Draft for consultation

Note: this document is an advance review version of an information document for the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation under agenda item 15 - review of the effectiveness of processes under the Convention and its Protocols[1]*. This document complements documents CBD/SBI/2/16 CBD/SBI/2/16/Add.1 and an additional information document on this issue.*

RESULTS OF AN ONLINE SURVEY REVIEWING THE EXPERIENCE OF PARTICIPANTS TO THE 2016 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE HELD IN CANCUN MEXICO.

I. BACKGROUND

1. At the UN Biodiversity Conference held in Cancun, Mexico, in 2016, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was, for the first time, convened concurrently with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. In decision XIII/26, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, decided to use a list of criteria for reviewing, at its fourteenth and fifteenth meetings, experience in holding meetings concurrently, and requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a preliminary review, using these criteria, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting. The meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols decided to use similar criteria for reviewing their meetings in decision VIII/10 and decision 2/12, respectively.

2. In response to this request, and to solicit further views on various issues related to the UN Biodiversity Conference, a survey was distributed electronically to 2,810 participants to the Conference[2]. This represents approximately 90% of all registered participants. The survey was distributed on 22 February 2017 and was open until 10 March 2016. Reminders to complete the survey were sent on 3 March 2017 and on 9 March 2017. Survey respondents participated in their personal capacity and their responses do not necessarily reflect the official view of the Parties or organizations they represent. The survey was complemented by one sent to Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization inviting them to reflect on the criterion adopted in decision XIII/26, COP-MOP VIII/10 and COP-MOP 2/12 in an official capacity. The results from this notification will be made available in an associated information document.

3. The survey invited respondents to complete a questionnaire by indicating their degree of agreement with a set of statements and were provide with an opportunity to further substantial their responses with written comments. The questions in the survey were based on the criterion adopted in decisions XIII/26, COP-MOP VIII/10 and COP-MOP 2/12 but also addressed a several additional related issues, including the High Level Segment, the Rio Pavilion, side events, the CEPA Fair, other related events as well as logistics for the Conference. In the following sections the survey responses are summarized. Further all the written comments received are reproduced in the annex to this note.

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[1] Montreal, Canada, 9-13 July 2018. See: CBD/SBI/2/1 available at https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBI-02

[2] E-mail addresses were collected from the list of registered participants to the UN Biodiversity Conference. As some participants did not provide an email addressed and/or registered using a generic institutional email address it was not possible to contact all registered participants. Further the survey was not distributed to United Nations staff servicing the meeting, security personnel, interpreters, local staff, volunteers and those individuals who only attended a specific event taking place at the margins of the Conference.

II. RESPONDENTS TO THE SURVEY

4. Responses to the survey were received from 749 respondents. This represents a response rate of approximately 27% amongst those surveyed and 24% of all participants in the UN Biodiversity Conference. 47% of respondents represented Parties, 8% represented indigenous peoples and local communities and 38% represented other observers. A further 6% represented non-party governments, including subnational authorities. This distribution of responses in similar to the overall participation in the UN Biodiversity Conference where Parties account for 48% of participants, indigenous peoples and local communities represented 5% of participants and observers account for 45% of participants. On a regional basis 17% of responses were from Africa, 21% from Asia and the Pacific, 8% from Central and Eastern Europe, 25% from Latin America and the Caribbean and 30% from the Western Europe and Other Group. This distribution is similar to the regional distribution of participants in the UN Biodiversity Conference.

5. Of the respondents 82% were primarily following issues related to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 35% were primarily following issues related to the Cartagena Protocol and 36% were primarily following issues related to the Nagoya Protocol. Note that the total exceeds 100% as some participants were following multiple issues. For example 116 (15%) respondents indicated that there were following issues related to the Convention as well as the two protocols.

6. Of the survey respondents the majority (60%) participated for the entire duration of the UN Biodiversity Conference. 22% only participated in the first week of the meeting and 8% only participated in the second week. Further 11% of respondents only participated for one or several days.

7. Not all respondents answered all questions in the survey. Further the number of written responses varied greatly. The number of written comments received ranged from 15 to 217 responses depending on the question. The written comments also tended to be more critical than the situation suggested by the quantitative results.

III. CONVENING CONCURRENT MEETINGS OF THE COP AND MOPS

8. The results of this section of the survey are summarised in document CBD/SBI/2/16/Add.1

IV. HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

9. Overall the majority of survey respondents either strongly agreed (14%) or agreed (42%) that the involvement of different ministries and sectors in the high level segment promoted the consideration of biodiversity mainstreaming. 2% strongly disagreed and 4% disagreed that this was the case. A large number of survey respondents indicated that they had a neutral view of this issue. When only the information from respondents participating in the High Level Segment were considered, the number of respondents with a neutral view was smaller but the other results were similar with 22% strongly agreeing and 49% agreeing that the involvement of different ministries and sectors promoted the consideration of mainstreaming.

10. A variety of views were raised by respondents in their written comments related to the involvement of different ministries and sectors in relation to biodiversity mainstreaming. Many noted that the involvement of different ministries and sectors was an important first step and overall a good idea. However several respondents felt that it will require time to see what the overall impact of the High Level

Segment has been. Some respondents also felt that the High Level Segment was an important awareness raising tool and platform on which to build further cooperation and synergy.

11. During the UN Biodiversity Conference the High-level segment was convened immediately prior to the official start of the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. Overall survey respondents felt that the timing of the meeting was effective in promoting greater dialogue between Parties and partners. Many survey respondents strongly agreed (9%) or agreed (32%) that this was the case. A minority of respondents strongly disagreed (4%) or disagreed (14%) that this was the case. However a large number of survey respondents had a neutral opinion (42%) on this issue. When only survey responses from respondents who participated in the High Level Segment were considered 12% of respondents strongly agreed and 36% agreed that the timing of the High Level Segment promoted greater dialogue between Parties and partners. The proportion of respondents which disagreed or strongly disagreed that this was the case was 17% and 10% respectively. 26% of those respondents who participated in the High Level Segment had a neutral opinion on this issue.

12. A number of the written comments noted that having the High Level Segment prior to the official start of the UN Biodiversity Conference precluded the involvement of ministers from the final days of the Conferences deliberations. Some respondents felt that this was a disadvantage as ministers were not present to help resolve sticking points, such as issues related to the budget, in the negotiations. Other respondents felt that having the High Level Segment closer to the end of the UN Biodiversity Conference would have allowed ministers to build on the outcomes reached during the Conference. Further some felt that having the High Level Segment before the official start of the UN Biodiversity Conference created a disconnect between the High Level Segment and the Conference and that once the discussions got under way during the Conference the declaration resulting from the High Level Segment was lost. However other felt that the having the High Level Segment before the official start of the meeting helped to stimulate discussion and promoted dialogue.

13. In comparison to past meeting most survey respondents generally felt that the timing of the High Level Segment allowed for its results to better feed into the deliberations during the UN Biodiversity Conference. 8% and 35% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed, respectively, that this was the case while only 3% and 12% of respondents strongly disagreed or disagreed, respectively. However the number of respondents who agreed or strongly agreed was similar to the number of respondents with a neutral opinion (43%) on this issue. When only responses from respondents who had participated in the High Level Segment were considered, 10% strongly agreed 39% agreed that the timing allowed the results of the High Level Segment to better feed into the deliberations during the UN Biodiversity Conference. 15% disagreed and 6% strongly disagreed that this was the case. 30% of respondents had a neutral opinion on this issue.

14. In their written comments some respondents felt that the general nature of the declaration from the High Level Segment made it difficult to integrate it into the deliberations at the UN Biodiversity Conference. Some respondents also noted that some negotiators were unware of the declaration from the High Level Segment or were unclear of its status.

15. Most survey respondents felt that the format of the High Level Segment was effective in achieving desired outcomes. 6% of respondents strongly agreed and 31% agreed that this was the case. 7% of respondents disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed that the format was effective. However 54% of

respondents had a neutral opinion on this issue. When only the responses from respondents that participated in the High Level Segment were considered 12% and 43% of respondents strongly agreed or agreed, respectively, that the format was effective in achieving desired outcomes. 11% and 5% disagreed or strongly disagreed, respectively, that the format was effective. 29% had a neutral opinion.

16. In the written comments received on the format of the High Level Segment several respondents noted that there was little discussion during the High Level Segment. Further some noted that in the future more time should be made available for discussion and interaction among participants.

17. With regards to the timing of future meetings of the High Level Segment, survey respondents generally felt that the High Level Segment should continue to be held prior to the official start of the UN Biodiversity Conference. 12% of respondents strongly agreed and 31% agreed that this should be the case. 17% of respondents disagreed and 6% strongly disagreed. 34% of respondents had a neutral opinion on this issue. The survey results were similar when only responses from those respondents participating in the High Level Segment were considered. 19% of respondents strongly agreed and 30% of respondents agreed that the High Level Segment should be held just prior to the official start of the opening of the UN Biodiversity Conference while 21% disagreed and 10% strongly disagreed with this idea. 21% of respondents had a neutral opinion on the issue.

18. In their written comments survey respondents noted both advantages and disadvantages of having the High Level Segment prior to the start of the UN Biodiversity Conference. Advantages noted include having the High Level Segment beforehand helps to set the tone for the meeting, provides overarching guidance to the discussions, limits the disruptions to the Conference and makes it easier for smaller delegations as they do not need to divide their time between the High Level Segment and the Conference. The main disadvantage noted was the absence of high level officials at the end of the meeting to help resolve contentious issues. Some also observed that having the High Level Segment before the official start of the meeting increased the overall duration of the meetings. A number of respondents also noted that the most appropriate timing for the High Level Segment will vary with the issues being discussed and the overall purpose of the segment.

19. In summary most participants viewed the involvement of different ministries and sectors in the High Level Segment as positive, that the convening of the High Level Segment just before the official start of the UN Biodiversity Conference promoted greater dialogue and allowed for the outcomes of the High Level Segment to better feed into deliberations during the Conference then had previously been the case. Survey respondents were generally of the view that the format of the High Level Segment was effective and that in further meetings of the High Level Segment should be convened prior to the official start of the UN Biodiversity Conference. These results were similar if the responses from all respondents or only those from those who participated in the High Level Segment were considered. The major difference between the two groups related to the number of respondents which expressed neutral opinions. When responses from all respondents were considered the number of individuals expressing a neutral opinion was higher. This is likely as only 20% of respondents participated in the high-level ministerial segment of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference and most respondents likely felt that they did not have enough information to express an opinion. This observation is reinforced by many of the written comments.

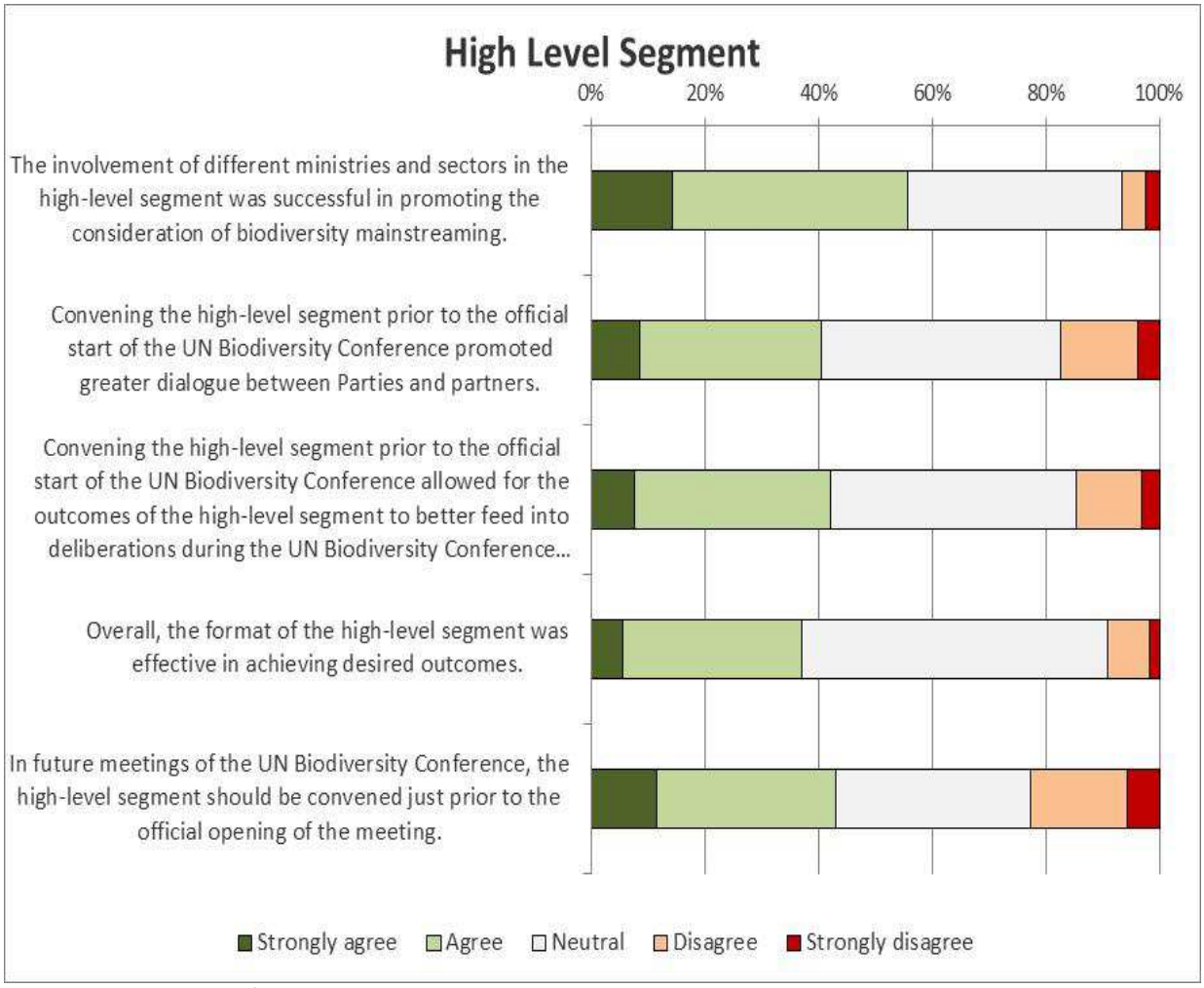

Figure 2. Summary of survey responses related to the High Level Segment

V. RELATED EVENTS

a. Side events

20. Most respondents strongly agreed (12%) or agreed (53%) that the number of side events during the UN Biodiversity Conference was appropriate. Only 13% disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed that this was the case. 20% of respondents had a neutral opinion on this issue. When only responses from respondents representing Parties were considered the distribution of responses was similar.

21. Many respondents noted in their written comments that they felt that there were too many side events. However several respondents also noted that the large number of side events was important as it provided opportunities for sharing experiences and increased the transparency of the processes under the Convention. Further many respondents noted that they were unable to attend side events owing to the heavy agenda for the Conference.

22. With regards to the content of the side events held during the UN Biodiversity Conference, most participants strongly agreed (24%) or agreed (60%) that they were relevant. Only 2% of respondents disagreed and 1% strongly disagreed that this was the case. 13% of respondents had a neutral opinion on

the matter. The distribution of responses was similar when only responses from respondents from Parties were considered.

b. Rio Conventions Pavilion

23. 6% of respondents strongly agreed and 43% agreed that the number of events held during the Rio Conventions Pavilion was appropriate. Only 4% of respondents disagreed and 1% strongly disagreed that this was the case. However many respondents (46%) had a neutral opinion on this issue. This suggests that most of the survey respondents did not attend events held as part of the Pavilion. This assumption is supported by the written comments which indicate that many survey respondents did not attend the events held as part of the Pavilion owing to the constraint on the time they had available. With regards to the topics addressed during the Rio Pavilion, responses were similar. 11% of respondents strongly agreed and 16% agreed that the topics addressed were relevant. Only 1% of respondents disagreed and 1% strongly disagreed that this was the case. However a larger number of respondents (41%) had no opinion on this issue. These results were similar when only survey responses from respondents representing Parties were considered.

c. CEPA Fair

24. 5% of respondents strongly agreed and 32% agreed that the number of events during the CEPA fair was appropriate. Only 4% of respondents disagreed that this was the case. However the majority of respondents had a neutral opinion (58%) on this issue. When responds were asked to assess the relevance of the topics addressed during the CEPA Fair the results were similar. One possibility for the large number of respondents with no opinion on this issue is that relatively few of the respondents participated in the CEPA. This assumption appears to be supported by the written comments, with a large number of respondents indicating that they had not attended the CEPA Fair or where unclear as to what it was.

d. Parallel Events

25. A number of parallel events, such as summits and forums, were held during or at the margins of the UN Biodiversity Conference. 10% of survey respondents strongly agreed and 47% agreed that the number of parallel events held was appropriate. 6% disagreed and 1% strongly disagreed that this was the case. 36% of respondents had no opinion on this issue. With regards to the topics addressed by these forums, 13% strongly agreed and 51% agreed that they were relevant. Only 3 disagreed and 1% strongly disagreed that this was the case. 33% of respondents did not have an opinion on the issue.

26. In summary survey respondents generally felt that the number of related events held as part of the UN Biodiversity Conference, and the topics they addressed, were appropriate. However a relatively large proportion of respondents indicated that they did not participate in these related events. This appears to be particularly the case for the CEPA Fair and the Rio Conventions Pavilion.

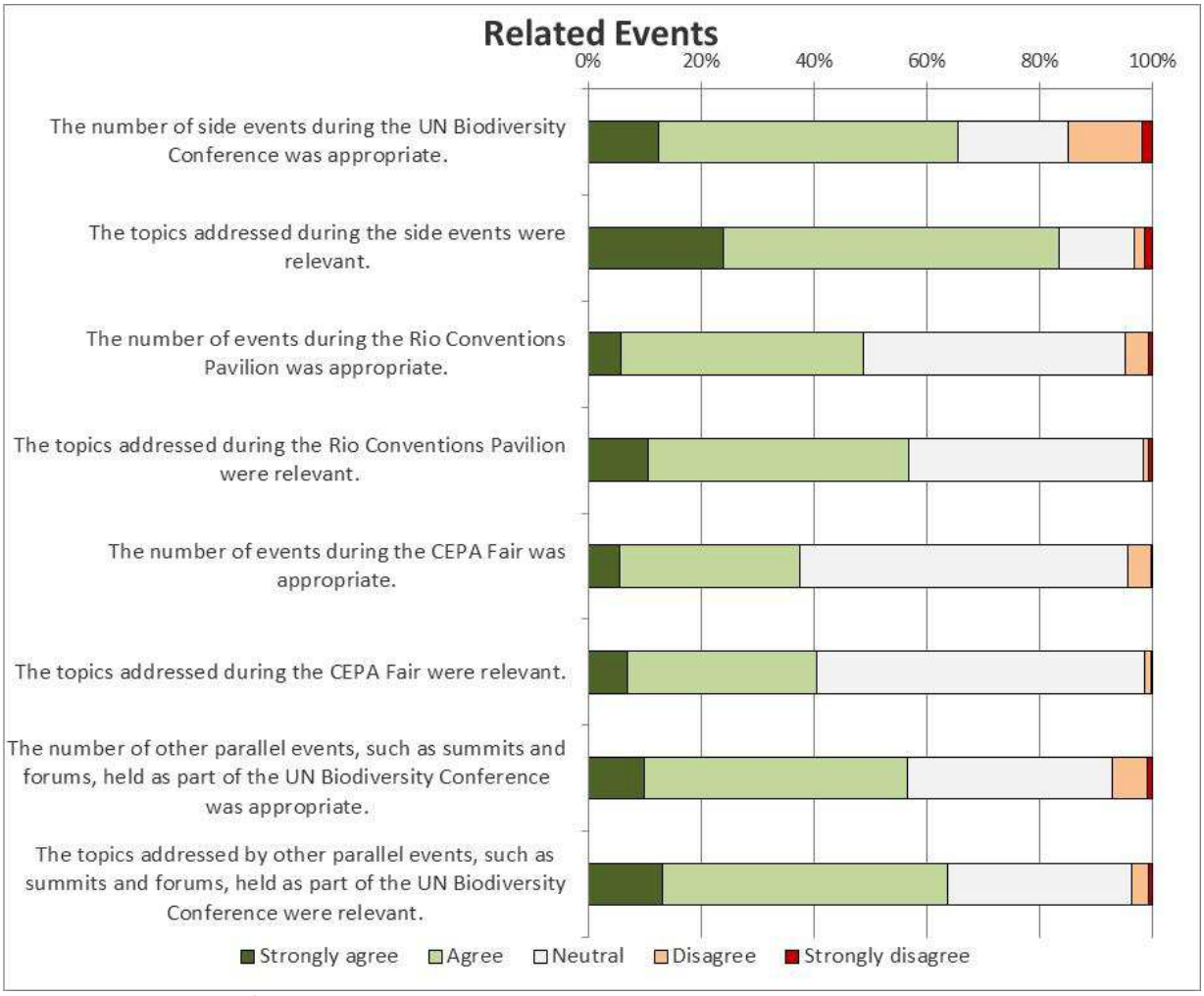

Figure 3. Summary of survey responses related to related events

VI. Logistics

27. A majority of respondents agreed that the transportation and document distribution arrangements were efficient. 26% of survey respondents strongly agreed and 45% agreed that the transportation arrangements for the UN Biodiversity Conference were effective. 12% disagreed and 4% strongly disagreed that this was the case. 14% of respondents were neutral in their opinion. With regards to documentation, 26% of survey respondents strongly agreed and 51% agreed that this was efficient. 6% disagreed and 2% strongly disagreed that this was the case. 16% of respondents were neutral in their opinion.

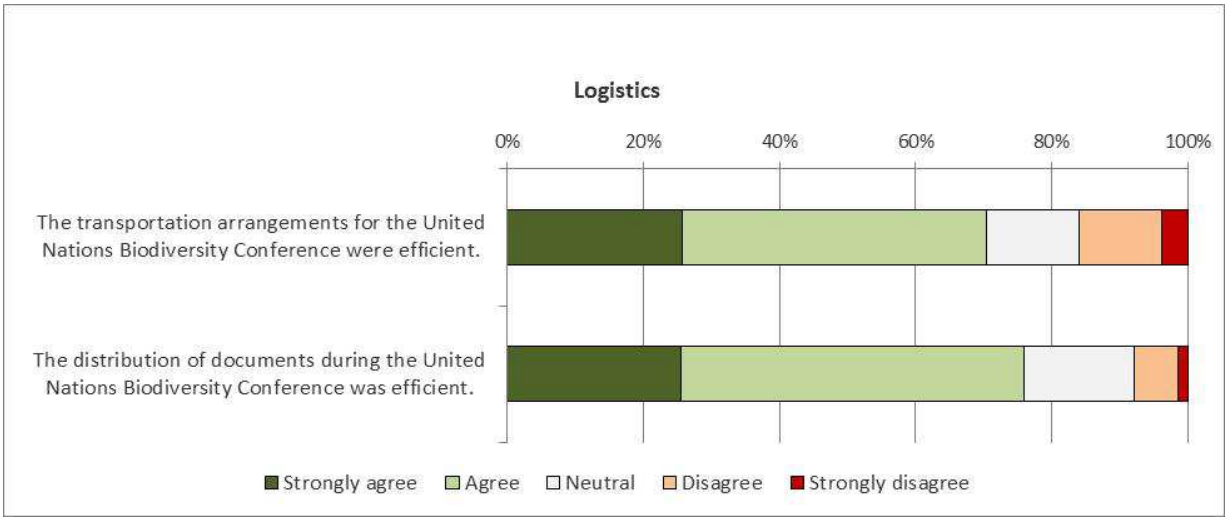

Figure 4. Summary of survey responses related to logistics

VII. SUMMARY

28. Overall the responses to the survey suggest that the organization of the UN Biodiversity Conference was effective and appropriate. The survey respondents generally felt that convening concurrent meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol was efficient, and cost effective. Respondents also generally felt that it increased integration and facilitated consultations. However for smaller delegations this was not always the case and several respondents noted in their written comments that the success of holding concurrent meetings would depend on ensuring that all Parties are appropriately represented. With regards to the transition between the different working sessions, respondents were more divided on how easy this was to follow but generally felt that the transition from the Convention to the Protocols during the working sessions was easy to follow.

29. With regards to the High Level Segment, the involvement of different sectors and ministers was felt to have promoted the consideration of mainstreaming and promoted dialogue. However a number of respondents noted that it would have been more effective if there were greater opportunities for discussion. With regards to the timing of the High Level Segment, respondents generally felt that having the segment before the official start of the UN Biodiversity Conference was effective. However some respondents noted that this created some challenges as some high level participants were not available to help address contentious issues at the end of the Conference. Regarding the timing of future high level segments while the majority of respondents indicated that these should continue to be held before the official start of the UN Biodiversity Conference respondents were more divided in their views. However several respondents pointed out the timing of the High Level Segment should be based the goal for the High Level Segment and the issues being discussed.

30. With regards to side events, parallel events and the CEPA fair respondents felt that the topics these addressed were relevant. However a number of respondents felt that there were perhaps too many events and a larger number of respondents indicated that they did not attend any of these owing to the limited time they had available. However it was also noted by some that though there were lots of events this was important in ensuring different perspectives and viewpoints could be shared and was therefore an important element to ensure the openness and transparency of the UN Biodiversity Conference. The

transportation arrangements and the distribution of documents were generally viewed as positive by survey respondents.

Annex

COMPILATION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS PROVIDED THROUGH THE SURVEY ON ISSUES RELATED TO THE UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE, CANCUN, MEXICO, 2016[3]

I. Additional comments on if the involvement of different ministries and sectors in the high-level segment was successful in promoting the consideration of biodiversity mainstreaming.

