



Dist.
GENERAL

12 October 2014

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Convention on Biological Diversity
 Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
 Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
 International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture
 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
 World Heritage Convention

MINUTES OF THE NINTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE LIAISON GROUP OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

**16 August 2014
 Warth, Switzerland**

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The ninth regular meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) was held on 16 August 2014 at the Kartause Ittingen, in Warth, Switzerland. Mr. Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary of International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, chaired the meeting. In opening the meeting, he welcomed the participants and presented the agenda, which was adopted without changes. (The Agenda is contained in *Annex I* to these minutes).
2. The Chair indicated that a number of observers had been invited to this meeting based on their relationship with the BLG and the important work they were carrying on biodiversity-related issues. In introducing Ms. Yoko Watanabe from the GEF Secretariat, he observed that the BLG members were having increasing interactions and discussions with the GEF, and noted the timeliness of her presence in light of the recently concluded Fifth GEF Assembly and the commencement of GEF-6. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), represented by Mr. Robert Lamb, has had long-standing association with members of the BLG and is currently carrying out a project to promote synergies in the implementation of the Conventions. Mr. Bhatti further noted that, based on consultations among the members of the BLG in 2013, it had been agreed that the Secretariat of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) would be invited to participate as an observer at this meeting to present its work related to biodiversity. IPPC was represented by Mr. Craig Fedchock, who gave a presentation under agenda item 3. (The list of participants is contained in *Annex II* to these minutes.)

ITEM 2. SHORT BRIEFINGS BY MEMBERS ON RECENT AND UPCOMING MEETINGS AND INITIATIVES

3. Members provided brief updates on recent relevant developments in their processes since the last meeting of the BLG.
4. Mr. Qunli Han, of UNESCO/WHC, highlighted the on-going cooperation of his Secretariat with both Ramsar and CITES, especially related to the challenges of illicit trade of flora/fauna. He informed participants about the work on Network of Biosphere Reserves, noting that the guidelines for cooperation were currently undergoing internal review and would be ready for CBD COP12 (possibly as an information document). He noted that there had been increasing attention in the WHC on national-level focal points and their involvement in the NBSAPs revision processes. He also gave a brief update on WHC's electronic reporting system.

5. Mr. Bert Lenten, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), gave an update on the preparations for CMS COP11, to be held from 4 to 9 November 2014 in Quito, Ecuador. He noted that regional “pre-COP” consultations were being held, and that the COP would include, for the first time, a high-level session. He also informed on the preparation of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2015-2023 indicating that they had, as far as possible, used the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as a basis (incorporating 8 out of the 12 Aichi targets). He also informed that they were working on enhancing internal synergies for common services within the CMS family and, in that context, as a pilot the information management system for the AEWA agreement has been with that of CMS, as a template for further merging of functions. He noted that a few new species have now been proposed to be added to the CMS annexes, including sharks, polar bear, European eel, etc. Furthermore he informed the meeting that for Central Asia the so-called Central Asian Large Mammals Initiative has been developed which is an innovative approach and will focus on the region instead of species by species.

6. Ms. Marceil Yeater of the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) gave an update on the outcomes of the 65th meeting of the Standing Committee (SC65), held in July 2014, which *inter alia* had noted the Secretariat’s report on cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions, particularly in the context of the BLG, and welcomed the progress made on access to the GEF. She indicated that the Executive Summaries of all of the decisions of the Standing Committee had been compiled and posted online by the Secretariat. She noted that the first World Wildlife Day (WWD) was celebrated on 3 March 2014 and that details were contained in document SC65 Doc. 15. During related discussions, it was suggested that there be better global coordination on the declaration and observance of special international days for improved coherence and greater impact. She noted the challenges of bringing coherence to the listing of species, especially between CMS and CITES. She gave a general update on recent high level events and initiatives on illegal wildlife trade, drawing on information available on the CITES website and noting the key role played by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime which comprises the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Bank. She said that CITES is continuing to develop a programme on innovative financing, as well as furthering its cooperative efforts with the private sector in relation to legal, sustainable and traceable trade in skins from Appendix II Asian snake species used for luxury products.

