



# Overview of initiatives for enhancing coordination and collaboration at various levels across biodiversity-related conventions

March 2018



Convention on  
Biological Diversity



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Confederation

Federal Office for the Environment FOEN



Ympäristöministeriö  
Miljöministeriet  
Ministry of the Environment



# Overview of initiatives for enhancing coordination and collaboration at various levels across biodiversity-related conventions<sup>1</sup>

## Contents

Introduction.....	2
On-going or recently completed processes to explore and enhance synergies .....	4
Existing initiatives .....	7
Strategic plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs .....	7
Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms .....	9
Management of information/knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators.....	11
Communication and awareness raising.....	16
The Science-Policy Interface.....	17
Capacity building .....	18
Resource mobilization and utilization .....	20
Other programmatic collaborations.....	22
Cooperation agreements amongst secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions .....	26

---

<sup>1</sup> This document is an update of the background information to the "*Second multi-stakeholder expert meeting on elaboration of options for synergies among biodiversity-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements*", hosted by UN Environment in Geneva, Switzerland, 13-15 May 2015. The workshop was funded by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland. The update has been developed as part of a joint project by UN Environment, the CBD Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC, funded by the Governments of Finland and Switzerland and the European Union.

## Introduction

Fostering synergies and enhancing collaboration and coordination across biodiversity-related conventions is not a new concept, and it has been emphasized in policy and academic discussions since the 1990s (*for definition of key terms cooperation, coordination, collaboration, and synergies* see Box 1)<sup>2</sup>. These discussions originate both from concern over the potential for fragmentation, conflict and the burden on state capacity to implement numerous environmental obligations simultaneously, and from recognition of the benefits that can be derived from enhancing collaboration and coordination. As a result, the issue is regularly addressed under the agenda items relating to cooperation at each meeting of the governing bodies of biodiversity-related conventions (for example at the most recent Conference of the Parties to The Convention on Migratory Species, resulting in decision 11.10). It has also been an issue regularly addressed in workshops organized by convention secretariats and others, including the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment).

In December 2016, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted decision XIII/24 on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and partnerships to enhance the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The decision includes a road map for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the international level and requested the establishment of an informal advisory group (IAG) on synergies consisting of Party representatives with balanced representation, including regionally, to provide advice on the further prioritization and implementation of the actions identified in annex II to the decision and their implementation.

This paper aims to inform any efforts by Parties to further enhance cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, including the current work of the informal advisory group on synergies, which has been established under the auspices of the CBD following the call for nominations by the Executive Secretary on 28 August 2017<sup>3</sup>. It will hopefully also have value for informing members of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions. The document constitutes an update of a background paper to the “second multi-stakeholder expert meeting on elaboration of options for synergies among Biodiversity-related MEAs”, hosted by UN Environment in Geneva, Switzerland, in May 2015. That meeting contributed to the preparation of a report, “*Elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity related conventions*”<sup>4</sup> which, among other things, served as an input to the inter-sessional work conducted under the CBD leading to the adoption of CBD COP decision XIII/24.

Rather than providing a comprehensive review, this paper aims to provide an overview of a range of different types of initiative for enhancing coordination and collaboration at various levels across the biodiversity-related conventions. This will inform implementation of CBD COP decision XIII/24 through the identification of key stakeholders and streamlining of activities. This also serves to demonstrate the many types of activities that are already under way, and which can be actively built on. In order to facilitate easy reference, the paper is structured around the thematic headings of annex I of CBD COP decision XIII/24 on “Options for action by Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to enhance synergies at the national level”. In turn, these thematic headings derive, or where adapted from, the options paper developed under the UN Environment process on synergies as outlined in the previous paragraph. The paper also includes a category on ongoing or recently completed processes with the main objective to

---

<sup>2</sup> For an overview of the “MEA synergies” debate, with a particular focus on the biodiversity-related conventions and the International Environmental Governance (IEG) reform process, see:

<https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/biodiv/brcws-2016-01/other/brcws-2016-01-unesp-01-en.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> Notification SCBD/MCO/AF/NP/CR/CE/86576 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2017/ntf-2017-081-cooperation-en.pdf>. The composition of the IAG was announced via Notification SCBD/MCO/AF/NP/CR/86576 available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2017/ntf-2017-114-iag-en.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> UNEP (2016) *Elaboration of options for enhancing synergies among biodiversity related conventions*. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya. Available at: <http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/9967>.

explore and enhance synergies and cooperation agreements amongst secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions.

**BOX 1 KEY TERMS RELATED TO COOPERATION**

- **Coordination:** the organization of the different elements of a complex body or activity so as to enable them to work together effectively and without duplication (within an organization or among organizations/ different actors)
- **Collaboration:** working with someone to produce a discrete output
- **Cooperation:** working together towards a common aim or objective
- **Synergies:** linking processes in a way that increases the effects of the sum of the joint activities beyond the sum of individual activities, and thus making efforts more effective and efficient

## On-going or recently completed processes with the main objective to explore and enhance synergies

### 1. Informal advisory groups established by the CBD COP

#### a. Mandated by CBD COP decision XIII/24

**From:** 2017-ongoing

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The informal advisory group on synergies, which was constituted pursuant to CBD COP decision XIII/24 in November 2017, consists of CBD Party representatives with balanced representation including regionally. Pursuant to the decision, it was established by the CBD Executive Secretary, in consultation with the CBD COP Bureau, to provide advice to the Executive Secretary, the bureau and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, as relevant. The mandate of the group is to (a) further prioritize the actions in the table contained in annex II to CBD COP decision XIII/24, and (b) provide advice on the implementation of the prioritized actions. With respect to the latter, the group should identify, involve and consult, as appropriate, relevant experts, including those from other biodiversity-related conventions and other organizations. Following an initial teleconference held on 7 December 2017, a first in-person meeting of the group was held on December 17 and 18 in Montreal, Canada. In addition to the members of the group and the CBD Secretariat, UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) participated in the meeting and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat participated remotely.

**Expected Outputs:** Report to SBI-2 and COP 14.

**More information:** <https://www.cbd.int/brc/IAG.shtml>

#### b. Mandated by CBD COP decision XII/6

**From:** 2015-2016

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** At its twelfth meeting the CBD COP decided to establish an IAG to prepare, in consultation with the Secretariat, prior to the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI), a workshop with the task to prepare options which could include elements for a possible road map for Parties of the various Biodiversity-related Conventions to enhance synergies and improve efficiency among them. Pursuant to the decision, the IAG was composed of two members per region, selected by the Bureau of the CBD COP on the basis of nominations by Parties to the CBD. The workshop participants comprised representatives of the Parties to the seven biodiversity-related conventions at that time represented in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, nominated through the bureau, standing committee or equivalent body of the convention concerned; the secretariats of the conventions, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. The process leading to the organization of the workshop was Party-driven and the outcomes of the workshop were produced by Party representatives.

**Outputs:** Workshop on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in February 2016 in Geneva<sup>5</sup>. The report of the workshop<sup>6</sup> was presented to SBI-1 for consideration and informed the content of the relevant working documents presented by the Secretariat to that meeting and to CBD COP 13. The work of this IAG directly led to CBD COP decision XIII/24.

---

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/BRCWS-2016-01>.

<sup>6</sup> UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/INF/21 and corresponding recommendations in UNEP/CBD/SBI/1/9/Add.1.

2. **UN Environment project on “Environmental Treaties Programme – realizing synergies for biodiversity”**

**Initiated by:** UN Environment (UN Environment Assembly resolution 2/17)

**From:** November 2017 – November 2020

**Objective and scope/ key tasks:** The project aims to contribute with concrete activities to enhanced synergies in the biodiversity cluster and to better environmental governance. The project is implemented by UN Environment and its partners (as of February 2018 IUCN and UNEP-WCMC), in close consultation with the secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions and, depending on the activity, with other organizations. The project is funded by the European Union and the Government of Switzerland.

**Outputs:** *Output 1* comprises UN Environment’s input and contribution to the global biodiversity agenda, in particular the process leading to a post 2020 global biodiversity framework. This includes technical work and cooperation with IUCN to prepare input to the long-term strategy for capacity building for biodiversity beyond 2020. Through *Output 2*, UN Environment is strengthening its cooperation with public information officers of biodiversity-related conventions and other organizations. Through *Output 3* materials related to synergies are made available and are disseminated. This Output is in particular implemented in cooperation with the CBD Secretariat in response to CBD COP decision XIII/24. *Output 4* aims to develop a data and reporting tool, in close cooperation with the InforMEA project, which should allow for more effective knowledge management at national level. Output 5 covers national-level work.

