

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



Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties
Colombo (Sri Lanka), 23 May – 3 June 2019

Strategic matters

Cooperation with organizations and multilateral environmental agreements

COOPERATION WITH OTHER BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

1. This document has been submitted by the Standing Committee.*

Background

2. At its 17th meeting (CoP17, Johannesburg, 2016), the Conference of the Parties adopted the following Decisions on *Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions*:

Decision 17.55 directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to strengthen synergies among biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements at the national level by, among others, improving coordination and cooperation between national focal points and strengthening capacity-building activities.

Decision 17.56 directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies at all relevant levels between CITES and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and a possible follow-up framework, as appropriate, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. This should involve the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and, as appropriate, engagement with other relevant organisations and processes, including processes under the Rio Conventions. The Standing Committee shall report on the implementation of this Decision at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Activities

3. The Standing Committee received reports from the Secretariat on cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions and also some other partners at its 69th meeting (SC69, Geneva, November 2017) in document [SC69 Doc. 19](#) and 70th meeting (SC70, Sochi, October 2018) in document [SC70 Doc. 19](#).
4. The Committee encouraged the Secretariat to provide advice to Parties, via a Notification as necessary, on ongoing cooperative processes and their relationships and the Secretariat provided such advice to Parties in Notification to the Parties [No. 2018/063](#) of 19 June 2018.
5. The Secretariat emphasized the pragmatic and cordial relations between itself and the secretariats of other biodiversity-related conventions through the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG). The

* *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat (or the United Nations Environment Programme) concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

BLG organized a high-level event “*The Living Planet – the foundation of sustainable development: Contribution of the biodiversity-related conventions to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals*” in New York on 17 July 2018, in the margins of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). This gathered the executive management of secretariats of a number of the biodiversity-related conventions, political leadership of their governing bodies and leadership of organizations important to their implementation, together with high-level representation of delegations to HLPF. Among others, a message was delivered on behalf of the UN Deputy Secretary-General in which she noted that each biodiversity-related convention has its unique role and mandate, but collectively, they provide a global strategy for arresting the loss of biological diversity that is so critical to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals

6. In its report to SC70, the Secretariat explained that, as part of its reflection on the development of a post-2020 global framework for biodiversity, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) invited the Secretariat to participate in the Second Bogis Bossey Dialogue for Biodiversity Meeting (Chexbres, Switzerland, 4-6 March 2018). The results of the meeting¹ stressed the need for one key overarching post-2020 biodiversity narrative that can form an umbrella for the contributions of others, including Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as CITES. The Standing Committee requested the Secretariat to issue a Notification encouraging CITES focal points to liaise with their CBD counterparts to ensure that relevant CITES provisions are included in country submissions to CBD Notification 2018-063 with their initial views on the scope and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This was undertaken in [Notification to the Parties No 2018/091](#) of 15 November 2018. A similar instruction is also being proposed in a Decision the context of the CITES Strategic Vision (see document CoP18 Doc. 10). The Standing Committee also invited the Secretariat to submit relevant reports adopted by CITES to the CBD Secretariat to assist with the work on the post-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.
7. In terms of day-to-day work, the Secretariat reported on collaboration with the Convention on Migratory Species on the basis of the Standing Committee approved CITES-CMS Joint Work Programme 2015-2020; with CBD over meeting registration systems and over its Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011-2020; and with the Ramsar Convention over staff exchanges for respective CoP meetings. These are expanded upon in the Secretariat’s reports to SC69 and SC70 and in other documents submitted to the present meeting.
8. The Standing Committee noted the reports of the Secretariat and that the Secretariat intended to propose to the Conference of the Parties the renewal of Decisions 17.55 and 17.56.

