

Minutes of the Liaison Group Meeting of the Biodiversity-related Conventions

16 August 2004,
Geneva, Switzerland

The second meeting of the liaison group of the biodiversity related conventions was held on 16 August 2004 at the CITES offices in Geneva. The provisional agenda of the meeting and the list of participants are attached.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The meeting was opened by H. Zedan (ES/CBD) who welcomed the participants and introduced the provisional agenda. The agenda was adopted.

2. Introduction of Decision VII/26 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity

H. Zedan introduced the decision which calls for the establishment of the liaison group.

3. Modalities of the Operation of the Liaison Group

The participants exchanged views on the issue. It was agreed that:

- Convener: The CBD will act as the convener of the group.
- Chair: The meetings of the group will be chaired by rotation
- Provisional agenda: The provisional agenda of the meeting will be prepared by the CBD, distributed for comments, finalized and distributed to the members of the group.
- Minutes of the meeting: The chair of the meeting will be responsible for the finalization and distribution of the minutes.
- Periodicity of the meeting: The group will meet at least once every year.
- Venue: The meeting venue will be rotated. For cost effectiveness purposes, meetings in Montreal will be held in association with CBD meetings.
- Participation: Participation shall be at the chief officers' level.
- Reporting: Members will report on progress made to their respective Conference of the Parties. Members will also bring the issues discussed at the meetings to the attention of the respective relevant bodies such as SBSTTAs, committees and national focal points with a view to promote synergies and coordination of implementation of the five conventions.

4. Priority Issues for the Group

The number of priority issues should be limited to ensure focus and progress in implementation. Two priority issues were identified and agreed by the group; namely:

- i. The 2010 Target on Biodiversity
- ii. The Global Partnership on Biodiversity

The focus will be on:

- i. Individual contributions to both issues
- ii. The role of the liaison group and what could be strategically done together towards achieving the 2010 target, monitoring and measuring progress in its implementation and reporting.

5. Date and Venue of the Next Meeting

It was agreed that the group would meet in January 2005 in Paris in conjunction with the International Conference on Biodiversity.

6. Other Matters

No other matters were raised.

7. Closure of the Meeting

H. Zedan (ES/CBD) thanked the participants for a constructive meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

**Second Meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions
(CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, WHC)**

16 August 2004

Geneva, Switzerland

Provisional Agenda

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Introduction of decision VII/26 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, which calls for the establishment of the liaison group.
3. Modalities of operation of the liaison group
4. Priority Issues for the liaison group:
 - i. The 2010 target on biodiversity
 - ii. Areas for possible joint activities
 - iii. Global partnership on Biodiversity
5. Date and venue of the next meeting.
6. Other matters.
7. Closure of the meeting.

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16 August 2004

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List of Participants

World Heritage Convention

Ms. Elizabeth Wangari, Senior Programme Specialist, Chief, African Unit, World Heritage Center, UNESCO

Mr. Marc Patry, World Heritage Center, UNESCO

CMS

Mr. Robert Hepworth, Acting Executive Secretary, Convention on Migratory Species

CITES

Mr. Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary General, CITES

Mr. Morgan David, Chief, Scientific Support Unit, CITES

Ramsar Convention

Mr. Peter Bridgewater, Secretary General, Ramsar Secretariat

Mr. Tobias Salathe, Senior Advisor for Europe, Ramsar Secretariat

CBD

Mr. Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)