3. **UN Environment project on “Improving the effectiveness of and cooperation among Biodiversity-related Conventions and exploring opportunities for further synergies”**

**Initiated by:** UN Environment (Decision SS.XII/3 of the Governing Council of UNEP)

**From:** 2013-2015

**Objective and scope/ key tasks:** The project aimed to improve the efficiency and enhanced coordination, and cooperating, promote policy coherence and explore the opportunities for further synergies at all levels of six major biodiversity-related conventions. It was delivered through four interrelated work packages which focus on synergies at the global level of conventions (work package 1) and in their national and regional level implementation (work packages 2-4). The implementation of the project was guided by consultations with representatives of the secretariats of UN Environment, FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), IUCN and conventions represented in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, national governments, focal points of these conventions and the UN Environment Regional Biodiversity convention focal points. The project was jointly implemented by UN Environment, the CBD Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC and funded by the Governments of Finland and Switzerland and the European Union.

**Outputs:** With respect to the work at the global level of the conventions, the main output was the options document for enhancing synergies among biodiversity-related conventions (<http://wedocs.unep.org/handle/20.500.11822/9967>). The document served as an input to the inter-sessional work conducted under the CBD leading to the adoption of CBD COP decision XIII/24. Regarding the work at the national and regional level the main output was the *Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels* ([wcmc.io/sourcebook-web](http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web)). As mentioned in footnote 1 this “overview of initiatives on synergies”-document is also an update of the background information to one of the workshops organized as part of the project. UNEA Resolution 2/17 welcomed the results of the project and in particular the information document on elaboration of options.

**More information:** <https://nationalmeasynergies.wordpress.com/>.

4. **UN Environment MEA Task Team**<sup>7</sup> *[this is broader than biodiversity synergies and only the programmatic cooperation aspect seems relevant to this paper]*

**Initiated by:** The Executive Director of UN Environment (UNEA decision 1/12)

**From:** February 2014 – May 2016 (UNEA-2)

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** UN Environment initiated this process to look into opportunities for improving the effectiveness of arrangements with and among the conventions for which it has administrative responsibilities. Two working groups were established to facilitate the work of the task team. One working group examined the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UN Environment and the UNEP-administered Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA)s, and addressed how these could be improved, including on support to parties (i.e. technical assistance), tools for information sharing (i.e. Environment Live and InforMEA), awareness raising, etc. Relating to strengthened programmatic cooperation between UN Environment and the convention secretariats, the other working group of the task force identified priority areas for such programmatic cooperation based on directions from the relevant governing bodies and general and specific mandates including identifying thematic and functional areas for potentially greater synergies.

**Outputs:** The final report of the Executive Director of UN Environment on the work of the task team on the effectiveness of administrative arrangements and programmatic cooperation between UN Environment and UNEP-administered convention secretariats was submitted to the United Nations Environment Assembly at its second session (UNEA-2). The recommendations in that report formed the basis for Environment Assembly resolution 2/18, on the relationship between UN Environment and the MEAs for which it provides the secretariats. UN Environment responded to the requests included in resolution 2/18 during the 2016 -2017 period by initiating the development of a draft template of options for the provision of secretariat services.

---

<sup>7</sup> UNEA Resolution 1/12 - Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and MEAs.

## Existing initiatives

A wide range of bilateral and multilateral mechanisms for coordination and collaboration between the biodiversity-related conventions already exists, ranging from **thematic cooperation**, (e.g. the Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Management of Wildlife) to **Joint Memoranda of Understanding/Cooperation (MoU/Cs) and work plans/ programmes** between conventions to **generic mechanisms and bodies**, including the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB).

The activities and mechanisms presented in this section are listed according to their relevance to the 7 focal areas of the options for actions by Parties identified in Annex 1 to CBD decision XIII/24, namely

- Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs);
- Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms;
- Management of information and knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators;
- Communication and awareness-raising;
- Science-policy interface;
- Capacity-building; and
- Resource mobilization and utilization.

Due to the broad mandate of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, references are made to it under most of these focal areas, but details about the Group are elaborated under "Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms".

## Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and NBSAPs

### 5. Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

**Initiated by:** CBD (CBD COP decision X/2)

**From:** 2010 onwards, and in previous planning

**Objective and scope/ key tasks:** The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 provides an overarching framework on biodiversity, not only for the biodiversity-related conventions, but for the entire United Nations system and all other partners engaged in biodiversity management and policy development. Parties agreed to translate this overarching international framework into revised and updated NBSAPs by 2015. Subsequent to its adoption by the CBD COP, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2011–2020 the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity, with a view to contributing to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.<sup>8</sup> The decision stated that coordination of the activities of the Decade will include the support of the CBD secretariat as well as the secretariats of other biodiversity conventions and relevant UN funds, programmes and agencies.

The governing bodies of five biodiversity-related conventions, other than the CBD, have also recognized or supported the Plan, including by encouraging their national focal points or national authorities to engage in their country's NBSAP revision process. In addition, CMS, CITES and the Ramsar Convention have prepared or adjusted their strategic plans following a mapping of how the strategic plans contribute to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.<sup>9</sup>

**Output(s):** Since CBD COP 10, 151 Parties have submitted NBSAPs. These NBSAPs reflect varying degrees of compliance with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. According to a UN Environment 2014 survey, using the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and/or the NBSAP revision process as a reference has aided the coherent implementation of multiple biodiversity-related conventions. Specific fields, where integration has been beneficial according to survey respondents,

---

<sup>8</sup> United Nations General Assembly Resolution 65/161 of 11 March 2011. Available from: <https://www.cbd.int/undb/goals/undb-unresolution.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> ITPGRFA Resolution 8/2011; WHC Decision 37 COM 5A; CMS Resolution 10.5 and 10.18; CITES Resolution 16.3 and 16.4; Ramsar Convention Resolution XI.3 and XI.6.



include: protected areas management; setting national targets or indicators and engaging stakeholders.<sup>10</sup>

**Opportunities:** CBD COP 15 in 2020 is expected to adopt a framework in follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. This will be done in the context of the 2050 Vision of the current Strategic Plan as well the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant international processes. CBD COP 13 requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the Bureau and for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its second meeting, a proposal for a comprehensive and participatory preparatory process and timetable for the follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (decision XIII/1, para. 34). In response to this decision, a draft document on proposals for a comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 biodiversity framework has been made available for peer review. Consultations also seek input from other biodiversity-related conventions in order to enhance the relevance of the Plan to these convention, building on the experience with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

**More information:** <https://www.cbd.int/sp/>

## 6. Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force

**Initiated by:** CBD

**From:** 2011 onwards

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force was established as part of a MoC on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It involves cooperation between the CBD and 27 of the largest international agencies, organizations and environmental conventions, including the secretariats of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the International Treaty on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) and the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention). The Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force is comprised of the heads or deputy heads of the signatory organizations and its purpose is to promote information exchange and, where appropriate, to coordinate the activities of the respective institutions to achieve the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. By the agreed modalities of cooperation, the Task Force would build upon and complement the work being carried out by the EMG of the UN through its Issue Management Group (IMG) on biodiversity and by the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions on issues related to the implementation of the 2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets<sup>11</sup>.

**Output(s):** The most recent meeting of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force (ABTTF) was held on 8 December 2016 in the margins of CBD COP 13. The meeting discussed: 1. progress in the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the process for the development of the post-2020 framework, 2. Leadership and alliances around the Targets, in particular those related to the mainstreaming agenda, and 3. options for follow-up actions ways to use coordination mechanisms at the global level. At the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in September 2015, the group considered the possibility of outsourcing (from the CBD Secretariat) the management of an information system for mapping and tracking contributions by ABTTF members towards the Targets (for example to UN Environment in its capacity as the secretariat of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management (MEA-IKM) Initiative and/or UNEP-WCMC).

**More information:** <https://www.cbd.int/2011-2020/actors/abtff>

## 7. NBSAP Forum

**Initiated by:** CBD, UNEP and UNDP

**From:** 2012 onwards

---

<sup>10</sup> UNEP (2015). Sourcebook of opportunities for enhancing cooperation among biodiversity-related conventions at national and regional levels. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Nairobi, Kenya. Available at: [wcmc.io/sourcebook-web](http://wcmc.io/sourcebook-web).

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.cbd.int/doc/health/cop-11-17-en.pdf>.

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The NBSAP Forum is a global partnership and community aiming to support National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) revisions. The purpose of the NBSAP Forum web portal is to support countries in finding the information they need to develop and implement effective NBSAPs. The portal helps to develop a community of practice across a wide range of stakeholders, from national NBSAP practitioners who need access to timely information regarding best practices, guidance and resources, to individuals and organizations who wish to share their information, knowledge, support and resources.

**Output(s):** The NBSAP Forum portal provides a number of support functions, including an online forum where members can ask advice and share experiences with fellow practitioners and technical experts, organised by country, theme or region.

