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The International Treaty

ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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FIFTH SESSION OF THE GOVERNING BODY
Muscat, Oman, 24-28 September 2013
REPORT ON COOPERATION WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Note by the Secretary

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- i) *The Treaty provides, in Article 1.2, that the objectives of the Treaty are to be attained by closely linking it with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).*
- ii) *In accordance with Article 19.3 (g) of the Treaty, the Governing Body shall establish and maintain cooperation with other relevant international organizations and treaty bodies, in particular with the Conference of the Parties to the CBD, on matters covered by the Treaty; the Governing Body shall also take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the CBD.*
- iii) *By Resolution 8/2011, the Governing Body, inter alia,*
 Request[ed] the Secretary to continue to foster collaboration with other treaty bodies, especially with the Convention on Biological Diversity with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity, access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and benefit-sharing in the light of the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, according to the respective mandates, governance structures and agreed programs;
 Request[ed] the Secretary to report on cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention at each Session of the Governing Body.
- iv) *As requested by the Governing Body, this document contains a summary of the efforts and initiatives to enhance cooperation with the CBD since the Fourth Session of the Governing Body, and a selection of the most relevant outcomes of the eleventh Conference of the Parties to the CBD, for consideration and guidance by the Governing Body. In this regard, possible elements of a Resolution are provided.*
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Appendix 1: Joint Initiative of the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture under the Memorandum of Cooperation between them

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Appendix 3: Draft resolution on the Relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Article 1.2 of the Treaty provides that the objectives of the Treaty “will be attained by closely linking this Treaty to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to the Convention on Biological Diversity”.
2. By Resolution 8/2011, the Governing Body acknowledged the ongoing fruitful collaboration between the Treaty and other related international organizations and treaty bodies, in particular the Convention on Biological Diversity.
3. By the same Resolution, the Governing Body also requested the Secretary,
to continue to foster collaboration with other treaty bodies, especially with the Convention on Biological Diversity in regard to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity, access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and benefit-sharing in the light of the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, according to the respective mandates, governance structures and agreed programs;” and
to report on cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention at each Session of the Governing Body.
4. This document responds to the request of the Governing Body and the provisions of the Treaty. It outlines certain collaborative initiatives and joint activities in the ongoing close relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Secretariat. It also highlights the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention that are relevant to the Treaty.

II. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY AND THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

5. In accordance with Article 19.3 (g) of the Treaty, the Governing Body shall establish and maintain cooperation with other relevant international organizations and treaty bodies, in particular with the Conference of the Parties to the CBD on matters covered by the Treaty.
6. In this regard, the Governing Body has had a long-standing close relationship with the Conference of Parties to the Convention and has repeatedly emphasized the need to maintain that close relationship at both the intergovernmental and Secretariat levels.
7. Following the adoption, by tenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention (COP-10), of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization (the Nagoya Protocol), the Governing Body, by Resolution 8/2011,
“decide[d] to establish and maintain cooperation with the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol established by the Conference of Parties to the Convention, and, upon the entry into force of the Protocol, with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol”.
8. The Governing Body further requested the Secretary,
to convey the present Resolution to both the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol and, upon the entry into force of the Protocol, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

9. In accordance with the request of the Governing Body, the Secretariat participated in both the first and second meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Nagoya Protocol (ICNP), respectively, from 6 – 10 June 2011 in Montreal, Canada and from 2 – 6 July 2012 in New Delhi, India.

10. The Secretariat brought the Resolution of the Governing Body to the attention of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Nagoya Protocol, through an information document,¹ and made a number of interventions at both meetings on the various relevant agenda items, including on measures to assist in capacity-building, capacity development and strengthening of human resources and institutional capacities, and the strategic framework for capacity building.

11. During the meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Nagoya Protocol, a number of recommendations emphasised the need to enhance the synergies with other related Agreements and relevant activities of other institutions and processes regarding access and benefit-sharing. However, as at the time of the eleventh Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, the Nagoya Protocol had not yet entered into force, and the first meeting of the Parties to the Protocol is therefore yet to take place.

III. OUTCOMES OF THE ELEVENTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF RELEVANCE TO THE TREATY

12. Article 19.3 (1) of the Treaty provides that the Governing Body shall take note of the relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant international organizations and treaty bodies.

13. The eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-11) was held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October 2012. COP-11 adopted a number of decisions of immediate relevance to the Treaty. The most significant outcomes of the meeting, among other issues, are the consideration of the status of the Nagoya Protocol and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020.

The Nagoya Protocol

14. It will be recalled that, in adopting the Nagoya Protocol, the Conference of Parties, *inter alia*, recognized:²

- i) the International Treaty as one of the complementary instruments that constitute the International Regime; and
- ii) that the objectives of the International Treaty are the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use, in harmony with the Convention, for sustainable agriculture and food security.

15. The Nagoya Protocol also recalls the Multilateral System on Access and Benefit-sharing established under the Treaty, developed in harmony with the Convention, and in its Article 4.3 declares that the Protocol

shall be implemented in a mutually supportive manner with other international instruments relevant to this Protocol. Due regard should be paid to useful and relevant ongoing work or practices under such international instruments and relevant

¹ UNEP/CBD/ICNP/1/INF/8, *Excerpt from Resolution 8/2011 of the Governing Body of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture.*

² Decision X/1, *Access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.*

international organizations, provided that they are supportive of and do not run counter to the objectives of the Convention and this Protocol.

16. As the Nagoya Protocol had not yet entered into force, COP-11 considered the reports of the first and second meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Nagoya Protocol, which included recommendations on capacity-building/capacity-development initiatives as well as awareness-raising activities to support ratification, early entry into force and implementation of the Protocol.

17. Among the several decisions of the COP-11 related to the Nagoya Protocol was the decision to reconvene the Intergovernmental Committee for a third meeting to address outstanding issues in its workplan, and to undertake further work in preparation for the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol and the anticipated first meeting of the COP serving as the Meeting of Parties to the Protocol.³

18. By the Resolution 8/2011, the Governing Body had appealed “to Contracting Parties and other States to give priority consideration to the signature and ratification of the Nagoya Protocol, so that it may enter expeditiously into force”. The Governing Body also called on Contracting Parties

*to ensure that any legislative, administrative or policy measures taken for the implementation of both the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity (or its Nagoya Protocol), are consistent and mutually supportive.*⁴

19. In this regard, at its fourth meeting the *Ad Hoc* Technical Advisory Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System considered that, despite being in the early formative stage pending entry into force, the Nagoya Protocol processes remain of high importance to the Treaty, and that space and presence for the Treaty in the various relevant work tracks needs to constantly be secured in order not only to promote inter-agency partnerships but, most notably, also to promote collaboration between the different implementing authorities at the country level.

