enhancing synergies at international level from 2017 to 2020

(This table should be read in conjunction with the full text of *Appendix 2*)

Area/expected outcome	Activity	Key action	Timeline 2017-2020	Potential lead organization(s)	Mandate from CBD	Mandate from other conventions	Origin
	<i>(Description of activity)</i>	<i>(Description of key action. Priority actions will be highlighted)</i>	<i>(Indication of the start and period)</i>	<i>(Lead organization, partner organizations, Parties)</i>	<i>(Mandate exists (e.g. Decision XII/6) or additional mandate would be required)</i>	<i>(Mandate exists or additional mandate would be required)</i>	<i>(Source document of intended action, for example: Annex II of UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15; decisions of the Conference of the Parties; decisions or resolutions of other conventions)</i>
A. Enhanced cooperation and coordination mechanisms	1. Enhancement of the efficiency of the work and processes of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (Biodiversity Liaison Group, BLG)	Counterpart staff working on specific areas	2017-2020	Convention secretariats			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
	2. Involving other relevant organizations in the work of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions to, among others: facilitate coordinated system-wide action on capacity-building; clarify roles and responsibilities in mutually-	Invitation to contribute to discussions of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and their preparation	2017-2020	Convention secretariats* and relevant organizations			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		Participation at meetings of the Liaison Group of	2017-2020	Convention secretariats* and			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15

Area/expected outcome	Activity	Key action	Timeline 2017-2020	Potential lead organization(s)	Mandate from CBD	Mandate from other conventions	Origin
	supportive activities; provide links with appropriate processes related to the SDGs, and; facilitate strengthened support to Parties at regional level	Biodiversity-related Conventions		relevant organizations			
	3. Fostering cooperation in areas of common interest and within the mandates of two or more conventions	Continued development and strengthening of joint work programmes and memoranda of understanding.		Convention secretariats*			UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/9/Add.1 (para.23 a))
	4. Enhancing the work of Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of biodiversity-related conventions (CSAB)	Coordination of the CSAB, including to enable it to serve as a mechanism between the conventions, Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and their secretariats	2017-2020	Convention secretariats,* IPBES Secretariat			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15

Area/expected outcome	Activity	Key action	Timeline 2017-2020	Potential lead organization(s)	Mandate from CBD	Mandate from other conventions	Origin
B. Enhancing management of, and avoiding duplication related to information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators	1. Collaboration in the management of information and knowledge and alignment in national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators	(a) Undertake an analysis of gaps and duplications of existing tools and approaches in information management and knowledge management, and an assessment of their effectiveness		UNEP MEA-IKM/InforMEA and the UNEP WCMC, in collaboration with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions*			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		(b) Provide support in designing data collection and monitoring systems		UNEP-WCMC, Convention secretariats*			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		(c) Advance and make use of relevant case studies on information management, such as those described in the UNEP Sourcebook, of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels (the UNEP Sourcebook)		UNEP-WCMC, Convention secretariats			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		(d) Provide guidance on national databases, data access and use, and share experience in national		UNEP MEA-IKM/InforMEA and the UNEP WCMC, in			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15

Area/expected outcome	Activity	Key action	Timeline 2017-2020	Potential lead organization(s)	Mandate from CBD	Mandate from other conventions	Origin
		database development and use, taking into account and utilizing relevant initiatives, including those under the clearing-house mechanism of the CBD, MEA IKM/InforMEA and the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF)		collaboration with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions*			
		(e) Support national efforts in national data gathering, reporting, monitoring and indicators, building on the work of InforMEA and the mapping exercises identified in the UNEP Sourcebook		Convention secretariats,* BLG** in collaboration with UNEP			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		(f) Maximize data compatibility and enhance links between data systems of the conventions and relevant global knowledge products; improve harmonization, links and interoperability of all relevant biodiversity-related data initiatives		Convention secretariats,* BLG** and relevant reciprocal organizations			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15

Area/expected outcome	Activity	Key action	Timeline 2017-2020	Potential lead organization(s)	Mandate from CBD	Mandate from other conventions	Origin
		(g) Contribute to the ongoing processes on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, including their refinement, and to the discussion of biodiversity-related indicators under each of the other conventions		Convention secretariats,* BLG**			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		(h) Provide, at regional and subregional levels, capacity-building related to data management and national reporting, including training on database systems		Convention secretariats,* UNEP and other international organizations that have a mandate in addressing biodiversity-related matters			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		(i) Keep under review opportunities for cooperation in reporting under the conventions, in line with CBD COP Decision XIII/27 on national reporting, and for ensuring interoperability between reporting systems		CBD Secretariat, convention secretariats,* UNEP and other relevant international organizations			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15