7. Mr. Christopher Briggs, Ramsar Convention, updated participants on progress in the preparation of their Strategic Plan, to be presented in June 2015 to members at the next conference of parties in Uruguay. They were shortly to be holding preparatory regional meetings for the COP for June 2015 in Punta del Este, and were, in this respect, coordinating with a CBD event in Asia to save costs. He highlighted their increasing cooperation with UNESCO/WHC, indicating that WHC also had funds to carry out assessments on the ground, like Ramsar Advisory Missions, which complemented the Party reporting. He also informed that Ramsar was now undertaking the review the three transboundary Conventions - New York 1997, Helsinki 1992, and Ramsar 1971 – and this would eventually be launched. He also commented on the proliferation of special international days and on the need to bring more coherence to their establishment and observance.

8. Mr. Braulio Dias, the Executive Secretary of the CBD, provided updates on the outcomes of fifth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (WGRI-5) and the eighteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-18); preparations for CBD COP12, COP/MOP7 of the Cartagena Protocol and COP/MOP1 of the Nagoya Protocol; findings of the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO4); and the status of biodiversity in the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) processes. He noted that the requisite number of countries had ratified the Nagoya Protocol for it to come into force, and that the first COP-MOP of the Nagoya Protocol will be held in the second week of COP12.

9. Mr. Dias noted that the preparations for the COP were well advanced. He also noted that in addition to how to enhance efforts on implementation, one of the key issues for discussion would be resource mobilization. He noted that COP11 had agreed on preliminary targets for resource mobilization, and that he hoped that the final targets would be agreed at COP12. The report of the High Level Panel on Resource Mobilization would also be launched during the COP. Mr. Dias further informed participants that one expected result at COP12 was a package of COP decisions aimed at implementation of the Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets that might become known as the “Pyeongchang Roadmap”. He noted that Parties were calling for more integration of processes and meetings under the CBD, and that there was a proposal for the establishment of a Subsidiary Body on

Implementation (SBI) to replace WGRI. The SBI would, if established, serve not only COP but also the COP/MOPs of its Protocols. Parties will also consider the functional review of SCBD, based on the report of the consultants, which will be made available as an information document to the COP.

10. Mr. Dias finally noted that there would be many parallel events and side events during the COP, including a Business and Biodiversity Forum and a Cities Summit to be held prior to the commencement of the COP.

11. Mr. Kent Nnadozie, International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, provided an update on the outcomes of the Fifth Session of the Treaty's Governing Body and other recent developments of relevance. He indicated that the Treaty's Governing Body endorsed the Secretariat's participation in the BLG for better coordination among the conventions, including on fund-raising and collaboration on IPBES. It had also called for the mutually supportive implementation of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS and the Treaty, and expressed its willingness to establish a formal relationship with the Protocol's COP-MOP upon its establishment. Mr. Nnadozie highlighted the joint work with SCBD in a number of areas, including, hosting and providing office facilities to one of the staff of the Treaty Secretariat in the SCBD in Montreal, and a recent tandem workshop in Rome, where the national focal points of both Agreements came together to discuss access and benefit-sharing. He informed that the Governing Body of the Treaty had launched a new negotiating process for the enhancement of the Treaty's Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing. He also informed of the process currently underway under the African Union Commission for the establishment of a Coordination Mechanism for the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions in the Africa region.

ITEM 3. THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONVENTION (IPPC)

12. Mr. Dias, the Executive Secretary of the CBD, gave a brief background to the invitation of the IPPC Secretariat to the meeting. He noted that the SCBD has long had bilateral collaboration with the IPPC, including a joint secretariat meeting last year, where IPPC expressed their interest in joining the BLG. Following consultations among the BLG members, it was agreed that the IPPC Secretariat be invited to attend this meeting, as an observer, to enlighten members on IPPC's mandate and activities as they related to biodiversity, and to consider their interest in becoming a member of the BLG.

13. Mr. Craig Fedchok, representing the IPPC Secretariat, informed participants that IPPC is hosted in FAO and its mandate focused primarily on preventing the introduction of plant pests. The IPPC has 181 member states and establishes Standards on many issues related to the plant health area and covers all plants beyond agricultural plants and forests, including invasive alien species discussed in the biodiversity community. The IPPC's work on pests also extends beyond prevention of plant diseases, but also includes surveillance with a national and regional orientation. IPPC contracting parties regularly undertake risk assessments and response, adopt a prevention-based approach and put in place measures to manage the pathways of plant pests and, when an infestation occurs, they institute eradication programmes. Under the Convention, phytosanitary capacity evaluations are carried out by the countries themselves with some facilitation by the Secretariat, to help to put in place National Action Plans. International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures developed under the Convention are the only plant health standards for trade recognized by the World Trade Organization. He noted that IPPC's work is linked to Aichi Biodiversity Target 9.