I did not attend the HLS, but I agree with the fact that the involvement of different ministries as part of mainstreaming biodiversity in all sectors is crucial
Effective liaison and coordination within the different sector departments is sometimes initiated at such meetings on specific subject matters such as biodiversity.
It provided platform for building synergies, collaboration and cooperation
The management Biodiversity is a sharing role between different sectors . But it its values and benefits to the people may be not well recolonized to many. Therefore there involvement of such sectors and other is very important to help in the mainstreaming of biodiversity in these sectors.
I don't Heard the finally consideration of biodiversity of different ministries, there were many discussion and we retired before its end.
Always to involve them
The high-level segment was useful for raising awareness within Parties on the importance of mainstreaming, however it did not appear to drive stronger action during the main negotiations on mainstreaming.
it the only we can mainstream biodiversity in other sectors
The Convention of Biological Diversity is primarily for the Environment Ministers to attend at the high-level segment. While there are a number of other impacts on the environment from energy, mining, tourism, health, education etc. I believe that the Environment Ministers should be briefed from all the other sectors before attending the meeting as it happens for the government delegation. For example if the Minister for Tourism attends without the Minister for the Environment, the priorities may have a different focus on the outcomes of the high-level segment.
Very good idea in principle but not sure how successful it was in actually getting a broad participation from other ministries and sectors.
Unfortunately, not many countries followed the kind invitation of the host country.
I agree - although mainstreaming efforts should not overshadow the fact that the biodiversity challenge is a real, global one. Sectoral efforts are necessary, but they must rely on a global, integrated vision and understanding based on best available knowledge and science.
We had Fisheries Minister attend which helped engaged our Fisheries Department more than they already were in CBD
Nevertheless, there is still an awful lot to be done.
Very few Ministers from my sub region attended the high level segment (only one out of ten). Nevertheless, the

[3] These comments are reproduced in the language and format in which they were received. All written comments have been included except for those which indicated that they had no comment or that a question was not applicable to the respondent.

one who attended may hopefully sensitize his colleagues during subregional summit.
It serves to heighten awareness of new political cadres who are coming on board for the very first time and also to renew and deepen commitment to implementation of the CBD and its subsidiary protocols.
C'était très important de voir chaque ministre s'engager pour ce processus
Interventions by Ministers were just read without any interaction, for future similar meetings a moderated panel discussion would be more productive, inclusive and interactive
c'est une première expérience opérationnelle
From what I understand not many ministers from non-environmental departments took part in the HLS. If more had attended then it would have had more impact.
can't say but it is a good start
Maybe. But it is still hard to see how the "findings" or discussions from the HL ministerial segment were effectively "mainstreamed" to the core of the agenda of the COP and the MOPs.
Very positive trial from Mexican Gov and SCBD to hold the HLS previous to the COP and also to shape it in a different format from previous HLSs. However, the process was quite similar in the sense that Ministers mostly read their statements. The outcome Declaration is weak, brings no new true commitment from governments.
I would appreciate more time for discussion. Now most time was dedicated to prepared speaks.
High-level meetings only serve as a show but real decisions are avoided.
In particular because of the preparatory work needed nationally
In both the national and global level biodiversity discussions were restricted to those in mandated organizations and among NGOs in the same line of interest. Inviting other sectors was a perfect innovation in mainstreaming, despite the additional GH footprint. In future a effectively facilitated e- or online participation option should be made available
There is a need to have high level policy supports to balance between economic development and ecological protection. Political willingness is very critical to sustain our biodiversity.
The Role of parliaments should be considered especially during the high level segment meetings so that parliamentarians appreciate the efforts of prioritisation of biodiversity related issues in day today deliberations and planning. It will also encourage parliaments to task the executive on biodiversity issues
toutes les questions relatives à l'intégration de la biodiversité dans les secteurs prometteuses ont été abordé et examiné puis des solutions pertinentes ont été proposé pour une meilleure mise en oeuvre de la SPANB 2011 - 2020.
The question remains on how to really get other sectors to pay attention at scale
too early to tell
I felt a strong interest in achieving establishments of mechanisms to co-operate towards biodiversity mainstreaming... but being honest, it was first needed, and I think it happened, to understand what mainstreaming biodiversity standed for. The presence and interaction of multiple sectors, both as observers and in agreement with parties, showed a very promising interest about joining efforts to work in synergy towards the CBD goals. The other way around, I have to recall on the aggressive behavior of some observers and parties about tense topics / negotiations (benefit sharing, "synt. Bio" ...) denoting supremacy ideas and trying to overpose their positions, in a shaming way against sustainable biodiversity conservation.

Though I did not participate in the meeting my delegation indicated that it was useful and i do belief that High level meeting for policy makers is very important.
I find the whole concept of mainstreaming dangerous and rather misleading.
While the reach out to other ministers /sectors is undoubtedly necessary and a very good idea, it remains to be proven in what ways "this visit" will be reflected in "material" considerations of biodiversity in sectoral activites.
It is necesary increase the awarness related to biodiversity mainstreaming, mainly in the productive sectors.
For years these high-level meetings have not really agreed on the issue of biodiversity because there are always vested political, economic, and social interests that prevail. An example was the place where it was made and the hotel, where the contradiction of the subject to deal with the inadequate system of local biodiversity management was observed, where at world level the countries are shown the importance of wetlands and, unfortunately, that Was not an example of proper management of such vulnerable ecosystems.
At least for the host Country significant efforts were visible resulting in revised policies
There was no discussion at all. It was merely a reading of statements. That was very disappointing.
There weren't Ministers of other sectors. Good effort but no enough
I think this made a difference for ministries to understand the importance of mainstreaming and working together for the sake of conservation
The final document of the Cancun ministerial meeting is very important and useful for future actions.
It's helps for good next collaboration between ministries and experts from different sectors
The involvenent of different ministries and sector in the high-lvel segment is successful in both promoting the consideration of biodiversity mainstreaming and achieving the goals of the CBD goals.
I think is importan because all should give their opinion
It must be continued I had also suggested to host , by UN, a head of States meeting on Biodiversity during the high level lunch meeting . Hope taken note of it .
It´s only a first step and too soon to say it was successful as the real success has to happen with the Parties and their internal processes and not during the COP.
At the COP level maybe successful due to international announcements and commitments but how can they be translated to national and local levels is another story. Whilst international meetings have been attended by different ministries and sectors, the difficulty is translating and implementing the decisions for effective impacts.
An even higher profile high-level segment would be welcome, similar to the UNFCC
There was little focus on international trade which a key means of implementation (SDG 17) and critical to mainstreaming.
Although i did not attend , the feed back was positive
The involvement of different ministries was helpful, but in the future the organizers should not focus on mobilizing multiple ministers but instead mobilize multiple senior govt. reps from various sectors, since many countries can not send more than one minister.
It provided all delegates with clear understanding of the issue of mainstreaming of biodiversity into the four sectors of agriculture, forests, fisheries and tourism. This has enabled delegates to negotiate and agree on most of

outstanding issues
unfortunately our minister was not attending this important event. Actually this event is very important for her to understand more about how important biodiversity and the whole aspects related.
We were not able to bring ministers from other sectors due to lack of funding
This also provided an opportunity for awareness creation regarding the crosscutting nature of biodiversity and will enable other sectors to participate in the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity.
High-level government ministry representatives definitely need to be engaged with people other than other government representatives, including UN bodies, academics etc., so this kind of involvement should definitely be encouraged.
It was a bit difficult to trace the discussion discourse of the high-level segment at this time becauase it already finished priort to open the main schedule for the meeting.
It was particularly interesting to have tourism and environment seat at the same table.
This discourse needs to cascade downward, so that technical officers have the same discussions during other forums.
In my delegation, despite our efforts we were not able to have different sectors represented in the HLS
I has been a political scenario for them, better to keep it more technical or scientific discussions
Their participation is important for political will, however, what matters is their understanding of the issue and willingness to take leadership in ensuring biodiversity mainstreaming is done at national level.
The involvement at the Meeting is a good starting Point but much more Needs to be done. We organized the science Forum and few ministerial People have participated, more specific implementing Actions Need to be put in place -- but this is hard of course
I think stronger more binding commiments could have made but good steps were taken in the right direction.
As no real discussions took place during the HLS differing views did not really become apparent. The Promotion of mainstreaming biodiversity still remains a really difficult task for Environment Ministers at the National or subnational Level.

II. Addition comments on if convening the high-level segment prior to the official start of the UN Biodiversity Conference promoted greater dialogue between Parties and partners.

Did not attend the high level segment so would not know. However, learnt that not many countries were represented by the high level policy makers (elected representatives)
I somewhat agree since the high-level segment set the stage for further political deliberations of the Parties. However if the high-level segment was organized between the two weeks or towards the end some difficult decision taking matters would have benefited from plausible conclusion having the engagement of the ministers on them. In other words the high-level segment would also deal with decision taking on the much needed technical issues and would not merely be a political gathering that isn't expected to yield much to the technical process.
It better for the Ministers and Heads of delegations to come after at least one week when the meetings have began. In this way it possible for the Minister and Heads of delegations to give political guidance and direction to contentious issues

yes , but the arrangement consider also the involvement of the technical people who will attend the meetings
The Parties take their national positions evaluated prior to the meeting. May be better at the end of the meeting in order to validate the negotiations and propose improvements for the next round
It gives everyone clear picture of the conference processes
There was good dialogue during the meeting, but the momentum of the high-level segment could not be sustained throughout the remaining two weeks of negotiations.
The time given to delegates is not sufficient to allow them to express their views on issues. It is the same for the period chosen for working groups.
It gave us an opportunity for heads of delegations from different countries to meet.
It seems to work effectively for the high-level segment is held at the beginning of the COP.
it is very important to have the high level segment after UN biodiversity conference
Seemed to be a real disconnect between the high level segment and the actual COP. Also caused difficulties at home as ministers questioned why officials should stay beyond the high level segment - saw that as the only important part.
I am not sure if it did, or it predetermined the technical outcome of negotiations as ministers put the technocrats in a straight Jacket
Personally I found it more effective at the end of the COP. In general, it is important to have a HLS during a COP.
It should be after
Providing opportunity for media and announcements at HLS created interest in the whole meeting and set the stage for the engagement of different Parties
It was a truly dreadful idea - please don't ever allow a host government to do it again
I agree it was a good idea, but as the discussions on budget were very difficult, perhaps it would be also good if HLS might be in the end, so that these sensitive issues are solved more quickly on higher level. But it might not be the case. Generally, I have to say, that HLS at the beginning stimulated the discussions and promoted greater dialogue.
Traditionally the HLS was done after the meeting and was a sort of ratification of decisions taken at the meeting. Having it before means that there is no consolidated message that is being presented to the ministers, etc. And it also becomes an excuse of parties of the meeting not wanting to sign off on things that there ministers did not agree to in the HLS.
Officials should meet before the high-level segment.
It depends on the stakes behind each agenda item. High level segment participants may be needed to settle some blockages during negociations. In that case, it is necessary to have them instead during the last week. I do remember what happened in Nagoya in 2010.
Il sera mieux encore si c'était à la fin,il y aurai encore plus de decisions
However, the leverage of some HLS agreed outcomes were not fully followed by some Parties representatives despite prior agreement of their HLS participants.

It seems the declaration came quite early and the negotiations seem to have lost track of it
Probably, but there is no concrete indication that it did.
I would have been better to have the HLS in the end so that high level participants can help to solve complicated negotiations.
yes this was a good idea, but it did not really effect negotiations after all.
It also strengthened partnership and increased collaborative cooperation for future management of Biodiversity.
I think would be better the HLS is conducted in the middle or at almost end of the official UN conference. HLS could be as summary or agreement from meetings or from what happened during the official meetings. In addition, participants will also attend the official meetings till end of the conference. In Cancun, I show many people were going back home after the first week since HLS is done.
This should continue
I don't see any change compare to other years.
The political discussions were parallel to the meetings aspects and had no bearing on the biosafety protocol issues
I joined the High Level in India and South Korea. Due to the changes in Cancun, I didn't have a chance to do so and it was highly disappointing.
I am aware that my Ministers met with their counterparts from other parts of the world for potential bilaterals around biodiversity and biosafety.
Oui cette réunion de haut segment était nécessaire pour toutes les parties.
Well, yes and no. It creates the feeling that meeting of the high level endorses what has not been discussed or otherwise does not address critical issues to be discussed since it is held prior to official start of the main conference. A high level meeting after perhaps would endorse critical issues discussed. However this present an interesting logistical challenge.
It was somewhat complicated, mainly because of the fact that Ministers were agreeing on a general declaration but not on specific text, and this brought problems later during the negotiations. Some Parties did not fully understand that this was the case, and that the Ministers had provided an umbrella but had not agreed on anything that had not yet been negotiated. Confusing and at times, problematic,
How real is the dialogue between the parties when interests of power and greed prevail. In a system where duality prevails it can not be said that there really is true and honest dialogue. However, something positive is always achieved in the midst of the current situation of biodiversity that, instead of being sustained, is falling with the extinction and mismanagement of the planet's biodiversity
did not attend but didn't feel that this was the case
the cancun declaration was not helping to give drive to the negotiations. A HLS at the end would have been better for ministers to steer the last steps of the negotiations.
The resolutions from the HLS also provided a basis for negotiations during the COP
It was a good idea to hold the HLS prior to CBD and protocol meetings especially for small delegations, as it gives more time to concentrate and devote the time for CoP and MoPs.
It prepared them a lot and all through they were able to understand the issues

I do not think the document was communicated enough .
I think this was contradictory and distracting. Better to have the high level segment after or towards the final days of the COP in order to lead to real change and not have policies first, deliberations after. The dialogue tended to break down because of this order.
I prefer previous times when HLS is at the end of the meeting.
Resolutions, commitments of the high-level segment did not help the negotiation process as there was very little buy-in from parties and partners.
Yes, is importan because should build relations and we know
I believe it took away potential momentum; it kept officials from all sides from truly understanding the different issues that came from all party members...
It was useful to set a scene
The document was not even really considered as a strong mandate.
During the discussions of CBD COP, some Parties indicated that they were not aware of the outcomes of the HLS and, therefore, they were not in a position to give priority to those while drafting decisions.
High Level People are more useful towards the end of the conference when decisions have to be made.
A bit a like putting the cart before the horse
I do not think it made any difference in that regard.
The same as above, but the value added points were Ministers of agriculture, forests, fisheries and tourism were able to understand issues of biodiversity
This was an interesting experiment, but in the end the outcome lacked logic. The decision to send the Cancun Declaration to the United Nations General Assembly, the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2017 and the Third United Nations Environmental Assembly made the following two weeks, discussing an already determined agenda, quite irrelevant. The usual pattern of the COP negotiating decisions for approval by ministers at the HLS makes more sense.
Somehow the high-level segment promoted dialogue between parties especially with the Cancun Declaration which was also tabled during the Convention
It is the same reason as above. (it was finished prior to the main convention schedule.)
Would have been more beneficial to have the meeting at the end of the COP so that the Ministers could gather contributions from all other participants, side events, etc.
I am not sure that it made such a major difference to the outcome of the conference
It´s always better prior to the start of the COP than at the end
In so far as it promoted the development and delivery of more mainstreaming events than usual. Generally, I would support continued efforts to engage other sectors as we are, otherwise, just talking amongst ourselves.
It took time for other topics and less agreement in the UN Biodiversity conference
This is good in setting momentum and impetus for decision making since it provides direction for the negotiators

I did not participate in the HLS, but I did see the theme of mainstreaming very well emphasized and supported throughout, so I suspect that holding the HLS at the start of the COP was beneficial for promoting shared goals and alignment.
Some of the elements that transpired during the meeting needed to be resolve by high level segments and aldo to align the Cancun declaration with others bew developments i.e. Digital sequencing was suppose to be part of the Cancun declaration
Because the Ministers came at the beginning of the COP there was more of a push to drag out the proceedings towards the end of the conference because some countries did not want to commit.
The parties had a lot of disagreements as they let countries introduce new concepts and initiatives during the meeting to which other countries had no instructions.
Although I believe it did, many ministries also left after the high level segment with little presence during the actual Conference

III. Addition comments on if convening the high-level segment prior to the official start of the UN Biodiversity Conference allowed for the outcomes of the high-level segment to better feed into deliberations during the UN Biodiversity Conference than in past meetings.

did not attend the high level segment so would not know. However, learnt that not many countries were represented by the high level policy makers (elected representatives)
The segment had enough scope for presentation of views.
I agree because the HLS also set a scene for the deliberations of the COP
This was my first meeting. Hence I cannot compare.
This did not seem to be the case - I saw no connection between the two.
Since the declarations of the HLS came before the start of the meetings, some of the issues that emerged during the meeting and could have been vital for inclusion in the declaration were left out
High-level officials attend the respective segment and return to their respective countries. National positions are worked for months in each country and changes in them require consultation with all sectors involved
very useful and important
It was my first time to attend the UN Biodiversity Conference
Organizing the segment before the conference does not show links between the two meetings
Agree it could have done, but again not entirely convinced this was achieved.
my answer seems not consistant. but it is true, there are advantages and disadvantages....
there was still a slight disconnect because minsters who attended the HLS left, and many delegations had their negotiation instructions before the HLS, sometimes with little flexibility.
A high level segment at the end would have been more efficient
The adoption of a previously prepared, unnegotiated, wishy-washy generalised statement does nothing to improve the final outcomes

As para 7 above...officials should meet first because decisions are made at the Ministers level.
It would seem to me that the main discussions during the COP should form the basis of decisions at the HLS not the other way round otherwise the HLS is not fully informed.
same as above; it is uncertain.
The outcome HLS Declaration is weak and didn't send any clear sign to COP. COP Decision on mainstreaming was negotiated regardless of the text of the HLS Declaration. Including text that was in the Declaration was taken out of the Decision during the contact group or the other way round, new text added to the Decision.
Not really
From the substances perspective might be yes, but the participations of the parties was very low, especially at the second week.
elle a été l'entrée en matière et a permis d'amorcer le début de la conférence et améliorer les débats.
Yes but the value may be questionable since the high level participants are the main decision makers in governments but not necessarily the main participants in the main conference.
in theory yes, but having seen that the e.g.the Cancun declaration was mentioned in Dec. XIII/3 only after quite some discussions and was not mentioned there from the start one starts to wonder about the real relevance of a HLM prior to the conference for some parties...
The delegates has strong positions and "instructions" to reach consensus and the Cancún Declaraction was used as a negotiation basis.
Facilitates the process
did not attend but didn't feel that this was the case
Not on each agenda but better
Bot all parties felt commited to the outcomes of the high level segment.
During the discussions of CBD COP, some Parties indicated that they were not aware of the outcomes of the HLS and, therefore, they were not in a position to give priority to those while drafting decisions.
I am not sure this is a proper process for negotiation. That is the role of SBSTTA.
The right question should have been: is it preferable to have a ministerial presence before the negotiations, in order to give them a political impetus, or at the end, in order to help finalize them? In the particular case of COP13, the choice by the Mexican Presidency made sense (although it had the drawback of making the whole conference extremely long - almost two weeks and a half). It might not be the case for future COPs.
At times these outcomes prevented further deliberations on issues
In general, the reason that ministers have officials working for them is for the officials to advise the ministers on decisions, and then implement those decisions. If the HLS is before COP, the all advice to ministers must be discussed at meetings prior to COP, which makes the COP less relevant as a negotiating body. It might, conceivably, mutate into an action-oriented body, but at present it is not set up to do so.
But it meant many people left for week two - begs the question should this meeting run over two weeks - or is it time to cut back
We, however, experienced that the decisions of the High-level segment was not fully taken into consideration

while making COP decisions. Many aspects agreed in the high-level declarations were later changed in the COP.
At least they were brought up in negotiations, which was not even possible when the HLS was held later.
Although the impact is still limited
No
It provided direction and guidance on the political will and what state parties saw us achievable
this also allows for single member parties time to focus on the conference agendas after the high level segment
Yes I think that it made clear the path for the following work, but it also perhaps prevents from initiatives to grow during the process of the 2 weeks, I will say it is hard to tell and was not too involved.
I think if there was a High level segemnt at the begining and at the end it might make things more acheivable if this is possible.
The only problem of having the high level segment before the conference was that in the second week most of the delegates were gone.

IV. Additional comments on if the overall, the format of the high-level segment was effective in achieving desired outcomes.

The segment should have scope for presentation on "Best Practices" for one sector at least.
Could improve if the country representatives took into account the organizations for the taking of deciones in the conference.
I found that the format should have been more dynamic in the discussions, not allowing long and boring country statements. there was no time for dialogue.
There was little real discussion or interaction. Highlighting good examples does not suffice for addressing difficult policy issues.
The opportunity that was given to any one willing to express oneself in a choosen panel was indeed instrumental in achieving the desired outcomes.
The organisational, logistical and diplomatic competence of mexican host helped the positive outcome of HLS
From my point of view there was very limited time for real dialogues. It was rather a "neutral" reading of prepared statements with very limited open discussion elements and interaction.
In terms of tangible outcomes, I'd say it was not effective. However, the HLS can also produce an outcome which is not measurable, that is to bring biodiversity conservation to the attention of Ministers. This time, especially for the fact that other non-environment Ministers also attended the meeting. This was the greatest value of the HLS.
It is a challenge to achieve dialogue in oundtables. Positve that the very general statements were cut The High-levels would have been useful in order to have a shorter last meeting-night
Although the missing link is parliaments role
Initially the format was supposed to be one that would encourage more interactive discussions among the high level participants but it was changed to formal set statements which defeated the initial idea of an interactive dialogue.

Oui très efficace avec l'unanimité sur la déclaration de cancun qui a été partagé par tous les ministres.
This mainly useful for political pronouncements of commitments.
When altruism and honesty prevail in the human being there will be good results
did not attend but didn't feel that this was the case
This should be a good format and good to have the Ministers come early and give their ideas as this then leaves technical and other participants to work with the ideas given
I understand not all the Ministers where present.
It was a tradeoff...
I neither agree or disagree.
Delegations couldn't access the room and it was not possible to hear the discussions !!! (streaming was not working) big problem !
The roundtables were not real roundtables, since all ministers mainly just read out statements, which have been prepared to them prior to the meeting.
The CBD to consider sponsoring two people for the Least developed countries to attend the high-level segment in future so that they can share notes and ideas to enrich their contributions during the meeting. This will also contribute to effective contributions in achieving desired outcomes
nothing has been agreed on the high level segment.
Not sure since it not possible to attend the High-level segment but looks like the format was ok.
To some extent because the framework by the ministers gave guidance to negoiators.

V. Addition comment on if in future meetings of the UN Biodiversity Conference, the high-level segment should be convened just prior to the official opening of the meeting.

Better after, in order to ratify decisions and get commitments on something more real
The format is workable.
Opinion given as above under no. 7.
It should be convened at least one after the start the meetings or towards the end of the meeting
It gives more guidance of the discussions
presence of high level officials might be required to deal with unresolved issues towards the end of the meeting(s)
I did not attend the HLS, but heard comments from other parties that it was better for the HLS in the beginning of the meeting as it set the tone for the COP.
there are pros and cons
In away the high level segment at the beginning ensured that there was limited disruption of the flow of the rest of the meeting

The nature of negotiations is such technical issues are first thrashed out by technocrats and policy options prepared for Ministers to come and make policy decisions, therefore the format should revert to technical sessions preceding the High Level segment
Ministers want to be involved in decissions, not only dialogue prior to the COP.
Participar voluntariamente
Having the HLS before the meeting undermines the whole exerise
A high-level segment at the end allows solving difficult issues at the appropriate level.
It depends.
It must be convened after the officials.
I nearly answered this question previously, see number 7. above
There will be always pros and cons of organising HLS prior but at the end of the COP/MOPs meetings.
after the technical sessions
Should be experimented for at least two COPs before definitive decision
I don't think this is a question of the placement of the HLS; it is rather about how to better integrate it in the overarching discussions of the meeting(s) and their decisions.
Yes as it does not distract delegates and observers from the actual negotiations.
I would have been better to have the HLS in the end so that high level participants can help to solve complicated negotiations.
And they should be given more resolutions to issues to agree on
Needs more time as many countries have different opinions
Limited participation of Ministers from deliloping countries due to technical Persons/CBD focal point are not provided financial support to accompany with height level person/minister.
It is important to have the high level IN de COP, not just at the beginning
Would better in the middle or at almost end of the official meetings.
It would be useful to continue convening the high level meeting prior to the start of the COP to allow for small country delegations to focus on COP substantive matters once the Ministers have departed after the HLS.
It should be at the end of the meetings after all the deliberations for the outcome to be more encompassing and act as a policy document for all the meetings.
It adds resource burden on countries
Pour moi c'est le meilleure moment.
Last days discussions would be helped by ministerial presence, which was absent this time. High-level segment should be held at the end of the meeting.

I would rather than the dialogue at the Conference inform and set the tone for the High Level Meeting, rather than the High Level Meeting pre-empt and limit the consideration of topics at the much more broadly inclusive Conference
I think it should be useful, except that since this was the first time and many people including myself had to attend other meetings scheduled for the same days.
There are quite some pros and cons. For COP 14 a HLM prior to the opening of the COP might be quite fine and sufficient As for COP 15 (decision on a post 2020 strategy) it might be more considerate to have the ministers there for final negotiations (as e.g. in the Climate context)...
I feel that the high level segment should be after the Conference so that important decisions can be reached based upon the deliberations of the conference: sort of putting a political seal on the scientific work
I think it should occur later or at the end of the COP.
After!
Yes, I think is good for all because we looking solutions
Some times need political guidance on contentious issues at the second week too so ..
Politicians retire before and they no attendance at other meetings where it would be important that they would attend
If the HLS is convened closer to the end of the COP, it helps to define political issues that technical delegates cannot sometimes agree on.
It will guide the conference and it must be better planned due to certain ministries holds many diferente sectors.
I prefer the traditional way, in the end of COP, because the ministers can solve difficult negotiation problems which can occur.
Then what is the role of SBSTTA and SBA
There is more statement than dicussion
HLS after the official opening, is better
Depends on what exactly is expected of the High-level segment. If ministers are expected to commit to what is agreed in the COP, then the High-Level segment should come after the COP. If they are expected to create a guidance for the COP then the High-level segment should come before the COP.
This is a good idea and need to be promoted for future meetings
Please set upt the space for exchanging opinions and tracing at the high-level segment.
Ministers should be used at the end to resolve outstanding issues.
I think this is the time to do this to set the tone and in the hopes of positioning some mainstreaming topics in front of the deliberations.
There will be strong political agenda items in the years ahead where it very likely will be wise to have the ministers to be involved in the last part of the negotitions.
It will make things easy for officials in particular 1 delegation from a country when there is a need to seek approval

from the Capital.
this would make it easier for countries with single delicate to be with their minister and not have to worry about the conference agenda items
Should depend on the topic of the conference. It was adequate for 'mainstreaming', but other topics might need ministers to agree and negotiate.
It really depends on whether you want to set a frameowrk from early out; in which case just at the begining of the COP if it is that you are trying to get them to work efficiently; then at the end. However if you are going for both the CBD Secretariat may need to find out how to get this event at both ends.
For the reasons mentioned in point 8.
Should be at the end of the meetings

VI. Additional comments on the high-level ministerial segment of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference.

High Level Segment may also focus on Rural Development Sector that is heavily dependent on Biodiversity for their livelihood.
I think high level segment shound follow the CoP and CoP MoP meeting so that the political will can be generated for the deliberations and outcomes
It has imense costs and does nor significantly contribute to the next rounds of discussion or to the final decisions
Definitively agree that it was convenient to have it prior to the oficial start of the UN Biodiverisy Conference. Delegates were not tired and dialogue was great among everybody. I do think the outcomes impacted some of the Conference's outocomes as well.
It's the first time of COP to CBD that the ministerial segment was organized in the beginning. I find this very interssent. It give to particpant to COP and MOP-COP the possibility to participate without pressure.
I diddn't attend the high-level segment beacuase I supsected it would ahave limited effect. I used to work for the government of my country, and my experience with my different ministers is that they are reluctant to participate in these kind of high-level events outside political negotiations. They are politicians, and therefore they want to break political deals in the end of negotiations and not give speaches to each other before negotiations have even started.
Countries that are able to participate in the various items for the HLS should be allowed to do so rather confining them to participate in only 1 or two of the items
The High level segment is very important as it provides guidance on the decisions to be taken during the meeting. In my view the HLS to be held immediately be the opening of the meeting will be effective
Should be during main part of conference.
I did not attend the high-level segment, so I have no view on it.
It is important to see for the CBD agenda and the state of play of the negotiations. Some times, like as in Nagoya, the high level in the end of the Conference was crucial for adoption of the Nagoya Protocol, but for this Conference in Mexico the high level in the beggining was good for give some indications for the next steps during the COP.
My suggestion for the future: 1) to prepare the draft of HL declaration according to the former way, then 2) discussion of the mentioned declaration by the delegations (parties and observers), 3) matching between the results of the COP and the former draft, 4) the adoption of the declaration by the HL delegations at the end of the COP. Logic says that the high-level declaration should be issued after experts discussions and dialogue not before that.