20. Given the need for coherence and synergy among the different instruments related to access and benefit-sharing, the Governing Body may wish to reiterate the importance of so doing, and invite Contracting Parties, other international institutions to ensure that there is synergy and mutual supportiveness among the relevant instruments and related activities.

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

21. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was adopted by the Conference of Parties at its tenth Meeting as an overarching framework for action by all Convention partners, and includes the 20 “Aichi Biodiversity Targets”.⁵

22. By Resolution 8/2011, the Governing Body noted the outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity including those related to the Strategic Plan, and was “**convinced** of the potential of the Nagoya Protocol and the Strategic Plan for enhancing the synergies and improving the coherent implementation of the Convention and the Treaty”.

³ Decision XI/1, *Status of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization and related developments*.

⁴ paragraph 7.

⁵ UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/X/2, *The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets*.

23. It is to be noted, in connection with the Treaty, that the Strategic Plan recognizes that, for effective implementation, partnerships at all levels are required, including for finding synergies and promoting coherence in national implementation of multilateral agreements.
24. By Decision XI/6, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, *Reiterate[d] the importance of cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions, the Rio conventions and other relevant instruments for achieving full implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020,⁶ and Welcome[d] the progress made under [...] the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, [...] to reflect the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in their work.⁷*
25. By Decision XI/2, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,⁸ *Urge[d] those Parties and other Governments that have not yet done so to review and, as appropriate, update and revise, their national biodiversity strategies and action plans in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020, including national plans related to biodiversity, and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth meeting;*
- Call[ed] upon Parties and invite[d] other Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant organizations to continue providing support for the timely review and, as appropriate, revision and updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, to enhance wider stakeholder consultations for setting national targets and indicators at the national level, and to provide additional support to ensure completion and review of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in a timely manner;*
- Expresse[d] its gratitude to all the international organizations and convention secretariats and to the Global Environment Facility for their contributions facilitating the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and invite[d] them to further support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020;*
- Request[ed] the Executive Secretary to continue promoting and facilitating, in partnership with relevant organizations, activities to strengthen implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets at the national, subregional and regional levels; and*
- Stresse[d] the role of national biodiversity strategies and action plans in developing a coherent approach at the national level, and encourage[d] Parties to incorporate the objectives of the biodiversity related-conventions and the other Rio conventions into their revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as appropriate, and to support this through all appropriate means;*
26. Taking note of the above Decisions, the Governing Body may wish to take note of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and urge Contracting Parties to ensure that the provisions of the Treaty are fully recognized and taken into account in relevant activities, and

⁶ UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XI/6. *Cooperation with other conventions, international organizations, and initiatives*, paragraph 1.

⁷ *Ibid*, paragraph 6.

⁸ UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XI/2, *Review of progress in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and related capacity-building support to Parties*.

national strategies and actions plans as well as request the Secretary to continue collaborating with the Secretariat of the Convention in the implementation of the Strategic Plan.

IV. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO SECRETARIATS

27. Article 20.5 of the Treaty provides that the Secretary of the Governing Body shall cooperate with other organizations and treaty bodies, including in particular with the Secretariat of the Convention, in achieving the objectives of the Treaty.

28. By Resolution 8/2011, the Governing Body took note

of the Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the Secretary and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity and commend[ed] the Secretary for the initiative, and request[ed] the Secretary to explore with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, practical means and activities to give effect to this cooperation, in particular through capacity building for access and benefit-sharing, as related to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture, including through the organization of workshops, seminars and other events, coordination of technical assistance as well as the exchange of information.

29. By the same Resolution, the Governing Body requested the Secretary,

subject to the availability of funds, to continue to participate in relevant meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Open-ended Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol, as well as the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions;

to strengthen collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, sustainable use of biodiversity, biodiversity and climate change, as well as on the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity and the integration of biodiversity into poverty eradication and development, in harmony with the work of the Treaty.

to continue to foster collaboration with other treaty bodies, especially with the Convention on Biological Diversity in regard to the conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity, access to plant genetic resources for food and agriculture and benefit-sharing in the light of the adoption of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, according to the respective mandates, governance structures and agreed programs;" and

to report on cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention at each session of the Governing Body.

30. In accordance with the several requests of the Governing Body, and based on the provisions of the Treaty, the Secretary continued to cooperate closely with the Secretariat of the Convention, including through exchange of information, participation in the relevant meetings and processes of the Convention, as well as participation in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions.

31. The Memorandum of Cooperation entered into between the Secretariats of the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity is already being operationalized in accordance with the request of the Governing Body, and provides an important avenue for the harmonious implementation and cooperation between the Secretariats of the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

32. Consequently, as requested by the Governing Body, the Secretary undertook a number of initiatives as practical means and activities to give effect to such cooperation. This includes the capacity building workshops jointly organized by the two Secretariats.

33. On the occasion of the 66th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations at the United Nations Headquarter, New York, the Treaty Secretariat jointly organized with the CBD Secretariat, a Ministerial Breakfast briefing on the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing and the International Treaty on 22 September 2011. The Briefing was attended by a number of Ministers and high-ranking officials from several Contracting Parties, while the Director General of FAO delivered the opening remarks.

34. The cooperation between the Secretariats also resulted in three capacity building workshops that were jointly organised in June and October 2011, and June 2012. The first and third workshops were held back-to-back with the first and second meetings of the Intergovernmental Committee on the Nagoya Protocol, respectively.⁹ The workshops were attended by delegates and experts from the environment and agriculture sectors and, along the lines of the Governing Body's recommendation, provided an opportunity to explore how to promote mutual supportiveness and harmonious implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the Treaty.

35. In this regard, one of the joint capacity building workshops organised by the two Secretariats had called for the establishment of a joint group of experts to compile a checklist of issues that are important in achieving the mutual supportiveness of the Nagoya Protocol and the Treaty.¹⁰

36. The third joint workshop was specifically aimed at facilitating discussions, exchange of views and experiences with the aim of identifying possible capacity building strategies and options to address the needs and priorities of Parties in the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and its harmonious relationship with the Treaty. Members of the *Ad Hoc* Technical Advisory Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System also attended, since the Committee's third meeting was held during the same period and in the same vicinity.

