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REPORT ON SYNERGIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

(Prepared by the Secretariat)

Introduction

1. Cooperation with organizations concerned with the conservation of migratory species is one of the key functions of the CMS Secretariat as mandated by Article IX of the Convention. Furthermore, the CMS Strategic Plan 2006-2011 (which is expected to be extended to 2014, by CMS COP10 through draft Resolution 10.5/Rev.1) recognizes that the objectives of CMS and other biodiversity-related conventions are mutually supportive and that strengthening a network of partners and establishing a dialogue with other key sectoral groups whose activities have impacts on migratory species are crucial to promoting CMS and its mandate.
2. Over the last three years, the Secretariat has made significant efforts to coordinate actions, create synergies and avoid duplication among the various relevant instruments and initiatives. Special attention has been given to implementing and consolidating existing partnerships and to seeking more structured cooperative actions by developing, where feasible, joint programmes of work in line with Res.9.6.
3. The Secretariat has developed a [code of conduct](#) for partnerships with the private sector drawing on guidelines prepared by other MEAs i.e. Ramsar and CBD as well as by the IUCN. This code is designed to facilitate the development and implementation of partnerships between CMS and private sector entities of all types, including the commercial ones and those belonging to the voluntary sector, NGOs and philanthropic foundations. The guidelines were endorsed by the 36th Meeting of the Standing Committee in December 2009.
4. Cooperation with partners is an on-going process which depends on a range of factors, for which the Secretariat does not have sole responsibility. The ultimate aims of entering into partnerships are to facilitate the accession of countries to CMS; the negotiation and implementation of species agreements under the Convention; to promote awareness raising on species; to develop conservation science and policy; to implement on specific conservation projects.
5. The slogan of COP10 “Networking for Migratory Species” underlines the importance of working with relevant stakeholders for conserving migratory species and anticipates that the Secretariat considers engaging with partners instrumental for the implementation of the Convention to be a priority for its future work.

6. The present document summarizes the current state of development both of formal initiatives and of activities undertaken with other partners.

FORMAL PARTNERSHIPS

7. The following section highlights the key developments during the last triennium resulting from cooperation between CMS and a large number of organizations, including Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs); other international and national governmental organizations; non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector. The Secretariat has entered into three new formal partnerships since COP9 bringing our formal partners to 28. These partnerships are usually formalized through Memoranda of Cooperation or similar documents. A number of these include a joint programme of work or list of activities that are regularly updated.

I. Biodiversity Liaison Group

8. The mandate for establishing the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (Biodiversity Liaison Group) was set out by the Parties to the CBD, in decision VII/26. This mandate has been further supported by several follow up decisions of the governing bodies of the member secretariats, including CMS Res.8.11 and Res.9.6. Through CBD decision IX/27, the Conference of the Parties, underlined the important role of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, encouraged meetings to be held more regularly and invited the Group to identify options for improved implementation of and cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions. Most recently, CBD decision X/20 in October 2010 sought a strengthening of the effectiveness of the Biodiversity Liaison Group, its relevance to the needs of Parties, and its linkages to the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions (JLG). CBD decision X/20 also sought continued consideration of harmonizing national reporting; and enhanced cooperation and a coherent approach on cross-cutting issues.

9. The six secretariats of the biodiversity-related conventions currently comprising the Biodiversity Liaison Group are the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Ramsar Convention, the World Heritage Convention (WHC) as well as CMS.

10. Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG) meetings and annual retreats typically involve the heads of the above secretariats and additional technical staff where appropriate. Reports of all meetings, which the CMS Secretariat attended, and additional background information are accessible from <http://www.cbd.int/blg>.

11. The BLG at the 2011 Retreat agreed a new *modus operandi* (Annex) to guide the future joint activities of the Group, replacing the one agreed at its second meeting in 2004. CMS has played a key role in discussions on the revision of the *modus operandi* preparatory to its adoption.