Area/expected outcome	Activity	Key action	Timeline 2017-2020	Potential lead organization(s)	Mandate from CBD	Mandate from other conventions	Origin
		or platforms (BLG), making use of and continuing the development of approaches and possible tools ²²					
	2. Provide countries with capacity-building at national level in the area of information and knowledge management	(a) Provision of appropriate tools and technology for database development		UNEP, UNDP and other relevant international organizations			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		(b) Pilot studies on database planning and management, for example in two countries per region		UNEP, UNDP and other relevant international organizations			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
C. Enhanced provision of capacity-building and guidance	1. Make existing guidance material more widely known and readily available, or prepare new materials to address any gaps	(a) List of existing guidance materials on synergies		UNEP-WCMC			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		(b) A guide and other communications material about the biodiversity-related conventions, their relationships and synergies among them		BLG,** convention secretariats,* UNEP			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15

²² Such as the modular approach to reporting in FOEN, UNEP-WCMC, NatureConsult (2016). Elements for a modular reporting against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge (UNEP/CBD/COP/13/INF/24)

Area/expected outcome	Activity	Key action	Timeline 2017-2020	Potential lead organization(s)	Mandate from CBD	Mandate from other conventions	Origin
		(c) Guidance on synergies in implementing the national biodiversity strategy and action plan, and similar strategies and action plans of other biodiversity-related conventions		BLG,** CBD Secretariat, convention secretariats,* UNEP			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		(d) Guidance document on possible opportunities for a coordinated approach to funding from the GEF and other multilateral systems, including the Green Climate Fund, where appropriate and/or possible		CBD Secretariat in collaboration with GEF secretariat and consultation with the Secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		(e) Success stories of synergies in implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions are compiled and made available, including through the Clearing-house Mechanism and the NBSAP Forum		CBD Secretariat, BLG,** convention secretariats* and GEF			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15

Area/expected outcome	Activity	Key action	Timeline 2017-2020	Potential lead organization(s)	Mandate from CBD	Mandate from other conventions	Origin
		(f) Provide information on synergies, such as the UNEP Sourcebook, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, common issues for biodiversity-related conventions and sources of funding for biodiversity, on the websites of each of the biodiversity-related convention, for example through a dedicated 'synergies' page		Convention secretariats,* BLG**			UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/9/Add.1 (para. 37(d))
	2. Capacity-building	(a) Identify common areas of national capacity-building needs, across the conventions		Convention secretariats,* other relevant organizations			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15

Area/expected outcome	Activity	Key action	Timeline 2017-2020	Potential lead organization(s)	Mandate from CBD	Mandate from other conventions	Origin
		(b) Share information on ongoing, planned and upcoming capacity-building programmes, projects and initiatives relevant to the biodiversity-related conventions in order to facilitate a coordinated approach, avoid duplication, ensure coherence of their delivery, maximize their utilization and enable cooperation in implementation where relevant		Convention secretariats* other relevant organizations			UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		(c) Deliver coordinated capacity-building, including through regional and subregional mechanisms and online mechanisms, taking advantage of existing networking opportunities for capacity-building and addressing common needs and areas of two or more conventions, and including building capacity for		Convention secretariats,* other relevant organizations	Decision XIII/23		UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15

Area/expected outcome	Activity	Key action	Timeline 2017-2020	Potential lead organization(s)	Mandate from CBD	Mandate from other conventions	Origin
		synergistic implementation of the conventions					
		(d) Conduct webinars, regional workshops and other activities for the national focal points of biodiversity-related conventions on accessing funds in the GEF biodiversity focal area		CBD Secretariat, GEF Secretariat, other convention secretariats,* other relevant organizations		Not needed	UNEP/CBD/COP/13/15
		(e) Establish joint events, such as a pavilion for biodiversity-related conventions, to be convened at international conventions and congresses		Convention secretariats,* BLG**			UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/9/Add.1 (para. 37 (b))

* Involvement of convention secretariats, as appropriate.