37. The workshop provided an effective opportunity for the members of the Committee to interact with colleagues in the Convention's processes and to start looking at the access and benefit-sharing interfaces and synergies between the Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol. It is to be noted that one of the issues on the Agenda of the meeting of the Committee itself related to the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol, in particular, is the coherent and mutually supportive implementation of the two instruments with the Treaty by Parties.

38. At its third meeting, the *Ad hoc Advisory* Technical Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System also welcomed the ongoing cooperation between the two Secretariats and

“emphasized that practical and harmonious interfaces between general ABS requirements and the operation of the Treaty and its Multilateral System would have to be created in positive and constructive ways, both nationally and internationally. In that regard, the

⁹ The report of the first workshop is contained in document UNEP/CBD/ICNP/1/INF/6, *Outcomes of the Capacity-Building Workshop on Access and Benefit-Sharing*, available at <https://www.cbd.int/absicnp1/documents/>. The report of the second workshop is contained in document UNEP/CBD/ICNP/2/INF/1, *Outcomes of the Second Capacity-Building Workshop on Access and Benefit Sharing*, available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=WG8J-07>.

¹⁰ The other recommendations of the workshop were:

- Ensuring interactions between ministries competent for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the International Treaty;
- Sensitizing policy makers on the respective approaches of the Nagoya Protocol (bilateral/MATs) and the International Treaty (multilateral/SMTAs);
- Building understanding of the relationship between the provisions on farmers' rights of the International Treaty and the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol related to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

Committee encouraged the Secretariat of the Treaty to continue its collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD and, based on available resources, to promote the establishment of a joint group of experts to compile a checklist of issues that are important in achieving mutual supportiveness between the two instruments.”¹¹

39. The Committee further emphasized the need for the continued interaction between the different constituencies of the Treaty and the CBD, especially at the national level in the course of their implementation, and in particular between respective national focal points of the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity so that they could harmonize their views and adopt a more comprehensive approach to access and benefit-sharing.

40. It also recommended that efforts should continue to be made to facilitate regular interactions among other relevant actors involved in the national implementation processes of both agreements, such as farmers and farmers’ organizations, NGOs and the private sector, including through convening meetings. It also agreed to continue reviewing the matter of the interface between the two agreements as the situation evolves and countries gain more experience in such implementation. It further encouraged the Secretariat to continue its collaborative activities with the Secretariat of the Convention regarding the interface between the Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol, and to report to the Governing Body, as was requested at its Fourth Session.

41. In parallel with these events, a number of related capacity building initiatives are actively underway and a number of capacity building providers, such as Bioversity International, *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)* and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), are providing technical assistance regarding national policies and legislation on access and benefit-sharing. Bioversity International is also currently implementing a Treaty capacity building project.¹² In all these programmes and activities, the mutually supportive and coherent implementation of the International Treaty, the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol has been a recurrent issue.¹³

Joint Initiatives

42. In the context of the enhanced cooperation with the Convention, and based on the Memorandum of Cooperation between the two Secretariats concluded in October 2010, the Secretariat of the Treaty jointly agreed on a joint initiative for the harmonious implementation of the Treaty and the CBD as well as the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, when it comes into force. At the margins of the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development (RIO+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the Secretary and the Executive Secretary of the CBD developed and signed the Joint Initiative with a view to further promoting the complementarity in the implementation of both the Treaty and the Convention and its Nagoya Protocol.

43. The Joint Initiative identifies a number of concrete actions related to access and benefit-sharing; on-farm conservation, and the sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. A copy of the Joint Initiative is contained in *Appendix 1* to this document.

44. In this regard, the *Ad hoc Advisory Technical Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System*, at its fourth meeting,

¹¹ IT/AC-SMTA-MLS 3/12/Report, paras. 29 and 30. The report is available at: <http://planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/ACSMTA3re.pdf>.

¹² See Announcement of a Capacity Building Project for Developing Countries on the Implementation of the International Treaty and in particular its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing, and Call for Expressions of Interest, on-line notification available at http://www.planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/NCP_GB5_CBbioversity_en.pdf

¹³ In July and October 2011, the Treaty Secretariat in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention organised two conference calls on capacity building coordination where capacity building providers shared this information. The main purpose of the calls was to facilitate coordination at the country level.

Commended the Secretariat for its efforts to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and requested the Secretariat to continue and further intensify its collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity along the lines established in the Joint Initiative and Memorandum of Cooperation between the two Secretariats; and

Requested the Secretariat to continue monitoring and participating in the relevant processes related to the Nagoya Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity in order to promote practical and harmonious interfaces between general access and benefit-sharing requirements and the operation of the Treaty and its Multilateral System, both nationally and internationally.¹⁴

45. The Committee welcomed the exploratory expert workshop being planned by both Secretariats in collaboration with GIZ and Bioversity International on promoting mutual supportiveness in the implementation of the Treaty, the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol at the national level as a step in the right direction, and emphasised the importance of regional balance among its participants.
46. In the context of the Memorandum of Cooperation and Joint Initiative signed between the two Secretariats, they, in collaboration with Bioversity International and the ABS Capacity Development Initiative (managed by GIZ), organized an expert workshop on “The International Treaty and the Nagoya Protocol: Supporting mutual supportiveness in the implementation of both instruments at the national level”.
47. A limited number of participants attended the workshop, featuring a balanced representation of stakeholders from both Nagoya Protocol and Treaty communities, including a number of participants from countries receiving technical assistance under the Treaty’s Capacity-building initiative, private sector, and legal experts, all acting in their personal capacity.
48. The objective of the expert workshop was to increase the understanding of the interfaces between the Nagoya Protocol and the Treaty with a view to promoting their implementation in a mutually supportive manner. It also sought to identify basic parameters for national measures to achieve mutual supportiveness in the implementation of the two instruments.
49. The workshop further sought to highlight the possible issues for consideration by regulators and other relevant stakeholders involved in national implementation processes with a view to promoting their harmonious implementation. Among the outcomes of the workshop, it was established that more integration and collaboration among the stakeholders in the Parties to the two instruments would be vital in order to establish successful national ABS systems in the future.
50. Thus, from the Treaty’s perspective, the workshop provided further opportunity to foster awareness that, in the formulation of national ABS measures, a more comprehensive approach should be taken, and appropriate space made available for the fulfilment of the Treaty’s objectives and obligations.
51. Towards the continued practical realization of objectives of the Memorandum of Cooperation, and subject to the availability of financial resources, the two Secretariats are considering jointly organizing additional capacity-building workshops on access and benefit-sharing for the harmonious national implementation of both the Multilateral System and the Nagoya Protocol.
52. Bearing in mind these experiences, as well as the outcomes of the joint workshops, the Governing Body may wish to consider what role the *Ad hoc Advisory Technical Committee* on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System, if reconvened, may play in furtherance of the cooperation and the Treaty’s interface with the Convention and the Nagoya

¹⁴ IT/AC-SMTA-MLS 4/12/Report. Available at: <http://planttreaty.org/sites/default/files/ACSMTA4Re.pdf>

Protocol, especially at the expert or technical level. If it so considers, the Governing Body may wish to stipulate these roles in the terms of reference it may establish for the Committee.

Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions

53. By Resolution 8/2011, the Governing Body requested the Secretary,
subject to the availability of funds, to continue to participate in relevant meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, [...], as well as the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions.
54. In this regard, the Conference of Parties to the Convention, at its tenth meeting, had invited the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions
*to address at their future meetings options for enhanced cooperation, inter alia, with regard to work on cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, scientific criteria for the identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas in need of protection, and invasive alien species, in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes of work and with a view to developing a coherent approach on these matters.*¹⁵
55. At its eleventh meeting, the Conference of Parties to the Convention,
2. Recognize[d] *the importance of enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, in particular at the subnational, national and regional levels, without prejudice to their specific objectives and recognizing their respective mandates, and stresses the need to strengthen synergistic processes among the biodiversity-related conventions, building on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 as the central pillar...;*
3. Welcome[d] *the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which [...] affirms the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and encourage[d] Parties to promote policy coherence at all relevant levels, improve efficiency, reduce unnecessary overlap and duplication, and enhance coordination and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements, including the three Rio conventions, as well as with the United Nations system in the field; welcome[d], in this context, the efforts made to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions;*
6. Welcome[d] *the progress made under [...] the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, [...] to reflect the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in their work;*¹⁶
56. Pursuant to the requests of the Governing Body, and taking into account the Decisions of the Conference of Parties to the Convention, the Secretariat has actively participated in the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions coordinated by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. A number of initiatives to promote synergies and cooperation are under discussion, including facilitation of increased coordination among national focal points of the various conventions.
57. At the Second Retreat of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions held on 4 September 2011, at Chateau de Bossey, Switzerland, the executive heads of the Secretariats of the six biodiversity-related conventions adopted a *Modus Operandi* to guide the work of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

¹⁵ Decision X/20, *Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations and initiatives.*

58. In this context, the Conference of Parties to the Convention, at its eleventh meeting *Welcome[d] the modus operandi adopted by the Biodiversity Liaison Group and supplementary information on its working arrangements, and the preparation of a modus operandi and terms of reference for the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions;*
59. The Governing Body may also wish to welcome the *modus operandi* signed by the six Secretariats, which is contained in *Appendix 2* to this document for the information of the Governing Body.
60. On 13 February 2013, another meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions was held in Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland.¹⁷ The meeting addressed issues related to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); plans to develop joint activities for the biennium 2013-2014 in order to guide the work of the Biodiversity Liaison Group strategically and achieve tangible results of their cooperation in the biennium; options for the form and content of a Party-led process to enhance coordination, coherence and national level synergies; and actions necessary for the facilitation of access to financial resources (including the GEF) for conventions other than the CBD.
61. The meeting noted the importance of a coordinated approach to the submission of requests to IPBES and considered that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity could serve as a framework for the development of such requests which would take into account all four functions of the Platform, particularly capacity-building.
62. The meeting agreed that a joint approach by the conventions might facilitate access to GEF resources. The members further agreed to explore concrete steps to develop such an approach, considering that additional funding for activities of biodiversity-related conventions other than CBD by the GEF may be obtained if the activities contribute to the achievement of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and/or National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).
63. The meeting also noted the request by CBD at its eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Executive Secretary of the CBD to propose, in consultation with Parties and other members of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, options for the form and content of a process to enhance coordination, coherence and national level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions,¹⁸ and exploring options for closer collaboration among the relevant bureaus.

V. CONCLUSIONS

64. Based on the Treaty text and its various Resolutions, the Governing Body considers of utmost importance to sustain and enhance the harmonious relationship between the Treaty and the Convention, and the Nagoya Protocol and has, as such, put the relationship with the Convention as a standing item on its Agenda at every Session.¹⁹

¹⁷ The participating Conventions are: Convention on Biological Diversity; Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora; International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture; Ramsar Convention on Wetlands; and the World Heritage Convention; as well as the United Nations Environment Programme.

¹⁸ By Decision IX/..., para 10, the COP, encouraged *Parties to further strengthen cooperation and synergy among convention focal points and focal points for other relevant sectoral processes and partners at the national level so as to enhance capacity to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, avoid duplication of activities and further enhance the effective use of resources, recognizing that national biodiversity strategies and action plans provide a useful tool for such collaboration, and requests the Executive Secretary to facilitate this cooperation, subject to the availability of resources.*

¹⁹ Resolution 8/2011, para 11.

65. In this regard, both current and proposed activities, including in the context of the Strategic Plan present clear opportunities for further enhanced cooperation, synergies and mutual supportiveness.

66. The recently concluded Memorandum of Cooperation and Joint Initiative between the Secretariats of the Treaty and the Convention provide useful existing frameworks to continue the current joint activities and future collaborative work, in particular on capacity building and awareness-raising.

67. However, in order to ensure the realization of these opportunities, there is also the need to enhance coordination at the national level, in particular between respective national focal points, and other relevant national authorities, as requested by both the Governing Body and the Conference of Parties to the Convention. At the intergovernmental level, cooperation between the respective governing and subsidiary bodies of both the Treaty and Convention could be further enhanced, especially through the work of the *Ad hoc* Advisory Technical Committee on the Standard Material Transfer Agreement and the Multilateral System, if reconvened, that could further explore synergies and joint initiatives.

68. Given the possible budgetary implications of proposed activities to enhance cooperation and synergies with the Convention, in accordance with the request of the Governing Body, provision is made within the draft Work Programme (document IT/GB-5/11/25), for related activities, including attending meetings, capacity building, exchange of experiences and expertise, information gathering, awareness-raising, and possible joint activities with the Secretariat of the Convention.