14. Members of the BLG thanked him for the information and updates.

ITEM 4. FACILITATION OF ACCESS TO FINANCIAL RESOURCES FROM THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY (GEF) FOR CONVENTIONS OTHER THAN THE CBD

15. Ms. Yoko Watanabe of the GEF Secretariat updated the meeting on the outcomes of the recent meetings of the GEF Council and GEF Assembly and other issues regarding the GEF-6 replenishment and the biodiversity strategy. She conveyed the appreciation of the GEF Secretariat for the support and inputs received from the BLG members for the replenishment and the development of the GEF Biodiversity Strategy. She informed that GEF-6 has already commenced following the conclusion of the replenishment negotiation, which the GEF received pledges of U.S. \$4.43 billion from donors, which was an increase from the previous cycle. She also noted the significant increase in contribution from the middle-income countries for this successful replenishment.

16. During the GEF Assembly and Council meetings that were held in June, the programming directions and policy recommendations for GEF-6 as well as GEF 2020 strategy were endorsed. The GEF 2020 will focus on

the drivers of environmental degradation, delivering results at scale, and adopts a more integrated approach under a strong and wider partnership. .

17. The Biodiversity Strategy Focal Area has a U.S. \$1.69 billion allocation for GEF-6, and is consistent with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. It has 4 overall Focal Area Objectives comprised of 10 Programs: (1) Protected Areas systems, (2) reduction of threats to globally significant biodiversity, (3) sustainable use of biodiversity, and (4) mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes, seascapes and other production sectors.

18. She briefly described some of the programs under the GEF-6 Biodiversity Focal Area strategy. A summary of the Biodiversity Strategy is contained in *Annex III* to this Report, while the full text is available at: <http://www.thegef.org/gef/sites/thegef.org/files/publication/GEF-6-BD-strategy.pdf>.

19. One of the notable aspects of the new programming directions of GEF-6 is the inclusion of the Integrated Approach Pilots, – which aim at addressing some of the underlying drivers of environmental degradation through special focus on food security, urbanization, and deforestation.

20. Ms. Watanabe highlighted the inclusiveness of the GEF Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy, which emphasizes, among others, synergies in the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions under the direction of the Strategic Plan on Biodiversity. She noted the linkages to the conventions under the different programmes under the biodiversity focal area and other focal areas, such as land degradation, international waters, and sustainable forest management. She also explained about the GEF Small Grants Programme, which supports community level initiatives on biodiversity in over 125 countries.

21. She also provided information on the GEF project cycle, particularly on how projects are developed and processed at the national level. Under the System of Transparent Allocation of Resources (STAR), projects are often identified in a more strategic and coordinated manner by prioritizing projects among the national stakeholders. She also noted about the voluntary process at the country level in conducting a National Portfolio Formulation Exercise through involvement of wider national stakeholders. A number of countries have already started engaging in the exercise with GEF's support. She indicated that this process might provide opportunities for the conventions of the BLG to participate and provide inputs to the process. There may be opportunities for the relevant Secretariats of the conventions of the BLG to be involved in the consultation process of the related Integrated Approach Pilots.

22. The GEF is also revising its project templates in order to reflect clear links with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to enable effective reporting to the CBD

23. She informed that there are now 14 GEF Agencies, with the recent addition of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US), Conservation International, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Development Bank of South Africa, while a number of other institutions are currently under consideration.

24. Following her updates, participants emphasised the need for conveying information, through national focal points, on the necessity of taking the needs of other conventions through the GEF Operational Focal Point and CBD Focal Point, as countries plan for projects under GEF-6, and to use their STAR allocations in a more integrated and inclusive manner. They also noted that it would be useful for the GEF Secretariat to share information with the BLG members on the next series of national and regional planning workshops so as to explore the possibility of informing their respective NFPs to contact and discuss with the GEF Operational Focal Point on their possible participation.