**Opportunities:** As NBSAPs have been recognised as a vehicle for articulating commitments under a number of the biodiversity-related conventions, the portal provides a place for all interested practitioners and experts to gather and share experiences and seek best practices on any number of topics, including how to achieve enhanced synergies among conventions.

**More information:** [nbsapforum.net/](http://nbsapforum.net/)

**8. Related activities of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions** *(for more detail on the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions see "Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms", see initiative #9 below)*

The idea that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 should serve as an overarching strategic plan for "Biodiversity" and not simply as a strategic plan for the CBD, was an idea and agreement of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions. At the first high level retreat of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in 2010, it was agreed by all of the convention secretariats to cooperate in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020. It was agreed that this would include the revision and updating of NBSAPs by Parties, which could cover the full range of activities needed to implement the biodiversity-related conventions. At the meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in 2013 it was further agreed to send out a notification emphasising the benefit of involving the biodiversity-related conventions in NBSAP revision and to prepare guidance for national authorities and focal points of all biodiversity-related conventions which shows countries how to integrate relevant issues from those conventions into the NBSAP revisions process. Subsequently, the CMS and the CITES Secretariats developed guidance material which support Parties to consider the inclusion of migratory species or their CITES national and regional actions in a revised and updated NBSAP.

## Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms

**9. Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions – a coordination mechanism among convention secretariats**<sup>12</sup>

**Initiated by:** CBD (CBD COP decision VII/26 (paragraphs 1 and 2))

**Members:** Secretariats of CBD, CMS, CITES, ITPGRFA, the Ramsar Convention, the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention, WHC), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the International Whaling Commission (IWC)<sup>13</sup>

**From:** 2004

---

<sup>12</sup> This document takes into account the meeting reports of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions until the eleventh meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions held in Bonn on 23 August 2016. Information on the twelfth meeting of 29 September 2017 will be included once the meeting report has been made available.

<sup>13</sup> The International Whaling Commission (IWC) is the global body charged with the conservation of whales and the management of whaling. It was established by the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling in 1946 and all members of the IWC are signatories to the Convention. The IWC became a member of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions following invitation by the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions at their 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in August 2016.

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** Established in order to enhance coherence and cooperation between biodiversity-related conventions, as a platform to exchange information and to enhance implementation at the national level of the objectives of each respective convention whilst also promoting synergies at the national level. The Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions aims at maximising ‘effectiveness and efficiency and avoiding duplication of effort in joint activities of members. The Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions consists of the heads of the secretariats of the conventions, and they meet at least annually to explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination, and to exchange information. The mandate for the liaison group came as a result CBD COP 7 in 2004, and is specified in decision VII/26 (paragraphs 1 and 2)<sup>14</sup>. The latest members to join the group were IPPC and IWC.

**Achievements:**

- **The Strategic Plan.** Conceptualization of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as an overarching framework for biodiversity (*see initiative #5 above*)
- **Access to Global Environment Facility (GEF) funding.** Promoting access to financial resources from GEF for actions that address priorities of conventions other than CBD that contribute to the GEF strategic objectives of GEF-6 and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and Aichi Biodiversity Targets through submission by the governing bodies of other biodiversity-related conventions for the CBD COP to take into account when developing and adopting its guidance to the financial mechanism (GEF) (*see initiative #31 and 32 below*)
- **Enhancing coordination, coherence and national-level synergies.** In 2014 the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions consulted on the CBD COP 11 requested to the CBD Executive Secretary to propose options for *the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national-level synergies*. The following areas of possible coordination were identified: legislative needs and rule of law, support for the legislative needs for implementation more broadly, including through developing additional guides or manuals on how to develop and implement biodiversity-related legislation; NBSAP revision, in which members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions are already collaborating; communication strategy related to the UN Decade on Biodiversity; UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) guidelines; Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) process; SDGs process; and cooperation on specific Aichi Targets. Following the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in September 2015, the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions prepared and provided a note to the First CBD informal advisory group on synergies which was held the next day.
- **Friends of Biodiversity Group.** Following discussion at the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, the CBD Secretariat is taking a lead in exploring and encouraging options for informal coordination mechanisms, for example among the permanent missions to the UN in New York. In this regard, a “Friends of Biodiversity” Group has been established by permanent missions to FAO in Rome.
- **Biodiversity and the SDGs.** Following the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in September 2015, a dedicated teleconference on SDGs was organized under the lead of the CBD Secretariat. The CBD Secretariat also published a report on biodiversity and the SDGs, to which the other members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions provided input.

**Opportunities:** CBD COP 13 calls on the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue its work to enhance coherence and strengthen cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, including in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and any follow-up to this plan.

**More information:** The modus operandi of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions is available at [cbd.int/cooperation/doc/blg-modus-operandi-en.pdf](http://cbd.int/cooperation/doc/blg-modus-operandi-en.pdf).

---

<sup>14</sup> All Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions reports can be accessed on the CBD website, Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, <http://www.cbd.int/blg/>.

## 10. Environment Management Group of the United Nations (EMG)

**Initiated by:** UN General Assembly (Resolution A/RES/53/242 of August 1999)

**From:** 2001

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** UN system-wide coordination body on environment and human settlements, with a secretariat provided by UN Environment. The EMG identifies issues on the international environmental agenda that warrant cooperation, and finds ways of engaging its collective capacity in coherent management responses to those issues. The EMG is led by a senior-level decision making body, entitled the Senior Officials of the EMG, chaired by the Executive Director of UN Environment and consisting of senior-level officials from members organisations of the group. In addition, the EMG operates through time-bound issue based work streams set up by the Group and the Nexus Dialogue Series as a new modality under the EMG for continued exchange of knowledge and information and for enhancing cooperation and partnerships between the UN system and other stakeholders on the implementation of the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda. After the IMG on biodiversity had completed its work in 2016, the Senior Officials in September 2017 decided to revitalise its work on biodiversity by organising an EMG Nexus Dialogue on biodiversity in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2018 to identify areas for an EMG contribution (tentatively July 2018). Based on the outcome of the dialogue, the EMG Secretariat is requested to prepare Terms of References for a possible UN system contribution to the post-2020 biodiversity Framework and implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

**Activities:** As a means to identify measures for effective and efficient implementation of the Strategic Plan across the UN System, by understanding how each agency can help to advance it, the EMG the led a mapping exercise on the contributions of the UN agencies and conventions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It has also issued a number of reports on options to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions. More recently, and in order to renew system-wide collaboration on biodiversity, the focus is on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the post-2020 Biodiversity Framework.

**More information:** [unemg.org/](http://unemg.org/) (Terms of References: [https://unemg.org/images/Final\\_EMG\\_ToR\\_updated.pdf](https://unemg.org/images/Final_EMG_ToR_updated.pdf))

## 11. Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (JLG) *(only of relevance for the Rio Conventions)*

**Initiated by:** The three Rio Conventions: CBD, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

**From:** 2001

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** Established between the secretariats of CBD, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa (UNCCD) and UNFCCC as an informal forum for exchanging information, exploring opportunities for synergistic activities and increasing coordination, including the possibility of a joint work plan. The JLG comprises the Executive Secretaries of the three conventions.

**More information:** [cbd.int/cooperation/liaison.shtml](http://cbd.int/cooperation/liaison.shtml)

## Management of information/knowledge, national reporting, monitoring and indicators

### 12. MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative (MEA IKM)

**Initiated by:** Conventions, facilitated by UN Environment's Law Division, co-chaired by the CITES Secretariat and UN Environment/ law division.

**From:** 2009

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The overall aim of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management (IKM) Initiative is to contribute to more effective convention implementation by improving coherence in the area of data and knowledge sharing within and across clusters of conventions and UN Organisations which host the conventions, including UN Environment, UNESCO and FAO. It aims to facilitate discussions amongst the conventions on issues related to

environmental governance by demonstrating the effectiveness of collaborative activities and harmonized approaches and processes in the field of information and knowledge management. To this end, the Steering Committee of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management initiative was established. It is co-chaired by the CITES Secretariat and UN Environment/ law division consisting of one representative from each participating convention. It is open to observers involved in information and knowledge management, such as UNEP-WCMC. The Steering Committee is tasked to examine issues of common interest in the area of data and information management and to provide recommendations on possible collaborative activities to the undersigned heads of conventions. The Steering Committee will designate working groups and task forces to implement agreed upon strategies and collaborative activities amongst several or all participating MEAs as required<sup>15</sup>.

