

NOTIFICATION TO THE PARTIES

No. 2015/017

Geneva, 23 March 2015

CONCERNING:

Synergy in implementing the global biodiversity-related conventions
– document for review and comment

1. In [Notification to the Parties No. 2014/023](#) of 14 May 2014, the CITES Secretariat circulated two questionnaires regarding synergy in implementing the global biodiversity-related conventions at the request of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Feedback from those questionnaires was used to inform an expert meeting on the issue organized by the UNEP Secretariat in Interlaken, Switzerland from 26 to 28 August 2014 (Interlaken meeting).
2. The objectives of the Interlaken meeting were to review current experience and views relating to achieving synergies at the global level in implementing the biodiversity-related conventions, and to identify and explore options for achieving further synergies. Participants in the meeting included representatives of Parties, convention secretariats, and international and regional organizations, as well as a number of other experts identified by the UNEP Secretariat for their experience on issues relating to the objectives of the meeting.
3. With this Notification, the CITES Secretariat is transmitting, at the request of the Executive Director of UNEP, the minutes of the Interlaken meeting (available in [English only](#)) and an “option paper” (available in [English](#) and [French](#)) presenting initial opportunities and options for further enhancing collaboration and cooperation at the global level. Specifically, Parties are invited to review and comment on the option paper.
4. In order to ensure the widest possible circulation, the Secretariat of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to UNEP sent a Note Verbale on this subject, and the secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions sent notifications to their Parties. The Secretariat would like to apologize for any duplication.
5. The comments received from Parties will be used to further refine the draft option paper, which will then be used as a basis for discussion for a second expert meeting, to be held from 13 to 15 May 2015 at the Château de Bossey in Geneva, Switzerland. Ultimately, the output from this work will be a set of recommendations for the UNEP Executive Director to present to the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly in 2016. These recommendations are produced as part of a larger UNEP project funded by the European Union, with additional support from the Governments of Switzerland and Finland. Reports on this project will be made available to Parties to each of the biodiversity-related conventions through the appropriate channels.
6. It would be appreciated if Parties could send comments on the option paper by 17 April 2015 to Mads.Christensen@unep-wcmc.org, copied to info@cites.org.