25. Mr. Ravi Sharma, of the Secretariat of the CBD, gave an update on the outcomes of the CBD WGRI-5 related to the Financial Mechanism. The recommendation of WGRI to the COP, among others, called for better coordination among national focal points and proposed the possibility of the COPs of the other conventions to convey to the COP of the CBD priority issues that they wish to be taken into consideration for GEF support.

26. Follow up actions agreed are:

- GEF-Sec to share, when available, the list of country-level dialogues and consultations on portfolio planning;

- GEF-Sec to share information on the guidelines for accessing funds and any other information that could assist other conventions and focal points in better understanding the GEF application processes and requirements;
- BLG members to identify common issues/countries/regions where they could undertake joint activities/projects;

ITEM 5. PRESENTATION ON UNEP PROJECT ON SYNERGIES AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED MEAS

27. Mr. Robert Lamb presented a written report provided to the BLG by UNEP on its activities relevant to biodiversity. He reported, notably, on progress in the implementation of the UNEP project on promoting synergies in the implementation of the biodiversity-related conventions. The project, which is funded by the EU and Switzerland, seeks to identify opportunities for enhancing cooperation and synergies in the implementation of the conventions and to provide options or recommendations to stakeholders in a non-prescriptive manner. Mr. Lamb noted that the project's targets were the national authorities, Secretariats, hosting institutions and other stakeholders. It would also seek to provide tools for country-level implementation of the conventions, the development of inclusive NBSAPs, exchange of information, and coherence in reporting and resource mobilization. According to Mr. Lamb, the project consists of four work packages, the first focused on global level cooperation, the second on country level coordination, another on resource mobilization, and the last focused on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and support for NBSAP revision.

28. He indicated that two workshops had already been organized under the project following the distribution of questionnaires to governments and others. He informed that there would be a follow-up workshop in Interlaken the week following the BLG meeting, which would develop a draft options paper that would be reviewed and finalized in a subsequent workshop in the second half of 2015, for submission to UNEA2 in 2016. Another major output of the project would be the publication of a source book, which countries could use to implement the conventions in an integrated manner. The source book will be presented during the CBD COP12.

29. Participants thanked him for the update and indicated that representatives of the Secretariats would be attending the workshop in Interlaken, noting that the BLG members had been collaborating extensively among themselves and increasingly with other entities, including FAO and UNDP. However, they need communicate these efforts to countries more effectively.

ITEM 6. JOINT REPORTING INITIATIVE

30. Mr. Bert Lenten of the CMS Secretariat gave an update on the online reporting system developed by UNEP-WCMC. He informed that the system is still undergoing trials in order to resolve identified issues and bugs. He noted that while the system has a lot of potential, more work is needed, as it did not yet include analytical tools. CMS had held side events to demonstrate the system at both previous CBD and Ramsar COP. He noted also that one of the challenges of integrating with other systems was that different institutions used different and often incompatible platforms, but the intention was to continue exploring ways to facilitate collaborations for data-sharing and exchange among the participating partners. For the next steps, they expected to receive an African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) grant to develop the system further with the UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), including incorporating data analysis capabilities.

31. Mr. Dias noted that the SCBD was in a period of transition at the moment in regard to the Secretariat's knowledge management and information technology system. He noted that the Secretariat's IT experts felt that the current WCMC system would not fully serve all their needs, since they would like to see more detailed reporting from Parties, but were definitely keen on interfacing and being able to share data and information with others. CITES advised other members that it had been working with UNEP-WCMC on an online reporting system, including under activities of the Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative between MEAs and UNEP which is co-chaired by the CITES Secretariat. Mr. Han of the WHC indicated that while they received reports electronically, there is not yet direct online reporting, and that they would also like to be better connected with others. For the ITPGRFA, while it has a fairly advanced reporting system for its Multilateral System, it is also exploring online national reporting possibilities and interconnection with others. For the RAMSAR Convention, all data in its possession will be going live online on its website soon, but this would not yet apply to national reports. They hope to bring this to attention of their next COP.

32. Participants acknowledged the desirability of being better connected with other conventions and agreed to keep sharing information among themselves on progress in the development of information management systems, including through the IKM Initiative, and to explore opportunities for interoperability and interconnection, for instance, organized along the lines of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

ITEM 7. COOPERATION AMONG BLG SECRETARIATS IN SUPPORT OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND TOWARDS THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

33. Members reviewed the implementation of joint activities during the 2013–2014 biennium and considered other collaborative activities, in particular in the following areas:

a) Cooperation related to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES);

34. Mr. Dias noted that it was necessary for the BLG to actively engage with IPBES as it begins to undertake assessments or respond to the requests of Parties. This will enable members to work closely with the IPBES Secretariat in responding to the requests of Parties and to ensure that it addresses the specific needs of the conventions. He suggested that the IPBES Secretariat be invited to the next meeting of the BLG as an observer.