In some cases, there was a feeling that the discussions were curtailed by the oft announcement that a decision had already been made by the HLS.
In addition to meet the participants at the UN conferences there is a need also to be sharing and meetng at the country level, where possible prior the meeting or after.
Having the high-level segment before the official negotiations begins gives Ministers less of a role to play. Ministerial participation at the end of the meeting can also be very useful in helping to progress difficult issues, and can give Ministers a greater role in the decision making process.
You have all the experts, and all the governments meeting in parallel-very ineffective Also too much time wasted in countries stating that "they exist", we need another way for countries to feel included rather than taking up plenary time to make points with little content
Need more implication with more public sectors and need more collaboration
It was well planned
was well coordinated and provide fr exchange of ideas which sharing experiences on various aspects of biodiversity
There was much expectation from both government representatives and indigenous peoples. It was a space of establishment to make listen the voice of the indigenous peoples.
should be convened at the end of the UN biodiversity conference
I am concerned about the high influence of the private interests of the industrial and financial sectors, guiding biodiversity policies.
I think it was okay, the coordination of the meeting was very diplomatic
Propiciar mayor diálogo entre las partes y con los sectores que participan.
Support existing arrangements.
It went well and the interactions of the Ministers from other sectors was good, just the sequencing with the technical Session is my major concern
Justo que al asistir como observador no se cuenta con el acceso ni información de dichas reuniones.
Next time, host country should again try to invite/involve relevant ministers from other sectors in the HLS. this is good basis for mainstreaming and interesting discussions.
Proyecto SAAPAP ENTSA
It seems that all the actions of the H-L segment taken before the meeting have been positive, but for many attending the conference, sommunication was defective
Although it big efforts were made to make the HLS interactive, there were still too many ministers reading statements that did not refer to what others have said.
Please have it during final days better
The format was a good idea but it did not allow for engagement of Ministers - too many talks and listening. Not sure how to improve this but allowing for more panels with each Minister engaged in at least one panel would help, I think.

I was not there and am not sure it had a strong ripple effect.
When held towards the end of the meeting the HLS can really help to develop political consensus and commitment
I see practical benefits to small delegations who need to staff their ministers so that the ministers have departed prior to the start of the negotiations and do not take them away from the negotiations; however part of the result was that it was disconnected enough that it might have occurred at some completely other time and place from the COP. The use of separate dates from the COP (i.e., that the dates of the ministerial (2-3 Dec) were not included in the dates referenced for the COP (4-17 Dec)) added to the feeling that it was some separate unrelated meeting that happened to be in the same city, much like the business or youth forums. In other such instances I don't recall seeing the dates as being outside those of the COP - even if they start before the COP proper the dates are bundled together, signalling this is one meeting.
Very well organized, our minister was very satisfied. Just maybe too many speakers in the panel, the panelists had to wait quite a long time while they were able to speak.
At the Cancun meeting...official meeting was held before and after the high-level segment.
It is actually advisable to always organize a high-level segment during these sessions. This facilitates the implementation of the decisions, at least in countries where decision makers are able to take part in these meetings. The timing of the organization of the high-level segment must, however, vary according to the stakes of the negotiations.
Perhaps the structure of the high level segment can be improved from just speeches to more interactive dialogues.
strongly approve of the High Level Segment
in this highly level should participate from all the sectors relevant to the biodiversity and it is not just the ministry of Environment only and should be from the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry too.
would be really useful to have the High level segment at the end of the meeting
The key points should be serialized and a session devoted for sharing within the first two days of the main COP to guide delegates who might not have had a chance to review the declarations prior to negotiations due to timing
RAS
It should be better profiled, allow for participation of delegates as observers.
From my point of view there was very limited time for real dialogues. It was rather a "neutral" reading of prepared statements with very limited open discussion elements and interaction.
I don't believe the text of the high level segment will make any real impact in the world, but I do believe it was best to organise it in this way and not at the end.
Should be at the end.
It provided more understanding to the Ministers about the CBD objectives.
The joint high level ministerial segment is very powerful and the CBD should take advantage of this where ministers could resolve issues or make statements related to or bring their countries faster towards the achievement of the Aichi Targets and related SDGs
The establishment of the high-level segment prior to the COP, allowed to establish the political guidelines to be followed during the COP.

no more comments since I didn't attend the high-level segment
I was not involved with the high-level ministerial segment so I can't give proper comments.
Open discussons
Angage parliaments to be part of delegations at the high level segment so that the resolutions are domesticated
It would be good to know how the HLS declaration will be followed through with concrete actions and resources to achieve priorities identified and endorsed by the HLS.
I don´t think in practical terms the high-level segment gave many results to be implemented in the next years. Even the Cancun Declaration was not correctly reflected in the Mainstreaming Decision
HLS should happen at a time when political support can be used to unlock difficult discussions.
I feel that the HLS should try to have more participation - in Cancun, the participation was limited and very few people from Business Sector and NGOs had the opportunity to follow the meeting. Basically, only government officials and a few lucky other participants could join the meeting which made it difficult to engage different audiences.
Perhaps the high-level segment could be convened during the course of the meetings.
Il faut que les point focaux des parties à la CDB soient prisent en charge pour servir de conseillers aux ministres qui ne sont pas des techniciens en matière.
It was great opportunity for me to interact with dignitaries on CBD.
It made the schedule VERY long for people who have to cover the full time of the conference.
The objective of high level segment should focus on policy and may be political commitments. How it feeds into the main conference may be questionable.
There is a need to promote awareness and communication between sectoral ministries and the rural sector in order to inform on the latest advances made at the major environmental sustainability summit for each sector. To this end, mixed public-private activities can be an effective means. This would reduce, for example, adverse effects on unsustainable agricultural practices; This would also clarify current concepts such as "ecotourism", for example, among peasants, etc. However the debate has been rich and relevant overall, to consider the documents we have read
I sincerely did not notice any difference between having the high-level segment at the beginning or the end. i am told that some delegates are distracted from their role in negotiations by the arrival of ministers then the HLS is at the end of the meeting.
It is needed to increase the attendance of high level representatives of all the sectors.
Having the Ministerial Declaration agreed in advance helped in achieving consensus on a several number of agenda ítems.
Was very orderly and with a lot of dialogue, however we must really talk so much and do more, with policies more focused on education and improving human conditions such as medicines, poverty, conservation, etc. From all this, however, the agreements are short on climate change and the vulnerability of ecosystems and living beings including humans. Really local communities from their perspectives are doing more than what politicians, economists and social do. The point is to see the stage as a whole and prioritize secondary scenes in an integral way, where the dialogue is more practical.

It was a dead talk. No interaction between ministers.
Mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors was a crucial message from the HLS in Cancun.
Ministers are much more engaged in the COP if they can make the 'final deals' at the end. E.g. on budget it would have been great to have Ministers around on the last day of the COP.
It was well managed and it should be replicated one more time and lets hope Egypt can try that
I think the composition of the group having conservation and sustainable use sectors was really innovative and positive.
According to my experience (4 COPs since 2010), a deeper involvement of Universities and Research Centers in preparation of the segment shoul be recommendable, even beyond the important role of IPBES
I have provided my observation above, since I did not take part in the high-level segment, I cannot comment further.
Parties, must be allowed to bring the relevant Ministers for an enriched discussion
I think is very important earing all opinion of the sectors and all defense the world biodiversity
Recent Mexico cop model be continued for few more round and then evaluated !
Es de suma importancia lo que se plantea en la Conferencia De Las Naciones Unidas De Biodivercidad.
HLS should help to unlock difficult decisions and deal with more controversial matters that require political decisions
The Mexican delegation arrived very poorly prepared in mainstreaming instruments of planning.
IT GAVE THE MUCH NEEDED POLITICAL SUPPORT
I strongly support the idea that other sectors should integrate biodiversity concerns in their policies. A dialog between environment ministers and their colleagues responsible for production sectors is certainly a good idea. But we should remain realistic. Participation of ministers of other sectors was weak and not representative. Ministers should also be able to take part in negotiations. If the High-Level part takes place earlier they cannot have an impact on the negotiations. Therefore we should return to the traditional formula with a ministerial segment on Wednesday and thursday of the second week, but integrate a dialog on mainstreaming during this period.
Drop it.
It is much more helpful if the high-level segment is at the end of the conference as it allows ministers to intervene in sensitive political negotiation issues towards the end of the COP.
There is more statement than discussion
the meeting should held at the end of cop
I suggest a good orientation to Ministers to be done on the first day, as many of them come with a written statment to read, without true intervention on the main issues
During COP13, the High-Level Segment was too rushed and for countries who were unable to bring ministers from other sectors, it was just a partial experience. Even countries that could participate in full were not allowed to participate when the number of roundtables a country can participate was limited to only 2. For the next time, the number of activities could be decreased.

Outcomes of the high-level segment demonstrated government commitments on issues of biodiversity
High Level Segment may also focus on Rural Development sector that heavily dependent on Biodiversity for their livelihood.
Ordinary people like us should be informed better of this high level segment deliberations and outcomes.
Provide more seats for Indigenous participants
I did have the oportunity to attend the HLS, however I believe that it was useful to have it before the opening of the COP
it has not been helpful, but an scenario to show they are there but not to settle position and move forward.
However its desirable that this event to be held at the end od the discussion, or at least in a paralell way to final discusions of decisions.
Recommend for High-level segment organizers to keep confirmed participants to the main UNBC meeting or technical staff for easy follow ups on behalf of the Minister beside the NFPs.
The number of allowed observers fro IPLC's should be increased to a substantial number to allow for effective participation
Should have more openness to this meetings to have better results
It si important to have more divulgation of High level segment outcomes
Perhaps it Needs to have much more Dissemination and involvement of the media
it is unclear whether high level segment representatives and CBD/COP delegates from the same country had coordinated their messages/strategies. There was a bit of discrepancy between the outcome of the high level segment and the discussions during CBD/COP
I liked the fact that some NGOs like those representing youth were able to present at the ministerial segement I think this should continue.
If it is held at the end, it also helps to wrap up everything that is presented during the conference. I think it works both ways.
If the High Level Segment is at the end of the conference people are distracted and are only pampering their ministers instead of working in the meetings. This time it was perfect - Ministers gone, with a well prepared declaration - and the conference went pretty smoothly.
The Chosen Format made it difficult for Ministers to participate constructively because there was hardly room for active participation. The feddback from my Minister was not very positive.
The Ministers suould be involved in the final negotiations, and not just serve as "decoration".
It was very interesting and there were many commitments to achieved
Having the high-level ministerial segment during the latter part of the COP enabled the ministers to step in and contribute to solving difficult negotiation questions. This puts press on the delegations to resolve questions before the ministers arrive. This was sorely missed at COP 13.
Follow-up to the Ministers' agreements is needed in accordance to the Aichi targets monitoring

Although having the high-level ministerial segment prior to the opening of the meeting, it must be assured that ministries also have specific activities and discussions at least throughout the first week of the Conference.

VII. Addition comments on if convening the meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol concurrently was effective in terms of improving the efficiency of the processes.

did not attend all of these . But potentially useful
There is need to cut bureaucratic hurdles further. The agenda was chosen well.
only one sponsored delegate can not tackle all the three meetings concurrently
The plenary session was onerous due to the fact that there were too many issues to discuss.
To much to do for the small delegations
It was complicated to some extent, but it indeed promoted the exchange of views and information of delegates following different COP MOPs, and the COP and probably a better collaboration among htem and coherence on the outcomes.
To a certain degree it helped, but at some point for example on resource mobilization, the Working Group for COP resource mobilization had to wait for the Nagoya Protocol RM to be finalized before it can deliberate on other issues that include Nagoya Protocol
A very good idea to have "integrate" protocol and CBD proceedings. It gave a much needed attention to the protocols (especially to Cartagena Protocol whoch for long has suffered from lack attention.
Since both Cartagena and Nagoya Protocols are serving CBD and are part of the overall process of improving the international framework, it was effective to hold them concurrently.
it was confusing and difficult to follow
it was not good fever for the term of traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples
Contact groups were many and most were taking place at the same time. This affected participation of delegates and especially delegations that had few delegates. The Secretariat only sponsored one person for the three meetings. Furthermore contact group meetings were also held at the same time with working group meetings. The workload for some of the working groups were heavier than the other and this affected progress of completion of the agenda items
The process was efficient, to some extent as it did not allow for full participation of the limited delegates from developing countries in the negotiation in the three meetings
The president have the control and was order, very interesting.
While it was useful to have similar discussions concurrently, it divided delegate's time between 3 topics.
It was very confusing to follow the right agenda items in the right working group.
National specialists are different for each instrument, their permanence for other negotiations generate spaces of time that make participation inefficient due to the costs of permanence in another country. Also, due to the stay of only one week, the negotiations are not effective in relation to the national position. The opinions of those countries that do not have a budget for longer stays compared to developed countries that have the necessary resources are not collected

Some Parties have participants who participate or would like to participate in more than one Protocol. They are therefore challenged when the meetings run concurrently.
The process was not very effective insofar as it caused some confusion. It is good to do it at the same time but its would be better if one session is programmed in the morning and the other in the evening.
Some delegates were confused regarding the meeting that was in session. Too few delegates from developing country Parties were funded by the secretariat to cover the meetings of these three legally binding instruments.
It is very difficult for small delegations to be able to follow the issues across the Working Groups, and contact groups with the concurrent meetings.
it was very difficult to follow the meetings in the same time
It does not work for parties with small delegations... not enough members to participate in concurrent sessions
No pude distinguir cual era una y cual era otra.
Yes, except that to much time for all meetings, in places so expensive make difficult to small countries to have presence with the adequate delegations all the time.
question not clear - what is the efficiency referred to? However, for small delegation, the high number of concurrent contact groups, esp. in week 2, was challenging.
It was efficient but it resulted in not enough time for some important CBD agenda items and not enough time for contact groups at CBD
It was my first COP but in principle I think it likely does improve the efficiency, though maybe only for those countries able to send sufficiently large delegations.
But not providing financial support for the participation of developing country experts from each of the instruments severely impacts the quality of the outcomes, and will most likely severely undermine the level of commitment to national implementation
It was difficult to cover all the topics if you have a small delegation
agenda ítems in the first days were mostly of CBD and NP, although CP was suposed to be discussed. But the points were discussed depending on the lenghty of the debate in other points, i.e. if a PC point was scheduled in the morning and two in the afternoon session, only one point was actually treated in the afternoon. and you don't know whenever it'll be treated.
It was very helpful in a sense that we could really see the mainstreaming in practice and we could speak to other colleagues, e.g. from Nagoya or Cartagena. SOmetimes it is not possible if the meetings are separate. Even it was difficult for organization (Plenary, working groups, mixed topics), we were able to better see the links between these agendas.
convening the meeting concurrently might be effective, however because of representation issues, IPLC effective participation is limiting since there are only few of them following three meetings that is happening at the same time
Obviously, because the convention and its protocols are interlinked, the later deriving from the previous. Futhermore, it helps reinforcing collaboration and coordination between diferent national focal points.
Wasted time attending Working Group sessions not relevant to the Cartagena Protocol and waiting for relevant meetings to take place.
Concurrent meetings create an opportunity for parties and others to link agenda items between the convention and

the two protocols, causing parallel blockages in the different processes. At times, it can be questioned whether it is reasonable to allow for such blocking linkage between the convention and its protocols, bearing in mind that the agenda items in question may have little in common.
it is important to dwell on demonstration of the implementation of BSAPs
although some representatives from one Convention and other may coincide, it was very complex to attend different discussions
Although switching between COP and MOPs was sometimes confusing for participants
Yes but it may have meant that by only discussing bracketed text that other important issues were not given the time they needed during the COP.
It would have been better to dedicate whole sessions to one protocol. Now people in my delegations needed to be stand-by to be able to come in in the right moment. Not so efficient.
for some aspects yes
This model is work well only for countries who are able to mobilize more resources to support more delegates to participate in concurrency meetings only. Therefore it really limit participation from LDC and SIC.
Small delegations from developing countries found it hard to keep up with all the meetings and the issues in all three eevnts
Even though more than two delegates are required to attend to all meetings.
Quite difficult for Parties with small delegations/one-person delegation (e.g. Pacific Island Countries)
Too much time
No, the process didn´t go as it used to be, and the issues were asymetrically started and discussed, having proiblems with synchronicities of several delegations and observers.
this depend on the representation from countries and having these meetings at the same time according to my observation was not good or ideal situation for African countries. This can be effective if there is increased support in terms of finances for more representations
Not sure about the efficiency as much as the delegation was really tired to participate in a meeting for two weeks.
Hard for smaller countries to service all of the meetings together. Expectation for a large delegation.
There was confusing about the sequence of agenda covered. Changes to the order of the agenda were poorly communicated. It was difficult for delegates to efficiently plan their time.
As delegations have limited resources this meant that even larger delegations found themselves struggling to cover relevant issues when the timing conflicted. It also translated to a serious and expensive time commitment for those who had specific interests but had to try and cover off the entire meeting.
Although at times it could be confusing, I believe as people become familiar with the system it may in fact work better.
Oui il ya une amélioration entre les points focaux suite aux échanges.
Separating meetings is better for delegates to take part in all sessions
It has to be integrated, just as it emerged.

Cross cutting issues well addressed during the plenary.
What does efficiency mean in this context? I feel that actually people were distracted from the Cartagena Protocol process because it was in parallel. it must be extremely difficult for delegations with small numbers and it is advantageous to states with large delegations, so i think it makes the process less fair. I think there were some very disturbing outcomes such as the loss of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Risk Assessment and Risk Management and the stalling of the Guidance it has worked on for the past 8 years. New guidance will only be available in 4 years if at all. This is a very bad outcome and may have resulted directly from the running of the protocols in parallel with the business of the Convention.
Sometimes it was difficult to followup the constant changing schedules. And sometimes the specialyst was needed in different places.
Was strategic to measure how much progress has been made and how much progress has to be made
even though it made it pretty difficult for small countries
Most of the developing countries including Malawi did not have enough delegates to be able to negotiate in all the meetings which was a disadvantage on our part.
It resulted to be a good experience which also serves to shorten the total length of the CoP and MoPs by one week.
It is cost effective but at the same time very challenging for small delegations. However this time all seem to have been well planned than before
It may have been advantageous to the organisers in covering a lot of ground in a short time; .But it proved strenuous to delegates that needed to attend to different treaties agendas at the same time, as sometimes issues of interest for one delegate could be convened concurrently; including contact groups, making follow up of issues a great challenge
it may be efficient for the process but for smaller delegations it must be a problem to get involved on all issues that are of interest.
From the perspective of IPLCs and the limited voluntary funding for participation there were too few representatives to follow both streams simultaneously effectively.
There are parties not having enough resources (financial or technical) to keep the entire team for 2 weeks. Even was effective in terms of having a better idea on the outcomes of the 3 Protocols and its relationship, it is hard to follow all negociations in parallel and participate in all friends of the chair groups
Agree to an extent, however there was insufficient time to deliberate some agenda items, and pressure to make a rushed decision.
It made it hard for Parties with small delegations to fully participate. However, as a result it did provide a means by which regions worked together to attain results that were mutually beneficial.
It´s only efficient for big delegations and not for civil society that has limited resources.
Having three meetings at the same time poses difficulties in coordination and huge workload for the chairpersons of Working Groups. On the other hand, having these meetings at the same time, is more effective for delegations and their experts. They can have professional support from each other while attending to these meetings at the same time.
But density of meetings is a challenge. May be we could structure the program, certain days for certain instruments?

They should actually be one meeting.
For Namibia, it allowed interactions and consultation between representatives strengthening our contributions.
question d'améliorer la répartition des matières au regard des groupes de travail , introduire cette procédure au niveau des réunions interssessionnelle pour mettre les participants au parfum de cette procédure
It was my first participation, so I don´t a any comparison. But for me, it seemed like a lot of work for only two weeks and thus the need for many people from each country to follow all the topics.
We were not able to follow all the contact groups, etc because we had only 3 delegates
Too many meetings were happening at the same time and as the focal point for all three, I personally was not able to follow them as effectively as I wished. I was forced to choose among all the important meetings.
There was too much items to cover in one session thus at times rushed through to catch up with time
We were very interested on the Nagoya Protocol meeting, however we were unable to stay in Cancun for longer time, due to the high expenses involved. All this kind of meeting should be more austere.
undecided on this issue. It may be efficient but I feel that it dilutes the COP of the CBD to tackle the main issues of the CBD
Too many things about everything. It tends to scatter thoughts.
Important agendas for both protocols were all mixed up, therefore I had difficulty in keeping up with the specific agendas that I was interested in. I heard some of the participants also experienced such difficulty. So, I think holding meeetins of the protocols concurrently is not very convenient for participants.
The dialogue among the convention and the protokols is pivotal but the topics are too divergent. To really integrate the processes, a more overarching meeting during the COP seems necessary.
It was smoothly proceeding like previous conferences.
It was also challenging because part of what was decided during the Cartegena negotiations strongly affected the CBD decisions.
Maybe do the Protocols concurrently prior to the COP, or run them as truly parallel meetings rather than constantly gaveling one in and the other out.
At the international level as well as at the domestic level, having the 3 meetings jointly contributed to better coherence and integration of the issues
This allowed more efficiency in terms of delegations attendance and cross-over.
Too long . I think one week is more efficient in costs and time.
Acording to my understand, the concurrency favoured the discusions related with the Convention and affected the quality of presentations in the two Protocol. See the number the Decisiones taken on the Convention and the two Protocols.
From a strict process efficiency point of view, significant progress could be made.
Parties with only one representative cannot get around to each meeting so it puts them at a disadvantage.
Properly read, the Cartagena Protocol deals only with the possible negative impact on biodiversity from the transboundry movement of LMOs. Putting the Convention with the Protocol has the effect of 'mission creep',

whereby participants try to expand the scope of the Protocol with new issues (e.g., bans on gene editing research).
The meeting was chaotic, and ine had to juggle between working group 1 and 2; issues of synthetic biology, invasive species are closely related to biosafety, they were discussed in different working groups and one couldnt deligently follow the issue as desired
Going back and forth between the 3 instruments in the Agenda lead to reopening the discussions on some Documents (CRPs) several times. Waiting for decision taken in one instrument (CBD) in order to be able to take decisions in others is inefficient.
The particular dynamics and nature of issues that cut across the Convention and its Protocols (i.e., synthetic biology, digital genetic sequence, etc). had to be subjected to least common denominator in order to ensure consistency and achieving efficiency of the processes.
It stretched the delgates of developing countries too thin. I know the effects it had on SIDs within the Caribbean which had small delegetions some even having only one persons not to mention other regions. The only advantages this had was it forced some countries to reach out to the NGOs' delegate from their own countries to help support them but even then NGO delegates were also stretched thin. Being from a SIDs country who was absord in a culturally diverse NGO delegation spanning Caribbean, Latin America, Asia, Europe, Canada, Africa, South America I was lucky enough to be apart of a large delegation and even we were stretched especially having had to help some of the countries who asked us to cover events and other meetings for them. However the plus was that becuase some parties tried to drag out the proceedings the concurrent sessions help just a bit to save time.
Horrible mess. Difficult for countries to follow what was going on.
It was effective in principle and in the outcome. However there is room for improving the practical Organisation. Especially my Nagoya Protocol colleagues complained of long "waiting times" because the actual agendas of working groups often were not clear until the last moment.
The time was too short to talk about the convention and 2 protocols.

VIII. Additional comments on if convening the meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol concurrently was effective in terms of costs incurred and the level of participation by my delegation.

The crux of the meeting is to deliberate and discuss which is not possible for single sponsored delegate
We were 50 people (PRRI and other parties) and could cope with the large mass of activities.
Since it is very difficult and costly to organise such big international meetings, it was effective to hold them concurrently
The Secretariat only sponsored one delegate, instead of the minimum of three - one for CBD, one for Biosafety Protocol and the other for the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. Against this background it is not possible to assess the level of cost effectiveness
Tthe number of the delegates from thhe developing countries was not enouhg to enable to participate fully in all meetings' discussion
Participants only responsable for 1 of the 3 Meetings had long periods waitning in the Working group 1 or 2 for the agenda items. For those people it would have been more cost effective to have all agenda items in only one week.
The costs for the stay of two weeks are very high, take into consideration that there are long times of non-participation when they negotiated subjects that are not of their responsibility
Cutting down on costs should not be balanced with the level of participation, especially given the situation cited in

No. 13 above.
As a result of the meeting spread over two weeks, the costs were de facto higher; I don't believe however that it is possible to have lower costs and ensuring efficiency and coherence of the processes
This is true in terms of decision-making since some points overlap and require to be examined at the same time. But in terms of participation it was a tough blow for some countries to the extent that these delegates are not supported by the convention secretariat.
As focal point to ABS I aimed to participate in the NP working group as observer, however it was important for me to participate in the CBD WG and hence did not join the NP WG one
I am agree in terms of costs but not on terms of the participate of my delagation because we are not many persons
But not so much for some delegation that have only one participant
Additional costs incurred for Cartagena delegation as needed to be at meeting for longer than in previous years.
Although this helped in terms of a better use of the technical support for the diplomatic delegations, it might be a burden for 3rd world delegations, if they have to attend two weeks or more.
not only participation, but preparation of the meetings and national coordination was more efficient.
In this case it is no applicable, since it was the local delegation
as people are specialized it does not matter too much when they travel
Small delegation
It should have but actually there was no difference in terms of budget implications
It meant that Nagoya and Cartagena experts had to sit through the whole meeting - which was good for synergies but not good for costs for each delegation
not part of a delegation...
My delegation was lucky enough to have adequate participation, but many other developing countries were not. Concurrent meetings without adequate fiancial support turns the UNBDC into an exclusive club-like exercise for the privileged few.
We have historically had a distinct team for CP and an overlapping one for the CBD and NP, and though there were cross-cutting issues we still effectively had distinct teams within the delegation so it didn't really make a difference for us.
This first time, we attended only to the first week so we missed all the relevant discussions. if we would attend to the second week we'd have missed the beginnings of the debate.
Not sure as for example Nagoya and Cartagena colleagues wouldn´t need so many days and be there whole 2 weeks, but the programme was set in a way that you did not know when is discussed what, so you always had to be ready. If the meetings are separate, it did not need to be that long.
Yes, in terms of level of participation. I am however doubtful in terms of cost effectiveness. It has instead increased the expenses of some state parties that funded the participation of their delagations, which, by the way, is a sovereign decision and therefore normal.
Separate experts are needed for the Protocols and the Convention; the Cartagena Protocol participants now had to attend a two-week instead of a one-week meeting.

small delegetions are forced to choose. Not always efficient on level of participation
It did not help for parties with smaller delegations or who could not sponsor more than one delegate
Most of my delegation colleagues followed the COP matters and not the MOPs.
Developing countries that had a few number of delegates were disadvantaged when it came to parallel sessions
two weeks for a conference is too long for additional delegates and other experts
Yes but not all of the side events that we planned to attend materialized. some people came for particular sets of side events
Cost effective yes, but participation no.
Attending a meeting for two weeks and in an expensive holiday resort like Cancun put an enormous strain on participants.
Two weeks = more expenses
No, key official delegates and observers had problems in finding funding resources and time availability
the country was unable to send a representative team because of budget constraints. but if the meetings are separated i dont think this will be a problem.
Smaller countries with small delegations find it difficult to attend the meetings concurrently so the level of participation is low
The cost of a two week plus high level segment is resource intensive from both monetary and human resource perspective. the level of participation suffered because of the need to save money and the difficulty in having personnel away from core function (at the office) for over two weeks.
I expect the costs to have been the same.
le point focal de Nagoya na pu assisté à la COP par faute de financement.
for the interest of not sufficient representative from each country to participate, it is deficient
Mais il ne faut pas que l'aspect financier prime sur la qualité de la participation aux différentes rencontres.
The to obtain a visa was very difficult. I would suggest that online visa aquisition be made available in subsequent conferences
May be but still on a limited accounts since a bigger delegation had to be sent to carter for all the meetings. This means Parties may have not saved much money compared to if the three meetings were held differently.
As a small delegation we actually missed a lot of the business. it is true we may have saved a little money, but we would far rather have a full three week process of deliberation. The COP after all only takes place every two years. I therefore feel that the CBD has been seriously diminished by convening these meetings concurrently. it is quite shocking that a process of such importance should be squeezed in this manner.
As a small delegation it was impossible to give input to all of the negotiations
Even though the statement is true with regards to cost cutting effectiveness, it affected the outcomes of the meeting as there wasnt effective participation of developing countries.

the costs of the meeting are high and having two fill weeks of attendance cannot be presented as cost efficient
I think would can better heir participations but resourses dont enought
Two weeks meeting at my government' expense if too much. It will not be a problem for those whose participation is funded by the CBD. Based on our experience, experts were unable to stay and attend all the activities within the two weks' period because they can only spare 5 days at the most and had to do back to attend to their responsibilities at home, those in the academe and in the government.
Yes, in the sense that Micronesia worked with other Pacific islands and collectively we agreed on issues prior to arriving at the COP. Different islands covered different issues for each other. In the long run, we saved because it all happened at the same time.
Compared to the reduced support to civil society, this measure is not enough to ensure a balanced participation.
I hope yes. Recent notes publicated in newspapers, tell that the COP13 used the total presupuest of the environmental mexican ministery for 2017...that can not be possible, it is not sustainable.
As a one person delegation, it prevented any partici[[ation in the protocols meetings
While it may have been cost effective from the standpoint of organizing the Conference and integration, since only one participant per country eligible for funding was provided with funding to attend from a participation standpoint it is a nightmare for countries which are unable to send large enough delegations to cover adequatelyand appropriately all meetings, working groups, etc. and participate in side events.
Having these meetings at the same time don't save so much money, but it can increase synergies and new contacts between experts of delegations.
See above. When more people have to come to the meeting because many topics are in parallel, I am not sure, whether this is more cost effective.
Convening the meetings concurrently means that Nagoya and Cartagena delegates have to stay for the entire 2 weeks. If these two meetings were held back to back, the stay could be shortened and costs could be saved.
in our case, it was effective, but for others may not
It was not. We had to beg certain donors to give funding for our participants as the convention only funded one participant. If the concurrent meetings happen in the future with only one funded participant, it will greatly reduce the effectiveness of the meeting. Cost reduction should not be the priority of CBD, instead effective delivery should be.Of course, the cost must have reduced when CBD funded just one participant for a 2 week period. If the CBD had not funded any participant, the cost would have reduced even further, but half of the countries probably would not have been able to participate in the COP.
my delegation was able to follow issues of the CBD and its Protocols at one meeting thus didn't miss out if the meeting were to take place in different conference rooms. In terms of cost time was saved and number of conference rooms limited for the meeting
My delegation probably would not have attended any other than CBD COP otherwise.
Since delegates in charge of each protocol are different, it didn't make any difference.
The free shuttle bus service is amazing.
Depends on what the alternative is, precisely.
Absolutely!