12. The Second Retreat also discussed the measures members are putting in place to fulfil their mandates aimed at ensuring a harmonized implementation of the overall 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

13. The original areas of activity of BLG were to support the objectives of the 2010 Target on Biodiversity and The Global Partnership on Biodiversity. Later work included efforts towards the

harmonization of national reporting, the Biodiversity Targets beyond 2010, and consideration of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity, as has been reported on previously. In addition to these main areas of activity, BLG has also collaborated, historically on harmonization of taxonomy and nomenclature, indicators, the Global Biodiversity Outlook reports and the International Year of Biodiversity 2010.

14. An interactive CD-ROM on the application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (AAPG) was produced in 2009. This CD explains the AAPG and their relevance in the context of each of the biodiversity related conventions, and in addition contains: the full text of the principles and guidelines; relevant decisions, recommendations and resolutions; background documents; and other materials, including links to relevant websites. This joint collaboration between the biodiversity-related conventions was led by the CITES Secretariat.

15. On-going knowledge management improvements are being made to access to a range of strategic documents and information tools of the biodiversity-related conventions through the single web portal at www.inforMEA.org, the United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements. It establishes information exchange standards and aggregates data and information gathered from participating MEAs, including: COP/MOP decisions, resolutions and recommendations, news and events, calendars, contact details of national focal points and official documents. However it should be noted that the current CMS website is from a technical point of view out of date and therefore the information stored there is not accessible for InforMea. In document UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.25 a proposal is made to develop a CMS Family Website that would be based on the newest technology and will enable to exchange information between different systems.

16. Future cooperative activities will include, but not be limited to, the following areas:

- Providing 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;
- Exploring practical ways that identify and reinforce mutual coordinated support for the implementation of relevant decisions adopted by the respective COPs;
- Supporting Parties in the review and implementation of updated National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAPs);
- Supporting Parties activities in public awareness and education including the International Days of the Conventions;
- Supporting Parties in capacity building activities and other forms of technical assistance;
- Assisting Parties with any future priorities identified by the respective COPs of the BLG members;
- Holding a joint BLG and JLG meeting to discuss common issues and cooperation among the two Groups; and
- Organizing a joint event at the Rio+20 meeting in 2012 on themes of urbanization, sustainable development and biodiversity.

17. The CMS COP at its tenth meeting may wish to reiterate the mandate of the Executive Secretary to continue to participate in the activities of BLG in recognition of the important role of the group in sharing information, coordinating activities and thereby providing services to the Parties of all biodiversity-related conventions.

18. Besides specific activities that these Secretariats undertake jointly in the framework of their bilateral formal partnerships and programmes of work and in addition to being active within the BLG, the Secretariats of the four biodiversity-related conventions adopted in the 1970s (these being Ramsar, CITES, CMS and the WHC) have significantly enhanced their institutional collaboration in the last triennium. At the High-Level Segment of CBD-COP 10 in Nagoya, they spoke with one voice and stated that despite having different mandates they work together in supporting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. For instance, they have been actively engaged in the revision of the NBSAPs to achieve greater effectiveness and coherence with the implementation of these conventions at the national level.

19. Their collective approach is also expressed in their efforts to explore ways to use existing financial resources more effectively, including most importantly resources available to Parties under the GEF, and to attract additional financing.

II. Multilateral Environmental Agreements

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

20. A Memorandum of Cooperation between the CMS and CBD Secretariats has been in force since 1996.

21. CMS COP8 in 2005 adopted a joint CBD-CMS Joint Work Programme for 2006-2008 through Resolution 8.18. There has not been a standalone joint work programme since then; however, the Secretariats have continued to cooperate particularly in the context of the Biodiversity Liaison Group (BLG). Good communication between the two conventions has also been facilitated through the reciprocal attendance of meetings and the presence of a CBD liaison officer in Bonn for part of the triennium.

22. CBD COP10 reaffirmed the role of CMS as its lead partner on the conservation and sustainable use of migratory species and requested the Secretariats that the joint work programme between the two Secretariats be updated and to collaborate on providing support and guidance to Parties on the integration of migratory species considerations in NBSAPs.

23. The CMS Secretariat has already undertaken an analysis of the CBD COP10 decisions relevant to CMS (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.26) and produced draft Guidance for Parties on the Integration of the Conservation of Migratory Species into NBSAPs (UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.27).

24. These elements are part of the new CMS/CBD Joint Work Plan for 2012-2014, which is to be submitted to the 38th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee on 19 November 2011 (CMS/StC38/4 and UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.36).