35. Members agreed that the IPBES Secretariat should be invited to next meeting of the BLG and to have a dedicated agenda item on IPBES cooperation, focusing especially on scientific and technological cooperation and the agreed thematic assessment on sustainable use.

b) Communications and public awareness

36. Members agreed that it would be useful to engage in joint communication/outreach efforts on issues of common interest, including through: reinvigorating the UN Decade on Biodiversity; coordination, a joint calendar and common messaging on special international events and days; involving other international actors such as the World Bank, UNDP, World Association of Zoos and Aquariums, etc.; and the engagement of Biodiversity Champions. They also agreed to harmonize their calendars and, whenever possible, pull resources together to jointly organize awareness campaigns on pertinent overlapping issues, especially in the context of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the SDGs. They further agreed to exchange ideas and share information on their respective communication strategies.

37. Members further agreed to bring members of the information and communication teams of the respective Secretariats together to hold a virtual meeting before the CBD COP 12 with a view to discussing opportunities for common messaging during the COP and afterwards, as well as possible future joint communication strategies on issues of common interest.

c) Collaborative participation and events;

38. Mr. Dias welcomed the participation of the BLG members in the High -Level Segment and the informal dialogue session of the CBD COP12. Members agreed to assess relevant agenda items for which it would be appropriate to make joint statements or interventions. Members further agreed to explore opportunities for conveying common messages from the BLG and raising awareness on the cooperation/synergies among the conventions during the governing body meetings of members.

d) Review on attendance of respective meetings;

39. Members were informed that the mandate of the IMG would soon be winding down and that there was a proposal for the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force to take the work of the IMG forward, and be used as an effective vehicle for closer cooperation on the implementation of the Aichi Targets. Mr. Dias informed that about 27 entities are part of the Task Force, and that the Task Force provided a significant opportunity for mainstreaming biodiversity, **and agreed to invite the WHC as a member of the Task Force.** The Task Force will be meeting during COP12.

40. Mr. Dias informed the participants that one of the key issues for the consideration of COP12 would be resource mobilization and the agreement on targets. Following an update by Mr. Ravi Sharma, Mr. Dias was of the view that current estimates of expenditures on biodiversity were likely far below the actual figures, as expenditures from other sectors outside the traditional CBD constituencies were not being fully captured. It was agreed that the members of the BLG should explore how to best use BLG member focal points to obtain more comprehensive information on biodiversity financing, and **that Mr. Dias could send out letters to the other**

Secretariats to request relevant information from their Parties through their respective national focal points.

e) Participation in other collaborative initiatives and networks

41. Ms. Amy Fraenkel of the CBD Secretariat provided an update on the state of affairs of the negotiations related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals had concluded its work. She noted that discussions would now move to the UNGA for the consideration and possible adoption of the SDGs. She also informed that there were already discussions within the Technical Support Team to start working on indicators for the agreed SDGs and targets. It was agreed that members should continue to coordinate and share information both during and after the adoption of the SDGs, and that the SCBD would solicit inputs from members for the development of indicators.

42. Ms. Fraenkel also informed that there were discussions on-going in various settings, including the IMG for biodiversity, on how to ensure that biodiversity is included in the UNDAFs. Part of the issue will be how to update UNDAF guidelines to include biodiversity and the Strategic Plan 2011-2020.

43. It was agreed that the SCBD continues to **follow-up on these issues, liaising more closely with others on further developments and as more information materializes. It was also agreed that the CBD Secretariat would organize a conference call to discuss next steps on post-2015 UN Development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, including indicators and any other necessary follow-up steps with relevant officers.**

f) Scientific and technical cooperation

44. Members were informed that there was facilitative work being planned by SCBD in regard to scientific and technical cooperation, with possible financial support to be provided the government of the Republic of Korea. This would provide further opportunity for collaboration and joint initiatives among members.