My delegation was only interested in the CBD segments.
two weeks makes it too expensive
The financial scheme did not allow the attendance of corresponding experts to diferent instruments. In case of Cuba, we are party of the three documents, so we must stay in every discussion regarding each document. It is probably in a near future Cuba would be party of Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur document, so how can we attend in four meetings with only one person supported by Secretariat.
It was effective but this only applies for 1 delegation to deal with these. Would appreciate consideration if it possible to support participation of 1 delegation for each in particular from SIDS since 1 delegation can't attend both parallel sessions at one time. But with respect this is subject to the available budget to support the participation of delegations that needs financial support. Acknowledge the constant support of 1 delegation from SIDS and others. Many thanks.
This required participants to be many to enable distribution in the different meetings.
Two weeks is way too long for any legitimate job holding adult to attend a conference. It is also nuts to see delegates staying for two weeks in a $420 per day tropical beach resort while claiming to represent the interests of the poor and downtrodden. All of the 'work' at this event should have been completed in a matter of a few days. The rest of the time seems to have been used as public relations 'theater'.
One delegate was sponsered per Party and it weakened the negotiations and full participants from the developing countries
Pay in hoteles and food less expensive will be better
That seems obvious, but the Secretariat needs to provide concrete figures on how much was actually saved from the concurrent holding of these processes.
It took it back in terms of the energy we had to exert trying to get around so by the middle of the second week I had to providing psycosocial support to members who were exhausted and getting a bit snappy towards the end. It took a big toll on me personally after the COP itself as i was one of my delegation's lead Coordinators.
Horrible mess. Difficult for countries to follow what was going on.
Some countries cannot afford to have a numerous delegation, so it is difficult to cover all the important meetings.
It was enormpusly stressful when I often needed to be in Three places at the same time. Days were very long and I was fortunate when I was able to get 6 hours sleep in a night.
We were able to attend whole periods because the conference period was not long.

IX. Additional comments on if convening the meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol concurrently increased integration among the Convention and its Protocols.

It has the potential theoretically, to what extent this would have been realized i would not know.
Sine only one delegate was sponsored, this means two National Focal Points were missing and therefore coordination and integration among the focal points during the meetings was not realized. However for Parties that had all the three focal points in the meeting, there was improvement in integration compared to the previous COPs
Yes because it allows for joint issues to be negotiated together

Partly yes, partly no.
The topics covered in the protocols are specific and should not be part of the Convention negotiations. Note that the Cartagena Protocol has its own strategic plan. I believe that the negotiations of each instrument should be delimited to be efficient and effective. The results of both protocols are part of the Convention progress. For example, the synthetic biology had to be negotiated in the Cartagena Protocol since it is the place where experts in the subject are found.
There should be integrartion, but from some segregation of groups and themes during the meeting, integration was not evident, and different agendas are driving each forum
some topics, e.g. synbio and DSI, gained dynamism when they were addressed in COP and MOPs
But difficult for small delegations
Made those not involved in the Protocols more aware of the synergies and I think it did improve implementation of the Protocols
Cant say but I would hope so.
Even at the meeting there was no evidence of this and it is extremely unlikely to have an integrative effect at national level - the opposite, in fact.
Very much increased the integration among the Convention and its Protocols.
see number 12. above.
small delegation working simultanous in 2 seperate rooms does not increase integration
Stronger integration was the main positive outcome concurent COP/MOPs
For specific items (e.g. Synthetic biology)
Not really! One delegate can't atten 3 concurrency meetings at the same time. How can they intergrate?
It increased integration to some disagree, but also created antagonism
Since my opinion not much more than with separate meetings, maybe one after the other as usual
It does but then the issue of representation is a problem for developing countries.
The delegation had different members for each segment and this procedure did not increase integration.
There was lack of integration and cause for confusion.
Consultations across the protocols was certainly easier.
a mon niveau l'intégration n'est pas totalement effective.
I give the benefit of doubts, may be yes but it cannot be less even when not run concurrently due to a number of crosscutting issues.
I do not feel it increased integration; rather it reduced the effectiveness of the process.
It was a very pleasent experience to understand the three procesess concurrently and it was a necessity to increase the dialogue among Instruments

it was still quite parallel discussions
The integrated agenda and items being considered helped the idea.
this was helpful because some topics are discussed in parallel in different forums
There are parties that are members of only one or two Protocols and due to the organization of the working groups, have to attend all meetings with the possibility of losing concentration
Discussions/briefings on integration should be happen first at the national level specially for those countries whose representatives are different for each of the Protocols aand implementation are done by different government agencies. This initiative should be spearheded by the Focal Points of the CBD
This may be true, at least in my knowledge, after editing and reading our delegation's travel report from COP-13.
Proof is in the pudding.
Delegates were so loaded with too much work particularly those from developing countries who have to run from one session to another as many were represented by only one person, and could not be involved in the contact groups or evening session. It was too much for them
I am particularly interested in synthetic biology, which was dealt with under each of the three, so integration was helpful.
Enable participants to integrate and even know areas of convergence
It could have allowed for better integration if there was enough representation from each party. I personally believe that it is a good idea to have these meetings concurrently if enough participants can be funded. If not, it is better to have them separately. Looking forward to COP15 in 2020 where new targets will be adopted, I see a huge failure if this trend continues.
It easy to see linkages between the CBD and its protocols during the meeting
The one area of discussion that I think may have benefited was the discussion around genetic sequencing information, however in general our delegation was thinly spread and only covering issues relevant to our own areas of interest.
Integration is fostered by dialogue. Negotiations and discussions were held separately even though in the same location. Transversal round tables and meetings could improve integration of the protocols
This was apparent, to some extent, in the interventions made and definitely in some of the side events.
No
I agree but increasing 'integration' among the con in many instances a bad thing. Properly read, the Cartagena Protocol deals only with the possible negative impact on biodiversity from the transboundry movement of LMOs. Putting the Convention with the Protocol has the effect of 'mission creep', whereby participants try to expand the scope of the Protocol with new issues (e.g., bans on gene editing research).
Discussions were highly dominated by CBD issues (e.g. Capacity building) and the already ongoing processes or achievements within the Cartagena Protocol not taken into account sufficiently
This needs to be seen overtime. One COP with this new arrangement cannot be a sound a basis to say that there is indeed increased integration among the Convention and its Protocols.
Well It made sure you cme with an integrated plan with clear objectives. It didnt allow you to not want to be

focused if you even didn't want to be.
Horrible mess. Difficult for countries to follow what was going on.

X. Additional comments on if convening the meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol concurrently facilitated consultations and coordination among delegates and negotiation forums.

It has the potential theoretically, to what extent this would have been realized i would not know.
This was a great opportunity for networking and knowing delegates.
Yes it was possible to focal points to consult since all the meetings were happening concurrently compared to the past.
But this in case if the representatives from different parties are enough to cover all the meetings
Each specialist attending the negotiations is responsible for expressing the national position already taken within the country. The points to be treated in each instrument are different, except the topic related to the synthetic biology that was negociated by the Convention and its protocols at the same time
In some cases I'd say yes, because there should be consistency in international agreements and local policies, but, some have been trated as trade-offs to get to compromises
To a minor extent this was true. However, as all Protocol issues were in one working group the amount of integration was limited.
I dont know
But the added vale of such consultation and coordination is unclear and might even be negative.
I'd imagine that is the case.
If delegate have time and well follow the issues.
The time was limiting to follow the forums.
No, see responde for question No 13
les différents points conventions échangent sur des points pertinents s'ils sont ensemble
if each country have enough participant per country
Yes there was a lot of interactions between the experts for the three meeting. In our situation, it gave an opportunity to learn and exchange much information.
I had fewer opportunities for consultation and coordination than in previous meetings.
even though it was challenging as there were many sessions in parallel
Being part of a very small delegation I agree in principle.
It also made us as observers to be well organized to be able to attend and ensure effective contribution of issues in the different sessions.

this is correct for bigger delegations, but it does not apply for smaller groups
The scheduling of contact groups seemed to be lacking coordination.
Consultation time were reduced due to the agenda having so many meetings in parallel
I think is importan that people know about this Protocols
Initiatives and coordination should be done first at the national level. Government agencies should be aware of their respective roles and responsibilities in coordinating the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. Many countries were at a lost and confused by the schedule.
This may be true, at least in my knowledge, after editing and reading our delegation's travel report from COP-13.
Between the plenary and working group sessions, there was only little time to convene and some members of the delegations had to be at several coordinating meetings (for the Convention and the Protocols). Also, with all the sessions and coordination meeting, there was almost no time left to attend side events.
Unfortunately, there wasn't enough representation from many countries for the consultation and dialogue
Delegates who intended to follow issues of CBD and those following issues on Nagoya or Cartagena protocol were able to consult each other thus coordination was enhanced during the conference
Facilitation capacity and oppotunities are always excellent.
Smaller delegations were too thinly stretched.
Much evidence of this cross-over.
My feeling is that national delegations were really stretched
Indeed, the concurrent sessions facilitated the consultation and coordination among delegates and negotiation forums - but, it has also pulled down the decisions to the least common denominator for the sake of coordination and consistency.
Well despite persons from some delegations stalling even that tactic was well co-ordinated so yes.

XI. Additional comments on if the transition from the Convention on Biological Diversity to the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol during the working sessions of the UN Biodiversity Conference was easy to follow.

It was difficult is other issues that are related were discussed on WG1 or WG2 especially if you have few delegation because you miss some discussions.
Most times there was a clash in the timing in consideration of the agenda items. Also contact group and working group meetings started going at the same time in the second week.
Sometimes very confusing.
As mentioned before, each specialist has the mission to take the national position, the specialists who negotiated the protocols were unable to perform their functions for approximately three full days, because in that period negotiated issues of the Convention
It was sometimes challenging, especially when the agenda had been suddenly modified; some attention to that aspects will be needed in the future;

The transition between the meetings were not clear as there was no break between the different topics to allow for others to catch up especially those that were just entering the room as they went from one to the other quickly without a short introduction of each topic.
Most of the time this was true and the dedication and effort put in by the secretariat was very much appreciated. Occasionally the scheduling was very difficult to follow via the online scheduler, with frequent changes, which made it difficult to get the right people in the right place at the right time.
easy maybe not - but possible
Not all the time and for everybody. Personaly, as part of an observation delegation, involved in specific topics of one Protocol, this seems to be irrelevent
not really as they were in separate WGs
Very confusing - I think it might just be a factor of getting used to the format
It took a lot of effort, resulted in sub-optimal participation, stifled the voices of under-staffed delegations and over-worked small delegations.
Not necessarily if you were covering different WG and had a mall delegation
The agenda was clear, but as these things go it was still sometimes confusing in the moment about which was which.
you must follow all the meeting to know at what point you were
Not really, we had to follow the website and the screens in front of the meeting rooms. The info were sometimes provided quite late, or something has changed or the meeting has disappeared from the screen. Secretariat has been chaotic sometimes.
It was easy for those who have prepared their participation before coming to Cancun and especially those who were attentive to what the chairman said. Obviously it is not easy for those who participate for the first time at such a meeting, but one must start one day.
Not always and not for everybody, it was difficult for small delegations
It was challenging; but I believe that for a first time, it was well coordinated.
there are still improvements to be made
Absolutely difficall and complicate.
There was a lot of information to be absorbed in each meeting and it was difficult to keep track on all the parallel events happening at once.
At the start, the transition was difficult to grasp and often got lost in the process but slowly caught up with the flow later on.
Not really. especially that there were separate sessions that stretched my delegation as we were switching form one session to another.
changes in the sequence of agenda was poorly communicated. Not enough advance notice was given for delegates to plan accordingly. There were times when the right delegates were not present when topics were introduced.
It took a while to understand the system.

La compréhension des éléments sur la convention et sa mise en oeuvre permet une compréhension rapide sur le fonctionnement des protocoles.
Certains délégués étaient perdus et ne savaient pas trop si c'est la Cop CBD ou les réunions des autres protocoles...
Need for experts in the three meeting was critical.
The President was very good.
As the schedules of the working groups changed (esp. in week 2) rather spontaneous it was had for CBD-delegates to cover all items...
In some specific days it was complicated, specifically in the night sessions or when the schedule changes very quickly.
not or small delegations.
The Secretariat did a great job to make it as smooth as possible, but as it was the first time some efforts were needed by the delegations to be accurate on this issue.
The agenda was easy to follow and well organized
One had to keep going to check on the screens for what is going on in other working groups and contact groups, thereby interrupting one's concentration
the nature of the negotiations makes it hard to work in a well planned way, and therefore the transition was hard due to timing problems
Not completely easy. Probably it will need in future to be more adressed by a better agenda
But those parties with smaller delegation could not attend all processes due to parallel running of some sessions
At times, for people needing to move between working groups 1 and 2, it was not clear which agenda item and documents were being deliberated. It would have been helpful if this information was displayed on the screens.
Too much meetings at same time
No because provisions of all the protocols were discussed simultaneously.
It was a little confusing, but I'm sure as we continue we communication will be a lot smoother.
Not for new people.
It was sometimes difficult to find out which issue was dealt where and how more or less the same issue dealt in different fora.
I found this quite disturbing, because it was more difficult to find and follow one's own expertise fields from the TV screens and Working groups when there were so much themes and meetings going on.
Except for Plenary it was not so difficult to know what will be discussed as all the information was available online.
It was not that easy since some items were similar unless you have gone through the document before the session
The Chair did a good job of making it clear, but it was confusing at times!

It was rather confusing.
No. This was difficult. Not know what room to be in and when. Fear of missing announcements. Rushing from room to room.
I found it somewhat confusing but it was my first time at the CBD COP
as the lone IPLC from my country, I was not able to attend all since so many side events were taking place so I had to prioritize my attendance list
Agenda was changed on short notice. Sometimes there was confusion among participants which item was up for discussion.
It was quite confusing, even for those who have attended previous COPs, and much more so for first-timers or those whose previous experiences were limited to attending the meetings of the Protocols.
Yes in part for a person like myself helping to leading a large delegation on the very first COP ever. The transitions werent 2 too bad
Horrible mess. Difficult for countries to follow what was going on.
Slow down a bit, allow delegates to move from hall tothe other
One was required to attend the whole session in order not to miss the question one was following. There was confusion on what topic was being discussed. This made for a very inefficient use of delegates time and was very stressful.
The display was clear enough to follow up.
Just for CBD and protocols well known negotiators

XII. Additional comments on convening concurrent meetings of COP and MOPs.

The scheme could work for big delegations. However, for small delegations (for example, three representatives) is very difficult to participate in all meetings. In addition, the fact conclusions are presented after two weeks of discussion increase costs (both in time and money) and do not neccesarily gurantee the presence of the same countries´delegates from discussions and conclusions.
While convening concurrent meetings of COP amd MOPs is indeed cost-effective, however, it is certainly not effective in terms of improving the efficiency of the processes since following the discussions from one meeting to the other is not easy and was especially challenging for the smaller delegations.
The agenda is too heavy to be dealt by a single delegate
As said before, it is essentially impossible for the small delegations to cope with the huge agenda. This is unfair.
If possible, some important subjects should be integrated in the main COP and not as side event.
This was very well organised and helped to streamline common themes.
Some transversal topic should be discussed between delegates all together.
As it is mentioned above , concurrent meeting will be of high effectiveness if the number of the delegate from each party is enough to over countries all the meetings specially for the developing countries
A lot of the delegations (parties and observers) been confused from this way of the meetings which implemented

during the last COP....
Preferred: Two weeks CBD COP and 1st week in parallel Nagoya COP MOP, 2nd week in parallel Cartagena COP MOP would be more convenient. Not all 3 Meetings mixed.
I think it was not a good idea, on the contrary for more people were needed per government and organisations
The COP and MOPs should be separated by days or weeks; or properly staggered if they have to run at the same venue.
The CBD website with the room scheduler was very useful to keep track of what meetings where scheduled for when, however it was frustrating how often changes were made to this last minute, particularly when it came to the order in which issues would be discussed during plenary sessions. This made it difficult for experts to be in the right place at the right time. It would also have been useful if issues discussed at plenary sessions could have been grouped more by meeting (taking at the Cartagena issues together in plenary...).
Overall the organization of parallel meetings went quite well/ fluent
for delegation's that have not enough delegates it has hard to follow all three issues
While I understood the process, I believe that many others didn't and confusion was often heard from other parties.
It's difficult because , we have no more delegates to assist at the same time in the three meetings
widened the networks and intergration
In my own view, th Convention on Biological Diversity to the Cartagena Protocol and the Nagoya Protocol should be held separately if conditions allow
While the holding of meeting at the same time was cost effective to the secretariat to the parties it meant staying in Cancun for a much longer time for the delegates. For many of the developing countries with limited number of participants, it also meant that they could not participate in all the sessions especially with the convening of the various sessions on contentious issues. Probably in future funds be allocated to support at lease two or more delegates by the secretariat
The secretariat should seek to find one delegate for each of the instruments that a country is a Party. It is not possible for one delegate to effectively cover the contact groups and plenary sessions convened for the meetings of the Convention and it's Protocols. Also the scheduling of contact groups which have common subjects for all three instruments require further thought e.g.budget and finance
here was enough organization in group work. The meetings were balanced in number of participants in the groups. He had a good logistic in material of diffusion.
At the plenary moving from the CBD to cartagena Protocol then to the Nagoya Protocol sometimes was too fast, well from my experience as a new person to the whole process i guess ill catch up in the near future but personally i felt lost most of the time. Perhaps it would be nice if we do one whole session for CBD if all matters are done then we move to the other instead of going back and forth among the three
Fue funcional el desarrollo de la COP y MOps, pero cansado de seguir los tres procesos y participar activamente en ellos, en diversas ocasiones se traslaparon los grupos de trabajo.
The Secretariat was fantastic. Thank you guys :) (and especially Nader!)
Due to the merging of all 3 conventions there was a sense of urgency to complete the agenda of each, and not much time left to discussion as we hurried along the meeting agenda for each.
The holding of the sessions concurrently was very useful and should be promoted, it makes a lot of sense and

enhances the cooperation within the CBD work and its Protocols.
Son muy complejas en sus mecanismo y muy difíciles de seguir y entender
In an event held in my country to discuss the integration of the Convention and its Protocols, it was clear that there is a lot of misunderstanding and false expectatives from the meetings themselves. It goes similar for the contents of proposals of agreements, regarding who speak in each forum and over the mecanisms to get this agreements.
While I personally found the convening sessions useful, I know that some smaller delegations found it difficult to adequately divide their time among them especially for key contact sessions. Please be more mindful of how those sessions are scheduled.
There were more moments when countries that are not parties to the Cartagena Protocol where trying to influence the discussions and decisions than previously.
We will have to pay closer attention to ensuring enough time for the full breadth of CBD issues that are not related to Protocols
Concurrent meetings with longer and clearer distinct sections might enable some efficiencies, but only if adequate financial support is provided for the participation of all the relevant national experts from developing countries (at least one per instrument).
Is important to organize the contact groups or small meetings to avoid overlapping issues that are follow by the same members of the delegations.
perhaps, separating CP in a different working group, in the same week/s will be better
For many delegates it is impossible to attend a two-week meeting
I think we must continue in the same way for the future.
Venue was very ideal for the meetings
Convening concurrent meetings is a good idea but it increased budgets for delegates who usually follow biosafety issues only. Instead of them attending a five day meeting they ended up attending a two week long meeting.
Delegation members that attended the meetings of either or both of the Protocols under the Convention were forced to stay two weeks instead of one week as in previous Meetings of the Parties. Concurrent meetings favour parties with larger delegations in terms of active participation in contact group meetings. Burden sharing results easier for larger delegations.
It worked well for a first attempt
la prochaine fois; la participation de tous les points focaux de la convention et des protocoles seront plus avantageuse
the model from Cancun should be used in the future and further improved
If the delegation is not strong, it is difficult to follow all sessions at the same time.
Organisation of side meetings were okay
Its important to support participation of all three Focal Points from eligible Parties, who can follow all issues of the meeting. One person can not follow everything
Having come specifically for synthetic biology, I did appreciate the concurrent meetings, as there were discussions across the Convention and its Protocols that touched on this issue. I was shocked at how different the culture of the

Cartagena Protocol was compared to the other two. That being the case, I'm actually all the more in favor of continued concurrent meetings, to bring these ways of negotiating into alignment.
concurrent meetings diminished participation posibilities for small delegations and civil society.
It is important that the Secretariat prepare documents in a better way than this meeting. For instance the draft decision on capacity building wasn´t prepared enough, much time was needed to sort out the relationship between COP and MoPs at the meeting. It should have been done before the meeting started. The draft decision on budget also needed to be redrafted to make a integrated decision. There was not enough time to discuss all issues, for instance the issues under the Cartagena protocol.
For delegations with few members, running the tree sessions in parallel resulted in difficulties in following all relevant meetings. In contrast, the synergies when discussing similar topics during different sessions was useful.
Segments common to all should overlap
Joint meetings are usually cost effective but meetings smaller joint meetings have to be convened for non political discussions on specific cross cutting issues. Or you might want to organize contact groups for all documents prior so that the presentation of documents at the plenary could run smoother. It cannot be avoided but I noticed that lots of people wasted their time just waiting for the finalization.
Not recommend this modality for the next UN Biodiversity meeting
Activist groups dressed in costumes lowered the level of seriousness and dignity expected in a UN meeting
Delegates should have high knowledge of the CBD and its Protocols in order to effectively monitor POPs in parallel.
Only one week for holding meetings of the Cartagena Protocol
it was cost effective to run concurrent meetings although for small delegations with only one person it meant that you would have to continuously jump between meetings. In the future, it would be very useful to provide financial resources to support the participation of at least two representatives from SIDS to attend the two meeting concurrently.
Given that it was the first time the meetings were run currently, the logistics and the implementation need to be smoothed out. It was disjointed and disorganized.
Issues such as the use of digital sequence data and gene drives bled from one forum to another and consequently waylaid progress in multiple discussions. For those leading those issues, trying to participate in all of the related discussions was difficult and often impossible.
les réunions simultanées de la convention et ses protocoles doit être pérenniser parce que c'est constructif et favorise une meilleure échange et expérience.
Consacrer une semaine à la Cop CBD et la deuxième semaine aux 2 protocoles. Ce serait plus souple et plus efficeint.
Honestly, the meetings could be shorter - work expands to fill time allowed.
The format is a challenge for small delegations. Unfortunately, delegations are usually small because of funding constraints (to a minor degree) and simply a limited number of experts to draw form. So any other format would be no less challenging/
The challenges of convening concurrently need to be assessed and addressed for future planning. I see more advantages in convening concurrently than separately.

My country had a strong delegation and this allowed our presence in all the MOPs because the delegation was scintillated For this purpose we advise against the representativeness of one person only. This is by no means effective and causes so many opportunities to be misse
I think this was an experiment that failed and should not be repeated.
The presidency and the bureau (Chairs of WG), supported by the secretariat, should be (better) prepared for strategic requests of parties to block negotiations in one stream to conclude in others (e.g. safety, synbio, digital sequence information)
It was very exciting and challenging, in a good way!
I found in general the strategic process that integrated and facilitated the dialogue between the parties and promoted the most unified agreements taking into account other agreements and actions for the conservation of biodiversity.
you can't be in two places at the same time.
Excellent hosting arrangements by the mexican Government. Transport organization to and from Moon Palace is very much appreciated.
While agreeig that concurrent meetings are positive, it would be better to limit the time of the COP-MOPs to one week only (e.g. starting only on week 2).
No doubt that the joint Conference resulted in a greater integration between the CBD and related Protocols, especially on common issues. I must emphasize, however, a negative point: some particularly complex issues of CBD have shifted much of the agenda of the Working Group 1, forcing experts to Cartagena and Nagoya to spend days without arguments in discussion, while other days instead to attend extraordinary evening sessions to recover.
I In my view it was a success but very involving which is also good. The minds of the participants are prepared for the next time
It is very challenging for small delegations as they can not be everywhere at the same time. CBD sposored delegates for elligible countries should be increased to ensure full and effective participation in all the deliberations
reduce the number of topics that are discussed at a meeting (this will make achieving good outcomes more likely) do not allow any new agenda items to be added from plenary - strictly stick to the draft decisions documents
The organization and implementation of the three meetings at the same time for a period of two weeks, allowing for increased synergies and partners between the NFP of the Convention and its two Protocols. There was an opportunity for general discussions and joint decisions. We propose to consider if it is possible MOPs finish 2-3 days before the closing of COP and to enable effective finalization of sensitive and problematic issues in recent days.
Nagoya and Cartagena Protocols are important instruments for UN Biodiversity and in their meetings open opinions
Mparese aseptable la concurrencia.
Efficiency has to have at the core that several groups do not have enough members to cover all issues and some sort of ¨equity¨ approach should be analyzed for the participation of bigger groups specially from the private sector and from ¨developed¨ countries.
Having concurrent meetings allowed for non-parties to any of the Conventions/Protocols develp awaereness of the progress of implementation and provide a framework for deciding wheather or not to ratify a particular agreement. Also, cross cutting issues among the conventions/protocols are more easily assessed in this format of hosting the

COP/MOP.
We need to rationalise the biodiversity-related agreements. There are far too many overlapping policy platforms.
I strongly believe that the execution of this meeting was of high delivery
More efforts should have been made to concentrate the work of the two COPMOPs in the first week. Out of the COPMOPs agendas, only cross-cutting items should have been discussed during the second week.
Let us wait till you get enough response from all delegates. I shall agree only if more than one delegates from developing countries attend the COP14 and NOPs
Concurrent meetings had one major limitation, countries with one (or few delegates) could not attend both the MOPs and COP, therefore limiting their participation.
Convening both protocols concurrently didn't effect to budget sufficiency.
Since these meetings occur for three weeks, there is need to provide at least a one day break for resting especially considering that some parties cannot afford to have huge delegation due to financial challenges. For countries with huge delegation its simple as they give each other shifts.
While convening concurrent meetings of CoP and MoPs is indeed cost-effective, however, it is certainly not effective in terms of impressing the efficiency of the processes since the following the discussions from one meeting to the other is not easy, and was especially challenging for the smaller delegations.
In the future this kind of meetings should be planned having in mind that the world does not have resources to squander.
Not able to focus the participants to its purpose. Limited participation to side events
In the meantime, consistency and integration must be strengthened
There was too much confusion to understand the process and the meetings. Imposible to be in two meetings at the same time
A good presidency as the one provided by Minister Pacciano is key for the format to work.
I do prefer the meeting for only one week and not simultaneous
For the moment, I´rather to maintain separate meetings.
The convening of the COP NP MOP meetings was very damaging to small delegations that could not keep up with the simultaneous discussions. For local communities it was more difficult because there are few community leaders who dominate the 3 issues, and we had to maintain the same leadership for two weeks in Cancun. This undermined the diversity of evaluations and performance, although it was cheaper.
Although we are not a party to the other two protocol, our region would discuss issues from the two protocols and we would highlight or intergrate some issues into the CBD negotiations and vise versa.
The meetings should not be held separately again because it does not allow adequate follow-up since everything is related and does not allow good recommendations to be made by indigenous peoples.
Our problem was to coordinate with not enough time
It was very difficult to follow the plenaries and at the same time the attached work tables. It is necessary to take into account that the number of delegates by each party is very limited. It is not advisable to continue with this experiment, it is best to go back to the meetings separately.