VI. POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING BODY

69. Possible elements of a draft Resolution on the relationship with the Convention on Biological Diversity are contained in *Appendix 3* to this document, for consideration by the Governing Body.

APPENDIX I

**JOINT INITIATIVE OF THE SECRETARIATS
OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
AND THE INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES
FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
UNDER THE MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THEM**

Under their Memorandum of Cooperation the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) are launching a Joint Initiative of cooperation, including in particular the following activities.

1. Support to the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (NP) and its harmonious implementation with the ITPGRFA and its Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing (MLS):
 - a. Expanded Joint Capacity Building Activities with expanded stakeholder participation and scope;
 - b. Continuation of preparation of joint materials on ABS for harmonious implementation of the Nagoya Protocol and the ITPGRFA and its Multilateral System;
 - c. Continued coordination and sharing of expertise on information management for access and benefit-sharing (ABS), as already developed by the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-sharing of the International Treaty and as far as useful for implementation of the Nagoya Protocol Clearing House, including sharing and secondment of expertise;
 - d. Facilitation of greater interaction between memberships, including through joint expert meetings and discussions;

2. Joint initiative for on-farm conservation, sustainable use of PGRFA and protected areas
 - a. Joint research and publication on Aichi target of sustainability in agriculture and matching the sustainability targets of the ITPGRFA and the Strategic Plan and Aichi targets;
 - b. Sharing of results relevant for the CBD from the Programmatic Approach of the Benefit-sharing Fund of the International Treaty for keeping farmers ahead of climate change and conserving plant genetic resources for food and agriculture on-farm;
 - c. Joint case studies on on-farm conservation and management of PGRFA and its facilitation through relevant access and benefit-sharing agreements;
 - d. Development of joint components in the sustainable use work programmes of the CBD and the International Treaty;
 - e. Activities on traditional knowledge related to PGRFA and Farmers' Rights;

3. Joint initiative for the promotion of the importance of biodiversity and plant genetic resources for food and agriculture for food security under a changing climate:
 - a. Joint awareness raising events, including at the High-level Round Tables (HLRT), the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP-11), and the United National General Assembly (UNGA), etc;
 - b. Joint promotion material;
 - c. Joint communication work;
 - d. Increased presence and contribution of the ITPGRFA to CBD events and of the CBD to the ITPGRFA events.

APPENDIX 2

MODUS OPERANDI FOR THE LIAISON GROUP OF THE BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS (BLG) ADOPTED BY THE BLG ON 4 SEPTEMBER 2011

The text of the *Modus Operandi* for the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions adopted and signed by the executive heads of the secretariats of the six biodiversity-related conventions at the Second Retreat of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions held in at Chateau de Bossey on 4 September 2011 is presented below in the language it was adopted. An electronic copy of the signed document is available at:

<http://www.cbd.int/cooperation/doc/blg-modus-operandi-en.pdf>.

**Modus Operandi for the
Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions**

Introduction

The six secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions currently comprising the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) are:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD);
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS);
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar);
- The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (WHC); and
- The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA).

Mandate

The mandate for establishing the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions was set out by the Parties to the CBD, in decision VII/26 (paragraphs 1 and 2) which states that:

“Recognizing the role of the Joint Liaison Group in supporting cooperation between the Rio conventions, and the role of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests in enhancing cooperation and coordination on Forest issues, where the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is the focal agency on forest biodiversity and traditional forest-related knowledge,

1. *Urges further enhanced cooperation between the Convention on Biological Diversity and all relevant international conventions, organizations and bodies, strengthening and building on existing cooperative arrangements to enhance synergies and reduce inefficiencies in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programs, within existing resources;*
2. *Requests in this context, the Executive Secretary, to invite the secretariats of the other four biodiversity conventions (CITES, Ramsar, CMS and World Heritage Convention²⁰) to form a liaison group to enhance coherence and cooperation in their implementation, and to report on progress made to the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties;”*

This mandate has been further supported by several follow up decisions of the governing bodies of the member secretariats, namely:

- CBD Decisions VIII/16, IX/27 and X/20 (excerpts are given below);
- CITES Resolutions 10.4 and 14.2;
- CMS Resolutions 8.11 and 9.6;
- Ramsar Resolutions IX.5; X.1 and X.11;
- World Heritage Convention Decisions 30 COM 6 and 33 COM 5C; and
- International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT/GB-1/06/Report and Resolution 8/2011)

Through CBD COP decision IX/27 (paragraphs 3 and 4) the Conference of the Parties to the CBD underlined the important role of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, encouraged more regular meetings and invited the Group to identify options for improved implementation of and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions. CBD COP decision X/20 then sought a strengthening of the effectiveness of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, enhanced cooperation and a coherent approach on cross-cutting issues, paragraphs 4, 8 and 9 state that:

“4. Requests the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the executive heads of the other biodiversity-related conventions, proposals on ways to strengthen the effectiveness of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, its relevance to the needs of Parties, and its linkages to the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio conventions;

8. Invites the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to continue giving consideration to the harmonization of national reporting and, in this context, welcomes the progress made in the GEF Project on Facilitating National Reporting to Rio Conventions (FNR-Rio), as well as the project to streamline reporting by Pacific island countries to the biodiversity related multilateral environmental agreements;

²⁰ ITPGRFA joined the BLG at its 5th meeting in September 2006

9. Invites the scientific advisory bodies of the biodiversity-related conventions and the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions to address at their future meetings options for enhanced cooperation, inter alia, with regard to work on cross-cutting issues, such as climate change, scientific criteria for the identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas in need of protection, and invasive alien species, in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes of work and with a view to developing a coherent approach on these matters;”

Guiding Principles

The following principles guide the work of the BLG:

Principle 1: The BLG is 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.

Principle 2: The BLG recognizes the distinct and specific objectives of each convention and their different Parties, as well as the individual mandates and independent status of their treaty bodies and Secretariats.

Principle 3: The aim should be to maximize effectiveness and efficiency and avoid duplication of effort in joint activities of BLG members.

Principle 4: Activities on the ground are contingent upon the availability of financial and other resources.

History

The BLG held seven regular meetings between 2004-2009, plus a special meeting in April 2011. In addition one retreat was held with the participation of BLG members in September 2010. The BLG meeting of 16 August 2004 agreed upon modalities for the operation of the BLG, which form the basis of this Modus Operandi. A record of all of these meetings (and future meetings, once held) can and will be found at: www.cbd.int/blg.