**Output:**

- **InforMEA:** The InforMEA Portal – *The United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements* is the first project established by the MEA IKM Initiative and remains its key project to date. InforMEA harvests COP decisions and resolutions, news, events, MEA membership, national focal points, national reports and implementation plans and other information under the custodianship of MEA secretariats and organizes this information around a set of agreed terms. During the new phase II of the InforMEA Project, developments will include the establishment of a library of publications by MEAs and Partners (by topics and about negotiations), enhancements to the e-learning tool, regional sections on the InforMEA Portal as well as sections on internationally-agreed Goals (SDGs, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, UN Environment Global Environmental Goals) and how they relate to provisions of the conventions. In addition, a “Data Reporting Tool for MEAs – **DART**” will be developed. The tool enables cross-linkages between biodiversity-related targets from the national to the regional and global levels, to support national and regional assessment of progress and facilitate related reporting obligations. For more information visit: [informea.org/](http://informea.org/)

**Opportunities:** MEA IKM plays a key role in supporting and establishing initiatives on harmonised and interoperable information systems. Most recently, the development of the DART as a self-standing working tool provides accessible to all Parties, provides an opportunity to further streamline reporting and information management at the national level.

**More information:** [cbd.int/mea/ikm/default.shtml](http://cbd.int/mea/ikm/default.shtml)

**13. Activities and discussions of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions** (*for more detail on the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions see "Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms", see initiative #9 above*)

These include:

- **Post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs.** The CBD Secretariat represented the views of members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in its contribution to the development of the post-2015 development agenda (i.e. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs). At the meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in August 2014, members agreed to continue to coordinate and share information both during and after the adoption of the SDGs, and that the CBD Secretariat would solicit inputs from members for the development of indicators to monitor the progress against the agreed SDGs and associated targets.
- **Harmonization of reporting/ joint reporting initiative.** In 2009 the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions oversaw the production of a paper on pre-conditions for harmonization of national reporting, prepared by UNEP-WCMC for distribution by the convention secretariats<sup>16</sup>. At the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting in August 2014, participants agreed to explore opportunities for interoperability and interconnection based on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. At the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in September 2015, the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related

<sup>15</sup> MEA IKM ToR, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/external/mea/meaikm-sc-01/meaikm-sc-01-a3-tor-en.pdf>.

<sup>16</sup> Available from <http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/preconditions-harmonization-unesp-wcmc-en.pdf>. [Accessed: 26 February 2015]



Conventions agreed to set up a working group to determine the scope for having some common elements for reporting on the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. At the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in 2016, members discussed the issue of harmonizing or alignment of reporting under the general agenda item on synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, without agreeing on concrete action points.

#### 14. **On-line Reporting System (ORS)**

**Initiated by:** CMS and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA)

**From:** 2011

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The ORS was developed by UNEP-WCMC in partnership with the secretariats of CMS and AEWA, and was first used for the submission of AEWA national reports to the fifth Meeting of the Parties (MOP5) in 2012. It was designed as a first step towards improving the reporting process for convention secretariats and reporting Parties by streamlining the reporting process, creating efficiencies, improving reporting rates and ultimately leading to better assessment and management of natural capital. It is a sophisticated, web-based tool for questionnaire creation and management that aims to streamline the process of reporting to the conventions by Parties.

**Uptake:** Using the ORS, AEWA achieved the highest national report response rate in the Agreement's history. The ORS has subsequently been used by other Agreements in the CMS Family, such as the Agreement on the Conservation of Small Cetaceans of the Baltic, North East Atlantic, Irish and North Seas (ASCOBANS), and for the 2014 CMS national reports to COP11. The Ramsar Convention and the ITPGRFA<sup>17</sup> have also recently begun using the ORS for their reporting process. The reports received by the ITPGRFA are used by FAO to contribute to the reporting on SDG 15.6.1.<sup>18</sup> The ORS has also been customized for use by CITES and the Bern Convention and application of the system for future reporting cycles is in preparation.

Projects related to the ORS are currently being discussed by the IKM Initiative and CITES and CMS/AEWA are collaborating on further development of the ORS through the Initiative.

Positive feedback on the ORS, and on online reporting in general, has been received from several countries, for example within the 2014 national reports to CMS.

**Opportunities:** The uptake of the ORS across the biodiversity-related conventions also has the potential to bring opportunities for increased harmonisation of national reporting templates and information-sharing, which would help to reduce the reporting burden on Parties needing to submit reports to multiple conventions. Relating to this, one of the key actions highlighted by experts on national reporting and the development of national reporting systems<sup>19</sup>, was the importance of increasing both the efficiency and effectiveness of reporting processes, including recognition of the importance of increasing access to reported data and information was also highlighted at the meeting.

**Next Steps:** As the ORS product matures the aim is to create a single platform for Parties to use for all their various reporting in order to provide a standardised reporting experience and leverage efficiencies. This will make it possible to generate more aggregated data products from the information provided by Parties. Challenges and areas for further improvement have been identified by users, such as the dependency on internet connectivity and addition of an integrated analytical component to automate analysis of responses.

---

<sup>17</sup> The customization of the ORS for the ITPGRFA is available from: <http://faoitpgrfa.ort-production.linode.unep-wcmc.org/> while the output is available from <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/areas-of-work/compliance/compliance-reports/en/>.

<sup>18</sup> DG Indicator 15.6.1 - Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits – Custodian Agency: UN Environment for the CBD. Contributing agency: FAO, for the ITPGRFA.

<sup>19</sup> (December 15-16 2014) Expert Meeting on Enhancing the Efficiency and Effectiveness of MEA Implementation: Interoperability between Reporting Systems for Biodiversity Data, Co-hosted by the CITES Secretariat and UNEP-WCMC under the auspices of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management Initiative.

## 15. Biodiversity Indicator Partnership (BIP)

**Initiated by:** CBD (CBD Decision VII/30)

**From:** 2006

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The BIP is a global initiative to promote and coordinate the development and delivery of biodiversity indicators for use by the CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions, IPBES, the SDGs and national and regional agencies. The BIP aims to:

1. Support the development and use of indicators to measure progress in achieving all the Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.
2. Support the development and use of biodiversity-related indicators in progress reporting of other conventions, as well as to support statistical requirements, intergovernmental processes and development processes, including the IPBES and the SDGs.
3. Strengthen capacity at the national level for indicator development and use in implementation and reporting of NBSAPs and the SDGs.

The adoption of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in 2010 heralded a new phase of work for the Partnership: the BIP saw a phase of enlargement and expansion, with Partners working all the while to maintain the indicators for which they are responsible, so that a comprehensive suite of indicators is available to confidently measure progress towards all 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets by 2020.

Today, the Partnership brings together over fifty organizations working internationally on indicator development to provide the most comprehensive information on biodiversity trends. The secretariat is provided by UNEP-WCMC.

**Opportunities:** Indicators have become an important tool for providing a scientific basis to measure progress in convention implementation and joint indicator processes can help ensure consistent messaging, and at the same time foster streamlining and/or harmonisation of national reporting.

**More information:** [bipnational.net/](http://bipnational.net/)

## 16. European Environment Agency (EEA) – Clearing House Mechanism (CHM) Working group on “Sharing information on implementation and reporting on progress between global, regional and national levels”

**Initiated by:** The European Environment Agency (EEA)

**From:** 2013

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The working group was set up to explore options for “Sharing information on implementation of national strategies and reporting on progress towards biodiversity targets between global, regional and national levels”. The working group particularly aims to avoid duplicate reporting at the global and EU levels, by encouraging the re-use of country information for assessing progress towards the EU Biodiversity Strategy, the CBD and the Aichi Targets. National biodiversity policies may also set out national requirements for monitoring and internal reporting on progress. The working group decided that the most appropriate way to harmonize these three layers of reporting would be to look at targets.

**Outputs and next steps:** As a response to the recommendation to look at targets, the biodiversity Target Cross-Linking Tool, in short TCT, was developed. The biodiversity target cross-linking tool is a stand-alone web-based tool developed by the European Environment Agency (EEA) for facilitating the assessment by countries of national contribution to the achievement of biodiversity targets through the CHM (<http://biodiversity.europa.eu/chm-network>) that can be used by any Party. The tool facilitates reporting and enables in particular synergies with the CBD and other conventions. The tool supports national reporters in the preparation of reports to CBD and other biodiversity-related conventions such as AEWA, CMS, and the Ramsar Convention. The EEA tool so far was developed to meet European needs with regards to reporting on biodiversity strategies and targets. The next step is to allow for cross-linking with other MEAs and processes as exemplified in a demo version<sup>20</sup>. The new Data and Reporting Tool DART to be made available to all at global level will be integrated into the InforMEA platform.

**More information:** <http://demo.tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/>

---

<sup>20</sup> <http://demo.tct.biodiversity.europa.eu/>.