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)

25. The CMS and CITES Secretariats formalized their cooperation in 2002 with a signed Memorandum of Understanding.

26. The CMS-CITES Joint Work Programme for 2008-2010, later on extended to 2011, was adopted by the 34th Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee on 30 November 2008. Immediately afterwards, the Ninth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CMS (1-5

December 2008) welcomed, through Res.9.6, such programmes and called for practical actions to enforce this cooperation.

27. Both Secretariats made significant efforts to implement the numerous activities forming part of the joint programme. Among other things, substantial progress was made towards the conservation of elephants and the Saiga antelope (*Saiga* spp.).

28. Two joint meetings were held between the national focal points of the CMS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning Conservation Measures for the West African Populations of the African Elephant and those of the CITES Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme for West Africa. The first one took place in Accra, Ghana on 1 April 2009 while the second joint meeting was in Niamey, Niger on 23 June 2011. One of the main outcomes was the agreement on the development of 12 trans-boundary projects.

29. CITES and CMS have been jointly supporting the implementation of the CMS MoU concerning Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga Antelope (*Saiga* spp.) whereby CMS is focussing primarily on conservation management in range states and CITES targets consumer countries utilizing the horn of the saiga antelope which is used in Chinese Traditional Medicine. Meetings during the past triennium included the Second Meeting of Signatories (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 7-10 September 2010) and a workshop on the conservation and sustainable use of Saiga Antelope (Urumq, China, 27-29 September 2010).

30. A full report of the activities undertaken since 2008 as well as a new joint programme of work for the period 2012-2014 were discussed at the CITES Standing Committee in July 2011 and are due for consideration and endorsement by the 38th CMS Standing Committee Meeting on 19 November 2011 (CMS/StC38/3 and UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.35).

Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention)

31. A new Memorandum of Understanding between the Ramsar and the CMS Secretariats is to be signed in November 2011 to replace the one between the Bureau of the Ramsar Convention and the CMS Secretariat which was concluded in 1997.

32. With the aim of giving shape to such collaboration and also to include activities relating to AEWA, the Secretariats formulated a joint programme of work for 2003-2005. Although, significant progress was made on a number of these foreseen initiatives, the plan could not be fully implemented, because it was over-ambitious for the secretariat resources available.

33. Although there has not been any specific work plan since then, cooperation between the CMS and Ramsar Secretariats has continued and increased over the last three years. The main successes have been:

- Continued participation of Ramsar in the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and involvement in the new Task Force on Wildlife Diseases.
- Strong cooperation on debate on flyways: the Ramsar Secretariat contributed to the discussions on the development of a future policy on flyways under the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Flyways. Both Secretariats were in the organizing committee of the International Flyways Workshop to promote exchange of good practice and learning, Republic of Korea, 17-20 October 2011. Results of this event are key inputs to the CMS initiative as well as to a similar process under Ramsar.

- Contribution by the CMS Secretariat to the Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of High Andean Wetlands. The Secretariat participated in the Sixth Workshop of the Strategy and was later on nominated as members of the Contact Group to this initiative.
- Participation of the CMS and AEWA Secretariats in the Ramsar Advisory Mission (RAM) in the Marromeu Complex (Mozambique, 2009), Cayo-Loufoualeba (Congo, 2010), and the Moulouya SIBE -Site d'intérêt biologique et écologique - (Morocco, 2010).

34. In 2010, the Secretariats took stock of their joint activities and started discussing the preparation of a joint work plan for 2012-2014. This plan concentrates on specific, attainable goals and is due for consideration and endorsement by the 38th CMS Standing Committee Meeting on 19 November 2011 (CMS/StC38/5 and UNEP/CMS/Inf.10.37). This plan has been undertaken in consultation with other relevant CMS instruments and has been designed, both in terms of structure and main areas of work, to be the basis for separate plans between the Ramsar and other CMS Family Secretariats.

