

Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions

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

Tenth meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) 16 September 2015 Geneva, Switzerland

Annotations to the Provisional Agenda

The meeting will be held on 16 September 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the conference room of CITES Secretariat, International Environment House, Geneva, Switzerland. A proposed organization of work is provided in annex to this document.

Item 1 Opening of the meeting and procedural matters

The meeting will be chaired by Ms. Ania Grobicki, Deputy Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention. In addition to the members of the BLG and other representatives of the secretariats, the Secretary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) will participate on the related item of the agenda. The Chair will open the meeting, invite introductions, provide an overview of the items on the agenda of the meeting and invite the adoption of the agenda. In so doing, opportunity will be provided for amendments to the agenda and the addition of relevant matters under the item reserved to address any other business.

In considering the agenda, and any additional discussions, the BLG is invited to refer to the review of progress in implementing the recommendations and agreements of the ninth meeting of the BLG (enclosed with this document), and consideration of appropriate follow-up actions.

Item 2 Review of recent and upcoming meetings under the Conventions, highlighting issues of strategic importance to the BLG

Meetings held under the Conventions since the ninth meeting of the BLG in September 2014 include the 2014/2015 meetings of the governing bodies of the CBD, CMS, IPPC, Ramsar and WHC. Upcoming meetings include the standing committee meetings of CMS, Ramsar and CITES, the CBD meetings of SBSTTA, WG8j and SBI, the CITES and CBD COPs, and the meeting of the governing body of the ITPGRFA.

Under this item, through a *tour de table*, members will be invited to provide updates on outcomes of recent meetings that are relevant to the BLG and to highlight relevant issues that will be considered by upcoming meetings, including activities in preparation towards such meetings.

Among such preparatory activities, the CITES Secretariat and the CBD Secretariat may wish to brief members on plans for joint CITES/CBD regional workshops preparatory to the 2016 meetings of the COPs to CITES and CBD and the opportunities that these may provide for the involvement of other

secretariats during a segment of the meetings that would address cooperation and synergies among the Conventions.

Item 3 Consideration of other upcoming external meetings and relevant outcomes of external processes

Under this agenda item, members may wish to consider their potential collaboration (noting also item 9 below) in activities at or in the margins of the following major meetings that are external to the biodiversity-related conventions:

- United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, 25-27 September 2015, UN, New York, USA;
- UNCCD COP12, 12-23 October 2015, Ankara, Turkey;
- UNFCCC COP21/CMP11, 30 November to 11 December 2015, Paris, France;
- Second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEA-2), 23-27 May 2016, Nairobi, Kenya;
- IUCN World Conservation Congress, 1-10 September 2016, Hawaii, USA.

Members are invited to draw attention to any other major meetings that may warrant a coordinated approach among the members of the BLG.

In addition under this item the BLG is invited to consider possibilities for collaboration arising from the outcomes of other international processes, including the outcome of the negotiation of the sustainable development goals under the General Assembly transmitted to the September Summit and the UN General Assembly Resolution on tackling illicit trafficking in wildlife unanimously adopted on 30 July 2015.

Item 4 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)

At its ninth meeting, the BLG decided to include consideration of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) at its next meeting. This item of the agenda will enable the Secretary of IPBES to update the BLG on progress in the implementation of its 2014-2018 work programme and preparations for the upcoming IPBES Plenary in February 2016. Furthermore, the IPBES Plenary, at its third meeting, invited the Secretariats of the multilateral environmental agreements, as appropriate, to work with the Bureau of IPBES to develop strategic partnerships, modelled on the memorandum of cooperation between the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Platform, setting out areas for collaboration and cooperation, to be approved by the Plenary at a future session (decision IPBES-3/4: Communications, stakeholder engagement and strategic partnership). Members of the BLG and the Secretary of IPBES will be invited to exchange views and discuss next steps on this matter.

Item 5 Party-led process concerning cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions

In decision XII/6, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD initiated a party-led process to consider ways to enhance synergies and efficiencies among the biodiversity-related conventions with a view to enhancing their implementation at all levels. Under this item of the agenda, the CBD Secretariat will provide an update on the status of work in this regard, including the work of the informal advisory group (IAG) and the preparations towards the workshop which will involve each of the conventions

and be held in January 2016. The process focuses on areas for synergies that require action by Parties, either at the level of national implementation or with respect to decisions that may be taken by the governing bodies of the various biodiversity-related conventions. Members of the BLG may also wish to provide update on the steps taken to engage representatives of Parties in the workshop.