## **17. Pilot projects to develop harmonised reporting approaches and templates**

### **a. Facilitate National Reporting to Rio Conventions - FNR RIO project**

**Initiated by:** UNEP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

**From:** 2010-2012

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** *"Piloting Integrated Processes and Approaches to Facilitate National Reporting to the Rio Conventions"* (The FNR Rio project) was established to explore options for increasing integration at the national level in reporting to the Rio Conventions, focussed on supporting the needs of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The project was initiated with the overall aim of piloting nationally-driven integrated processes and approaches to reporting to the three Rio Conventions. More specifically, the objectives of the project were: to develop integrated approaches to data collection/analysis and information management of relevance to the three Rio Conventions; to increase synergies in the process of reporting to the three conventions without compromising COP decisions in this regard; and to contribute to improved overall planning and decision-making processes at the country level related to the implementation of these conventions.

**Outputs, challenges and lessons learnt:** Key options for improving alignment of reporting formats and processes based on the lessons learnt from the pilot projects included: Ensuring that common elements in reports are addressed in the same way; Agreeing on which convention requests reports on which issues; Moving towards joint thematic reporting; Developing a shared glossary and use of common definitions and; Alignment of indicator-based reporting. At the request of the GEF CEO, a joint reporting format was developed and tested built on existing reporting requirements, and a Joint section on sustainable land management was trialled in four pilot countries, noting: benefits including the possibility of centralising coordination; enhancing cooperation between focal points; and reducing duplication. Challenges include coordination difficulties, repetitiveness of some of the questions, lack of guidance to the responses required in the reporting format and insufficient time to complete the report. The project identified further options for streamlining, either by arranging questions by key subject areas or in relation to strategic planning and development.

### **b. Consolidated reporting template for Pacific Island countries to the biodiversity-related conventions**

**Developed by:** The Australian Government's Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA), in consultation with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Pacific Island countries

**From:** 2008

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Australian Government, in collaboration with SPREP, initiated a project to develop a comprehensive reporting format for five of the six biodiversity-related conventions: CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar Convention and the WHC. The consolidated reporting template is designed to facilitate reporting by reducing duplication and by making the process simpler and less resource-intensive. This will decrease the amount of time Pacific Island countries spend on national reporting yet still enable them to communicate their progress and achievements in implementing the conventions. Instead of preparing multiple reports, countries would develop only one national report per reporting period. The template consists of a core report of information needed for all five conventions, and supplementary annexes for specific information necessary for each convention.

**Uptake:** The template was trialled in 2008-2009 by the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, and received positive responses from country Parties and convention secretariats. It helped to demonstrate that streamlining the reporting process can eliminate duplication of effort and provide countries with useful information with which to track progress towards the implementation of national, regional and global action plans.

However it has not been approved for use, so remains an example to use in discussions

**More information:** [environment.gov.au/node/13062](http://environment.gov.au/node/13062)



### c. Harmonized reporting template for Caribbean countries

**Developed by:** The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

**From:** 2013

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** This Caribbean harmonised reporting template (CHART) was prepared by the CARICOMs Secretariat through a consultancy as part of the project for Capacity Building related to MEAs in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (known as the ACP-MEAs project). The CARICOM Secretariat has used the Australian Government/SPREP template (*as described above*), as the basis for their harmonised reporting template for Caribbean countries. The CHART was designed to be used as a tool for Caribbean countries to report to CBD, CITES, Ramsar Convention and the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol).

**Uptake:** Thus far, the CHART is a working draft that has not been endorsed by the convention secretariats, and thus remains as an example used in discussions.

**For more information, see the draft template:**

[http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community\\_organs/sustainable\\_development/mea\\_documents/meas\\_docs\\_feb\\_13/Harmonised%20Reporting/Proposed\\_Caribbean\\_Template\\_Final.doc](http://www.caricom.org/jsp/community_organs/sustainable_development/mea_documents/meas_docs_feb_13/Harmonised%20Reporting/Proposed_Caribbean_Template_Final.doc)

## Communication and awareness raising

### 18. Environment Live

**Initiated by:** UN Environment

**From:** 2014

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** Environment Live is an online knowledge management platform that provides a user-friendly capability to search for national regional and global data and knowledge to support assessments of the state and trends of the environment. It also facilitates access to SDG data and information for follow-up and review of the environmental dimension for sustainable developments and the SDGs. Environment Live provides access to reports, data, maps (including near real-time data), and links to UN Environment knowledge assets such as the Programme Information and Management System (PIMS) database, InforMEA etc. Environment Live has a Community of Practice portal that enables experts to share ideas, data and knowledge. Environment Live also enables users to create maps by dragging and dropping geo-referenced data onto base maps.

A previous functionality of Environment Live included a Reporting Obligations Database (ROD) that listed global (MEA) reporting obligations for countries. The original Reporting Database used for this purpose, covering EEA countries, is available under the following link:

<http://rod.eionet.europa.eu/>.

- **More information:** <https://environmentlive.unep.org/>.

### 19. Rio Conventions Pavilion (*Only of relevance for the Rio Conventions*)

**Initiated by:** The three Rio Conventions (CBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC) and GEF

**From:** 2010

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Rio Conventions Pavilion is a collaborative outreach activity of the Secretariats of the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD), the GEF, and 25 other international, national and local partners. It aims to promote and strengthen synergies between the Rio Conventions at implementation levels by providing a coordinated platform for awareness-raising and information-sharing about the linkages in science, policy and practice between biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification/land degradation. It is designed to promote and build synergy in implementation by providing a forum for dialogue, awareness-raising, information-sharing and capacity-building on policy and practices in the framework of the Rio conventions.

**More information:** [riopavilion.org/](http://riopavilion.org/)

**20. Related activities of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions** *(for more detail on the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions see "Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms", see initiative #9 above)*

- **Common messages in advance of international days.** Following an agreement at the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in September 2015, a joint statement was issued by the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the occasion of the UN Sustainable Development summit 25-27 September 2015. At the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions it was decided to liaise over common approaches to themed days.

## The Science-Policy Interface

**21. Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB)**

**Initiated by:** CBD, as response to decision VIII/16, calling for enhanced cooperation between scientific and technical bodies in addition to secretariats

**From:** 2007

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** At the global level, CSAB fosters collaboration by meeting to discuss cooperation regarding shared scientific issues and their translation into policy. Its core membership is composed of the chairs of the scientific advisory bodies to the CBD, CITES, CMS, the Ramsar Convention, the WHC and the ITPGRFA. Areas of collaboration have included exploring opportunities related to IPBES, collaborative (thematic) activities related to ecosystem restoration and to sustainable use, and work to harmonize nomenclature (CITES/CMS). The group also aims to carry out some horizon scanning and the joint identification of emerging issues of concern. Strategic priorities have mainly constituted examining areas of cooperation and translating scientific considerations into clear policies, alongside identifying emerging issues with reference to problems and priorities within the individual scientific for a of the participating regimes<sup>21</sup>. The last meeting of CSAB was held in October 2013 and no further activities took place after this date. However, at the 11th meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in June 2016 in Bonn, members agreed to convene a meeting of CSAB, organized by the Secretariats. It was agreed to continue with the arrangement that members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions should take responsibility for organizing the CSAB meetings in turn, and CITES agreed to convene the next meeting after the CITES COP 17 in October 2016.

**22. Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)**

**Initiated by:** IPBES was established by Governments as an independent intergovernmental body, following a governmental and multi-stakeholder review process to assess needs and opportunities.

**From:** Established 2012, with the first meeting of the Plenary (governing body) in 2013

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The objective of IPBES is to strengthen the science-policy interface for biodiversity and ecosystem services for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. This is addressed through four functions relating to assessment of knowledge, support for policy formulation, promotion of knowledge generation, and related capacity-building. The agreed functions of IPBES make explicit mention of addressing the needs and priorities conveyed through MEAs related to biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the chairs of the scientific advisory bodies or relevant conventions are observers on the IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel. Efforts have therefore been made to ensure that IPBES responds to the needs and priorities of the conventions, and its operating principles state that IPBES should collaborate with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including MEAs, to fill gaps and build upon their work while avoiding duplication. IPBES is well placed to support multiple conventions.

**More information:** [www.ipbes.org](http://www.ipbes.org).

---

<sup>21</sup> Information from: International Environmental Law: Contemporary Concerns and Challenges: Papers Presented at the First Contemporary Challenges of International Environmental Law Conference, Ljubljana, June 28-29, 2012.

**23. Related activities of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions** (for more detail on the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions see "Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms", see initiative #9 above)

- The CBD Secretariat coordinated a joint submission to the second and third session of IPBES Plenary. At the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in 2015 and 2016, the Secretary of the IPBES participated as an observer to the meeting. Regarding the options for collaboration between IPBES and the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, the IPBES Plenary invited the secretariats of the MEAs related to biodiversity and ecosystem services in decision IPBES-3/4 to work with the Bureau to develop strategic partnerships, and in annex I to document IPBES/4/18 a draft agreement was presented to the Plenary on an MoU with the Members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions.<sup>22</sup>
- However, after considerations, the Plenary requested the IPBES Executive Secretary (decision IPBES 4-4, paragraph 1) to finalize memoranda of cooperation with each the secretariats of the individual biodiversity-related conventions.