Recommendation

9. The Conference of the Parties is invited to note this report.

COMMENTS OF THE SECRETARIAT

- A. The 14th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CBD was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 17 to 29 November 2018. This meeting agreed [a decision on cooperation with other conventions, international organizations and initiatives](#) calling for enhanced cooperation and synergies amongst biodiversity-related conventions. It followed the adoption in 2016 by CBD Parties of a [Road map for enhancing synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions at the international level 2017-2020](#) and the formation of an informal advisory group on synergies which [reported](#) to the 2nd meeting of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Implementation (Montreal, July 2018). The decision *inter alia* invites the governing bodies and the secretariats of the other biodiversity-related conventions to consider the advice of the CBD informal advisory group on synergies, to continue undertaking desirable key actions on synergies and to be actively involved in the process of developing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. Further, it requested the CBD Secretariat to organize a workshop to facilitate discussions among Parties of the various biodiversity-related conventions to explore ways in which the conventions can contribute to the elaboration of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and, based on the respective mandate of each convention, to identify specific elements that could be included in the framework. At the time of writing, the Secretariat had received an invitation to this workshop as a member of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions. It is expected that CITES Standing Committee Members will participate in this workshop as Government

¹ <https://www.cbd.int/post2020/doc/sbi-02-inf-35-en.pdf>

representatives of the Convention. The CBD COP14 also agreed [a decision on Comprehensive and participatory process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#). The Secretariat recommends that CITES Parties engage actively in the international discussions about the framework; both to contribute to its development and ensure also achievement of CITES' objectives in its subsequent implementation.

- B. In view of the significant development over the post-2020 global biodiversity framework which are likely to take place between the time of writing the present document and the date of the present meeting, the Secretariat recommends that the Conference of the Parties discusses the issue, following a presentation by the Secretariat at the present meeting, perhaps in an in-session working group, in order to elaborate on the input from the Convention to the process.
- C. The Secretariat also recommends that the existing Decisions on *Cooperation with other biodiversity-related conventions* be extended (slightly revised – changes shown in strikethrough and underline) as follows:

Decision 17.55

Directed to Parties

Parties are encouraged to strengthen synergies among biodiversity multilateral environmental agreements at the national level by, among others, improving coordination and cooperation between national focal points and strengthening capacity-building activities.

Decision 17.56 (Rev. CoP18)

Directed to the Standing Committee

The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies at all relevant levels between CITES and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, its Aichi Targets and a possible follow-up framework, as appropriate, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. This should involve the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and, as appropriate, engagement with other relevant organisations and processes, including processes under the Rio Conventions. The Standing Committee shall report on the implementation of this Decision at the ~~48~~19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

[Recognizing that some adjustment may be required to reflect any results of the discussions proposed in paragraph B of these comments.]

- D. The Secretariat observes that all other biodiversity-related conventions have adopted omnibus decisions or resolutions of their governing bodies broadly addressing synergies, partnerships and cooperation with entities such as: biodiversity-related and other conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements, international initiatives, international organizations and inter-agency and coordination networks. In some cases, this is extended to non-governmental and private sector organizations. The Secretariat recommends that the merits of such an approach for CITES be considered and consequently proposes that the following draft decisions be adopted:

Decision 18.AA

Directed to the Secretariat

The Secretariat shall prepare a report summarizing existing practices in other biodiversity-related conventions concerning decisions and resolutions of their governing bodies on synergies, partnerships and cooperation with entities such as: biodiversity-related and other conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements, international initiatives, international organizations and inter-agency and coordination networks.

Decision 18.BB

Directed to the Standing Committee

- a) The Standing Committee shall consider the report of the Secretariat under Decision 18.AA and the merits of the Conference of the Parties adopting a resolution on synergies, partnerships and cooperation with entities such as: biodiversity-related and other conventions, other multilateral environmental agreements, international initiatives, international organizations and inter-agency and coordination networks. This reflection shall include consideration of existing Resolutions on cooperation with other bodies.
- b) The Standing Committee shall prepare a report on its implementation of the present Decision and recommendations, including a draft resolution if appropriate, for consideration by the 19th meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

TENTATIVE BUDGET AND SOURCE OF FUNDING
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTIONS OR DECISIONS

According to Resolution Conf. 4.6 (Rev. CoP16) on *Submission of draft resolutions, draft decisions and other documents for meetings of the Conference of the Parties*, the Conference of the Parties decided that any draft resolutions or decisions submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Conference of the Parties that have budgetary and workload implications for the Secretariat or permanent committees must contain or be accompanied by a budget for the work involved and an indication of the source of funding.

There will be workload implications for the Secretariat and the Standing Committee from the adoption of draft decisions proposed by the Secretariat, but it is expected that these can be delivered using existing resources.