35. In February 2011, the global community celebrated the 40th Anniversary of the Ramsar Convention. CMS participated in the celebrations, and a video message from CMS was placed on the Ramsar website thanking our partner for 40 years of caring for wetlands, which are so important for migratory species, ecosystem services and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)

36. A long-standing cooperation between Secretariat of the Bern Convention and the CMS Secretariat was formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding which took place at the Bern Convention's Standing Committee Meeting in November 2009. The CMS Secretariat had consulted the ASCOBANS, ACCOBAMS, EUROBATS and AEWA secretariats during the drafting of the Memorandum.

37. The following issues of mutual interest have been identified as priorities for both treaties:

- a) On species in common: Mediterranean monk seal conservation, the implementation of single species action plans on migratory birds species (waterfowl or terrestrial birds, e.g. Great Bustard), and the work already developed on the Mediterranean marine turtles, sturgeons, bats, and cetaceans.
- b) On cross-cutting issues of mutual concern such as invasive species, adaptation and climate change, conservation of island biodiversity or sustainable use of species including hunting or fishing activities.
- c) On other activities of relevance to the Bern Convention and CMS or its Agreements, such as:
 - follow up on Bern Convention “case files” which need regular collaboration by biodiversity-related MEAs to find appropriate and acceptable solutions;
 - the identification of Emerald Network Areas of Special Conservation Interest that should take into account relevant migratory species on the CMS Family Appendices; and
 - the identification of pilot projects that could be carried out under the auspices of the Conventions in a common portfolio, also in support of requests for funding and implementation of activities in the field.

38. Synergies on cross-cutting issues were developed by the participation of the CMS Secretariat in the 4th, 5th and 6th Meetings of the Group of Experts on Biodiversity and Climate Change. The Secretariat of the Bern Convention provided its valuable contribution to the process regarding the Future Shape of CMS.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

39. An MoC between the Secretariats of UNCCD and CMS was signed in 2003. Although in the last triennium contacts were re-established mostly with a view to share experience in the fields of knowledge management and on-line national reporting, consultation has recently recommenced to revive the scope for collaboration.

40. Great potential for joint activities is provided by the dialogue on the establishment and maintenance of ecological networks which also looks at preserving arid land ecosystems. Specific collaboration is also sought for the implementation of Central Eurasian Aridland Action Plan, which is to be submitted to the 17th Scientific Council meeting in November.

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

41. UNESCO and the CMS Secretariat agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding in 2002 which had supplied a good foundation for joint activities.

42. Since 2008, UNESCO and the CMS Secretariat have mainly cooperated, with other partners, on initiatives related to gorilla conservation including the publication of a booklet and on the development of the Frankfurt Declaration that aims to minimizing direct threats and habitat loss.

43. The CMS Secretariat and the UNESCO World Heritage Convention (WHC) are also active in the Biodiversity Liaison Group. Joint efforts have been made towards the protection of World Heritage Sites of importance to migratory species which have recently come under threat. Such cooperation has been successful and resulted in the interruption of the proposed oil exploration in the Virungas National Park, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the proposed highway through the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.

44. In November 2012 the WHC will be 40 years old. The official launch of the anniversary year will take place in November 2011. CMS looks forward to participating in activities celebrating this important anniversary and to contributing to the public image and awareness of the Convention, which, 40 years after its establishment, is more relevant than ever.

III. UN Agencies and Intergovernmental Bodies

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

45. Collaboration between FAO and CMS has taken place on several issues during the past triennium. The joint CMS/FAO co-ordination of the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza (AI) and Wild Birds, which was initiated in June 2005, has however significantly reduced its activity, still provides and maintains the “AIWeb” – the Avian Influenza, Wildlife and Environmental Web site, a public platform for information exchange and communication on current and emerging topics related to AI and migratory birds.

46. Increasing cooperation with FAO on wildlife diseases is demonstrated by the establishment of the new dedicated Task Force, in accordance with Res.9.8, with the aim of identifying diseases that have an impact on both domestic and migratory wildlife, and that are of greatest concern with regard to food security, sustainable livelihoods, and conservation. The Task Force was launched on 27-28 June 2011 in Beijing, China. In light of the ongoing “One Health Movement”, a proposal to expand the scope of this task force to include issues related to the human-wildlife-livestock-ecosystem interface is to be presented at COP10. In this context, a sub-regional workshop on bats in sub-Saharan Africa was co-funded by the CMS and EUROBATS Secretariats and FAO in 2010.