## Capacity building

**24. The development of a longer-term strategic framework on capacity building beyond 2020**

**Initiated by:** CBD COP XIII/23

**Objective and Scope:** A process towards a post-2020 strategic framework for capacity building is being led by the Secretariat of the CBD in line with CBD COP decision XIII/23, notably paragraphs 15(b) and (m) and 16 relating to the strengthening of coherent action on capacity-building across organizations, the development of a longer-term strategic framework, and the opportunities and potential synergies to be gained from cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions. Paragraph 16 makes the link to decision XIII/24 on cooperation with other conventions and international organizations, which contains two Annexes with options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the national level and a road map 2017-2020 for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the international level.

**More information:** <https://www.cbd.int/decisions/cop/?m=cop-13>.

**25. Bali Strategic Plan for the provision of technology support and capacity-building to developing countries as well as to countries with economies in transition**

**Initiated by:** UN Environment (in response to requests from governments and to Decision SS.VII/1 of 15 February 2002 of the Governing Council of UNEP)

**From:** 2004

**Objective and scope:** The Bali Strategic Plan builds upon UN Environment's earlier efforts in these areas, and establishes a framework for assisting States in realizing, based on their priority needs, the practical measures necessary for effective implementation, compliance, and enforcement of conventions.

Since the adoption of the plan, several COP decisions of biodiversity-related conventions have supported studies and initiatives, aimed at capacity development to support cooperation with other conventions at national level, to ensure efficient and effective implementation.

**More information:** <http://staging.unep.org/south-south-cooperation/pdfs/Bali-Strategic-Plan-GC23-6-add-1.pdf>

**26. TEMATEA**

**Initiated by:** UN Environment, although subsequently run independently and not currently active

**From:** 2005

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** TEMATEA structured the multitude of commitments and obligations from regional and global biodiversity-related agreements in a logical, issue-based framework. The framework was built around issue-based modules which provided activity-oriented

---

<sup>22</sup> [https://www.ipbes.net/system/tdf/downloads/IPBES-4-18\\_EN.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=13294](https://www.ipbes.net/system/tdf/downloads/IPBES-4-18_EN.pdf?file=1&type=node&id=13294)

information on national commitments by identifying and grouping implementation requirements from different agreements on a selected issue. This aimed to facilitate understanding by national experts of their national obligations and commitments in relation to a specific issue and lowered the threshold for experts to understand how commitments from other conventions and across sectors related to their own. TEMATEA is not currently active, and the website has a number of broken links.

**More information:** [tematea.org/](http://tematea.org/)

The following initiatives provide **examples on how convention secretariats have collaborated on the preparation of global and regional workshops** as a means to develop capacity at national level to increase cooperation and collaboration between conventions National Focal Points (NFPs), as well as expert workshops as a means to identify opportunities for synergies at the interface between conventions. The list is not exhaustive, and provides a snapshot of the initiatives undertaken.

## **27. Regional joint preparatory meetings for CITES and CBD meetings of COP and COP/MOP in 2016**

**Initiated by:** CITES and CBD

**From:** 2016

**Objective and scope:** The purpose of these joint preparatory meetings was to convene a forum in which the agenda items of each meeting can be discussed and delegates can prepare for the meetings to take place later in the year. The meetings also included some joint sessions on issues of joint interest such as capacity-building and resource mobilization, where there were overlaps in responsibility at national levels.

**Opportunities:** Consideration should be given to how to build on this model in the run-up to future COPs.

**More information:** [https://www.cites.org/eng/pre-cop17\\_regional\\_meetings](https://www.cites.org/eng/pre-cop17_regional_meetings).

## **28. Tandem workshops for NFPs of the ITPGRFA and the Nagoya Protocol (NP)**

**Initiated by:** Access and Benefit sharing (ABS) Capacity Development Initiative in collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD and the Secretariat of the ITPGRFA.

**From:** 2013-2016 (*regional and national workshops*)

**Objective and scope:** The expert workshops explored the interfaces between the ITPGRFA and the NP and aimed to shed light on the potential issues for consideration with a view to promoting the harmonious implementation of the ITPGRFA and the NP. In addition to that, the workshops endeavoured to identify basic parameters for national measures to achieve mutual supportiveness in the implementation of the two instruments.

**Uptake:** The workshops stimulated fruitful discussions between different actors involved in the implementation of the ITPGRFA and the NP and succeeded in gaining commitments to future collaboration.

**More information:** For national workshops:

[https://www.bioversityinternational.org/darwin\\_benin\\_madagascar/](https://www.bioversityinternational.org/darwin_benin_madagascar/)

## **29. Workshop on “indicators and integration of CITES and CMS objectives as part of NBSAP updating” for Francophone Africa**

**Initiated by:** UN Environment and the BIP

**From:** 2013

**Objective and scope:** This capacity building workshop for eight countries of francophone Africa was held from the 25th to the 28th June 2013 in Douala, Cameroon. Its overall objective was to strengthen capacity for the development of indicators and for the identification of synergies between the three different conventions, as part of the NBSAP updating process. The workshop brought together a total of 36 delegates from Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Niger, Senegal and Togo. Four participants were invited from each country, including one participant involved with CMS, one involved with CITES and two who work directly on their country’s NBSAP. Participants included representatives from government ministries, national environmental agencies, NGOs and research centres. Representatives from international bodies

also participated to contribute their expertise in information sources, monitoring systems, synergies and NBSAPs.

**Outcome:** The workshop conclusions included the importance for information exchange mechanisms between NFPs as well as the necessity of high level political support. Also, even though dialogue between NFPs takes place in most countries, this informal exchange has been insufficient to ensure coordinated action and enhanced implementation of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

### **30. Regional capacity-building workshop on integration of CMS and CITES objectives into NBSAPs**

**Initiated by:** UN Environment, in collaboration with the CBD and CMS Secretariats

**From:** 2012

**Objective and scope:** This workshop brought together 46 national focal points of CBD, CMS and CITES to discuss how to integrate the objectives of biodiversity related conventions into the updating of the NBSAPs. Through a series of panel discussions, group exercises and case studies to encourage information and experience sharing, the representatives, gained insight into the issues of integration of other biodiversity MEAs objectives into NBSAPs

**Outcome:** The workshop helped participants understand the issues of integrating other Biodiversity-related Conventions objectives into NBSAPs, and participants expressed their interest in replicating this workshop in their respective countries. Participants also planned to develop common best practice guidelines with tangible targets to improve policy, legal and administrative coordination of biodiversity-related conventions in the NBSAP process. The important role of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) in supporting the biodiversity agenda was also repeatedly stressed as a factor that raises the issue of synergies among biodiversity related conventions to a higher political level

## **Resource mobilization and utilization**

### **31. Opportunities under GEF-7**

**Initiated by:** The GEF and CBD, together with other biodiversity-related conventions

**From:** GEF-7 will begin on July 1, 2018

**Objective and scope:** The GEF Trust Fund is replenished every four years based on donor pledges for that four-year period. Among the biodiversity-related conventions, the GEF serves as financial mechanisms only for the CBD.

At the CBD/COP 13, Parties agreed a Four-year Framework of Program Priorities for the Seventh Replenishment Period (2018-2022) of the GEF Trust Fund (Decision CBD/COP/DEC/XIII/21). The Framework includes specific program priorities to be addressed by the GEF-7 biodiversity focal area investments and other associated GEF programming. The decision also *“Encourages the [GEF] to continue and further strengthen integrated programming as a means to harness opportunities for synergy in implementing related [MEAs] as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 15.”* The Four-year Framework thus points directly to the opportunities for synergy, inherent in the unique institutional design of the GEF, which serves as a financial mechanism for multiple conventions. In response to CBD COP decision XII/30 (Financial mechanism), input for consideration by CBD in the development of the framework programme had been received from CMS, ITPGFRA and CITES for the seventh replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (see item #33 below). The CBD Framework of Program Priorities is an important input to shaping the GEF strategy and replenishment whose final form is the prerogative of the GEF.

**Opportunities:** Although the GEF is the financial mechanism for the CBD only (among the biodiversity-related conventions), the GEF can support projects that provide benefits under multiple conventions.

**More information:** <https://www.thegef.org/events/gef-7-replenishment>

### **32. Opportunities under GEF-6**

**Initiated by:** The GEF and CBD, together with other biodiversity-related conventions



**From:** 2014 to 2018

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The GEF-6 Biodiversity Strategy encompasses *four Biodiversity Objectives and ten programmes*. NFPs of the other biodiversity-related conventions can find opportunities within the Biodiversity Strategy. For example, programme 3 under the second objective aims to prevent the extinction of known threatened species. This reflects Aichi Biodiversity Target 12 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, as well as CITES objectives and activities. Parties that are eligible to seek GEF finance could use this to finance their efforts to tackle wildlife crime and protect threatened species.