Areas of Activity

Cooperative activities will include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

- Provide support for achieving the objectives of the Strategic Plans of its members, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in line with respective mandates;

- Explore practical ways that identify and reinforce mutual coordinated support for the implementation of relevant decisions adopted by the respective COPs;
- Support Parties in the revisions and implementation of updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPs);
- Support Parties activities in public awareness and education including the respective International Days of the Conventions;
- Support Parties in capacity-building activities and other forms of technical assistance; and
- Assist Parties with any future priorities identified by the respective COPs of the BLG members.

Modus Operandi

Secretariat

The CBD will act as the secretariat for the BLG.

Officers

The meetings of BLG will be chaired by rotation amongst the Executive Heads of the conventions being a member of the BLG on an annual basis unless otherwise agreed.

Date and Place of Meeting

An annual face-to-face BLG meeting in the form of a retreat will be held on 4th September in Château de Bossey, Switzerland. An alternative venue for the annual meeting can be proposed and agreed by the BLG members. Arrangements for a second annual meeting, and any additional BLG meetings, can be proposed and agreed by the BLG members, and may involve video conferencing.

Membership and Participation

BLG members are the Executive Heads (or their deputies or representatives, in the absence of the Executive Head) of the following conventions: CBD, CITES, Ramsar, CMS, World Heritage, and ITPGRFA, plus any other biodiversity-related conventions which may be adopted in the future and invited by BLG to join as a member. Supporting staff may attend meetings as necessary.

Others (e.g., subsidiary body chairs, other convention secretariats) may be invited to participate in BLG meetings at the invitation of the Chair, as mutually agreed with the other members.

Agenda and Documentation

The provisional agenda and documentation for BLG meetings will be prepared by the Chair in consultation with, and with support from, the CBD as the secretariat for the BLG. The documentation will be circulated for comments of other BLG members, finalized and distributed at least four weeks in advance of any meeting. Agenda items will be mutually agreed by the members and include matters of mutual or common interest emanating from governing body decisions, subsidiary body recommendations and other items proposed by the members. Documentation prepared for a meeting will not normally be available publicly unless mutually agreed by the members.

Conduct of Business

BLG meetings will normally not be open to the public unless mutually agreed by the members.

Decision-making

Decisions will be taken by consensus.

Reports of meetings

BLG meeting reports will be prepared by the Chair in consultation with the CBD as the secretariat in consultation with other BLG members, and finalized and distributed to members within 30 days of the meeting's closure. Meeting reports will be archived and available at www.cbd.int/blg and may also be made available through hyperlinks on the websites of the other BLG members. Reports on the activities of the BLG will be submitted to the respective meetings of the COP of the members for their information and attention. Members will also bring the issues discussed at the meetings to the attention of the respective subsidiary bodies such as standing committees, scientific councils/committees, as well as to national focal points, as appropriate, with a view to promoting synergies and coordination in the implementation of the conventions.

* * * * *

1. PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MODUS OPERANDI FOR THE JOINT LIAISON GROUP BETWEEN THE THREE RIO CONVENTIONS²¹

Mandate²²

²¹ The following document has been prepared by the Executive Secretary of the CBD for consideration by the JLG. It has been reviewed by technical staff of the UNFCCC and UNCCD secretariats

The mandate of the Joint Liaison Group (JLG) comprising the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions (the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) is to:

- Enhance coordination between the three conventions, including the exchange of relevant information; and
- Explore options for further cooperation between the three conventions, including the possibility of a joint work plan.

Guiding Principles²³

The work of the JLG will be defined by a set of guiding principles intended to ensure that the mandate and purpose of the JLG is reflected in its outputs.

Principle 1: As synergies and coordination can be best implemented at the national level, the JLG will primarily support Parties in the achievement of national level synergies and coordination among the Rio Conventions.

Principle 2: The activities undertaken by the JLG will be country-driven and needs-based.

Principle 3: The JLG recognizes the distinct and specific objectives of each convention and their different Parties, as well as the individual mandates and independent status of their treaty bodies and secretariats.

Principle 4: The JLG aims to add value to work already ongoing within each secretariat while minimizing duplication of activities and promoting cost-effectiveness.

Principle 5: The JLG can only undertake activities that can be completed with existing resources or have identified funding.

Areas of activity

Decisions and recommendations under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have already outlined a number of tools and tasks for the JLG. These areas of activity can be considered to represent the priorities of Parties with regards to the work of the JLG and, as such, will continue to be pursued as appropriate using an issue-based approach in line with the distinct and specific objectives of each convention (biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification / land degradation). These areas include:

²² Adopted by UNFCCC (FCCC/SBSTA/2001/2 paragraph 42(d)) and reaffirmed by the CBD (decision VI/20, paragraph 13).

²³ The guiding principles described herewith were initially discussed among the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions at the 11th meeting of the JLG held in Bonn on April 11, 2011.

1. Sharing information and raising awareness
2. Providing information on interlinkages
3. Developing technical papers to clarify and elaborate on specific policy and technical issues
4. Contributing to relevant workshops mandated by pertinent bodies under each Convention
5. Encouraging and promoting better coordination among national focal points and stakeholder groups

Modus operandi

Membership and Participation

1. The membership of the JLG is comprised of the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions. The Executive Secretaries will be assisted by relevant senior staff of the three Secretariats.
2. The Chair, in consultation with the members, may invite representatives of other relevant instruments and bodies to attend the meetings.

Officers

The chairmanship of the JLG will rotate annually amongst the Executive Secretaries of the three Rio Conventions.

Place of Meetings

Meetings of the JLG will be organized at the seat of the chair of the JLG, unless otherwise agreed.

Date of Meetings

1. Ordinary meetings of the JLG will take place at least once a year.
2. Other meetings of the JLG will take place as mutually agreed by the three Executive Secretaries.

Agenda and Documentation

1. The provisional agenda for a meeting of the JLG will be prepared by the chair, in consultation with the other members, and circulated six weeks before a meeting.

2. Relevant documentation will be prepared by the secretariat proposing an agenda item.
3. The sources of agenda items may include: (a) COP decisions; (b) subsidiary body recommendations and conclusions; and (c) items proposed by the Executive Secretaries, as mutually agreed by them.
4. Documentation prepared for a meeting will not be made publicly available unless mutually agreed by the three Executive Secretaries.

Conduct of Business

Meetings of the JLG will normally not be open to the public unless mutually agreed by the three Executive Secretaries.

Decision-making

Decisions will be taken by consensus.