45. Members agreed to share more information on the activities they are carrying out regarding capacity building, training and institutional development, as well as scientific/technological work. They also agreed to coordinate more in this regard and consider holding joint activities especially at the regional level.

46. In regard to broader cooperation, it was agreed that the SCBD would prepare an updated version of the BLG's Framework for Cooperation, incorporating any additional elements arising from this meeting, and circulate it for comments and further discussion.

ITEM 8. ENHANCING COORDINATION, COHERENCE AND NATIONAL-LEVEL SYNERGIES AMONG THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

47. Mr. Dias recalled the CBD COP11's request to him to propose options for the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national-level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. He noted that the closer interaction with the GEF is a concrete example of such coordination. He noted that the Pyeongchang Roadmap, if adopted, could also provide opportunities for working more closely together in the implementation of the relevant elements. It was agreed that such activities do not necessarily have to involve all the members concurrently, since there are areas of work that do not overlap in all cases.

Members agreed that many of the items agreed to under Agenda Item 7 would further enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. Based on those items and on additional discussions, areas of possible coordination were identified including:

- Legislative needs and rule of law, support for the legislative needs for implementation more broadly, including through developing additional guides or manuals on how to do biodiversity-related legislation;
- NBSAP revision, in which members are already collaborating;
- Communication strategy/UN decade on Biodiversity;
- UNDAF guidelines;
- IPBES process;
- SDGs process;

- Cooperation on specific Aichi targets e.g. multiple threats to wildlife.

48. Members also discussed the need to improve synergies among the conventions through actions by Parties, both at the national level and in collaboration by the governing bodies of the various conventions. The CBD Secretariat noted that the document on cooperation, addressing the COP11 decision, would include discussion on this aspect as well.

ITEM 9. SECRETARIAT ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

49. Mr. John Scanlon drew attention to the decision of the CITES Standing Committee in July 2014 to establish an intersessional Working Group to review the administrative hosting arrangements for the CITES Secretariat. The Terms of Reference for the Working Group included the review of models that exist within, or are linked to, the UN system for the hosting of convention secretariats. In that respect, the CITES Secretariat was examining examples of different models for presentation to the Standing Committee through the Working Group. Mr. Scanlon also informed members that the Joint Inspection Unit Report, which was recently released, reviewed the issue of hosting arrangements of conventions.

50. It was agreed that the CITES Secretariat would share information it gathers regarding administrative hosting arrangements and options, and it could, in so doing, also consult with and request information from other Secretariats.

ITEM 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

51. Following further deliberations among the members, it was unanimously agreed that the Secretariat of IPPC be invited to join the BLG as its seventh member, and **requested Mr. Dias to formally communicate this to the IPPC Secretariat, on behalf of the members. It was affirmed that based on the Modus Operandi adopted by the members, new members would need to be global conventions with a mandate that is related substantially to biodiversity.**

52. It was agreed that the next regular meeting should be in the summer 2015 in Switzerland, with a possible virtual meeting before the end of 2014.

Annex I

**NINTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE LIAISON GROUP OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED
CONVENTIONS**

16 August 2014

Warth, Switzerland

AGENDA

- ITEM 1. Opening of the meeting
- ITEM 2. Short briefings by members on recent and upcoming meetings and initiatives
- ITEM 3. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)
- ITEM 4. Facilitation of access to financial resources from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for conventions other than the CBD
- ITEM 5. Presentation on UNEP project on synergies in the implementation of the biodiversity-related MEAs
- ITEM 6. Joint reporting initiative
- ITEM 7. Cooperation among BLG secretariats in support of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
- ITEM 8. Enhancing coordination, coherence and national-level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions
- ITEM 9. Secretariat administrative arrangements
- ITEM 10. Any other business

*Annex II***LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

CBD	Mr. Braulio Dias, Executive Secretary Ms. Amy Fraenkel, Principal Officer Mr. Ravi Sharma, Principal Officer Mr. Markus Lehmann, Economist
CITES	Mr. John Scanlon, Secretary-General Ms. Marceil Yeater, Chief, Legal Affairs & Trade Policy
CMS	Mr. Bert Lenten, Deputy Executive Secretary
ITPGRFA	Mr. Shakeel Bhatti, Secretary Mr. Kent Nnadozie, Senior Technical Officer
Ramsar	Mr. Christopher Briggs, Secretary-General
World Heritage Convention	Mr. Qunli Han, Secretary, Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme
GEF	Ms. Yoko Watanabe, Senior Biodiversity Specialist
IPPC	Mr. Craig Fedchock, Coordinator
UNEP	Mr. Robert Lamb, Senior Programme Officer