47. Growing interest in threatened fish species under CMS has led to greater co-operation with FAO, as the primary UN agency for fisheries. FAO is currently contributing to the development of the Conservation Plan on migratory sharks on which the third meeting on the negotiation of the CMS instrument (Philippines, 2011) made progress and which the First Meeting of the MoU on sharks in 2011 ought to adopt. Joint efforts towards the conservation of endangered species resulted in the endorsement by FAO of the Frankfurt Declaration to minimize threats to gorillas.

48. An MoU between FAO and CMS is currently being negotiated to formalize the various joint initiatives and focuses on assisting each other in strengthening communications and interactions among agriculture, fisheries/aquaculture, forestry, natural resource management, biodiversity, and public health sectors of government and civil society.

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

49. A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the CMS Secretariat and IUCN was signed in 2003.

50. In this framework, cooperation has focussed mainly on joint work with the IUCN Species Survival Commissions (SSC). Their assistance and technical support have been vital for the coordination and implementation of a number of CMS instruments such as the MoU on Andean Flamingos; the West African Elephant MOU and the Gorilla Agreement. Further details are included in UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9 “Progress in the Implementation of Article IV Agreements already Concluded, and Development of New Agreements”.

51. The Secretariat and IUCN have been coordinating their work on linkages between climate change on migratory species. An IUCN representative attended the workshop on that organized by the Secretariat in 2011. IUCN has also contributed to the revision of the encyclopedia on the 72 species of toothed whales which has been recently released.

52. A new Memorandum of Understanding between the Bonn-based CMS Family Secretariats (CMS, AEWA, EUROBATS and ASCOBANS) and the IUCN Environmental Law Centre (IUCN ELC) was signed on 2 September 2011 to supersede the one signed in 1996 between the CMS Secretariat and IUCN ELC.

53. This Memorandum established a framework for continued cooperation on legal matters. Based on an agreed number of days per year, the IUCN ELC pledges to continue providing the CMS Family Secretariats with legal assistance, upon request and on a non-remunerative basis. This includes analyzing gaps to determine the potential benefits of new CMS instruments, drafting new CMS instruments, and assessing implications of the potential structural changes of

the CMS Family. This might include the amendment of the Convention or Agreement Text, the geographical coverage of existing CMS instruments or the merger of their secretariats.

54. A specific but not conclusive list tasks for which the UNEP/CMS Family Secretariats may request the legal assistance of the ELC has been agreed for the coming year and will be reviewed annually.

55. Earlier in the triennium, the ELC's contribution included the provision of an analysis of legal and practical implications of the extension of the ACCOBAMS geographical scope which significantly overlaps with the current ASCOBANS area.

International Whaling Commission (IWC)

56. Cooperation with IWC has been intensified over the last triennium, largely due to CMS having a staff member dedicated part time to marine mammal issues. Joint annual progress reports of CMS, ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS continue to be submitted to the Commission Meetings.

57. There is also cross-representation at the meetings to the degree possible. During the preparations for the 2011 IWC Meeting, the joint CMS/ASCOBANS Secretariat was able to support the new IWC Secretary with advice on a number of procedural issues.

58. The CMS Marine Mammals Officer represents both CMS and the related daughter Agreements on the IWC Ship Strikes Working Group. She has also participated in two workshops co-organized by IWC, one on ship strikes and one on the effects of climate change on small cetaceans. This has strengthened cooperation both with the Secretariat staff and the scientists involved in the IWC Scientific Committee and provided an opportunity to showcase some of the work done under CMS.

Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)

59. The MoC between the Secretariats of CMS and SPREP, which was signed in 2005, acknowledges the need for both agencies to coordinate their work on migratory species in the Pacific Islands Region.

60. Under this arrangement both Secretariats have worked closely together in the development of the CMS Pacific Islands Cetaceans (PIC) MoU and have maintained contact concerning the development of other species initiatives in the Pacific.