**Opportunities:** The Biodiversity Strategy under GEF-6 includes a specific paragraph on synergies, which can provide a basis for collaboration with other biodiversity-related conventions, especially in NBSAP revision and implementation processes. This emphasises that there is ample opportunity for proposals to include a range of eligible activities, identified in NBSAPs, which advance the shared objectives of the conventions. This potential is strengthened by supportive decisions by CBD, CMS and CITES COPs as well as the ITPGRFA.

**More information:** [thegef.org/gef/GEF6-Programming-Directions](http://thegef.org/gef/GEF6-Programming-Directions)

**33. Related activities of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions** (*for more detail on the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions see "Institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms", see initiative #9 above*)

**Facilitation of access to financial resources from GEF for conventions other than CBD.** Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions members agreed that a joint approach by the Conventions could facilitate access to the GEF resources. In 2013 the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions therefore met with GEF officers to address the relationship between the Conventions represented in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the GEF. In a subsequent letter to the Chief Executive Officer of the GEF, members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions welcomed the direction of the GEF-6 programme as a means to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. They agreed that GEF-6 presents opportunities for programmatic synergies, especially at the national level. At the meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions in August 2014, the Liaison Group considered the relationship between its members and GEF, under the auspices of GEF's Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy. The Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions emphasised synergies in the implementation of Biodiversity-related Conventions under the direction of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and agreed to identify common issues/countries/regions where joint activities/projects could be undertaken. More recently, at its 11<sup>th</sup> meeting in September 2016, the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions discussed the opportunity provided by CBD COP 12 which invited the conventions represented in the Liaison Group to provide advice to CBD COP 13 on priority areas that contribute to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and that it could consider incorporating in its guidance to the GEF.

**34. Biodiversity Finance Initiative - BIOFIN**

**Initiated by:** UNDP

**From:** 2012

**Objective and scope/ key tasks:** The overarching objective of BIOFIN is to deliver a new methodological framework, facilitating the identification, development and implementation of optimal and evidence-based finance plans and solutions. BIOFIN is coordinated by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) through a global team developing and updating the BIOFIN methodology, supporting its implementation in the countries, and developing capacities at national and global level on biodiversity finance. In addition, to enable all the CBD Parties to access BIOFIN lessons learnt and biodiversity finance knowledge, BIOFIN together with the CBD launched the Regional Nodes during the CBD COP 13 on December 2016. The CBD-BIOFIN Regional Nodes aim at supporting countries not participating in the BIOFIN's programme with targeted technical support and knowledge sharing. The first phase of the initiative will continue until December 2018.

**More information:** <http://www.biodiversityfinance.net/>

## Other programmatic collaborations

The following list provides a non-comprehensive overview of other programmatic collaboration initiatives of relevance to the biodiversity-related conventions. It should be noted, however, that a wide range of initiatives, not included in this list exists, and thus the following provides a mere snapshot of activities.

### **35. UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030**

**Initiated by:** UN Forum on Forests

**From:** 2017

**Objective and scope/ key tasks:** The first-ever UN Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030 (UNSPF) provides a global framework for actions at all levels to sustainably manage all types of forests and trees outside forests and halt deforestation and forest degradation. The UNSPF also provides a framework for forest-related contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement adopted under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the CBD, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the United Nations Forest Instrument (UNFI), and other international forest-related instruments, processes, commitments and goals. It thus serves as a reference for the forest-related work of the UN system and for fostering enhanced coherence, collaboration and synergies among UN bodies and partners. The targets of the UNSPF have been cross-linked against the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the Sustainable Development Goals.

**More information:** <http://www.un.org/esa/forests/documents/un-strategic-plan-for-forests-2030/index.html>.

### **36. Energy task force**

**Initiated by:** CMS (*Resolution 11.27: Renewable Energy and Migratory Species*)

**From:** 2015

**Objective and scope/ key tasks:** The Energy Task Force is a multi-stakeholder platform that works towards reconciling renewable energy developments with conservation of migratory species. Working collaboratively with governments, conventions, investors, academics and NGOs, the aim is to foster the application of existing guidance and tools through international and national level partnerships, provide recommendations and address knowledge gaps. For 2018 the work plan includes activities aimed at stimulating communication and information exchange; strengthening regional and international networks; and stimulating research.

**More information:** <http://www.cms.int/en/taskforce/energy-task-force>

### **37. Improving the integrated management system of protected areas with overlapping multiple international designations**

**Initiated by:** IUCN (Resolution WCC-2012-Res-052)

**From:** 2012-2016

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** This project was a partnership between IUCN and the Jeju Self-Governing Province of South Korea, implemented together with UNESCO and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat. The project aimed at realising opportunities for synergies, at identifying solutions for management problems that can occur at sites with multiple designations, and to prepare a best practice guidance document. Jeju Province was one of the project pilot areas as it includes overlapping international protected areas related to UNESCO (World Heritage, Global Geopark and Biosphere Reserve) and wetlands designated under the Ramsar Convention, as well as various protections under domestic law.

The best practice guidance on integrated management of protected areas with overlapping international designations was developed through three project stages running from 2013-2016.

**Outputs:** Guidance document “Managing MIDAs - Harmonising the management of Multi-Internationally Designated Areas: Ramsar Sites, World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and UNESCO Global Geoparks” (2016):

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2016-033.pdf>

### 38. Ramsar Culture Network (RCN)

**Initiated by:** The Ramsar Convention

**From:** 2014

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** Bring together and create synergy among organisations and individuals that can contribute to an approach for the conservation and wise use of wetlands which integrates cultural and natural aspects and thereby achieves greater effectiveness in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention.

The expected results of the RCN include;

- a) Strengthened international policy  
*Global and regional policymaking reflects where necessary the best current knowledge and thinking on culture and wetlands, including ways of taking account of cultural values in decision-making, and ways of increasing understanding of the cultural ecosystem services of wetlands;*
- b) Better documented values  
*Cultural values associated with wetlands are more completely identified, understood and documented at national and site level;*
- c) More widely shared and applied good practices  
*Good practices, experiences and lessons learned in wetland planning and management that integrates cultural aspects are investigated, shared, promoted and applied more widely and successfully, resulting in better outcomes for wetlands and for people;*
- d) Enhanced partnerships  
*Strategic collaborations and partnerships are enhanced, broadening stakeholder engagement and producing efficient synergies of action; and*
- e) Effective coordination  
*The programme and relevant associated activities are efficiently coordinated, resourced in ways which do not dilute any other Ramsar programmes, and the results are promoted to wide audiences, building further support for the long term*

**Opportunities:** The initiative opens opportunities for further collaboration with the World Heritage Convention.

**More information:** <http://www.ramsar.org/activity/ramsar-culture-network>

### 39. Inter-Agency Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species (LG IAG)

**Initiated by:** CBD

**From:** 2010

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The general purpose of the Liaison Group is to facilitate cooperation among relevant organizations to support measures to prevent the introduction and mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species. Members include the Secretariats of CBD, CITES and IPPC (each of them also members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions), FAO, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and IUCN. In the period up to 2020 the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, and in particular Aichi Target 9, will provide the main focus of the work of this group. Specifically, the Liaison Group on Invasive Alien Species will aim:

- a) To address the gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory frameworks for the prevention, control and eradication of invasive alien species;
- b) To promote inter-sectoral cooperation and capacity development activities for the prevention, control and mitigation of invasive alien species;
- c) To raise awareness across the multiple sectors on the impacts of invasive alien species and on the best practices for addressing the issue;
- d) To promote cooperation at all levels, and specifically at the national level, through each organization's national and regional focal points or the equivalents;
- e) To promote cooperation in the gathering, access and use of relevant and reliable information.

**More information:** [cbd.int/invasive/lg/](http://cbd.int/invasive/lg/)



#### **40. Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds**

**Initiated by:** CMS, in close cooperation with AEWA

**From:** 2005

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Task Force aims to bring together the best scientific advice on the conservation impact of the spread of avian influenza, assessing the role of migratory birds as vectors of the virus. It is also intended to issue advice on the root causes of the epidemic as well as on technically sound measures to combat it and to develop early warning systems. The Task Force draws on the expertise of conservation scientists, hunters, veterinarians, epidemiologists, virologists, land managers and other experts comprising of 14 members and observers, including UN bodies, wildlife treaties and specialist intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

**More information:** [cms.int/en/workinggroup/scientific-task-force-avian-influenza-and-wild-birds](https://cms.int/en/workinggroup/scientific-task-force-avian-influenza-and-wild-birds)

#### **41. Global Partnership for Plant Conservation (GSPC)**

**Initiated by:** CBD

**From:** 2004

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The Global Partnership for Plant Conservation brings together a wide range of international, regional and national organizations in order to contribute to the implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC) worldwide. The Partnership is working to support national implementation and the GSPC, and to provide tools and resources on how each country can plan and act to meet the targets. The partnership supports the development of collaborative initiatives amongst its members in support of the achievement of the GSPC targets.