Reports of meetings

1. Reports of meetings of the JLG will be prepared by the chair, in consultation with the other members of the JLG, and finalized within 30 days of the closure of the meeting.
2. Meeting reports will be available to the Parties of the Conventions as well as to the public at large.

2. JOINT WORK PLAN FOR THE SECRETARIATS OF THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (CBD) AND THE CONVENTION ON THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY SPECIES OF WILD ANIMALS (CMS) FOR THE PERIOD 2012-2014

The text of the joint work plan presented to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species in document UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.36 is reproduced below.

Joint Work Plan for the Secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) for the period 2012-2014

Introduction:

The following table comprises a non-exhaustive list of joint activities which implement the mandates and decisions asking the CBD and CMS Secretariats (“the Secretariats”) to work together.

The secretariats of CMS Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) are invited by the Secretariats to participate in joint activities. Contact between CMS Agreements and MOUs and the CBD Secretariat would be coordinated by the CMS Secretariat.

In 1996, a Memorandum of Cooperation was concluded between the CBD and CMS Secretariats which continues to govern our cooperation to date.

The Joint Work Plan takes account of the shared objectives and targets of most relevance to both Secretariats. The CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011 (proposed to be extended to 2014) has four main objectives:

1. To ensure that the conservation and management of migratory species are based on the best available information;
2. To ensure that migratory species benefit from the best possible conservation measures;
3. To broaden awareness and enhance engagement in the conservation of migratory species amongst key actors; and
4. To reinforce CMS’s overarching and unifying role in the conservation and management of migratory species.

In this respect, the most relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 are:

Target 5: By 2020 the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascapes.

Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Funding of activities: Many of the activities will not incur significant extra cost, but for those that do, the Secretariats will jointly continue to seek external funding. In addition, carrying out activities jointly should make it possible to optimize the utilization of the funds secured.

Review and reporting: The activities will be regularly reviewed and updated, and the Secretariats will submit regular reports on their activities to their respective governing bodies, such as Standing Committees and, if appropriate, to other stakeholders, including the other biodiversity-related conventions.

Focal Points: The focal points are as follows, for the:

- CBD Secretariat – the Principal Officer for Scientific, Technical and Technological Matters.
- CMS Secretariat – the Inter-Agency Liaison Officer.

Activities:

Activity	Timeframe
1. Strategic cooperation	
1.1 The Secretariats will participate in the meetings of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) and consult on ways to strengthen the effectiveness of the Group, its relevance to the needs of Parties, and its linkages to the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (JLG).	2012-14
1.2 The Secretariats will support the chairs of the CMS Scientific Council and the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) in their work with the group called Chairs of Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB), for example when considering enhanced cooperation on cross-cutting issues.	2012-14
1.3 The Secretariats will invite each other to relevant meetings under each Convention, including the Conventions' Conferences of the Parties, subsidiary bodies and other relevant workshops on technical meetings of mutual interest.	2012-14
1.4 As the CBD Secretariat has recognized the CMS Secretariat as its lead partner in conserving and sustainably using migratory species, the CBD Secretariat will contribute to the implementation of the CMS Strategic Plan, through the activities listed in this Joint Work Plan.	2012-14
1.5 The CMS Secretariat will contribute to assessment of progress towards Aichi Targets, including the Global Biodiversity Outlook, and will provide details of activities undertaken that will contribute to achieving these targets.	2012-14
2. Joint activities to support achieving CMS Strategic Plan objectives and Aichi Biodiversity Targets of key shared interest	
Natural Habitats:	2012-14
2.1 The Secretariats will, resources permitting, cooperate to further initiatives for ecological networks and protected areas, for example by supporting coordination and communication intended to strengthen synergies with global conventions, regional conventions and other international initiatives, as well as national policies and strategies, in particular in the implementation of the CBD	

Secretariat's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA) and the LifeWeb initiative.	
<p><u>Invasive alien species:</u></p> <p>2.2 The Secretariats will collaborate through their joint membership of the Scientific Task Force on Wildlife Diseases.</p>	2012-14
<p><u>Protected areas:</u></p> <p>2.3 The Secretariats will share the results of their work, such as the CMS Secretariat's joint work with the Ramsar Convention Secretariat to identify key wetlands of significance, and to support the establishment of coherent networks of critical sites, for migratory species.</p> <p>2.4 The Secretariats will encourage their respective national focal points to collaborate effectively in the implementation of the CBD Secretariat's Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA).</p> <p>2.5 The CMS Secretariat will encourage its national focal points to use the PoWPA e-learning module, user-friendly comprehensive website and other capacity building measures including participation in training of trainers and regional workshops.</p> <p>2.6 The Secretariats will collaborate in their capacity building initiatives to avoid duplication.</p>	2012-14
<p><u>Threatened species:</u></p> <p>2.7 In the event of a conservation crisis affecting migratory species, such as a mass die-off:</p> <p>(a) The CMS Secretariat will play a facilitative role if requested, by bringing together species management authorities, experts and other relevant stakeholders across national borders in order to help resolve such a crisis.</p> <p>(b) The CBD Secretariat will collaborate closely and make available their expertise to the CMS Secretariat in order to address such conservation emergencies effectively.</p> <p>2.8 The Secretariats will continue to collaborate on issues related to bush meat, pending related decisions of CBD COP 11.</p> <p>2.9 The Secretariats will seek the inputs from each other's relevant technical officers when preparing and publishing Action Plans and Technical Reports on threatened species and regions of mutual interest.</p>	2012-14
3. Support the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity 2011-2020	
<p>3.1 The Secretariats will encourage their Parties to support the UN Decade on Biodiversity 2011- 2020. For example, the CBD Secretariat is preparing a global strategy to celebrate the Decade, and the CMS Secretariat will participate and support where possible.</p> <p>3.2 Both Secretariats will participate in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Task Force, and consider joint cooperation on Task Force activities where possible.</p>	2012-14
4. Collaborate on providing support and guidance to Parties on the integration of migratory species considerations in National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPs)	
4.1 The CMS Secretariat will promote its " <i>Guidelines on the Integration of Migratory Species into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)</i> " and make them available to CBD and CMS National Focal Points	2012