The BLG is invited to give full consideration to possible outcomes of the process and to the most promising areas, and options for strengthening cooperation/actions in such areas. In addition, the BLG could consider and agree key points that they would wish to collectively bring to the attention of the informal advisory group at its meeting that will be held on 17-18 September 2015; as well as points that may be pertinent to individual conventions.

This item of the agenda may also allow the members of the BLG to discuss possible options for the BLG in the future, taking into account the proposals arising from the UNEP study on options for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions (for example, involvement of Parties and other relevant organizations in the BLG, for example by lengthening its annual meetings with a segment that involves Parties and other relevant organizations). The BLG may also wish to take this opportunity to give further consideration to protocol and procedure for the involvement of observer organizations in its regular meetings.

Item 6 Synergies in the development of reporting systems, including future online reporting systems; and with respect to monitoring frameworks and indicator systems, including the assessment of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

In decision XII/6, paragraph 4 (a) and (c) and (d), the CBD COP invited the members of the BLG to:

- (a) To increase their cooperation, coordination and attention to synergies in the development of their respective reporting systems, including future online reporting systems, as a means to increase synergies in national reporting under the biodiversity-related conventions;
- (c) To undertake efforts to increase synergies with respect to monitoring and reporting and improve effectiveness through the use of coherent monitoring frameworks and indicator systems; and
- (d) To consider ways to contribute to the assessment of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Under this item of the agenda the BLG is invited to discuss efforts that are ongoing in these regards and ways and means for enhancing such efforts.

Item 7 Contributions of the biodiversity-related conventions and other organizations to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

In decision XII/6, the Conference of the Parties to the CBD invited the BLG to consider ways to contribute to the assessment of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (paragraph 4 (d), see also item 6 above). Following an introduction by the CBD Secretariat, the BLG is invited to discuss and provide guidance on reporting contributions of the biodiversity-conventions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

A relevant mechanism in this regard is the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force (ABTTF). The BLG may also wish to give consideration to and advice on the ABTTF mechanism, including on 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 UNEP in its capacity as the secretariat of the MEA-IKM Initiative and/or UNEP-WCMC).

Item 8 Outreach and communication

At its ninth meeting, the BLG identified collaboration on communications as an area for strengthened attention. Furthermore, in decision XII/6, paragraph 4 (b), the CBD COP requested the BLG to consider ways and means to increase cooperation on outreach and communication strategies. The BLG has established a communications group under the BLG that held its first meeting by teleconference on 2 September 2015, notes from which are circulated. Among issues of common interest are the development of a global communications strategy to be implemented over the second half of the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity requested by the CBD COP in decision XII/2, collaboration in respect to international observances / UN Days, and joint messages around key upcoming events – the September Summit under the UN General Assembly and COP 21 of UNFCCC (note item 3 above). Under this agenda item, members are invited to consider and share views on these and other areas for collaboration.

Item 9 Status of CBD COP decision XII/30 on the financial mechanism to the CBD

Under this item of the agenda, the CBD Secretariat will provide an update on the implementation of CBD COP decision XII/30 on the financial mechanism to the CBD. Other members of the BLG are invited to provide update on steps taken to consult among parties to the various conventions and to discuss next steps towards and at the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation to be held from 2-6 May 2016.

Item 10 Briefings on bilateral programmes / work plans between members of the BLG

Under this item of the agenda, members of the BLG are invited to provide updates on bilateral programmes or work plans implemented by the secretariats, identifying, where relevant, any opportunities for other members of the group to contribute to these.

Item 11 Any other business

Under this item the meeting will consider any other matters agreed at the outset of the meeting.

Item 12 Closing

Under this item of the agenda, the members will take stock of the matters agreed at the meeting and may wish to decide upon the date and venue of the next meeting of the BLG, taking into account the scheduling of the 17th meeting of the CITES COP in Johannesburg, South Africa from 24 September to 5 October 2016. The members may also wish to consider the possibility of holding additional consultations by teleconference during 2015/2016.

Annex

Proposed Organization of Work

Tenth meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) Wednesday 16 September 2015 Proposed Organization of Work	
9:00	Item 1 - Opening
	Item 2
	Item 3
10:20-10:30	Coffee break
	Item 4
	Item 5
12:45-13:45	Lunch break
	Item 5 continued
	Item 6
	Item 7
15:30-15:40	Coffee break
	Item 8
	Item 9
	Item 10
	Item 11
17:00	Item 12 - Closing