Timing not adequate for MOPs - half of the duration would have been enough
The Secretariat and the Parties need to have an in-depth assessment of what are being sacrificed in the name of ensuring efficiency in the processes and cutting costs.
As a first time antendee the only draw back I had for this COP/MOP was the fact that a Party delegate and their students were allowed to emotionally and Psycological attack a few of my members without direct avenues of redress until she started bullying other party delegates and also perceived as a threat. That was my only real bad experience at the COP.
This did not work.
In the plenary, when changing from one meeting to the other, the gavel was used too often, a better solution ,less complicated, should be found
If the CBD is to carry out concurrent meetings in one working Group, there is a great need to track the topic being discussed on the screens outside of the meeting hall and even in the meeting room.

XIII. Addition comments on if the number of side events during the UN Biodiversity Conference was appropriate.

Many events, which is bad for small delegations because they can not participate.
India organized 16 side events which gave a glimpse of work being done. Similarly, the side events were showcase for new ideas.
Although there were too many.
Too many side events and very little time to assist them.
Too much.
Due to the limited number of reperentative from our country (only one) I could not participate in all although I see all side events are relevant and important
Due to being extremely busy with the concurrent sessions, I was unable to attend many side events.
There were too many
It was usually too many to follow.
In my opinion negotiations should be conducted with the least possible interruption to the negotiators.
it gives more chance of sharing experience
there was a lot of side events but for a government team involved in negotiations it is merely impossible to follow them
Could have been more
We are of the opinion that there were way too many events that split the level of participation up far too much.
It was still too much and others are taking place during the sessions
Attendance at some side events was a challenge for small delegations.

Too much side events led to information overload and missed opportunities to attend other interesting sessions
Too much
There were too many side events but at the same time, it created more opportunities for discussion.
There are a lot (too many?) side events.
There could have been more at certain points, the flow felt a little uneven. But that may just be of the side events I was interested in.
Always a problem for government delegations to attend as many side events as they would like.
Son demasiados eventos y es difícil de atender.
Well, probabliy too many. Some very interesting others not adequate (in time and resources for this forum), and with only two schedulke slots, made the attendance a matter of chance or luck. However, the Convention must enourage the organization of some guide to side-events truly relevent to the pending topics in the meetings; others can be covered by publications, videoclips or podcasts available for extra times
Too many
Too many
Side events engage many others, outside of Parties, in the CBD and this is important
Far too many.
How long is a piece of string?
Actually I didn't have the time to attend a single one, because the number of contact groups or negotiations meetings during the time allocated for side events.
There were too many of them, and sometimes side events with the same topic were scheduled at the same time, making it difficult for people who cover that issue and potentially hampering participation in both events. More thought should be given toward combining side events on similar topics, or simply having a firm limit on the numbers. It does no one any favors if their event is not well attended after they have put a lot of effort into it and spent the money to travel to the COP.
Because of the coordination meetings within our region (few times a day) and bilateral meetings, not enough time to follow the side events.
There were too many
certain side meetings were oversubscribed and the venue was not large enough
Too much side events, very difficult for delagations to follow, some of which were made up of a single person! But i think the organizers cannot do otherwise.
Active participation in the negotiations requires presence in informal and formal working group sessions which limits the posibility to attend interesting and important side events.
possibly too many. leads to poor attendance at relevant but less popular events
almost had no time to visit side Events so I am not totally aware of the number of events

too many, some overlapping
Beaucoup d'enseignement y sont tirés.
too many look for lumping them
There are always too many side events and many overlap in their subjects. Having said that, I believe the Secretariat made a great job in accommodating requests and asking delegates to use the portal in an efficient way.
Managed not to be completely overwhelming!
From my point of view, there was a certain kind of inflation due to the huge amount of side-events.
There is always too many side events. There has been some attempt to reduce the numbers, but SCBD didn't seem to have put an effort in this regard this time around.
Maybe a bit too many side-events. Concentrating the number and location of side-events would make sure that all side-events are well attended and that debate is a bit more lively.
there were many but too few on COP-MOP
Too many side events and several of them did not materialize. Propose to have a final list prior without further cancellations. some people go for particular side events
Only additional time was required to serve the COP, contact groups and side events
Too many side events
It was a huge amount of very interesting side events, specially the CEPA fair was excellent, just to stay there all day long.
There were a lot of very good events at the same time, impossible to attend to all of them, maybe having only 4 to choose would be better.
There were many and from my point of view most of the best were in the first week. It is always impossible to get to everything - that is the nature of any series of parallel events
Hard to judge. There were probably too many, and national delegations often too busy to attend. Small delegations have no chance to attend.
Too many side events meant that prioritization was a problem. maybe better to have theme days
c'était trop il faut selectionné
I found it appropriate, with the exception of events funded by transnational corporations of synthetic biology and biotechnology that pretend to ignore the previous processesand the nature of the biodiversity COPs, and impose their interests with agression.
There could have been more side events.
as part of a delegation there was no time to profit of the side events
There should be more side events where local conservation and NGO groups can address UN representatives on priority problems at a local level.

There was so many!!! It was very difficult to select.among all the options happening in parallel
It's convenient to have a several number of side - events. However the negotiations made it hard to attend all of them.
All very interesting events, including many of them demonstrate the interest of local and regional to conserve biodiversity, despite the lack of economic resources, political and social interest. However, as there were so many events there was a lot of participation in others. I feel that the idea is to guarantee at least 10 people per event, unfortunately in many there were only 1 to 2 people, and many of them were the same volunteers who participated
I didn't have time to attend any side event.
Sometimes there were too many side events which makes it difficult to follow.
The level of some of them was just not worth it and many other side events also were canceled due to lack of attendance.
there were too many side events - and it was noteworthy that there was quite a lot of thematic repetition - e.g. some organizations were recycling content in a number of side events.
Far too many.
Too many events were done by the same groups as essentially the same side event repeated with minor tweaks. Some groups were not able to hold any event, so the repartition of slots was not fair.
Too many I think. Hard t follow
On certain topics, e.g. synthetic biology, there was a large number of side events by civil society, many involved the same presenters and repeated content.
Too much
Is very dificult follow side events, meetings and the Conference
Too much and mostly on CBD. The Cartagena Protocol was side swept.
Not sure how I feel about this... I felt that there were so many, and a lot of the items overlapped.
too many and not enough time to attend many anyway due to meeting agenda
There was so many, the rooms had a rare programation and could present all kind of themes in relation with tourism, green economy, sinthetyc biology, species in extintion dangerous, mainstreaming in biodiversity in one or other sector...it had little order and was difficult to follow
There were a lot of very interesting and educative side-events, but unfortunately participation on the main agenda meetings made it very difficult to find time to take part in the side-events.
Certainly not more side events Option: like IUCN, start with an NGO part prior to the Conference. At such an "NGO-Forum" you can have room for exchange.
Though I ran a side event, I think the side events have lost the plot.
There are always a lot of side events and it's difficult to keep track of them. As a govt. negotiator with a lot of engagements in negotiations it is almost impossible to attend many side-events, so it is difficult to assess whether the number was too high or too low.

far more side events than most delegates can realistically participate in. And for Party delegates, finding the time to attend these is challenging
Too many interesting subjects
Too many. Lost oversight.
Beaucoup de sides events dont parfois le temps faisait défaut
There was a little too many, maybe only have 80% of the ones held.
Too busy with main conference.
The number of side events were numerous and worked well for those with a big delegation. with few delegation it was difficult to make a choice especially when all event appear to be relevant to your country.
Some side-events that were announced did not convene. As one of interested side-event organizers to hold it earlier in the Conference week was forced to hold it in the last day of the Conference.
Too many! It's nice that many parties get a chance to have events, but the number is just crazy!
Too many
Limited participation of participants to other side events
Seemed about right. Entities that reserve a side event and then are no-shows at their own event (like the North Carolina synthetic biology people) should be penalized the next time around.
Way, way too many
Too many and the late night events were not well attended. Some events had whole day sessions and this should be limited to get time and space to other groups
There were many and it was often difficult to choose but nevertheless, I appreciated the diversity and breadth of topics.
There were to few. Sideevents is very import for providing knowledge exchange and as networking options. Only few minestries was represented by sideevent activities even though it could be usefull to exchange knowledge on developing nbaps, indictors, mens for implementation etc.
Too many aiming in too many directions; very uneven quality.
There were more than one side event by the same organizations on the same topics, which suggested a bias in selection of the side events...
Way too many side events
Many of the side events were extraneous to protecting biodiversity. I often wondered if the Parties are administering an agreement or running a public relations circus for NGOs.
Way too many side events. Sometimes 10 at the same time. Organisers should be encouraged to co-host/organise when the topics are similar enough
There were many interesting Side Events, and in some cases, those tackling the same topics were scheduled at the same time. That should be avoided in future COPs.

The number of side events were alot as it was suppose to be. Love it. Just wondering if there is an easier way to get the locations of each and how to find them. The smart boards and side panels saved me alot of times. I especially appreaciated the Urban Biodiversity, Pollination, and Marine and Rural Biodiv. EBSA side events
Too many NGOs having multiple meetings with the same extreme messaging rather than having balanced side events.
There were plenty of side events, which is good, but sometimes you need to choose from 2-3 that are happening at the same time.
A lot of side events were of interest, but it was a pity they were spread over the two weeks for me who was mainly interested in the Cartagena Protocol and could attend one week only. I would have preferred that all side events related to Cartagena Protocol matters be grouped the same week, together with the discussions relating to the Protocol.
Too many.
I never had the chance to attend a side event as there were continuous meetings for me.
Muchos al mismo tiempo
Too many
The number of side events was small.
Perhaps to many

XIV. Addition comments on if the topics addressed during the side events were relevant.

With some important exceptions, tjhe topics were relevant
Some of them.
There could have been more on NBSAPs and their implementation.
The topics covered in the site event were related to specific issues to be dealt with in the negotiations. It is estimated that they should address other issues
I learnt more from others and shared information
Biased points of view. Same 3-4 groups running majority of side events.
In some cases thing were cluster to one, i guess time was limited and space as well....
Algunos
The online list of side-events was more or less easy to check, but a little bit slow or 'dumb' as every search has to begin from scratch; abstracts were cut or uninformative, and initials of organizers were not sufficient to inform of affiliations ond of course, reliability
Although it was difficult for Parties to attend.
One advantage of having a lot of side events is very wide coverage - the essence of diversity.
Unfortunately, I wanted to attend a few events but due to the topics covered, I was not able to do it

This is a subjective assertion, because it depends on the interest one has in the said topic.
Could me more attention to the negative impact the financial sector has, but also what private financial institutions are doing on becoming more green. And how they can contribute further.
Oui
There were some very interesting and others no too much.
The side events showed how all the paper work can have a concrete application in real projects
Really interesting and relevant content
Oui
Quality wise the side events needs to improve
Not always.
This was highly variable - some events were relevant and informative while others were not of good quality.
I was not able to attend all.
I just wonder how we can ensure that what is happening in the side events are actually linked to the negotiations, and are heard as real solutions.
It needs more commercial real applies and funding solutions
In UNFCCC process selection and structuring of the official side event program is more developped. I would favor a stricter selection of the official side events, but let all organisations organise their events at the NGO-Forum prior to thhe COP (see above).
Side events should really only focus on the agenda items.
The few side events I attended, adressed relevant topics.
The topics were interesting, but I couldn´t attend many side events as there were coordination meetings in almost all breaks.
Though more informed data from researchers that study Biodiversity and in the impacts would be appreciated.
There were quite a number of synthetic biology topics.
most of the side events I attended hard relevant topics some of which were eye openers providing new knowledge in the field of biodiversity
Many side events were hosted by activists who spread misleading information about Synthetic Biology, Biotechnology and Gene Drives. Some of these people were even rude if somebody dared asking them a technical question.
But this time the side evnets on REDD+ are rare.
The side events were largely focused on key issues as they relate to the Convention. Some, of course, were better than others in their delivery.
The themes for discussion during the events was informative

Some were highly relevant, others not
mostly
Yup I am an Urban beekeeper and the Pollination, Marine and Terrestrial EBSAs and Urban Biodiversity were the most relevant to my projects back home.
Many were relevant but extreme in their approach. Side events should be informative rather than so one-sided without the opportunity to actually discuss issues.

XV. Additional comments on side events

Logistics of side events was not very well organized: It was difficult to find the rooms, in some cases the number of assistants exceeded the number of seats, no clear rule for service of refreshments for each event.
Our own side even on BIOFIN was really successful judging by the participation level, interest and after the even t connect.
Too many events at the same time. It was hard to decide which event to attend.
The side events were very interesting. It might be useful to have a few side events alongside WG processes such as a track for parliamentarians. They dont necessarily participate in all WG processes
Side events especially those which are relevant to COP agenda are useful for delegates in understanding of issues.
There should be less bias in the conduction of discussions during the side events, specially those under the CBD Convention
The length of the Working Group sessions (long) didn't enable delegates to participate in many side events of their interest.
In general it is a great idea to provide side events as different experts and professional have an opportunity to get to know new developments and exchange opinions. No special comment
It would be easier to plan and find the rooms if the side event rooms with relevant subjects were set near each other, or at least in one building. The sound equipment in most of the side event room, especially in the big ones, was inefficient and some of the speeches were missed or incompletely understood because of that.
it was difficult to find out the side event areas. There was not well information while the change the venue
The side events were for me the bread and butter of the event.
The Roundtable discussions should have better organization. I facilitated a discussion meant for 12 people, but I had no way to know how many participants there would be. 24 people attended, and the room noise level was difficult to create a group discussion.
The side events are very important for the Civil Society, NGO, Private Sector and Parties to share the work that they are developing and to present the best practices they use. It is important too for the interaction among all participants and to create networks.
I had not much time to attend them! to busy to work and negociate
I found the side events very useful. It was also a good opportunity for networking, especially among researchers.
It allows participants share and bring more understanding

A wider range of external speakers should have been invited to provide sufficient counter arguments and encourage a dialogue
congrats
Unfortunately, with only a delegation of two people, we were split between the working groups and therefore could not attend some of the side events that occurred concurrently with the working groups
The attempts by certain participants to disrupt side events was outrageous. I am not troubled by vigorous discussions, but disruption and theatrics are totally inappropriate.
welled planned interms of time
They were appropriate and informative to the ongoing negotiations. Some rooms had poor acoustics though.
The content and speakers at some side events was less than ideal.
It will be better if the side events are properly attended. For this the display arrangements of notices can be improved.
There were side events that were cancelled but scheduled in earlier dates. It would have been more appropriate to schedule first side events tackling more popular issues
There limited transports after the plenary (during the night time) and hence I did not fully participate in the events after the plenary
Parallel events is a preparation for thematic. It was successful to have several side events.
The choice was not easy- some of events overlapted in time
It was good that the side events were located in the same overall venue as the negotiations (unlike the UNFCCC COP16, which was also held at the Moon Palace) - easier for negotiators to get to them. Some small side events were held in quite cavernous rooms and/or rooms where noise from adjoining rooms passed through, and it was sometimes hard to hear what was going on.
side events were very interested specialy on ABS
Like how we were taken up by Countries experiences
The side events are great place to share and know different topics around the world about biodiversity, If in the future all this events could be live broadcast all for the world is gonna be so great
Se traslaparon muchos eventos de interés :(
The few I managed to attend were excellent. Thank you.
Was well arranged.
It was supposed that serving some rerfreshments or light food before the side-events (sponsored by the organizer), would help in inviting people to attend them. But this was not the case. Many people with scarce resourses to pay at restaurants or food counters --very expensive by the way, went to that zone only to get food and to have a chat outside, making noise or leaving dirty places (thers should be alternatives) . Signals to get to the rigth room on time were at the begining hard to understand; later some volunteers helped new people to stop asking every time...
Satisfied

good mix of topics, relatively little competition of topics in one slot
I didn't have any time to attend side events because I have to give priority to the contact groups that I needed to attend.
It is difficult for small delegations to follow the side events along with Contact groups and Friends of the chair meetings
The numerous side events of high quality in the first week made it difficult to make a choice. The side events of the second week were of less quality and less numerous.
The food was appalling relative to the opportinities for great food in Mexico. There was also too little of it, which greatly impeded both the following of the actual side events, as well as of the COP because of the additional time required to find food in breaks. Several of the rooms were poorly insulated in terms of acoustics and this hindered good understanding of the speakers. Temperature in the venue was very low and did not correspond to the announced 'light on the air conditioning for environmental reasons' principle, in my opinion.
It's really sad that nothing can be done to prevent the "vultures" with no intent of attending from devouring all the food as soon as it is put out. On several occasions I went hungry at side events where I was speaking.
Is important to allocate some side event in relation with the contact groups to avoid overlapping.
There were some excellent side events in Cancun. Education related ones should be highlighted more.
on side events, to be able to be attended one of the issues during the last COP is that there are side event that are happening at areas that far from the main building
It was difficult to have time to attend the side events as we were in the working groups or contact groups most of the time.
The participation of youth in side events was a great addition to conference
We should keep organizing side events during COPs and COP-MOPs. they give the opportunity to parties and other stakeholdres to share their experiences and learn from others.
There was clear polarization of opinion on some subjects (particularly the new sciences of gene drives and synthetic biology). I feel scientists did a good job but the audience was too precautionary and sometimes too hostile to give a resounding approval. The question that I want to ask is: Are CBD/COP MOP meetings representative enough?
It was difficult to participate in some side events because the programme became too packed with contact group meetings.
none at this time
they are a worthwhile part of COP. But combining the COP and MOPs may have led to too many side events each day
les side events ont étaient très benefiques pour nous.ca étais plus enrichissant
There were too many events and there were overlaped with sessions and other relevant meetings
It should be organize and easy to find than this time is very much appreciated
Too many activities were added to the session.Difficult to take advantage of all these events.

les sides events ont été des périodes de formation et de partage d'expérience entre les parties prenantes
There shouldn't be as many...
The location of side events next to the plenary was excellent!
A good number of side-events are important for keeping the COPs (and COP-MOPs) politically and scientifically relevant for a many stakeholders, but being aware that there are limited time to attend side-events for key-negotiators from the parties
the facilities was not always appropriate -noisy
The side events were very informative. keep this up.
It may be necessary to promote three days prior to the COP (at least) in order to take advantage of all the parallel events and the rest of the activities
Regional Networking of Asia BCH, the Asia BCH Family, is worth looking at seriously. It is a good model for doing in all the conventions.
Necer
Again, because the participants were fewer at second week, the side events conducted at second week attended by few people
Boring
There was a technical problem with the PA system used at the side events and this could easily affect the discussions and outcomes of the event. In the future, it would be useful to make sure all technological requirements to support side events are fully functional to avoid problems during the event.
Difficulty in attending those that were running in the morning parallel to the main sessions. ad to prioritise.
Need to rethink the formats and interaction for events, so there is less boring powerpoint. More interactive sessions, practical workshops or even campaigns/communications that run throughout the event (rather than a side event) may be better to engage a wider audience.
Some side events were cancelled at the last minute, not sure how the Secretariat can manage that.
les événements étaient intéressants mais il ya de trop
The diversity and number of side-events was, to certain point, overwhelming.
Provide translation service for free for side event if requested.
While it will make people unhappy, fewer events would probably be better. Also, more clarity on the schedule would be nice. It was hard to understand what the plans were for Saturday (ie no buses) as we work making our plans. It could be nice to come up with "journeys" like IUCN does for its conferences to help people follow particular issues.
The numbers of side events is getting overwhelming, but that reflects the nature of biodiversity policy in the modern world. It just covers so much that many groups legitimately want to make their voices heard. Cutting back on numbers will inevitably result in censoring some issues or voices, and is a worse alternative than having to many. And a minor issue but something needs to be done to deter the food thieves at the side events. For may groups, funding the provision of food is a real challenge,. It is insult to those who are giving the events, and to those who actually want to attend them, to see a number of aggressive hoarders line up before the food tables are open, take the most and best of the food, and never even walk into the room where the actual side event is being

given.
It was excellently done though numerous and one could not participate in all areas of interest.
Members of official delegations are totally unable to attend side events, especially when their delegations are small. They have to cover the many working groups of the CoP.
The side events were also beneficial for our country because they allowed us: - meeting with the delegates of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences for the relaunching of funding for activities related to the Biosafety Clearing-House (CHM); and - the holding of discussions with the COMIFAC delegate to clarify certain ambiguities surrounding the COMIFAC GIZ project on ABS which starts in January 2017
Congratulations to the organizations and governments that shared such interesting and innovative themes and experiences, despite the fact that there is little political and economic availability
some sessions were very repetitive, same panels, similar topics and therefore same discussions
it was dissapointing that the formats of the side events weren't flexible enough. We missed many things.
The venue of the side events must be chosen to ensure a good number of participants in these events. I cancun, some of the side events that were not in the main building saw very few participants primarily because delegates preferred to remain in the main building during the break when side events happen. This has a differential impact on the attendance of side events. Probably all side events cud be in the other building, if it was not possible to accomodate all side events in the main building
cancellation of side events was not well communicated
The quality level of side events this time was very inhomogeneous. I'm aware of the high number of applications (and consequently of request satisfied), but really there were too many options for each session
More Communication to be sent to the side events co-ordinators
I can only comment on the side events for topics that I attended (mostly synthetic biology) where there was a need for more balanced information.
I agree whit topics of side events but maybe dont many
Too many difficult to catch
Es exelente que se puedan exponer los divesos avanses de cada pais y sus avanses, en cada campo de la Biodibercidad.
I was there for the Cities Summit which was great
There were too many side events, very hard to follow and producing a lot of paper waste.
From a personal perspective, the side events are excillent oportunities to lean and share experiences that are of specific nature or are common among different nations/regions/group etc.
The themes of the side-events are relevant and interesting, so they should have a smaller number of side-events to allow a greater participation of the delegates
THEY SHOULD BE INCREASED IN FUTURE
Cut them way back to ones focusing on the CBD negotiating process and perhaps open up a Biodiversity Conference Forum which runs in parallel and serves as a trade fair of sorts for biodiversity.

Excellent contributions from researchers and practitioners.
The side events were well placed and covered a number of interesting topics. However, at times there would be two presentation on, for example, sharing experience of Nagoya Protocol domestication from two countries at the same time - this limits participation.
More coordination is needed to avoid overlapping in different topics of side events
gender should have have been more integrated in all the side events
The side events should be schedule for lunch hours. And the organizers should endeavor to provide snacks for participants.
In future organization having side events should provide their topics on the website in advance so that selection on which one can attend can be predetermined and shared among national delegates
List organizers who cancel side-events and give lesser priority in subsequent Conferences.
Side events especially those which are relevant to CoP agenda are useful for delegates in understanding of issues.
I found myself wondering about the effectiveness of having this model of many small "side events" on hundreds of different topics in general. I know it's what has always been done, but there are so many, they are so specialized, they get such a small audience, and negotiating government representatives don't mostly attend them anyway, so they may not have much impact on the CBD deliberations. I wonder if any alternative models have ever been considered, like a limited number of larger forums.
The integral ecology vision and a cosmological axiology must be mainstreamed in this meetings, I suggest.
Small rooms which limit accomodation of participants.
IPLC side events gaining meaningful impacts
Less side events to be able to participate in those of interest
The side events were very heavily dominated by biotech industry, which was not appropriate. Civil society should be prioritized over private industry.
Communication of side events at the beginning of COP was very poor, thus resulting in low attendance rates. Multiple overlapping of many side events taking place at the same time limited the possibility to attend many of them. There were almost no general events, beyond inauguration. It is very beneficial to consider more socialization events that boost public relations and improve chances of synergies by multipliying the spaces for people to know each other and the related jobs better
They were informative and well done
It was very difficult to know what side events were running and where. There needs to be better communication around this in future CBD events because it all appeared slightly chaotic. Even the people on the information desk were unable to help.
The CBD Secretariat's launch of the Technical Series Note 4 on Risk Assessment was not consistent with the direction given by the Parties at MOP7.
Useful and interesting
Well organized. It´s a shame they were in middle of negotiations. Countries should promote the participation of their experts to gain informations as a part of building capacity.

The topics covered in the side events were very good and contributed to broaden participants' views on the various themes and approaches presented. In particular, for local communities (and also for policy makers), the side events were of great capacity for biodiversity training within the framework of the CBD.
The themes that were discussed in the parallel events were very important since Tambiense were involved in exchanges of experience that we can carry out in our territories and that we are already doing
Excellent side events covering a wide range of topics with strong interconnectivity (e.g. biodiversity, agriculture, livelihoods, health, etc.) The contact group meetings always detract from event attendance, which is a shame as there could be strong potential for Delegations and researchers to have meaningful dialogue and launch actionable collaboration.
There were some schedules troubles formcountries with more than 2 side events
For some reason, they are side-events with few attendants; am not sure if you Keep track of those, but we should avoid overlapping. Am not sure how but organizers should ensure participation
The information of the daily different programes was not fully clear and accesible .
Better input into plenary discussions needed
It would be great if there were fewer side events, but larger in attendance, and with key participants such as Parties
The side event seemed more efficent and effective than the COP/MOP itself and in some cases helped NGO delegates to find info to use to enhance their interventions in the actually COP/MOP proceedings.
Too many NGOs having multiple meetings with the same extreme messaging introducing new demands rather than having balanced side events.
It was a good opportunity for networking.
thank you for the interesting side events, unfortunately not enough time to follow all of them
Logistic support from the venue before and during the side-event should be improved
As part of the negotiating Team of my Delegation I had no time to participate in side events. One reason is also the very time consuming coordination Meetings of my regional Group. It is interesting to observe that one part of the participants only participate in side events and the other part in the real negotiations. There seems to be a lack of exchange of views between the two groups of participants.
Very interesting side events during the first week
Do more to prevent activists from harassing other participants
I did not have time to attend side-events
Maybe too many
There was very little participation and discussion in many of the side-events. In future events we must assure that the topics are relevant for the participants of the Conference and that the number of simultaneous side events are not too many. Also, it must be promoted that similar topic side-events are merged into discussion tables, for example.