to use in the revisions of NBSAPs.	
4.2 The CBD Secretariat will keep the CMS Secretariat informed about regional and sub-regional capacity-building workshops on reviewing NBSAPs, will invite the CMS Secretariat to attend, will welcome CMS Parties at such meetings, and will disseminate the CMS Guidelines at such meetings.	2012
5. Develop a coherent approach to cross-cutting issues	
<p>5.1 The Secretariats will enhance cooperation, policy coherence and implementation with regard to work on cross-cutting issues, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate change; • scientific criteria for the identification of ecologically or biologically significant areas in need of protection; • human, animal and ecosystem health linkages; • community-based management of natural resources; and • invasive alien species. <p>This will occur in a manner consistent with their respective mandates, governance arrangements and agreed programmes of work. This will be achieved by such measures as joint participation at relevant meetings.</p> <p>5.2 On climate change, the Secretariats will share the results of their work on:</p> <p>(a) The impact of climate change on migratory species in relation to how best the international community could assist migratory species in dealing with climate change, from monitoring, identification of most vulnerable species to the role of local people and adaptive management.</p> <p>(b) The CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Climate Change preparation of an Action Plan to guide CMS Parties' response to conserving migratory species in the light of climate change.</p>	2012-14
6. Collaborative information, outreach and capacity-building	
6.1 The Secretariats will broaden awareness and enhance engagement in the conservation of biodiversity and migratory species amongst key actors (for example by working with partner NGOs, including through joint work plans).	2012-14
6.2 The Secretariats will cooperate to seek opportunities for presenting compatible policy positions and advisory materials in relevant fora, and in their relationships with relevant organizations.	2012-14
6.3 The Secretariats will each take appropriate opportunities, including in publications and on websites, to promote awareness of and support for the other.	2012-14
<p>6.4 The Secretariats will share information and the results of their work relevant to shared objectives and targets, including the following:</p> <p>(a) CMS-led scientific review on freshwater fish to identify candidate species for listing on CMS Appendices.</p> <p>(b) Implementation of a shark conservation plan for range states of the CMS MoU on conservation of migratory sharks.</p> <p>(c) A CMS-led global study on the effects of by-catch on CMS marine species, specifically by-catch in gillnets and the effectiveness of mitigation measures.</p> <p>(d) Information on invasive alien species that impact on migratory</p>	2012-14

<p>species/habitats.</p> <p>(e) Development of policy and management approaches in furtherance of the most recent scientific knowledge and best practice concerning ecological networks in relation to migratory species.</p>	
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DRAFT RESOLUTION **/2013

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The Governing Body,

Recalling that Article 1.2 of the Treaty provides that the objectives of the Treaty will be attained by closely linking this Treaty to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and to the Convention on Biological Diversity, and that Article 19.3(g) and (l) of the Treaty provides for the Governing Body to establish and maintain cooperation with, as well as take note of the relevant decisions of, the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Noting the outcomes of the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity that are of relevance to the Treaty, in particular its Decisions on the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization (the Nagoya Protocol), and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (the Strategic Plan);

Recalling its Decision, by Resolution 8/2011, to establish and maintain cooperation with the Open-ended *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol established by the Conference of Parties to the Convention, and, upon the entry into force of the Protocol, with the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Protocol;

Noting that, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Governments affirmed the importance of implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and achieving the Aichi Biodiversity Targets;

Noting also the potential contribution of information, technical and scientific cooperation and related capacity-building under the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to the implementation of the Convention and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020;

Taking into account the provisions of Article 20.5 of the Treaty that requires the Secretary to cooperate with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

Recalling the Memorandum of Cooperation and Joint Initiative that the Secretary of the Governing Body concluded with the Executive Secretary of the Convention for institutional cooperation between the two Secretariats in areas of mutual interest and within their respective mandates;

Recalling Resolution 8/2011 by which the Governing Body requested the Secretary to report on cooperation with the Secretariat of the Convention at each Session of the Governing Body;

Cognizant of the importance to further enhance the cooperation and synergies between the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity, their respective intergovernmental bodies and Secretariats, as well as with other biodiversity-related conventions;

1. **Reiterates** the importance of maintaining a close cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Conference of Parties as well as its subsidiary bodies and Secretariat, in order to ensure the harmonious implementation of the Treaty and the Convention.
2. **Looks forward** to the entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing and its subsequent implementation, in harmony with the Treaty, in the interest of the conservation and sustainable utilization of genetic resources for the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their utilization;

3. Again, ***calls on*** Contracting Parties to ensure that any legislative, administrative or policy measures taken for the implementation of both the Treaty and the Convention on Biological Diversity or its Nagoya Protocol, are consistent and mutually supportive;
4. ***Requests*** the national focal points of the Treaty to enhance their collaboration and coordination with their counterpart national focal points for the Convention on Biological Diversity on all relevant processes, in particular in the review and updating of their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans in order to take into account the objectives of the Treaty and the updated *Global Plan of Action on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture*;
5. ***Welcomes*** the establishment of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and encourages the platform to fully recognize the provisions of the Treaty in providing relevant biodiversity information in order to support the implementation of the objectives of the Treaty in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Strategic Plan 2011-2020, as well as the objectives of other biodiversity-related conventions, as appropriate;
6. ***Requests*** the Secretary to continue strengthening the collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the implementation of the Convention's programme of work on agricultural biodiversity, on-farm and *in-situ* conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 - 2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets, in harmony with the work of the Treaty;
7. ***Takes note*** of the Joint Initiative entered into between the Secretary and the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity in the context of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the two Secretariats and commends the Secretary for the initiative, and ***requests*** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue exploring with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, practical means and activities to give effect to this cooperation, including through the organization of workshops, seminars and other events, coordination of technical assistance as well as the exchange of expertise and information;
8. ***Takes note*** of the relevant initiatives to increase synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, and ***requests*** the Secretary to continue to participate in and contribute to the relevant meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Open-ended *Ad Hoc* Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol, as well as the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, where relevant;
9. ***Welcomes*** the *modus operandi* adopted by the Biodiversity Liaison Group to enhance coordination, coherence and national-level synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions, and ***invites*** international organizations and donors to provide financial resources to support efforts that encourage synergies in policy development and the fulfilment of obligations under the biodiversity-related conventions;
10. ***Welcomes*** the efforts of the Secretariat and its partners to bring together stakeholders and experts involved in the implementation of the Treaty, the Convention, and the Nagoya Protocol, and ***requests*** the Secretary, subject to the availability of financial resources, to continue facilitating such interaction on the mutual supportiveness and harmonious implementation of the instruments, including through the organisation of workshops and other events and report to the Governing Body the outcomes of such activities;
11. ***Requests*** the Secretary to continue reporting on the cooperation with the Convention at each Session of the Governing Body.