** The responsibility of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in this activity is to promote coordinated oversight, for example ensuring that actions and priorities are in line with guidance and mandates of their respective conventions and governing bodies.

Appendix 3

DRAFT RESOLUTION **/2017

COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

THE GOVERNING BODY,

Recalling Article 1.2 of the International Treaty, as well as Article 19.3 (g) and (l), which provide for the Governing Body to establish and maintain cooperation with, as well as take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the provisions of Article 20.5. which requires the Secretary to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Recalling Resolution 7/2015 regarding cooperation with the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat;

Acknowledging the need for continued capacity-building support to Parties, especially developing countries, for the mutually supportive implementation of the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol;

- 1) **Takes note** of the decisions of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, that are of relevance to the International Treaty;
- 2) **Requests** the Secretariat to continue monitoring and participating in the relevant processes related to the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, in order to promote practical, harmonious and appropriate interfaces among them, both nationally and internationally;
- 3) **Thanks** the Bureau for having prepared the Elements of Advice for the Global Environment Facility in relation to the International Treaty, and **welcomes** the decision by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to reflect such elements, at strategic level, in the four-year framework of programme priorities for the Global Environment Facility adopted at its thirteenth meeting and related to the seventh replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, and **takes note** of the considerations made by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, through Decision XIII/21, to develop strategic guidance for the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund;
- 4) **Invites** Contracting Parties, in line with Article 18.4 (a) of the International Treaty, to ensure due attention to plans and programmes that support the implementation of the International Treaty within the governing bodies of the Global Environment Facility during the negotiations and adoption of the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, including by making use, if appropriate, of the Elements of Advice for the Global Environment Facility in relation to the International Treaty prepared by the Bureau;
- 5) **Notes with appreciation** the options for action to enhance cooperation, coordination and synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions developed by the workshop held in Geneva in February 2016;
- 6) **Welcomes** the Options for Enhancing Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the National Level, and the Road Map for Enhancing Synergies Among the Biodiversity-related Conventions at the International Level 2017-2020, contained in Annexes I and II of Decision XIII/24 of the thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

- 7) **Invites** Contracting Parties to consider supporting implementation of these options, in order to further strengthen cooperation and coordination with other relevant international instruments and to enhance synergies with them;
- 8) **Requests** the Secretary to undertake relevant actions foreseen in these options, as appropriate and subject to the availability of financial resources, particularly in the context of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, joint work programmes with other relevant international instruments, information and knowledge management, reporting and monitoring, public communication and capacity-development activities;
- 9) **Notes** that the follow up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provides an opportunity to further enhance coherence and cooperation between the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity and **emphasizes** the importance of maintaining and strengthening targets for plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including by relying on the monitoring information available through the reporting processes of the International Treaty and the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, and by taking into account the experience gained in monitoring target 2.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals; and furthermore, **stresses** that targets on access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable use of the benefits arising out of their use should take into account the International Treaty and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing;
- 10) **Requests** the Secretary to continue collaborating with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity on issues related to digital sequence information in order to promote coherence in and mutual supportiveness in their respective activities;
- 11) **Requests** the Secretary to cooperate with the Executive Secretary of the CBD by providing information on developments and practical implementation experiences within the International Treaty, with a view to informing future discussions on Article 10 of the Nagoya Protocol;
- 12) **Requests** the Secretary to continue exploring technical options for the connection of the Global Information System of the International Treaty with the Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House Portal in areas of mutual interest for the benefit of Contracting Parties and users;
- 13) **Welcomes** the efforts of the Secretariats of the International Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity in collaborating with Bioversity International, the ABS Capacity Development Initiative and other partners to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in implementation of the International Treaty, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Nagoya Protocol, and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue facilitating such interaction on the mutual supportiveness and harmonious implementation of the instruments, and to report the outcomes of such activities to the Governing Body;
- 14) **Welcomes** the engagement of the Secretariat of the International Treaty in capacity-development activities on harmonious and mutually supportive implementation and **requests** the Secretary to continue engaging in such activities, subject to the availability of financial resources;
- 15) **Commends** the Secretariat for its efforts to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and **requests** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, practical means and activities to further enhance this cooperation along the lines established in the Memorandum of Cooperation, and the Joint Initiative between the two Secretariats, and to report to the Governing Body;
- 16) **Requests** the Secretary to continue reporting on cooperation with the Convention at each Session of the Governing Body.