XVI. Additional comments on if the number of events during the Rio Conventions Pavilion was appropriate.

I did not participate in them.
I didn#t attend any
But the location and programme of the Pavillion was poorly publicised in the meeting areas and on the CBD website.
Did not participate
Was not aware of them
This seemed thin.
Didn't actually make it there unfortunately.
No cuento con información.
If was appropriate but difficult for Parties to participate
Didn't pay much attention.
I did't have the chance to attend ant one.
The Rio pavillion was rather hidden and the few events into which I popped my head were underattended. Perhaps this needs to be rethought next time.
did not participate
too many
I didn't really followed the Rio Pavilion.
I've been to the Pavilion a couple of days and it proved to be quite frustrating to see the number of people attending the sessions. Mostly speakers and colleagues of those were present, which is quite frustrating. In previous COP, I've presented at an event, and, likewise, just the presenters and colleagues were attending the session. I question the cost-effectiveness of the Pavilion.
Should be more events to promote synergy between 3 Rio Conventions and sharing experience/best practices from countrie who have experiences and projects.
They were excellent and very interestong specially those related to indigenous people
would be better less options per hour, in order to have more participation at different ones.
I did not attend any
OUI
too many. Those did swamp any ability to both benefit from the events and actually participate in the conference
Can be improved so that there is fair participation in the events
Very interesting events
did not follow this

It was a pity that the Rio Convention Pavillion was located in a quite hidden place ....
There were a lot of very interesting and educative events, but unfortunately participation on the main agenda meetings made it very difficult to find time to take part in the events of Rio Pavilion.
didn't pay attention
The overlap between this venue and the other side events was confusing.
Didn't attend any - too busy as a Party delegate
Badly organised and seemed like another duplication of events - why aren't side events enough.
was not able to attend
I did not attend
Was the Rio Conventions Pavilion where the CEPA event was held? No idea if the number was appropriate or not. The organisation appeared to be somewhat organic. If the session organisers had promoted their sessions then people turned up - otherwise people were wandering around not aware that there was a good session going on.
to many and their taking an entire day was too long this limiting other groups from participating
i could not go to the Pavillion, sorry about that
I do not really know because this place was too far from the Moon Palace, impossible to access in a easy way.
I didn't know about it, so I can not give any opinion
Still not sure what the Pavilion was for. It felt that there was a lot of duplication with the side events
I barely knew about the events at the Rio Pavilion, sorry!
Too bad some seminars were held during the COP/MOP sessions.

XVII. Additional comments on if the topics addressed during the Rio Conventions Pavilion were relevant.

Yes, those which I attended are relevant
Did not participate
No cuento con informacion.
Though the idea is really interesting, it did not appear that there was really representation from the other two conventions, either in personnel, topics, or otherwise.
continued strong focus on ecological restoration was excellent and should continue
Très pertinents
The topics were very informative and indeed created awareness on the different efforts undertaken by communities and other key players
corporatist neoliberal features in exhibitions and presentations are not balanced with indigenous grassroots

solidarity and convivial associations
didn't pay attention
Relevant to what. If there is serious discussion about merging the Rio Convention into a coherent environmental agreement, then yes events could support this process.
most of them
duplication of existing side events - why aren't side events enough
I like the topic on Forestry Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration. Restoring degraded ecosystems does not only help in achievement of several Aichi Biodiversity Target but also contributes to the mitigation of climate change and its consequences.
I did not attend
No idea because I couldn't find a programme.
Lots of repetitive info and I kept seeing the same lady Jamie Ervin from UNDP in almost every event. I would have liked to hear the voices of the local people sharing their stories.
Excellent topics - particularly the Planetary Health Symposium.
I didn't know about it, so I can not give any opinion
Yes especially on the Terrestrial segements.

XVIII. Additional comments on the Rio Conventions Pavilion.

Logistics was not very well organized
Too many events at the same time. It was hard to decide which event to attend.
It provides a suitable platform for the delegates to understand the linkages among the Rio conventions.
I wasn't aware of this events.
I felt this was a bit disconnected with the main conference centre
The forest related event was useful
I did not attend.
Satisfactory
This is good as it brings out the voices and issue form many institutions/ communities etc
Smaller delegations are unable to attend the full sessions at the Rio Pavillion as they ran concurrently with the WG for a delegation of 2
Did not vist the Rio Conventions Pavillon, no time for that.
Did not attend many

it was busy through out the meeting
There was a lot of participation in the events.
I saw many innovations to help solve the biodiversity crisis.
The discussion was okay
The knowledge and experiences were really interesting and useful for my professional training
Good effort on it.
Sin comentarios
I haven't had the chance to attend any, in part the distance, in part too busy at the venue to invest enough time. But some mention that they were nice
some RCP events had very low attendance, so maybe less would be more. The linking of RCP events with 'normal' side events was good.
Ii is really good
I didn't have any time to go to the Rio Conventions Pavilion.
It was the best part of the side events
These were highly relevant, possibly more than many side events.
If the other two conventions are not able to participate it seems only to be a clever concept and not a real benefit. I appreciate that the other conventions' secretariats are busy, and the climate COP was close in time to the CBD COP, but if there are not firm commitments of time and resources from both of the other two "sisters" I suggest this be dropped/collapsed into a single event.
Ambience was excellent and sitting arrangements were convenient.
les thèmes étais très intéressantes,diversifiées et enrichissantes
There will be need to popularize and do a wider dissemination of events under the Rio Conventions Pavillion
les questions traitées sont d'importance capitale
The Rio Conventions Pavilion was, for whatever reason, disconnected from the issues of my concern this COP.
The location of teh Rio Pavillion next to teh plenary was excellent!
never had time to attend ....
Side events were very interesting
I was not involved in this one so no appropriate comments from me.
Very well
The themes that were selected for the Rio Pavilion were relevant and it was a good idea to allocate a theme per day. Just had to be mindful of having too many speakers per session as it would run the risk of rushing through the

presentations and discussions.
Did not fully understand the difference between side events and the Rio Pavillion
The same people tended to attend the Rio events. National delegations - especially if they are small - cannot get to the Rio events.
il faut amélioré les communications sur les lieux précis des side évents avec des panneau de signalisation ou d'indicatif des salles de réunions depuis l'amont dans la cour.
The Rio Conventions Pavillion is overshadowed by the side-events
The Rio Conventions Pavilion location was great! However, it's never included in the main schedule so people have to know to go look for it. The days and events are actually better planned and more coherent than scattered side events, but attendance was generally poor because RCP has to do its own publicity and really can only rely on fliers. I think it has a real role, but isn't well utilized.
Overall I was not particularly impressed and did not attend many Rio Pavilion events
The theme on the use of traditional knowledge to preserve the diversity of bioculture in sustainable agriculture and the diversification of cultures is so important that personally I have already set to work through my office to realize it through the elaboration Currently in final stage of an agro-ecological promotion project in my province of origin which is fully forestry and newly created since only 2015
There are very interesting initiatives that should be an example for politicians and economists to think of more integral and equitable strategies in the conservation of biodiversity
No time to attend these events
Is was very far away from the main venue
Topices carefully selected and very useful in my opinion.
The events were good and the participation was good. sharing among the communities was very good.
topics looked interesting but I couldn't attend as they were at the same time as meetings.
The pavilion recovered aislated cases from different countries but they no were representatives of an national strategy in conservation. I saw the pavilion scarcely visited.
Purpose not clearly defined.
Very good focus on gender!
Program of the Rio Conventions Pavilion was too rushed. Some days were organized poorly.
Améliorer ls espaces et la visibilité des évenements se trouvant dans le pavillon
The Rio Conventions Pavilion was particularly successful. It was well-located, accessible, within the secure area of the COP and well-managed. The venue was the right size. It was unfortunate that its content was planned very late, and many organizations were not able to contribute as much as they might have wished.
Events happening in the Rio Conventions Pavilion and the CEPA Fair should be open to the public, otherwise, events are mostly preaching to the choir and not really raising awareness.
unfortunately i was not able to participate (i did not have time).

Waste of money - you should focus on one side event programme
It was hard to follow the large number of events going on simultaneously. Perhaps giving earlier announcement of events would help plan better
I attend only two events at the Rio Convention Pavilion so i am not that competent to answer all that is asked.
it is unfortunate that we were only 4 delegates from our country hence missed several opportunities especially on the Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology. Looking forward to another chance
I was not aware of any event in the RCPavilion.
the announcement about the venue for the side events is quite confusing. The timeframe for the side events is quite short, it hampers the process of dialogues during the Q&A session.
It provides a suitable platform for the delegates to understand the linkages among the Rio Cconventions.
The IISD coverage of the Rio Conventions Pavillion was excellent, and a good "draw" to bring in good speakers and agendas.
Not able to attend
Observe the time to get all speakers presenting
Excellent coordiantion and topics and panelists. It was satisfying. Thank you!
half day long duration is sufficient
I have not be there., I do not know how was it.
The events at the Pavilion were few, the space was not well used, was empty and underused
Excellent events, although attendance in the Rio Pavilion was limited.
Not enough divulgation
Although Topics are always very interesting, I had the Feeling those were "closed" Events and not for public participation but for those involved already in the initiatives.
I think we need to have more diffusion of information, the delegates were not always in their places
Unfortunately I did not have time to attend this pavilion.
There has to be more prominent ways to publicize about the events at the Rio Pavilion. We missed the Rio Convention Calendar this year - for the first time!
Alot of my topic relevant sessions were held in the COP/MOP sessions where I had to be helping and managing my team. So I was only able to attend the ones held when Side events were taking place or at Lunch time.
I did not participate, no time
As part of the negotiating Team of my Delegation I had no time to participate in these Events.
A more integrated approach between topics.

XIX. Additional comments on if the number of events during the CEPA Fair was appropriate.

Did not participate
Was not aware of this
Did not attend
Again didn't manage to make it to very many CEPA events. Some looked very interesting but the cloning machine was on the blink.
I did not attend this meeting
Poor Programming
Did not pay attention to this
No time to notice.
I did't have the chance to attend any one
I never even knew where this was.
same comments with side events.
Too many in terms of the concurrent conferences and available time
Too few participants. Not very well organised and decoration of venue not attractive.
CEPA was very interesting from morning till night. At all times it was worthwhile to get closer to seeing what was happening in CEPA, also the stands also had very useful information.
again, too much goods at the same time, hard to choose.
was unable to participate in CEPA fair. too many things running at the same time.
I did not attend any
n addition to the CEPA events there were other parallel events with which adequate participation in such events was not achieved. As I said earlier in some of these events especially at the end of the first week and in the second week and participation was almost nil from 2 to 5 people at most
not participated
Did not attend.
There is still need for more participation of Goverments.
Were too many and poorly presented in screens, their paper informative materials were wasted by the attendees themselves at the fair. Surely in other meetings, the communication strategy may be different
I have not participated in the CEPA Fair nor had the time to look at the exibitions
There were a lot of very interesting and educative CEPA Fair events, but unfortunately participation on the main agenda meetings made it very difficult to find time to take part in the CEPA Fair events.

Didn't pay attention
Another confusing set of events.
Didn't attend any - too busy as a Party delegate
Needs more.
unable to attend
I did not attend
Should be more
Not anparticipant
too few
No idea how many events there were.
Did not attend.
very mach
Very few
I did not even go to any, sorry!
The most of the CEPA Fair seesions I was able to see was mostly on India and Asia looking at things not so relevant to the Caribbean where I am from. but I was able to speak to persons from the Germany based NGOs who were connecting me to information I needed.
Too few participants in the CEPA fair.

XX. Additional comments on if the topics addressed during the CEPA Fair were relevant.

Did not participate
I did not attend this meeting
Did not have time to pay attention to this
I never saw their program.
The CEPA fair was instrumental, particularly to sensitize parties and other stakeholders on the remaining efforts to achieves Aichi objectives.
CEPA fair showed very creative ways many very interesting projects of conservation, education and environmental management. In addition I showed many projects that already are working in situ, with local people and that they have concrete results.
was unable to participate in CEPA fair. too many things running at the same time.
Plus ou Moins pertinents y avait de traduction dans certaines réunions

Themes focused on education and biodiversity with experiences from different countries and organizations. In addition, the theme of sustainability and peace in the world was taken up to achieve a better equity in the conservation of biodiversity. Some proposed initiatives motivated age groups such as youth, children, educators, communities, etc.
Many of them were important as the stand of the German government and its support for the CBD but many others were good for the university expositions
didn't pay attention
How did they relate to the negotiations?
CEPA Fair was very relevant as it focused on progress of implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity 1 and 2.
I did not attend
From what I saw they appeared to be relevant.
Very relevant - keep up the good work
The most of the CEPA Fair seesions I was able to see was mostly on India and Asia looking at things not so relevant to the Caribbean where I am from.

XXI. Additional comments on the CEPA Fair

Logistics of these events was not very well organized
Too many events at the same time. It was hard to decide which event to attend.
The CEPA Fair could have been better promoted as an official part of the Convention.
Considering the heavy agenda of concurrent COP and MOPs, the delegates hardly got an opportunity to spend time visiting CEPA fair.
This was too tucked away and not well advertised
Human rights on Environment event
CEPA Fair is really was of high value and benefits to the participant as it provide to them an opportunities for knowledge and awareness More chances should be provided to other parties to partcipate..
I did not attend.
there is needs to match between the sequence of the side events and the sequence of the titles of the discussed documents, I mean the held of the side events to at one day before the debate of the matching document.
Satisfactory
People understand more about the topic
congrats but can do better
Did not visit the CEPA Fair, no time for that.

well organised
It is quite disappointing that very few COP13 participants attended the CEPA side events since the events were held simultaneously with Plenary sessions in the morning. Perhaps you would like to allot an entire day or two for CEPA side events in the next COP meetings so as to ensure that the events will be well attended by the participants.
The side events during the CEPA fair were not too well attended because people were in the code meetings. This was not fair to the organizers of these events so these should have not coincide with CBD meetings.
It was very well prepared and was very summoned.
It was very important side event but not so many officials participate in it.. It means that topics of Cepa Fairs should be better anoucemented
Sessions were okay
It was so sad in the last side event that just two or three person attended, I really felt sad for the speaker. But in general it was fine
Wide range of topics available.
I guess there was a good opportunity to gather ideas, publications and many activities developed by countries, organizartions and consortia, but I was not aware of a small guide or directory to make some specific choices, and not being just hanging around the stands, sometimes with too many information, bored people, informative videos. The question is, which specific objective are this Fair attempting to achieve? Are all presenters of this effort?
very much useful
I did not attend this segment of the meeting so I have no input.
I didn't have any time to go to the CEPA Fair
Did not participate
This fair was rather poor in terms of booths presenting local initiatives
I am not sure if this is worthwhile as it is currently conducted.
This was one of the highlights of COP 13 but attendance was relatively low when considering the importance of the CEPA Fair.
It should be maintained, at least during COPs 14 and 15.
j'ai beaucoup apprecié aussi
More time should be given for interactions during presentations under the CEPA. The space for exhibitions under the CEPA fair was too small
as with the Pavilion, it would be better not to have that many things taking place at the same time as efforts are immense, discussions are diluted and resources are wasted!
The location of the CEPA Fair next to the plenary was excellent!
Securing funding for poster sessions should be done in time to allow for attractive posters

The room location was sort of "hidden" and some people only found out late. not your fault though
Did not attend
This event is Not applicable to me also.
It seems to me that the CEPA fair gives the COP an opportunity to shake off a bit of such formality. In CEPA has been sung, has been danced, has been role played. In addition to seeing interesting initiatives
was unable to participate in CEPA fair. too many things running at the same time.
Did not have time to attend any side events where I was not speaking or CEPA events
Toutes les réunions étaient intéressantes sauf les 9% ne sont traduit en français.
The ZSI India also participated in CEPA Fair
Communication has reached new technologies but education and public awareness is very important especially in developing countries
Congratulations
No time to attend the CEPA fair
Less paper, more energy topics can be interesting and something more interactive will be appreciate.
just like the pavilion these were well organized despite the fact that space was small the events were wonderful
I think this topic is important for all in the world
The CEPA fair was great and had good side events
didn't have time to attend any of it.
Provide more support for the CEPA Fair
Could be part of a separate Forum as noted above.
The CEPA Fair should be more - digitally - interactive. The booth system is a bit old-fashioned. Instead: more screens and computers, less print docs, encourage exhibitors to use digital formats (Video, Podcast, USB sticks, etc. - also note that the material does not have to be perfect or produced at high cost, sometimes a simple Video interview produced with a mobile could be enough), encourage the exhibitors to have people present so the audience can interact with them. As it was in the past years: an organization displayed material which was picked up and then found in the dust bin around the corner. - Allow for more dialogue. - In principal: We are all talking about awareness raising and mainstreaming. If this is still the case, then the CEPA Fair deserves more attention. For instance, organize a CEPA Fair reception for all the exhibitors. Organize a "CEPA slam": Create a stage, ask exhibitors to present their products and contents within 5 minutes etc. - the CBD members and audience Need to understand that CEPA is not a simple replication of what they do or say. CEPA is creativity, simplification in a good way and moves away from good old print to digital. Sic!
Unfortunately i did not have time for participating in side-events.
I did not even show up at the CEPA fair
as indicated earlier was not able to follow up on CEPA Fair

The promotion is not enough
Considering the heavy agenda of concurrent CoP and MoPs, the delegates hardly get an opportunity to spend time visiting CEPA fair.
Include more information about Indigenous Peoples activities, programs, etc.
In the second week, it was not successful to draw the attentions from the participants. It looked surprised. The secretary should have distributed the information among participants more.
Did not visit it.
I would like we could have more information in advance.
Any organisation or management of the CEPA Fair was invisible, as far as I could see. It all seemed to be self-organised by the attendees putting up posters and/or running side events. In my view, this was a missed opportunity. The turn out by delegates was very low and people just talked to the already signed up members of the CEPA movement. Given that during the actual CoP so many representatives of parties talked about the importance of CEPA I suggest there needs to be a way of showcasing CEPA programmes within the main CBD event. At the moment CEPA is a side issue.
Again needed rotation every couple of days
I was not there. No comments
CEPA Fair was unbelievably depleted. There was little participation and poor disclosure.
Rarely visited
More prominent notification on the CEPA Fair needed!
Make the presentation more regionally diverse
I did not have time to do anything but attend the main events side meetings and the interminable in-session discussions where nothing was resolved, so I cannot comment!
a bit boring ...
No participation

XXII. Additional comments on if the number of other parallel events, such as summits and forums, held as part of the UN Biodiversity Conference was appropriate

The opinion on the site event is the same in all cases
I think they shouldn't have been parallel, but rather alternated.
Too crammed in though, and possibly too many
The Muuchtanbal Indigenous Summit was very successful. It remains to see what happens with the outcomes and recommendations at the CBD level.
Very difficult to cover the COP / MOPs and the parallel events, which meant integration wasn't necessarily as good as it could have been. Participants seemed to be there either for the parallel events or for COP etc.

frequent overlapping of parallel Events of equal importance and often some little late
The more the merrier I suppose - I only attended very few.
I just attend the science forum, and in general terms was ok, but more organizations was needed, more guidance to achieve some outcomes and how to transmit to COP and COP MOPs
There seemed to be a lot of them and some were pretty far away. I never made it to the offsite ones so I don't know what attendance was but the harder it is to access I anticipate the fewer delegates make it there. If it is not important to have the cross-fertilization of delegate participation, then that is not an issue, but it seems like it adds value all around to have a mix of participants at such fora.
This is again a subjective assertion. Many events were going on at the same time, rendering it difficult for some delegations to follow-up. But like i said it earlier, it depends on the interest one has in the summit or forum.
It would be nice with more events for parlamentarians
I realy liked the business and biodiversity forum before the CoP! Would like to propose to organize such an event on finance in 2 years...
I don't think there should be that many parallel events and especially not over weekends, it is frankly exhausting!
I liked the 2 meetings respectively on Saturday and Sunday end of first week.
But some of them conflicted in the scheds of people. I have no suggestion but there needs to be some more thought into organizing these such that people's times are optimized
Too much to absorb
Surely for many interviewees, the number could be excessive and if it was true that there was everything in simultaneous at all hours ... but in that quantity and diversity there were a huge richness.
Hard to agree or disagree - it was not possible to go to many things and pay attention to the principle sessions of the conference
I think there were too many such events.
By the same situation that having so many parallel events clashed with each other, which was impossible to guarantee the proper participation
too many events - should look for focus
It was almost too much.
It needs funding solutions.
The conference on cities biodiversity was empty and its presented in the plenary room with less than ten attendees. Bad planning.
Foir me fair enough but I concentrate on my mandate as negotiator, not much time to attend these parallel events (beside High Level Event)
a bit all over the place
Too focused on tasks as Party delegate to participate

Too many.
Too many events
Did not attend any summits or forums.
It would be helpful to have more activities aiming at parlamentarians. Some need basic introduction to the cbd and the cops. Other would benefit from indepth introduction to specific agenda items wich will provide them with a solid base for the following debate on implementation of cop decisions at national level.
It was an NGO public relations circus.
Are these really needed?
I did not participate in any.
I like the forums.
There was no time to do anything but attend the main events side meetings and the interminable in-session discussions where nothing was resolved. This was particularly difficult for small country delegations such as island nations who were not able to be part of many of these discussions.
Difficult to move around and be able to catch them all

XXIII. Additional comments on if the topics addressed by other parallel events, such as summits and forums, held as part of the UN Biodiversity Conference were relevant.

The opinion on the site event is the same in all cases
E.g. Biodiversity Forum. Though some stakeholders were missing from the forum.
It was very well prepared and was very summoned.
I participated excellent impressive
Especially the one on indigenous peoples - weekend forum with a visit of indigenous community
Obviously. Generally such events are organised to draw the attention on burning issues, to advocate and attract other stakeholders, or even other fundings. So it is never for a simple pleasure of organizing an event.
I liked the 2 meetings respectively on Saturday and Sunday end of first week.
to highlight: Cities and local Governments Summit!
High level exhibitors and very practical and creative subjects to put them to work in other countries
Yes, but there was no quorum and therefore no discussion was generated
Topics covered during some of the side events were very relevant, some were providing insight for issues being deliberated during the COP
It was an NGO public relations circus.
Yes all of my interest were covered. Just wished I could be every where at the same time.

XXIV. Additional comments on other parallel events.

Logistics of these events was not very well organized
Too many events at the same time. It was hard to decide which event to attend.
Higher focus on activities for parliamentarians
Time management is crucial for organising the events.
Organizing parallel events is important and cost effective
The summits and forums were very interest, but their programming coincides with the conferences of the parties which will take up very important occasions
I had not much time to attend them! to busy to work and negociate
it gives the space of sharing topics
The preparation of side events was a success.
The Biodiversity Law and Governance Day convened by CISDL was quite useful.
Our delegations were invited and it was also nice to see things differently from a different angle
It felt as though there were less of these but there was plenty to be involved in elsewhere so that is fine.
I attended specifically for the cities and sub national summit
It's great that all have opportunity to share knowledge, give point of view. The young people shoul have more parallel events
La Cumbre Múuch´tambal cubrió las expectativas de participación y los temas fueron sumamente interesantes.
Good use of space for various other meetings to take place in the limited time available.
I was not aware of a particular (open or publicized) parallel event. My fault, but nothing happened. But it was good to have one weekend in the middle for personal or community activities, basically tourism.
as a negotiator, there is unfortunately not much time left for such events
I did not attend parallel events so I have no comment.
Could not follow these events
They all should have taken place at the same venue. It was difficult to organize, and move from one to the other when they were at the same time or during the CBD meetings, let alone twice a day or more.
Important to engage sub-national governments. They would not have come to the meeting and they are so important in implementation of Strategic Plan.
The events were very relevant but due to the length of the meeting I know many participants had trouble attending both the pre-events and the actual COP/MOP.

we should keep organizing parallel events during COPs and COP-MOPs. Interested persons will always attend.
A lot more effort should be put in to ensure as much as possible the time slots for such events do not coincide with COP discussions ie. it has to be dynamic and periodically reviewed during the COP
c'est bon et très enrichissant
Too much of a business focus
The challenge is to get key messages from these events into the main negotiations (as parties have prepared positions before the meetings)
Not necesary
It is a shame that a convention of Biodiversity that must be environmentally friendly accumulate so much amount of paper only in leaflets and small books, I seemed excessive. The printed material should be LIMITED so as not to generate so much waste. Or al least given to the people that claim for it not in a huge table. I understand the opportunity this material gives. In fact I am using it with muy students in the university..
It was very interesting that the Business and Biodiversity Forum was held parallel to the high-level Meeting, because it allowed informal dialogues among public officials and private executives
It was just not balanced. I attended the most of those forum... and for example the Legislators and Cities summits, where crowded on the opening and sadly empty during the hard sessions.
These should never become a dominant part of the Conference agenda, but with so many people with relevant but diverse interests assembled, it's an efficient way to do things.
The parallel events have made it possible to put the ones to the same tuning that the others through the information and exchanges which make it possible to raise many equivocations
Congratulations
No time to attend these events
Interesting topics selected.
Topics discussed were were thought
I think forums are important with this Conference because provide and relations with Biodiversity
Cities summit was awesome
By having parallel events it allowed for participants/representatives to prioritize and attend events that are of particular interest.
I would have been interested in attending the science one but notification of it came to late to change travel as we need to request travel far in advance. it would be good to know about these related summits at least 6 months prior to meeting
Business and Biodiversity forum would be better suited to run in parallel with the refular sessions and not the high-level segment
I participated the 2016 Business & Biodiversity Forum, which was an excellent event.
One example is the confusing business partnerships meeting which was not terribly inclusive. One could not attend

unless they somehow invited.
The business forum was too far from the main COP venue. Attracting delegates to attend was problematic.
Unfortunately i did not have time to participate in the side-events.
There is no doubt that parallel events provide information and knowledge so they were valuable.
The side events were good and educative
For smaller delegations, it is a challenge to attend parallel events, some of which are quite relevant.
Some of the parallel events in Cancun were very far apart and spent was spent/lost getting between the events. The original venue in Los Cabos might have been a more appropriate venue.
I attended the 8(j) forum, and it was very good.
More time to solve internal issues
Usually, the COP had the menue for local tours for confirming local biodiversity. At this time, there were not excursion menues. It was a bit disappointng.
It was infoutunate the exhibition of CONABIO was very far away
I have been only attending the meetings
The volume and diversity of side events, Rio Pavillion events and other events get to be distractive, and may at time becoming disruptive of conventional work. And much was repeats of events and material presented at the IUCN WCC, World Parks Congress and the like.
It was an NGO public relations circus.
As all of them had the same Topic, we missed a way of communicating and getting to a common dialogue to draw conclussions and collaborations for implementation. More Attention should be put in the future for Exchange and opportunities for dialogue and common Action, specially if mainstreaming is the bottom line.
Science and Business Forum were both highly interesting but without impact on the plenary negotations and therefore not relevant. If to be repeated, then to link to main agenda.
Very sector- or theme- specific, and mostly on-invitation basis.
I did not have time to do anything but attend the main events side meetings and the interminable in-session discussions where nothing was resolved.
They gave a good opportunity for networking and for the general public to inform themselves on several topics relevant to biodiversity
I did not participate - no time
Very happy to follow specially the Science Forum prioro to the COP. Was totally useful
Never had the opportunity to attend any of the parallel events, as the Schedule with negotiations was so intensive.
As part of a delegation, I really had no time left to assist to any of the forums, summits, etc
It was difficult to navigate the multiple venues.

Too many
Although the topics were relevant in cases such as the Scientific Forum, there was a lack of participation of conference members, there was an evident lack of knowledge on how to bring the discussion into the CBD Conference and there was a great lack of organization. The format of this forums must change and not become a scientific conference as it did this time, coupling a lot more and in more substantive ways with the topic of the conference.

