

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES  
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Joint sessions of the 26th meeting of the Animals Committee and  
20th meeting of the Plants Committee  
Dublin (Ireland), 22-24 March 2012

INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY  
AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES) (DECISION 15.12)

1. This document has been prepared by the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat.
2. At its 15th meeting (Doha, 2010), the Conference of the Parties adopted Decision 15.12 as follows:

***Directed to the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat***

*Without taking a position about the necessity for, or nature of, such a Platform, the Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat shall, subject to external funding, participate in discussions concerning a possible IPBES, to provide all necessary input into the process of IPBES and to ensure that the role of CITES receives due recognition. The Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees and the Secretariat shall report to the Standing Committee to seek additional guidance.*

3. Further to this Decision, the interim Chairs of the Animals and Plants Committees attended the "Third Ad Hoc Intergovernmental and Multi-Stakeholder Meeting on An Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services" held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 7 to 12 June 2010. This participation was funded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Spain, respectively.
4. The report and the recommendations of this meeting, which can be found in the Annex of document [AC25 Doc. 7.2](#), were welcomed at the 10th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (Nagoya, October 2010) where the CBD Parties adopted a decision encouraging the United Nations General Assembly at its 65th session to consider the establishment of the intergovernmental science-policy platform at the earliest opportunity.
5. On 20 December 2010 the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution which requested UNEP, without prejudice to the final institutional arrangements for IPBES and in consultation with all relevant organizations and bodies, to convene a plenary meeting of IPBES to determine its modalities and institutional arrangements, in order to fully operationalize it.
6. At its 26th Session (Nairobi, February 2011), the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum agreed *inter alia* to request the Executive Director of UNEP, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the United Nations Development Programme, to convene a first plenary meeting of IPBES in 2011 and to continue to facilitate any ensuing process to implement the platform until such time as a secretariat is established.
7. At its 25th meeting (Geneva, July 2011), the Animals Committee, in the presence of the Chair of the Plants Committee, adopted recommendations about CITES's engagement with IPBES. These were subsequently endorsed by the Standing Committee at its 61st meeting (Geneva, August 2011) and can be found in paragraph 5 of the Annex to document [SC61 Doc. 15.6 \(Rev. 1\)](#) This conclusion was subsequently conveyed to the first plenary meeting of IPBES in an [information document](#).

8. The first session of the plenary meeting to determine modalities and institutional arrangements for an IPBES was convened in Nairobi, Kenya from 3 to 7 October 2011. The CITES Secretariat attended this meeting as well as a Stakeholder Day organized by UNEP on 2 October 2011. At the plenary meeting, a [joint statement](#) was issued by the Secretariats and Chairs of scientific advisory bodies of CITES, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Migratory Species, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in Food and Agriculture, the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and the World Heritage Convention. They noted therein the importance of IPBES to the work of the conventions as well as the potential contributions of the conventions to the work of IPBES. The CITES Secretariat is grateful for the assistance and support it received from the Vice-Chair of the Plants Committee, Mr Hesiquio Benítez Dias, who attended the meeting as a representative of Mexico.
9. Participants in the plenary session agreed that the platform should respond “to requests from Governments, including those conveyed to it by multilateral environmental agreements related to biodiversity and ecosystem services as determined by their respective governing bodies” and that the platform’s operating principles should provide for “[collaboration] with existing initiatives on biodiversity and ecosystem services, including multilateral environment agreements.....to fill gaps and build upon their work while avoiding duplication”. Representatives of the multilateral environment agreements are envisaged to play a part in the governance of the platform under all the scenarios under discussion.
10. Subsequently, and in the light of discussions at the first session of the plenary meeting, a revised document on the draft elements of the IPBES work programme was distributed for comment. The latest version of this document, which will be discussed at the second session of the plenary meeting, will be distributed as an Annex to the present document as soon as it is available.
11. This second session of the plenary meeting will be held in Panama City, Panama, from 16 to 21 April 2012. Prior to this, on 25 March 2012, the fifth meeting of the Chairs of Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) will give an opportunity for the biodiversity-related conventions to prepare a further joint statement, if this is their wish.
12. In the light of developments since their last meetings, the Animals and Plants Committees are invited to make suggestions for the further input of the Chairs and the Secretariat into the process for creating an IPBES.