Annex III

SUMMARY OF GEF-6 BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY

FOCAL AREA OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS
<p>Objective 1: Improve sustainability of protected area systems</p>	<p>Program 1: Improving Financial Sustainability and Effective Management of the National Ecological Infrastructure</p>	<p>Outcome 1.1. Increased revenue for protected area systems and globally significant protected areas to meet total expenditures required for management.</p> <p>Indicator 1.1: Funding gap for management of protected area systems and globally significant protected areas.</p> <p>Outcome 1.2: Improved management effectiveness of protected areas.</p> <p>Indicator 1.2: Protected area management effectiveness score.</p>
	<p>Program 2: Nature's Last Stand: Expanding the Reach of the Global Protected Area Estate</p>	<p>Outcome 2.1 Increase in area of terrestrial and marine ecosystems of global significance in new protected areas and increase in threatened species of global significance protected in new protected areas.</p> <p>Indicator 2.1 Area of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and number of threatened species.</p> <p>Outcome 2.2: Improved management effectiveness of new protected areas.</p> <p>Indicator 2.2: Protected area management effectiveness score.</p>
<p>Objective 2: Reduce threats to globally significant biodiversity</p>	<p>Program 3: Preventing the Extinction of Known Threatened Species</p>	<p>Outcome 3.1: Reduction in rates of poaching of rhinos and elephants and other threatened species and increase in arrests and convictions (baseline established per participating country)</p> <p>Indicator 3.1: Rates of poaching incidents and arrests and convictions.</p>
	<p>Program 4: Prevention, Control and Management of Invasive Alien Species</p>	<p>Outcome 4.1 Improved management frameworks to prevent, control, and manage invasive alien species (IAS).</p> <p>Indicator 4.1: IAS management framework operational score.</p> <p>Outcome 4.2 Species extinction avoided as a result of IAS management (if applicable)</p> <p>Indicator 4.2 Sustainable populations of critically threatened species.</p>
	<p>Program 5: Implementing the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB)</p>	<p>Outcome 5.1 Adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology that may have adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking also into account risks to human health (both women and men), and specifically focusing on transboundary movements</p> <p>Indicator 5.1: National biosafety decision-making systems operational score.</p>

FOCAL AREA OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS
Objective 3: Sustainably use biodiversity	Program 6: Ridge to Reef+: Maintaining Integrity and Function of Coral Reef Ecosystems	Outcome 6.1. Integrity and functioning of coral reef ecosystems maintained and area increased. Indicator 6.1 Area of coral reef ecosystems that maintain or increase integrity and function as measured by number of coral species and abundance both outside and inside MPAs.
	Program 7: Securing Agriculture's Future: Sustainable Use of Plant and Animal Genetic Resources	Outcome 7.1 Increased genetic diversity of globally significant cultivated plants and domesticated animals that are sustainably used within production systems. Indicator 7. 1. Diversity status of target species.
	Program 8: Implement the Nagoya Protocol on ABS	Outcome 8.1: Legal and regulatory frameworks, and administrative procedures established that enable access to genetic resources and benefit sharing in accordance with the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol Indicator 8.1: National ABS frameworks operational score.
Objective 4: Mainstream biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes and seascapes and production sectors	Program 9: Managing the Human-Biodiversity Interface	Outcome 9.1 Increased area of production landscapes and seascapes that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into management. Indicator 9.1 Production landscapes and seascapes that integrate biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into their management preferably demonstrated by meeting national or international third-party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (e.g. FSC, MSC) or supported by other objective data. Outcome 9.2 Sector policies and regulatory frameworks incorporate biodiversity considerations. Indicator 9.2 The degree to which sector policies and regulatory frameworks incorporate biodiversity considerations and implement the regulations.
	Program 10: Integration of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services into Development & Finance Planning	Outcome 10.1 Biodiversity values and ecosystem service values integrated into accounting systems and internalized in development and finance policy and land-use planning and decision-making. Indicator 10. 1 The degree to which biodiversity values and ecosystem service values are internalized in development, finance policy and land-use planning and decision making.