**More information:** <http://www.plants2020.net/gppc/>

#### **42. Green Customs Initiative**

**Initiated by:** Informal partnership of international organisations, including CITES

**From:** 2004

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** A partnership of international organisations cooperating to prevent the illegal trade in environmentally-sensitive commodities and substances and to facilitate the legal trade. Its objective is to enhance the capacity of customs and other relevant border control officers to monitor and facilitate the legal trade and to detect and prevent illegal trade in environmentally sensitive commodities covered by relevant trade related MEAs and international conventions. Convention partners include the Basel Convention, the Cartagena Protocol to CBD, CITES and the Rotterdam Convention.

**More information:** [www.greencustoms.org](http://www.greencustoms.org)

#### **43. Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF)**

**Initiated by:** The Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF) is an innovative interagency partnership on forests comprising 14 international organizations, institutions and secretariats, including CBD, UN Environment and FAO.

**From:** 2001

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** As part of the International Arrangement of Forests, the CPF's overarching objective is to promote the management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests and strengthen long-term political commitment to this end. The CPF was created to: 1. support the work of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its member states; and 2. enhance cooperation and coordination among CPF member organizations. The agencies share their experiences and build on them to produce new benefits for their respective constituencies. They collaborate to streamline and align their work and to find ways of improving forest management and conservation and the production and trade of forest products. The members are also forming increasingly close and valuable strategic partnerships with one another, benefiting from shared expertise and pooled resources.

**More information:** <http://www.cpfweb.org/>

#### **44. Collaborative Partnership on Sustainable Wildlife Management (CPW)**

**Initiated by:** CBD (CBD COP Decision XI/25, paragraph 15 (f)) and partners in the margins of the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress (Resolution 119)

**From:** 2013

**Objective and scope/ key tasks:** The CPW is a voluntary partnership of 14 international organizations with substantive mandates and programmes to promote the sustainable use and conservation of wildlife resources. The CPW provides a platform for addressing wildlife management issues that require national and supra-national responses and also works to promote and increase cooperation and coordination on sustainable wildlife management issues among its members and partners. Partners include the Secretariats of CBD, CMS, CITES, FAO, IUCN and UN Environment.

**More information:** <http://www.fao.org/forestry/wildlife-partnership/en/>

## Cooperation agreements amongst secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions

The biodiversity-related conventions have established a range of bilateral or multilateral **Memoranda of Understanding (MoU)/ Cooperation (MoC)** as well as **joint work plans or programmes (JWP)** with other conventions, some of which are outlined in the table below. Whereas MoUs and MoCs are general agreements on financial and technical cooperation, as well as data exchange, JWPs cover a period of time and include agreements on substance, thus on specific joint initiatives or projects.

	<b>CBD</b>							
<b>CMS</b>	Framework MoC 1996 JWP 2016-2018	<b>CMS</b>						
<b>CITES</b>	Framework MoC 1996, amended 2000/2001	MoU 2002 JWP 2015-2020	<b>CITES</b>					
<b>Ramsar</b>	Framework MoC 2011 Fifth JWP 2011-2020	MoU 1997 MoC 2012 JWP 2015-2020	N/A	<b>Ramsar</b>				
<b>WHC</b>	JWP 2010-20	UNESCO and CMS MoU 2002	? Work plan	Joint Programme of Work 2010	<b>WHC</b>			
<b>ITPGRFA</b>	MoC 2010 FAO/CBD JWP 2011-2020	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>ITPGRFA</b>		
<b>IPPC</b>	Framework MoC JWP 2017		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	<b>IPPC</b>	

*Table 1 Memorandums of Cooperation (MoC), Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) and Joint Work Programmes (JWP); N/A = not available*

The following initiatives provide a snapshot of some of such MoCs and joint work plans or programmes between conventions, though it should be noted that there are many other ongoing efforts and initiatives between conventions, and the list is not comprehensive.

### **45. MoC between the secretariats of CMS and the Ramsar Convention**

**Initiated by:** CMS and the Ramsar Convention

**From:** 2012

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** In recognition of the significance of migratory species of wild animals in wetland ecosystems, with associated benefits to people, and the dependence of a significant proportion of these species on conservation and wise use of these wetlands, this MoC builds on the similarities of the objectives between the two conventions. The aim of the MoC is strengthen the implementation of the two conventions by enhancing corporation, coordination, synergy and joint working between them, including on: policy compatibility, institutional cooperation, exchange of information and expertise, work plans and conservation activities and review and reporting on implementation.

#### **46. CBD and Ramsar Convention 5th Joint Work Plan (JWP) 2011 – 2020**

**Initiated by:** CBD and the Ramsar Convention

**From:** 2011

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The goal of this Joint Work Plan is the conservation, sustainable and wise use of biodiversity especially in wetlands, helping to assure the full achievement of the Vision, Mission and Goals of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and it's Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and the Mission and Strategies of the Ramsar Strategic Plan 2009-2015.

**More information:** [ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/moc/CBD-Ramsar5thJWP\\_2011-2020.pdf](https://ramsar.org/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/moc/CBD-Ramsar5thJWP_2011-2020.pdf)

#### **47. Joint programme between the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and CBD**

**Initiated by:** CBD and UNESCO

**From:** 2011

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** With the CBD acting as global focal point for biodiversity and UNESCO acting as global focal point for cultural diversity, strengthen the linkages between biological and cultural diversity initiatives, and enhance synergies between interlinked provisions of conventions and programmes dealing with biological and cultural diversity at relevant scales.

**More information:** <https://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-10/information/cop-10-inf-03-en.pdf>

#### **48. MoC between the secretariats of the CBD and the ITPGRFA**

**Initiated by:** CITES and CMS

**From:** 2010

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The objective of the MoC between the CBD and ITPGRFA is to enhance cooperation between the conventions in areas of mutual interest within the respective mandates. This includes cooperation on capacity building activities dealing with access and benefit-sharing as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture as well as to mutually support undertaking and promoting activities relevant to their respective mandates, i.e. workshops, seminars as well as coordination of technical assistance, including for implementation of access and benefit-sharing regimes.

**Achievements:** Among a range of activities, following the MoC, a series of jointly organised capacity-building workshop on access and benefit-sharing have been held, as a means to contribute to the identification of the capacity-building needs and priorities of Parties in the implementation of their obligations under the Nagoya Protocol and to build on the experience and lessons learned from the implementation of the ITPGRFA.

**More information:**

[http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/Signed\\_MoU\\_CBD\\_ITPGRFA\\_2010.pdf](http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/Signed_MoU_CBD_ITPGRFA_2010.pdf)

#### **49. CMS CITES Joint Work Programme 2015–2020**

**Initiated by:** CITES and CMS

**From:** 2005

**Objective and scope/key tasks:** The CMS/CITES Joint Work Programme 2015–2020 comprises a non-exhaustive list of joint activities. They are organized around four main themes: (A) Harmonization of species-specific information; (B) Joint activities addressing shared species and issues of common interest; (C) Implementation and fundraising; (D) Outreach and capacity building.

**Achievements**

- Establishment of the African Carnivores Initiative, a joint initiative by CMS and CITES to support Parties to both conventions in implementing conservation measures includes in CITES and CMS resolutions and decisions pertaining to African Carnivores in a coherent and efficient manner.
- Endorsement of the African Elephant Action Plan adopted by CITES as the principal strategy for the conservation of African Elephants including on matters relevant to CMS by CMS COP 12, following a joint proposal by four Parties.

In implementation of the JWP, CMS Parties amongst others included in its CMS Global Programme of Work for Cetaceans (2012-2024) the task to develop a formal process within CMS for providing comments to CITES on proposals to amend the latter's Appendices and to seek comments from CITRS on proposals to amend the CMS Appendices and to formally contribute to the deliberations of CITES Animals Committee and other CITES processes (CMS Resolution 10.15).

**More information:** <http://www.cites.org/sites/default/files/common/disc/sec/CITES-CMS-wp-en.pdf>;

[https://cites.org/eng/news/sg/CITES\\_SG\\_opening\\_speech\\_Twelfth\\_CoP\\_Convention\\_on\\_Migratory\\_Species\\_23102017](https://cites.org/eng/news/sg/CITES_SG_opening_speech_Twelfth_CoP_Convention_on_Migratory_Species_23102017)