XXV. Additional comments on if the transportation arrangements for the United Nations Biodiversity Conference were efficient.

Congratulations, transportation was very efficient, very punctual and excellent service.
The first three days it wasn't efficient for local people, parking at the Golf course parking.
I was staying at the COP venue, but I think the transport was working well
More buses were needed at earlier and later times
Very good!
the interval for transport arrangement was quite big. In addition, I had a problem as the last day of my stay the bus which has to depart according to the established scheme did not move and made some 6 persons wait for one more hour time with a reason that some more people have to join. As a result, I was almost missing my flight and had unpleasant surprises at the airport being in bustle. There was no one to help with complaints.
I stayed at the Moon Palace, so I dealt with transport only on arrival, departure and to take a hotel bus on the middle Sunday.
Myself was a lucky person to stay in the conference hotel, bit colleagues had to invest much time for transportation.
Very helpful and caring
Buses should have stopped at ALLhotels, for those of us with mobility disabilities.
It was well organised and the team was very professional
Definitely could be improved. The travel schedules were rather so limiting thereby making the delegates sometimes wait for too long before the next scheduled departures. This was worsened by the fact that the venue was rather far from the rest of the hotels making alternative transport not so available
There needed to have more transportation during the night time
The staff who were coordinating the buses were very helpful (in my case the route that went to/from the Ramada). Buses could have been a bit more frequent, particularly as there were some times in the day when there was a long wait (eg after the side events ending at 19.45) until the next bus back.
The long distance to Moon Palace from any other part of the city meant limitations for participants who could not stay there.
The timing of the buses at night was not convenient. They did not run late enough or run often enough and there were not good private options. This was the biggest logistical failure at the meeting. We probably needed more buses in the morning as well as the buses were often full and had to leave people at stops.
I've stayed the whole time at the venue hotel, so just the arrival day (which was free and efficient) and on departure

day (with expendsive taxis) are related to this... People going in and out every day was complining about schedules and delays to get through security checkpoints.
Our delegation were staying in cheaper accommodation than those where the buses were stopping so getting to the buses was a hassle. We therefore had rented a car and needed to sort out every day who would stay for which contact group.
Most of the time.
There should be offered some stops elswhere than at the only selected Hotels (kind of circle line)
I stayed at the venue so did not have to rely on transportation. But it did limit contact groups which was problematic given the limited time and space for some contact groups.
Considering the abysmal choice of venue it wasn't too bad, thanks mainly to the very lovely local staff.
At several times the buses did not show up at the scheduled times and/or they were full and there were no seats left to take delegates and other participant to the Moon Palace. Calling for another bus to accommodate the people that did not manage to get in the first one took a long time and a number of us missed important meetings and events we had planned.
There were too many problems with stops and time schedules. It took like 3 days to have the transportation arrangements working reasonably well.
Arranged hours of transportation not always aligned with working sessions, events and official side-events. Many delegates have to leave early or arrive late to group meetings, events etc. because of too rigid schedule of transportation.
There was enough transport, but the timetable was hard to understand - it would have been helpful to have something like an interactive map, and a poster of the routes at the main stops.
There should have been more buses. Especially in the evenings. Sometime one has to leave the working or contact groups as the last transportation was leaving.
For my part, I have not recorded any false notes on this subject. I think, moreover, that the host country should be congratulated.
The bus schedules were not properly alinged with the conference´s agenda. Participation at early morning coordination meetings was generally not possible if dependent on the schedule busses. The schedule busses´ travel routes were not transparent. Some hotels were easly accessible combining different schedule lines and a brief walk. Most busses were either too big or too small.
Too few departures
The first days were efficient but after the arrangements were adapted is was good.
très bien organisé
I greatly appreciated the transportation arrangements. That said, the early days in particular were very problematic. I used the "center town" bus that was primarily used by African delegates, and we had to wait for HOURS the first few days while appropriately sized buses were found. The timing of the buses was very difficult for those of us trying to get in for morning meetings, or leaving in the evenings, for that matter.
I stayed at a hotel where the breakfast started at 7 AM. The first bus shuttle left at 7 AM. We ask the bus if we could leave 7.15 to be able to eat breakfast. It was OK in the beginning, but not after some days. It is important to be flexible here (we couldn´t take a later bus).

Congratulations.Maybe just more buses during day periods?
and the staff were nice
Buses were scheduled every hour or more
Excelent
Very convenient when our bus guide linked us all on a WhatsApp group to keep us posted updated/changed daily schedules
the frecuency was OK
It was not always possible to get a bus to stop at our hotel (BSEA Cancun Plaza), so we often had to walk ca. 1 km to or from another bus stop.
très efficace
Les horaires étaient très éloignés. une fréquence de départ toutes les 30 mn aurait ete mieux
Access to bicycles on site was an excellent option!
We were unable to use them as we had to hire a car because our apartment was not served by the transport arrangements.
Moon Palace: Very expensive and not affordable by all the delegations. Was very far way from all the othe hotels. Shuttles were not regular. Some of the planned shuttles in the morning never arrived. There was not enough shuttle late in the night.
Very efficient
The best ever since attending the last 10 COP meetings. Timely and well organized for my route
At times some delegates missed on regional preparatory meetings in the morning due to delayed transport
some more frequent buses in the evening would have given more flexibility to attend events and when sessions ran long
It was efficient once the transport was located outside of the airport. This could have been more clearly signposted.
This service I think was appropriate
shuttle schedule did not accommodate early die events and people setting up such events well
The bus schedule at evening was not flexible enough to accomodate the timing svhanges of the sessions. The shuttles to the airport were not sufficient in terms of timing
Transportation arrangements were excellent.
Stayed at the Conference Hotel, so not directly concerned. But I hear many delegates who were not happy.
The buses ran not very frequently. A more frequent transfer would have been appreciated.
The meeting was too far away from hotels, except rich people who stayed at the conference hotels
d'autres hôtels n’étaient pas repris dans la trajectoire des bus en plus les bus ne s'arrêtaient en cours de route

This was a particularly good element of planning, especially given the area of hotels where participants were scattered
I stayed at a hotel in the Cancun city center and in general, transport was in time and worked well. However, once the bus did not show and I had to take a taxi. Also, the transportation times were not well sheduled with the sessions and there were not enough bus times. To get back from Moon Palace to the city center buses wouls always leave 10 minutes late, which was quite annoying, especially at 11 pm.
It was not very convenient (becouse of the time-shedual), and i had some problems getting back to my hotel on the last evening (at night, at 2.30 am- had to wait quite a long time).
The buses were sometimes delayed without information
I wish there were more buses to the hotel.
All those involved in the transportation were excellent and mindful. They did an excellent job!
Transport was readily available from hotels to conference centre. This was great made life simple for most of us
Should provide transportation from hotel to airport too. Not only from airport to hotel in the day arrival.
The venue was too far away from the place we choose to overnight and bus services were not scheduled very frequently.
I shared a car with collegues. Shuttle busses were not available from our accomodation.
Excellent! Derivers and staffs are aslo very nice!
There were insufficient bus pick-ups.
Depended on the driver. See additional comment.
Great job by our Mexican hosts - not an easy task and they did very well moving many people.
There were to few scheduled departures from both hotel and venue during daytime and evening.
Would appreciate if morning and late meeting can also accommodated in the schedule as some buses always came late or did not wait for late meetings. And the cost of a taxi for 1 delegation was too expensive as the only option none from your region was staying back for that late evening meeting.
The waiting time and frequency of the buses were inefficient and not reliable
bus stops changed places with no notice, schedules changed and there were no buses available to get to the airport. Terrible management.
THe bus schedule was very challenging to move between the hotels and the event centre. When they were running, the busses were efficicent. It was totaly unclear which bus on which day, for which hotel and created chaos .
Mexico ran the event well.
I understand it is expensive but the buses could have been more often. Taxis were too expensive for some of us.
there was no arranged transport to the airport at the end of Week 1, except for ministries
I did not use the transportation arrangements, but I heard it was efficient.

It was a bit bad in the first place and when a complaint was made a response came in about the 3days and things got better
Was on site so transport to and from airport was OK. Finding the transport on arrival at airport was not very efficient or easy.
Not frequent enough, for hotels too far away.
Shuttle organization was a mess. More than once the shuttle didn't show up because it was full before it reached the stop where we were at, leading to additional taxi cost for our group of 27 participants. The change of schedule was not communicated properly and overall not logical
The time between the departure of each bus was a bit long. Sometimes there were mettings that finished at 11 pm and there was a bus arranged for 1 am.
but not many schedules to move around
More transportation possibilities in the afternoon and early evening would have desirable,

XXVI. Additional comments on if the distribution of documents during the United Nations Biodiversity Conference was efficient.

Very good!
Once I learned it, I thought the document distribution and printing system was very efficient. The volunteers were very friendly and helpful.
It guided us more on the conference processes
It was very difficult to have documents released first this in the morning to be discussed at the first plenary session of the day (at 10am). There was often not sufficient time to review these before negotiations began.
this is an aspects where some additional work is required; although I understand the challenge of the SCBD to prepare the documents on time, sometimes the documents were available really late and this slowed all the process (discussions could not be scheduled or were delayed etc.)
Too much paper used for promotional documents and handbooks, it can be improved by having and distributing digital versions through a website or usb to all attendees.
Always a. It chaotic. Non-parties should be able to get hard. Plies; downloading and printing was awkward.
Too much use of paper is better get the information digital.
This got better as the meeting went on. Steep learning curve for all of us and an excellent job all in all.
The transport arrangements were exceptional and much appreciated
I was not part of a dalegation to be worried for many documents. Some online searches hepled in getting the right part, but we gpt them second handed.
The printing on demand is a very effective system, and listing the available documents for each agenda item was an additional great improvement.
First meeting of many different international meetings with sufficiently effective WIFI and widely available for delegates to have access to documents at all times.

I think the use of electronic documents has improved distribution and wifi was better this time.
The print-on-demand system is great, once you figure out how to use it.
I appreciate the help of volunteers who made sure the documents table at the main hall remained organized.
Efficient, well run, very helpful staff, really outstanding.
I think this is already the routine for the organizers. It was impeccable.
I liked very much the personalised print services availalble from everywhere of the venue.
On line document distribution has become essential. Therefore, reliable internet access is of great importance.
Excellent
Contact group on budget was provided with documents of very poor quality and for the most of the meeting only in hard copies. Those documents did not provide clear information and contained many mistakes.
Cartagena protocol copies (English version) were limited.
Messy!
Excelent
was excellent
bien organisé
It can improve
Some CRPs took a long time to be available
Less paper please
I think that leave organization because when I ask documents dont have in the officers
I didn't need any but it looked efficient. The web process works well
Working paper-less works fine.
Distribution of documents was as professional as always in CBD meetings. Thank you!
what distribution?
The online plattform with the in-session documents together with the print on demand function is very helpful.
well done
Too much print. Move to digital.
I particularly liked the possibility to print your own. Thus it was also possible to print business emails.
All was excellent. Even the convenient Resource kiosks with Computers and internet were excellent

Very accessible and convenient!
documents were available online. But general easy access information about the schedule was hard to find
The system worked well.
The kiosks for accessing and printing material was great.
The new system was very efficient and appreciated.
needs further improvements especially in updating documents online
it was electronic
Wasn't it a paper-less Conference?
I maybe an english speaker but I felt it for the persons who don't speak english especially Madrin.
Great website and online document system!
If your computers fails, it becomes difficult or even impossible to obtain documents.
Wifi was too weak.
The new online system is fabulous

XXVII. Additional comments on the logistics for the United Nations Biodiversity Conference.

It was a well-organised conference. The events were well managed and participation by multitude of stakeholders was encouraging.
The buses were extremely well planned. Thank you very much for this.
Nothing to say. Everything is perfect.
Logistics was good
The quality of convention bag was not good. The venue was isolated
Too much papers
What about a mobile application with agenda of all activities and events? Would greatly facilitate planning & organization of the parties and avoid printed materials.
Difficulty with timing of contact groups on issues of relevance to me.
I felt very unconfortable with the two-class-situation. Participnats with all-inclusive-arrangement and Participants staying in hotels outside. It was not possible to meet for lunch or in the evening together. That was very negative in my view. Better to leave out the all-inclusive-option and have affordable food for all participants having the possibility to meet during lunchtime and in the evening.
The size of the meeting complicated everything
Keep it up

Food stands are not appropriate and expensive. however, coffee was excellent.
some improvements needed (distribution of documents, clear indication which point will be discussed when) but overall a positive experience
Next time, try to do better with the organisation at the airport (transportation and accomodation). There are many informations unknowed by participants during the accomodation.
Hotels much too far from venue, hard to attend evening events-especially if groups were split between venue and town. Food was a disaster, almost none for sale, meaning a rush for food at lunchtime events
Display arrangements can be improved further. Some formal arrangements should be made for keeping left out documents
Very good preparation for the transfer of participants.
The number of affordable places to eat within the venue was quite limited. Lunches at the Moon Palace were very expensive. The outdoor cafe near the main negotiating halls was ok (in terms of price and food), but it would have been good to have a wider selection.
I would be very helpful if those at the nest area of information booth speaks clear English and actually understand what the other person is talking about. At some point when your really busy following the many meetings and you need directions you get all stressed up just by trying to explain what you want to know to the person at the information center...
With respect to food, I recommend giving more options where the attendees can buy their food
Excellent logistical arrangement and administrative assistance provided.
Generally, the logistics were very well organized and there were no serious hitches
Hizo falta en la conferencia mayor señalamiento e indicaciones para llegar a los eventos y contar documentos en el idioma
Internet and Printing arrangements for delegates were excellent!!
Probably there could be some specific notes on this, but in general it seems that logistics worked well regarding the amount of people and themes involved. It seems that at the end there was a rush in the Working Groups to aprove many and mixed documents that I guess many delegates didn't know or read and there was some confussion over the status of approved, pending or discarded matters, until they appeared iun the CDB Webpage...
Time between pick ups was longer (many hours in between). Buses only stop at designated destinations but not in between, this was not convenient.
the hotel was hugely expensive but staying there saved me all the travel time. lt was unfortunate that the hotel accepted only USD while the peso was low, paying in Peso would have reduced costs for delegations.
t was nicely done condrad to gove mexico
it was excellent arrangement
A venue that can be accessed by public transport greatly (as we had in Japan, Germany or the Netherlands) means that it is much easier to organize who has to be where and when, especially when additional meetings are scheduled that don't fit the pre-arranged schedule. I'm not sure whether it had to do with the transport logisitics, but many working group sessions with considerable delay, leaving us wonder every time whether it's worth the effort to rush to the room. Great to have free coffee, but the all-in-one tickets meant that it wasn't possible to have

a drink or so after a meeting.
Logistic were excellent
The Mexicans are the first to understand the WIFI needs of such a meeting.
Please choose venues that are really sustainable !
This was very well organised. Especially the accessibility of computers with printing possibilities was highly appreciated, and the friendly secretariat staff helping with the documents and technology where needed.
Information for participants indicated the venue would not have significant air conditioning so participants were advised that business casual was appropriate. However, the venue was not only not under-air conditioned, it was overly chilled, such that participants were clearly cold much of the time. This defeated the purpose of being climate friendly at multiple levels, and resulted in delegates being distracted by being uncomfortable. This needs to be more clearly organized and articulated with future venues if this policy - which I think is excellent - is to be retained. It seemed like a communication breakdown with venue staff who presumably were concerned the rooms would not be considered air conditioned up to international standards.
Logistics was perfectly handled, the resort, the meeting rooms, security checks, food, all the details, it was very comfortable and convenient. We did not have any problem, we could just focus on work, it was one of the best organized COP my delegation participated in. Our minister has been VERY much satisfied too.
Some of the listed hotels should not have been indicated (poor quality and services). Communication related to reservations done between the Conference and the suggested hotels had too many problems (bookings went missing when guests arrived for check in and rearrangements had to be done).
The venue of the meetings re the hotels was very inconvenient for those not staying at the conference site hotel (where the cost of accommodation was prohibitive for most delegates).
Transport arrangements were excellent and timely
The transport arrangements were good but perhaps pick up intervals during the night could have been shortened i.e. increasing pick up times.
This standard to be ensured for the next COP. Thank you so much for providing your best effort in this regard.
Cancun a beaucoup assuré sur les modalités de transports, quoi qu'il arrive mais les transport est toujours a votre disposition
Logistics was organised in very high quality standard
impeccable organization of the session
The use of the online repository was very good and should be continued. Let's avoid paper as much as possible
le logistic est appréciable
Frankly, that is one of the best organized areas; however, the choice of the venue was unfortunate. Delegates that stayed at the Moon Palace were practically "forced" to go for the all inclusive formula, which for delegates to a meeting who are unable of enjoying drinks and food all the time is expensive and makes no sense. The fact that delegates who were not staying in the hotel venue were not even allowed to have a drink without having to pay 39 USD is unbelievable!
As always, I greatly appreciate the Secretariat's hard work.

There was some confusion during the first days regarding the schedule, as this suddenly was changed
Excellent
Well planned. Venue was excellent. Cancun was a lively city
Tòo isolated venue with difficult access
Working Group meetings' time and meeting rooms kept changing and it was very difficult to follow.
Congratulations on the organization of the COP. Mexico and its people were excellent hosts
Would be better to have weekend break with fieldtrip options, or refreshing events e.g. cultural show
The co-facilitators and organizators of the Conference didn't have an accurete logistics plan; there weren't places where visitors could ask for orientation. The sound was so bad, headphones for translation didn't work well.
The electronic document system was exceptional
le transport a été efficace pour le séjour et les organisateurs sont ponctuels et assidus.
We had some technical challeneges in one of the contact groups regarding the projecting of text on screen that could not be resolved, even over 3 days.
Is this were we get to comment on the outrageous cost of the main venue. The busses were efficient enough, but it was a MAJOR deterrent to the type of informal discussions that are invaluable at the CBD Congresses, when those who could not afford the Moon Palace rates could not even have a drink in the bar.
Nothing to report, everything was perfect
I felt from the start that Cancun was a highly inappropriate place for this meeting, as a place where biodiversity has been seriously compromised by the construction of the resort, including but not confined to the mangroves along the coast and the second longest coral reef on the planet. We took an apartment because our needs, eg: dietary, meant that hotels were not right for us and also were too expensive or too distant from the meeting. this must also have been the case for other small delegations. the Moon Palace was so far from even the nearest accommodation and far to expensive for eating or drinking for many of us. thank goodness for the ad hoc cafes outside.
Please select venues less expensive and more closer between them.
The Moon Palace was too expensive. The per diem provided for financed delegates was not enough to cover the entire stay for one single delegate.
Very good shuttle service congratulations
I stayed at the main venue so these arrangements were not relevant to me
Very good logistics. Thank you.
Food options for non-guests of the Moon Palace were insufficient. The food vendors in the garden and the Arena building sold all similar bread-based options or the same salad, and the meal voucher for the restaurants of the moon palace was way too expensive.
Good coordination - well done !
the Mexican Governments and the secretariat tried . Congratulations work well done

They were brilliant.
Many participants that were staying at the Moonpalace had difficulties with checking into the hotel - their names were not on the list at the security gate, they were not actually booked into the hotel by the agent, and/or their payment (in full and in advance) to the travel agent had not been paid to the hotel and they were required to arrange a second payment.
I think is necesary include more Indigenous People in their forums and indigenous women also
The COPMOP should FIRST approve ANY DOCUMENT that the CBD Secretariat will publish as Technical Series. I am referring to the Guidance on RA/RM which was circulated as guidance without prior approval by the COPMOP. I hope things of this sort will NEVER happen again.
Transpaortation was a big obstacle for holding meetings as civil society considering specially the high prices of hotels near the venue. Again, only those who have money have the greater access to the Conference and can therefore influence it.
The efforts and commitment by the administrative and logistics teams is highly commended.
Nobody in Cancun knew about the celebration of the ONU's meeting, the Convention Center with their activities was empty. Which was the logistic?
The hotel was not affordable for many delegations which had to be in Cancun center, very far from the Conference, it was exhausting to travel 1 hour in the morning and 1 hour in the evening / night.
The logistic part was really well organised, even the shuttles to other hôtels late at night when contact groups were working. Free water and coffee were also a very positive point; The Wifi was excellent;
KEEP THAT TEMP0
the screens for what was where and when were pretty hopeless.
I commend the team for a job well done.
Good venue and great organisation by our Mexican hosts
Some hotels did not have stops for shuttles.
Be sure transportation to the meeting venue is good
The venue was not good. A five star hotel is not suited to a meeting that attracts participants from all over the world and from different economic backgrounds. The restaurants were prohibitively expensive and the alternative places to buy food were hopelessly inadequate. The only people who benefitted from the venue facilities were those who were resident in the hotel. Most delegates could not afford to stay there. Delegates could not even meet in the bar for discussions over a drink. As the next COP will be held in another tourist resort, lessons should be learned from the Cancun debacle.
Every arrangement was fine. Except Snacks stall should be many and with variety of snacks for selection and choice.
The hotel booking agency had a much too strict cancellation policy and their service was very bad. Several colleagues have made this experience.
It was not clear whether there was provision for shipping of some documents since heavy language are costly on the plane. Some documents were very relevant for biodiversity committees at national level which were provided at the conference

It was a well-organised conference.
Given how far apart the hotels were in Cancun, the bus system was adequate.
Congratulations to the government of Mexico and the CBD secretariat for the logistics and others organization items
In spite of the unnecessary luxury deployed, it was a great effort of mankind that we sincerely hope reaches best results possible.
Very organized. Drivers are very polite and efficient as well as other staff
Provision of water and coffee at the venue was really nice. However, the food items sold at the venue were a little too overpriced. The air conditioning in the venue was set at very low temperature, so I felt too cold to be in the venue the entire time. Actually I was wearing a down coat while attening. The combination of the down coat and Cancun wasn't so appealing.
Better organization to transport the participants to the hotels and meeting place
Catering was Pool and should have included biodiversity-friendly and organic alternatives.
transportation was very challenging. It would be best to have the conference in a location where transportation options are more available (such as public transportation)
I wish there were more options of transportation coming from other parts of the hotel area besides can cun, maybe next time consider people coming for other places like Playa del Carmen or Tulum.
I regret that I have not recovered my suitcase until today through the Air Europa flight from Cancun on the 18th with a stopover in Madrid to Dakar where I arrived on 12/19/2016. Despite several contacts and phone calls so far I have not retrieved my bag. None of the Airlines reacts to my requests.
The bottom line here? Move away from these COPs at prison resorts. Egypt will unfortunately probably be more of the same. But make it the last one! Instead, rent a convention center in the middle of a city with nearby hotels, food, and public transport ... and skip the expense, pretense, inconvenience, and inflexibilities of "resort" meetings.
The sound was terrible and that had a huge negative impact on negotiations, We need headsets and mics in contact groups. It was oughful and we lost a lot of time with those portable microphones
Extremely well delivered by UN staff and our Mexican hosts - great job! If I was tasked with organizing such an event, it would be a disaster!
Paper, and printed material is almost wasted. it should not be printed and try to find a different way to share it.
The logistics were good.
The fact that if you were not a guest to the moon palace hotel then you were not allowed to buy food in the restaurant, made the diet very uninteresting for all non-guest to the place of venue...
More options for food or food choices.
Chosing the venue is a tough one. In Cancun, which was a fairly expensive area, we could have all Events together (in the same place)
Congratulations to Mexican hosts
Less side events, better attended, in particular by national delegations. More recycling, no plastic cups etc.

Better/cheaper food options for those who could not stay at the all inclusive hotel. Less background on the Decisions.
Where were the Rio Convention Calendars for 2017???
It was a bit easier for the spanish speaking persons becuase the COP was held in Mexico and alot of the spanish speakers spoke average level english or to a certain degree where as a non-spanish speaker I could actually "translate" for them using english and gestures to help with comprehension.
This was one of the worst meetings I have attended. The combination of the three conventions in one meeting did not work. There was no time for delegations to convene during the meeting to resolve issues, and the chair (WG1) seemed intend on getting through the agenda rather than getting agreement. The in-session meetings were not very productive, I believe that a fresh chair should be appointed rather than using the same people that could not get the job done before the meeting.
It seemed a very big hotel that made transportation or walking take a while because of the distances
I was priviledged to stay in the conference hotel, that was very convenient. paperless meeting - there should no hard copies be available I was grateful for the many delegate computers - incl. printer ;-)
Registration was flawless and very well organized. The support staff was throughout the board very friendly and eager to help.
The aircondition in all of the rooms was much too cold. Too much cold draft. Always. Many from my delegation got sick. The difference between outside Temperature and inside the rooms should only be a few degrees.
Please arrange for separating smoker/non smoker areas in outdoor lunch sections
Event too far from Cancun center
The hotel was far from the other venues
It was a hastle to enter the main building of the venue, despite being lodged at the venue. Arriving on a Sunday 8 pm I could not get badge until next morning and had to walk across the whole premises to reach the badge office, instead of crossing the main building. This was a major hastle.

XXVIII. Additional comments on the UN Biodiversity Conference.

During the registration a briefing on how to make the most of the event will be useful. It took me, also some other participants i interacted with, some time to figure out how the sessions and information dissemination has been organised. Statements by country reps become boring both in tone and content, after a while. Energy levels drop.
COP-13 to the CBD with focus on mainstreaming is the first COP after adoption of SDGs. Since mainstreaming is an important component for achieving Sustainable Development Goals, the theme of COP-13 was very relevant.
It was one of the best experiences of my student life; I learnt a lot. I wish the CBD would allow more students to go.
I think the UN Biodiversity Conference was a great success! The results were great considering it was the first time it had this format and participants were only adapting to it!
The event venue was inappropriate - for the history that the development of the Moon Palace has in terms of biodiversity conservation and for the high cost of accomodation and meals.
The conference went well. The conference papers were always ready and prepared on time for discussions and

contact groups.
Apart from conference with regard to visiting Mexican nature and culture. The information on the web on possible tourism tours could be supplemented with better info for communication and questions and reservations. However we found tour operator on conference centre and those were very friendly and the tour to Rio secreto was unbelievably fantastic! With best regards for all conference team for all organization matters!
The success of the Conference of the Parties depends, in my opinion, on the number of draft decisions. The greater the number of participants, the lower the success of the conference. Therefore, during the intersessional meetings, it will be important to focus the work on the most important and priority issues.
Regional meeting rooms should all be given appropriate spaces and signage and facilities in a regionally balanced manner considering the number of parties in each region. Refreshment facilities or services should be available for the use of participants with sufficient options and rational prices inside the conference venues. Otherwise the conference venue could be planned to be set at a place were there are several options for eaters for participants. The number of days participants spend during the conference is quiet a lot and hence peoples convenience, security and health need to properly be taken in to account. The CBD Secretariat has once again provided impeccable service and assistance to the Parties and participants , the services of the staff are greatly appreciated.
Please think more about sustainability!
Many thanks for all the organizers for all their efforts
Need to improve convention distributions, venue, logistic and qualities
A minimum of three (3) delegates from LDCs, SIDS and countries with economies in transition should be supported for the next COP Contact group meetings and working group meetings should not run in parallel
Delay should be reduced and topics focused.
Generally the arrangement and the organization of the conference was appropriate and facilitated well with of the limited number of the participants who could not participate in all issues
I thought this was an excellent, well-run conference. Running the COP and the COP/MOPs concurrently was useful in ensuring continuity between the Convention and its subsidiary protocols, but it did make for a very long meeting. I enjoyed it thoroughly, regardless.
the information provided was very important for we work, we ned very assistance in this themes
* Most of the participants were optimistic about the coming of a new executive secretary. * We heard a number of complaints on the management way of the discussions in the second working group. * Some delegations faced a problem in the issuing of the entrance visa to Mexico. * The international NGOs have a very good thoughts on the Biodiversity conservation issues, the CBD Secretariat and the chairs of the working groups have to give them more opportunities to present their thoughts during the official sessions, not only though side events.
Principally it was well organized, except the two-class-situation.
On my point of view the meeting was intense, well organized, the working conditions perfect. I appreciated the simultaneous tenue of COP and MOPs for the reasons given before. I very much appreciated the quality of the work of the secretariat.
I enjoyed great meeting
Thanks to the SCBD, the host country (Mexico) and its people and all those that contributed to the UN Biodiversity Conference. It was well prepared and organised.
a warm thanks to Mexican Presidency - they were excellent and very helpful

Thank you
Great, nice and relevant organization Conference.
I did not like that the food provided was not sustainable, how is it possible that in a Biodiversity Conference Coca-cola or Pepsi are being offered as well as other products which origins and production method are actually threatening biodiversity? There was a lot of waste of resources, no good practices were promoted, there was a high and non-efficient use of paper for the distribution of documentation through handbooks, advertising, etc. which are possible to be distributed digitally. there were not enough water fountains, which forced people to take water bottles over and over again, etc. Those aspects should definitely be improve, because they are perceived by everyone and go against the behavioral change that the convention and its targets try to promote.
Overall, the conference was a success other than the fact that some countries were unable to attend due to a lack of resources. It will be necessary to see to what extent the secretariat could assist, apart from CBD focal point, Cartagena focal point. The State itself can take charge of one of them.
The Secretariat was helpful, as always. My hat is off to them. The reception was awkward. Not enough food, given all the alcohol being consumed.
well organised adequate sercurity
It was well planned given the logistical challenges of organizing the two meetings together.
Thanks very much for the well organised Conference
The venue had adequate space for the working groups and the various other activities that were going on. It was indeed an experience to behold in Cancun
It is important to ensure that contact groups convened on matters of importance to all parties are not allowed to conclude long after the official end of the meetings when most of the Parties have departed the Conference. Also rooms for contact groups should be adequate to allow the participation of most if not all parties which have a particular interest in the issue being negotiated. Supporting docs should be readily accessible to participants, including previous decisions of COP and COP-MOPs. Consideration could be given to assisting regional groups, on request, with interpretation at regional meetings. Regional preparatory meetings should be promoted to facilitate the effective part I violation of DC regions at the COPs and COP_MOPs. The promotion of all key sectors related to the mainstreaming of biodiversity in CBD Conferences should be continued and encouraged.
It was a well organized conference and hopefully it was also very successful.
Congratulations on the very successful implementation of the Conference. It indeed provided us with opportunities to expand our networks, share knowledge on biodiversity, and learn from different thematic concerns related to biodiversity. Here are some suggestions for improvement of the next Conferences: 1. Allot a more strategic schedule for the CEPA Fair Side Events; 2. Provide more food options/selections since the participants came from different parts of the world and the Conference is really long; and 3. Be mindful on the accuracy of flags and names of countries.
Don't use too much paper is better digital or create some application or get everything in some website
Consider the participation of Africa contry at the UN Biodiversy Conference.
It was very important to participate because it allowed us to consolidate the instruments that allow us to continue defending Mother Nature.
The UN Biodiversity Conference needs be much more attractive for media and results transmited to the public opinion.
Overall it was a good experience for me as a first-time academic observer. I found it quite easy to find my way

around and the event seemed quite well-organised as far as I could tell.
it was Very successful conference
Thank you very much for your warm welcome and all your hard work.
The organisation of accommodation was terrible, I personal went back and forth from the meeting place to the hotel were i was booked at because the whoever is managing the online booking reservation never told the Hotel that i would be coming on that specific date, the long flights plus the mishap in a foreign Country with very limited English speaking people the Secretariat MUST look into this for future meetings. Its not nice and definitely frustrating the poor people at the front desk of the Hotel were also frustrated that im still there arguing about my room. Just to know that the agency responsible were all at the meeting venue waiting for participants for them to take them to their hotels, its a waste of money and time especially if your jet leg and trying to adapt to the time difference.
All the falicities give to the participants during this conference were very well appreciated
It was my first experience at a CBD event, I thank my delegation for giving me the opportunity to attend and have this experience. I hope that the agreements and achievements at COP13 will be for the well-being of humanity and the sustainable future of biodiversity
Integrar diversas opciones de alimentos y servicios para los participantes que no están hospedados en el hotel sede.
Well done for the successful conference in Cancun!
The Conference was a success and the efforts of the host Country and the Secretariat were exceptional, however, the sequencing of the High Level Segment to precede technical negotiations need to be reviewed
Espero se tomen en cuenta los resultados del Foro indígena y se incorporen a los documentos de la conferencia.
This was a great opportunity to me (never been in a UN Conference before), to see people form all countries working together according to presentation, discussion or deliberation protocols, known in many schools as the UN model. However, as some aspects were highly controversial and even there were disagreements inside some delegations, negotiations still are slow ore ineffective, specially dealing with extreme positions. The role of Party blocks, IPLC delegations and some NGOs is something that make this forum more democratic but slow; however decisions have to deal mainly with scientific evidence, viable policies, finnanciable projects, collaborative efforts, leaving political pressures and indemonstrable complaints out of discussion.
Generally, it was well organized conference. Security was great.
I enjoyed it very much
Good work. Very nice .well organised.
Cancun is a nice and clean city for hosting such a big event. Every aspects of whole conference were well coordinated. I must thank the hosting country as well as organizers of the event.
There was a protest/demonstration during the conference, in the middle of the main building, where several delegations were treated/referred to with disrespect in relation to their position on agenda items in the conference. I found this incredibly distasteful because the contact sessions were open to the public in good faith. Attempting to smear the reputation of country delegations as biopiracy advocates for positions taken in formal negotiations makes a mockery of the UN negotiation process.
Why was the Business and Biodiversity Forum advertised throughout the whole COP on the signs for all the meeting rooms?
There was a problem with chairing and I think that training working group chairs better and particularly contact

group chairs is critical. Also the time allocated for certain contact groups was problematic and how each group was allotted time was not transparent. For example working group on 8j did not have enough time and space for contact group and synergies had too much time and space.
I appreciate that the COP/MOP requires a large venue but I and many of the participants I spoke to found the Moon Palace resort highly inappropriate as a venue for a Biodiversity Conference: in terms of footprint and image. Furthermore, the facilities for nourishment of the delegates who were NOT living at this luxury resort were extremely limited and expensive, which caused difficulties - particularly for the young scientists attending the meeting.
Overall the Cancun meeting was the best since Bonn.
I would only ask to provide more options of places within the venue to buy food that are also inexpensive. Not all participants at the venue have a large budget to spend on high priced food in every meal. The fact that the venue was so far away from any other restaurant did not help solve this problem. I was unfair to see people go into the side events only to eat their food. We need to give people more affordable options.
Thank for everything to the Secretariat, is a big effort all what happen behind the scenes. Is important to think how to deal with the budget issues, because leave it for the end could be dangerous, we were very close to don't reach an agreement. Is importanty to consider this in the organization of work for the next meetings.
One of the best organized COP (we welcome the work of Mexico, its Ministry, whole logistics team and volunteers)
NGOs, governments and other participants should be encouraged to bring less printed materials for distribution, considering a sustainability oriented focus. Alternatively, easier to carry, lighter in weight and more sustainable electronic devices (USB hubs, pen-drives, etc.) should be encouraged as an option for information sharing, reducing paper printing, distribution and discarding.
Sound was a bit of a problem in some of the venues, especially where there wasn't any translation.
The organisers of the UN Biodiversity Conference should take into consideration that there should be food and beverage available at conference that does not cost a fortune or that the delegations need to pay all inclusive to be able to have proper food. Just having sandwiches and some water for two weeks will not make the meetings flow efficiently. At the next venue it would be very helpful if there were several options for where one can purchase food that is affordable.
The conference fulfills its objective and the outcomes are excellent.
Human work is never perfect. We must recognize the efforts of others. I have already said that Mexico and all those who have contributed to the organization of the Cancun Conference are to be congratulated, especially since this was the first ever joint organised COP and COP-MOPs.
This was a very well organised meeting.
The facilities for the conference were good but temperature was rather too low contrary to communication sent before the conference which urged participants to bring light clothing. An attempt to serve different types of food could also be done to increase variety for participants who had come from each corner of the world.
great COP
Perhaps for next events, they could have affordable food stands for participants to buy Lunch, more especially where the events are held in a 5 Star hotel, a distance from the City and the cost for having Lunch or Dinner in the hotel is quite expensive for some participants
The contribution of the COP chair Mexican Minister of the Enironment, SBSTAA chair, working groupnchairs and the executive secretary and secretariat, was all very good to excellent

COP 13 arrangement was perfect in all aspects; however if there were some establishments for regional food that could be comfortable for the delegations.
la COP 13 a reussi sur le plan general et j'espère que les perspectives avenir sera les meilleir
Because this was my first participation as an observer I found there was a lot for me to learn. Rather than be overly critical on a subject matter that is new to me I have chosen to be neutral on most of my answers. Thank you.
Congratulations, great effort.
There must be plenty options to eat with dignity. The hotel where the convention was hosted it's absolutely expensive. And, above all there should be many options at the venue.
Bad experience with FEDEX facilities. Books bought and send with priority post, never arrived.
- may I ask for the submission of my responses to this survey in consolidated text/word format? please send it to adress: rasto.rybanic@gmail.com
Congratulations for the organization and results
muchas gracias por todo, solo un pequeño inconveniente con la agencia que tramito el hospedaje mucho desorden. saludos
It was a unique conference. The organisers should however organized more visits to Tourists sites especially on traditional knowledge, Mayan sites and Biodiversity conservation and sustainable utilization projects
le thème de la cop13 est salutaire
The air-condition in meetings for "BIODIVERSITY" must be banned! this must be the first criteria in the selection of venues and hotels for future meetings.
The Conference was well organized. Congratulations México and the SCBD.
Thank you to the Secretariat.
on the survey: it needs a "no opinion" option in every question. Eg I haven't paid attention to the CEPA fair, how am I supposed to have an opinion on the adequacy of the number of events? My answers will now be confused with those who have a real opinion. This kind of invalidates your survey.
Our delegation was not satisfied with the work of the secretariat in the budget contact group. Information were often provided in non-transparent manner and did not show the whole picture. Secretariat at the times seemed to withhold certain information intentionally and provided it only after specific request.
there was not much space for scientific input into deliberations - politically so - it seemed it was more about a war of words and/or whether people had the mandate to discuss a specific issue/s, than finding solutions to real challenges - especially for the developing countries
a big thank to Mexico for all their hard work!
It was well organized. I personally want to thank the Government of Mexico for keeping us safe during the days I was there as we work to save our planet. Thank you.
Thank you for organizing the CBD COP. Its always an event to look forward to. The idea of having common topics to discuss at the plenary and the side events for the day could solidify interests of people in the topic and could inform the plenary discussions. Job well done!

See you at COP 14.
It was knowledge intensive and like the indigenous people's space
Try to balance the contact groups discussions for the convention and its protocols. Some Parties particularly those from developing economies have very few delegates and can only participate in 1 or a few contact groups at a time. Train delegates from developing countries on negotiations and environmental laws
General good, but not benefit much and enough participation from LDC. Not much minister and height level person attend HLS. Not recommend this modality for the next UN Biodiversity meeting.
Logistics could be improved
Many thanks!!!
The venue, Cancun Mexico, was really very nice! Also thank you for allowing us to hold our Side event!
It is a pleasure to stay there to enjoy discussing about the conservation of biodiversity
Would better there at some souvenirs or souvenir shops; CBD souvenirs; and field trip, or cultural show during weekend breaks
I prefer only one week for the Cartagena Protocol meeting
The WIFI was excellent. It would have been nice to have some local entertainment or cultural show of arts and crafts on site for delegates and participants to experience the host country's culture.
Like to thank the Mexican government for the well done work on hosting these meetings.
The Mexican Delegation invested a lot of money to develop the Conference without the outcomes expected; i feel the results were a bit dissapointing, and there wasn't other spaces where other stakeholders as Civil Society Organizations or Local Communities could participate.
I felt the live streaming worked well - it only faltered a few times.
The availability of meals to delegates residing outside the Moon Palace was far from sufficient.
Well done! Generally I'm quite satisfied.
I thought the COP13 was a great meeting. It is always hard to get consensus for 196 parties, but the dialogue was friendly and the parties reached consensus in many issues. It was definitely a great meeting with a lot of decisions and outcomes. In terms of logistics, our colleagues from Mexico were very kind, and helpful. The premises were always clean, and the people were extremely friendly. However, I felt that the food was too repetitive (really, it was too exhausting to eat the same types of sandwiches every day for 3 weeks), and not very healthy. Except for the side events with sushi, all the events had either sandwiches or deep fried food (i.e., spring rolls), which were not very tasty if you have to eat them every single day. Given that this event was in Mexico, I was expecting to eat tacos at least once. Why didn't we have any Mexican food? Future COPs should offer more varied food, and perhaps some available snacks between meals. These snacks should be part of the registration fee. Most people were hungry during this meeting, or were eating each other’s' food from the side events. The food issue was my least favourite part of the COP13. Overall, I had a great time, and I think the outcomes were very good. Thank you for reading!
I regret that those who does not stay with the Moon Palace could not use bar, restaurants etc. at the meeting venue.
The live tracking of documents and the schedule worked very well

The designated chairs need to be more effective in managing the flow of the meetings and in particular contact groups. Ad-hoc issues should not be permitted to derail important and planned discussion which had been the original focus of the contact group. If parties which to raise other, related issues for discussion, then there needs to be a process. Ad-hoc issues at contact groups led delegations to complain that they were being asked to speak to issues for which they had had no position prepared in Capitals.
Difficulty with holding event at an all inclusive resort provided some challenges for those staying off site as there was no way to purchase food or drink ala carte! Made for tricky networking for those staying at resort with those staying offsite.
On the whole the conference was well organized.
la COP 13 a été une réussite et innovatrice compte tenu de la réunion du haut segment en avant. Y avait une synergie de transition de la réunion CDP aux réunions des protocoles. l'adoption des ministres en unanimité de la déclaration de Cancun très explicite et fournit a été pour la Convention un champ gagné par les parties à la biodiversité. Sauf qu'il faut revoir si les ministres viennent au début que les points focaux soient avec eux et pris en charge pour assurer leur rôle de conseillers.
Greater media coverage would give more visibility to the importance of biodiversity for society. More outside observers (normal people) participation is needed to mainstream biodiversity.
UN Biodiversity Conference was well organised and hope it will have better participation from the whole world.
This was my first CBD COP. I found it exceedingly interesting and intend to participate in the future. However, I would like to see greater support for IPLC delegations, including access to rooms, resources, and speaking engagements.
Congratulations for a job well done. The venue was appropriate and planning in general excellent.
It was an excellent CoP!
an opportunity to learn about linkage on the ground of the Convention and ts protocols.
It was a success, the host site was impressive and beautiful, thank you for everything
I feel sure that the Secretariat must also have been as shocked as we were by the level of aggression shown by some delegates and groups present. This is no reflection on the Secretariat. Thank you for addressing that issue; it must have been very challenging. Thank you also for enabling some groups to express their feelings about issues through peaceful protest on some occasions.
It is important for me and my colleagues that agreements made during the UN Biodiversity Conference are taking into account and being follow up by the UNEP and other environmental sections to achieve positive outcomes. Otherwise, these types of conferences will continue to be a display of power and money without considering the key issues and needs to tackle biodiversity loss and environmental protection.
Please post the official documents without delay and in time manner. This facilitate the delegation preparation processes.
Should focus more on delivering on results-oriented decisions.
Thank you for taking into account my participation by this means. If I would like to ask that for upcoming events they could take into account the people that we are vegetarian, since there was not much variety to feed
It is very hypocrite to convene a meeting in a place like this. Be the change you want to see and convene it in the most sustainable way possible. This UN is not credible anymore. Convening a meeting on destroyed natural protected area. Convening a COP 14 in Egypt in a desert with irrigated golf courts etc. Come on! It is just a joke.

As are the outcomes of this conference.
It is terrible that an event that seeks to protect the environment and the biodiversity was son polluting. The venue was the opposite of the necessary inspiration. horrible!!!
A great experience in a friendly environment - overall very successful CoP and MoPs. Congratulations
Just to Say congratulations to all for the good well organized COP starting from the Secretariat hosting country, Ministers parties and all key players as part of the IPLC team I must say we achieved a lot
It was a good conference, I believe that you have to concentrate in the issues of your interest, otherwise there is so many things to hear and learn and discuss about. It was a good input for the future I believe.
I see no question in the questionnaire focused on logistics! This time location was really out of... Solar System. For many of us, not in condition to afford an accommodation at Moon Palace, it meant hours and hours globally spent on board the shuttles to/from MP.
The number of concurrent Contact Groups, especially during the second week of the meeting, made it almost impossible for small and medium-sized delegations to properly follow all discussions that interested them. This should be taken into consideration when deciding whether to hold all three meetings concurrently in the future.
Thank you for organization! Regards for all colleagues in the great CBD team!!!
Some messages need to be told more often, such as respecting non-parties rights on instruments that are not binding to them. This is a recurring problem and eats away a lot of time during negotiations. This has to be tackled by the high-level segment.
Is a great fact because is necessary take care the biodiversity in the world with actions all countries and sectors because the world is our house
My overall observation is: Two weeks is too long and too costly for the sending government for any meetings, our experts were unable to attend other meetings because they had to go back and attend to their responsibilities in the government or academe. December is not the best time of the year for meetings in any parts of the world because of the delays in flight schedules and preparation in our home countries of year-end reports. Discussions go beyond the scope of the CBD and CPB. It seems that there is no apparent public awareness of the potential of these technologies to protect biodiversity when in fact our country has been engaged in awareness raising activities for the last two decades. Recommends that we revert back to our original strategy in holding meetings for each Protocols and doing the integration at the national level.
Often too many people from same countries, better to be reasonable ,
Estoy sumamente de acuerdo y motivado siendo yo agricultor y que se me haya permitido participar de la Conferencia de Biodivercidad de Las Naciones Unidas COP13 Cancun 2016, para exponer mi proyecto de Biodivercidad en mi finca, mi deseo es que todo el mundo se de cuenta de que podemos producir sosteniblemente con el ambiente y que se puede hacer en cualquier lugar, a muy bajo costo. GRACIAS ESTOY A SU ENTERA DISPOSICION.
I thank for all the efforts made but I am greatly concerned about the participation of the private sector and their aggressive lobby during the COP.
Apoyar mas participación de participantes de Comunidades locales
I attended the business forum. It will be helpful to find international funding solutions for the different business enterprises or ONG's that contribute to the regional/global conservation. Natural resources management and sustainable use is profitable, but it takes several years to reach this point, in the meantime, you have to find financial solutions to operate and consolidate the business. This kind of business is the one that is going to contribute to conservation of environments and species, which is very very expensive.

Thank you for doing this survey, it would be very interesting to see the results.
A very well organized event and complements to the Government and people of the host country Mexico/Cancun as well as the efficient staff of the Secretariat.
The meeting should provide for social participation, public institutions, NGOs, research centres and multinational organizations are not the only representatives of civil society.
The location of the CBD COP should be in adequation with the model of sustainable development it supports.
I have answered neutral to a number of questions because I was unable to participate in a number of these so cannot give an objective response by virtue of this. If the meetings will continue as it, there needs to be funding for participation for all three - the Convention and the Protocols, so if you are a party/have ratified all three then you are eligible to have 3 funded participants at a minimum; 2 - 2 funded participants, etc.
INDEED VERY SUCCESSFUL
I liked the casual Dress code at COP-13. I recommend that this will be followed during COP-14 in Egypt, since the climatic conditions will be similar.
Provide financial support for at least two(2) participants from less developped parties in the future.
As a representative of the business sector, I find that CBD should look more into the involvement of companies and seek to involve this sector in closer discussions with governments and other stakeholders throughout the whole conference, and not only at the Business Forum
Congrats, over all a successful event! Conferences like this one are a logistic challenge. Not many locations can scope with this.
Perhaps they should now take place every 10 years. We have stacks of agreed biodiversity policy and surely we should be focusing our efforts on implementation.
Maybe the daily knock off time can be reviewed and the side events execution could also be reviewed
There is so much that is good about CBD COPs that it is unfortunate to have to complain about the very late planning that seems to go into every one. Delegates will probably turn up whatever the state of planning, but observers, who drive the side events and much of the life of the COP, need to plan in advance, justify their participation, set aside budgets and plan their inputs. When the CBD website is devoid of detailed information until just before the COP, observers often have to regretfully decide not to participate. This (apart from the cost of the venue and getting to it) was probably the reason why there were so few observers from beyond Latin America.
As I didn´t stay in the Moon Palace Hotel I got quite annoyed with the food. Food was a bit expensive and as I usually had to eat at the conference venue at lunch and dinner the choice became monotonous soon.
The meeting was well done. The hotel facility didn't allow outside caterers to show case the Mexican cuisine which would have given participants a taste of the country.
The UN Biodiversity conference was well organised, even though you have some times to prioritize where to go among the events or forums that you are interested in. The books, leaflets and documents produced were very good presented and there was a lot of information provided on what is going on in different countries. I would suggest the reduction of the number of the days of the conference itself. Congratulations to the Secretariat of the conference for making events interesting and the host country which made possible the smooth and pleasant stay. Thank you!
Big thank you to the SCBD for its hard work and Support!
The conference was great but i was a bit unhappy with the value. It was far from everything else and therefore, did

not allow participants to appreciate the great cultural diversity of Mexico. There was nowhere close to buy Cultural souvenirs or Mexican food. The Mexican community seemed to be not involved in the conference.
The location was beautiful and the secretariat did the best they could. thank you
I think that in despite of more and more obligations and activities within whole UNCBD frame, more participants and different stackholders the organisation of the Conference, thanks to the host countries and secretariat, are better and better.
If the COP and MOPs are going to be held simultaneously in the future, 3 delegates should be funded to ensure effective participation of least developed countries and developing countries especially small island developing states.
A common dinner one night open to all participants would have been useful to network with others beyond our field of expertise
I was impressed by the COP13. THANKS CANCUN AND MEXICO
during the conference, there were not so many booths displayed, not as much as previous CBD conferences.
Holy Cow Is Protected - Nature Protects
CoP-13 to the CBD with focus on mainstreaming, is the first CoP after adoption of SDGs. Since mainstreaming is an important component for achieving Sustainable Development Goals, the theme of CoP-13 was very relevant.
Very productive Conference with large number of decisions in order to support the work of the Environment autorities at the national level
Thank you so much for your efforts!
Maybe more food kiosks needed?
Good work and well done
Tap potentials of The ICCA Consortium in laying the groundwork for greater participation of indigenous peoples.
Thank you for the arrangement of the conference
Quite difficult to follow 3 diffetent meetings at the same time
It was exciting to join the space for exchanging tangible opinions with multi stakeholders. I would like to join COP14,too! Thank you for all the sectrariats, local staffs and participants! See you!
Overall, the Conference was well organized. Few observations, some parties that has few delegation members find it difficult to attend two or three events (working group, contact group or side event) happening at the same time that relates to their country priorities. I guess it comes back to own country's preparations but then, it is also connected to availability of funding to fund officials to attend the meeting. Therefore, it would be just approrpiate for the CBD Secretariat to at least fund 2 or 3 officials from member countries to participate at future Cop, instead of funding just one person per party country
Necessary to carry out a monitoring of the agreements made, as well as a massive diffusion between the participants and these agreements and the information that was compiled
I found the event a great opportunity to address crucial topics related with the current problematic in environmental terms. Also to put pressure in Governments to signed and be part of international protocols or global documents in order to decreased the human impact in natural resources. The feedback among participants was incredible from my point of view, it´s an excellent platform for people to work together for same goals not only global but also

local were have a better impact most of the time. I enjoyed the possibility to talk with different people from different ranges and different projects, non profits and leaders about we care about the proper management of the natural resources. Thank you for organize all!
Repeating here my answer to question #32: The bottom line here? Move away from these COPs at prison resorts. Egypt will unfortunately probably be more of the same. But make it the last one! Instead, rent a convention center in the middle of a city with nearby hotels, food, and public transport ... and skip the expense, pretense, inconvenience, and inflexibilities of "resort" meetings.
Well organized.
I think in general it was a productive meeting with a good ambiance. Secretariat should have been more careful with the sound requirements for the different meeting rooms.
Strong disagree with the Enviromental Risk Assestment guide printed by the Cartagena Protocol Secretary. They were not approved so, they could not publish and share it as an official document.
In certain way, it was well organized, but in my opinion the place chosen to celebrate the meetings was a non easy access, oblying to depend the transportation arranged by organizers. For the other hand, the cost of taxi to get there was too expensive. Besides, It was not easy to obtain usd from bank cashier, above all in the place of meetings.
The COP 13 was excellent, the proposed themes on the integration between forest, agriculture, tourism had good results and provided visibility to these segments. The role of women to monitor and require greater engagement on the issue with gender considerations was commendable. The indigenous Forun had a very good participation, and there was a small increase in the participation of local communities, and this is a good result of COP13. The simultaneous realization of COP MOP NP impaired the participation of some leaders, however, the strategic theme on free, prior and informed consent was discussed at the same time in the three spheres, and this fact was very relevant. For the first time, the theme "free, prior and informed consent" was well received by the COP. And with this good performance, we should thank the excellent performance of Article 8j Working Group and SCDB as a whole.
Congratulations to the organizers. The hotel had great facilities, although the impression is that the hotel was built on dunes and filling mangrove vegetation.
Well done. The overall impression is that the cop was very well planned. Looking forward to cop in 2018
Acknowledge the constant support from SCBD for all the hard work always done prior and during the meetings. Many thanks and God bless always.
Accommodation through Mundomex was a nightmare.
Overall a well organized meeting(s). Thank you Secretariat and thank you Mexico!
The food provided at the location and side events should be local and produced in a way that supports biodiversity!
Thank you for an excellent and impactful COP!
It was an NGO public relations circus. The more radical groups were over represented, which hurts the overall credibility of the biodiversity effort, especially with the mainstream governments, companies, and groups that could be allied.
There was not enough information for the local and national public that did not attend the conference.
Avoid addressing on the same day, scheduling more than one controversial issue, with it is expected to be able to give more attention to its resolution, otherwise, it can generate more time for discussion and long working days that do not end with a good result.

The hotel was extremely expensive, and beyond the DSA.
Places in which destruction on nature has ocurred at a great level such as Cancun and other resorts areas should be avoided and focus more on places still kept natural or that have worked towards improving the environment in order to highlight such action. Food services could be more varied and better
BioTrade Congress must be held as a side event of UN Biodiversity conference from now on.
Develop a security protocol that allows for delegtates whether from Parties or NGOs to report abuse from any persons no matter the role or organizations whether Party or NGOs delegations.
This was one of the worst meetings I have attended. The combination of the three conventions in one meeting did not work. There was no time for delegations to convene during the meeting to resolve issues, and the chair (WG1) seemed intend on getting through the agenda rather than getting agreement. The in-session meetings were not very productive, I believe that a fresh chair should be appointed rather than using the same people that could not get the job done before the meeting.
It is a great opportunity to portray the work of NGOs and an excellent platform for networking and making agreements, towards the improvement of the environment.
Thank you for the organisation, looking forward to Sharm el Sheik!
December certainly for participants from WEOG countries with a Christian Background is not a preferable time for a CBD COP. With a view to COP 14 ist would be nice if the christian tradition of spending Christmas and some time before Christmas with your family would be respected when the dates for the meeting in Egypt will be fixed.
The Mexican Government did a geat job!
Should be more places to eat inside the haedquarters of the event and affordable for those that have not a VIP pass
Overall impressed with the logistics
Many thanks to the Mexican government ans SCBD. Hope to improve organization at COP14