61. The SPREP Whale and Dolphin Conservation Plan was annexed to the original text of the PIC MoU and an amended version based on the SPREP Whale and Dolphin Action Plan 2009-2012 was formally adopted at the Second Meeting of the Signatories of the MoU held in Auckland in July 2009. SPREP is likely to continue to play a primary role in developing further versions of the Plan.

62. With the endorsement of the Auckland meeting, the CMS, SPREP Secretariat and the Coordination Unit of the CMS Dugong MoU have contributed to the creation of a CMS Pacific Officer position for an initial period of 12 months based in Samoa. This post has been recently advertised and filled. The CMS Pacific Officer who is expected to take up her duties in January, 2012 will be responsible for CMS activities throughout the region such as recruitment of Parties

to CMS and Signatories to its instruments; activities to support the implementation of the Dugong, Sharks and Pacific Islands Cetaceans MoUs.

Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI)

63. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed in 2008 between WHMSI and the CMS Secretariat to improve synergies on the conservation of migratory species in the Americas. The CMS Secretariat has been actively involved in the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) and participated in its Fourth Meeting, which was held on December 6-9, 2010 in Florida. The meeting adopted the document 'Purpose and Organization of WHMSI' which sets out the vision, mission and objectives of WHMSI and also spells out the composition of the Steering Committee. At the request of the members of the Steering Committee of WHMSI, CMS has taken up the role of Secretary.

64. The Chair of the WHMSI Steering Committee has taken part in the discussions on the development of a future policy on flyways under the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Flyways.

International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC)

65. The CIC and the CMS Secretariat signed a Partnership agreement in 2005. They have been collaborating on various issues in particular on the management of a number of species being Great bustard; Slender-billed curlew; and Saiga antelope. CIC particularly participates in the implementation of international projects in the context of the Action Plan on the Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of the Saiga MoU. CIC is also a cooperating organization of the MOU on the Conservation and Restoration of the Bukhara Deer.

IV. Non-Governmental Organizations; national governmental organizations and private sector

66. Partnerships with major non-governmental organizations have helped to implement conservation actions on the ground and to channel key scientific and conservation information into the Convention's decision-making processes.

BirdLife International (BLI)

67. The CMS Secretariat and BirdLife International have a long-standing relationship which was formalized through a Memorandum of Cooperation in 2004.

68. Some of the CMS MoUs that are serviced by the CMS Secretariat, including those on the conservation of the Slender-Billed Curlew, the Aquatic Warbler and South American Grassland Birds, have been benefitting from financial and advisory support from BLI and, in some cases, from its national partners on behalf of the international organization. Further details are included in UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9 "Progress in the Implementation of Article IV Agreements already Concluded, and Development of New Agreements".

69. In the last three years, joint efforts have been made on the development of policy options for flyway conservation and management under the CMS Scientific Council Working Group on Flyways. The CMS Secretariat and BLI have worked closely on reviewing the impact of climate change on migratory species and on identifying and prioritizing options for future intervention.

70. Since COP9, when the three International Single Species Action Plans on Asian Birds were endorsed, the CMS and BLI have worked together on their finalization and finally published them in 2010.

71. Funds have recently been made available by BLI, to support the organization of a Preparatory Negotiation Workshop to the COP10 for the Africa Region (October 2011) in Uganda which the CMS and AEWA Secretariats have jointly organized with the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions.

International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

72. A partnerships agreement between FAW and the CMS Secretariat was signed in 2005. Since 2009, the IFAW and the CMS Secretariat have been actively collaborating on the implementation of the Saiga antelope, sharks and cetaceans CMS MoUs. For Instance, IFAW has been actively supporting field work and Saiga rangers in Russia. From August 2008-June 2009, IFAW seconded a professional officer to the Secretariat, who assisted mainly in relation to marine work of both CMS and ASCOBANS. IFAW supported the 2nd Meeting of the Signatories to the Pacific Cetaceans MOU (July 2009, Auckland, New Zealand). In 2011, IFAW co-sponsored the print production of “Odontocetes – The Toothed Whales” by Boris Culik, an encyclopaedia on the distribution, migration, behaviour and threats to this suborder of the cetaceans. They also helped review CMS Thesis Award candidates in 2011.

73. A joint work plan for the next triennium is currently under development, mainly focusing on work on cetaceans, elephants and sharks.

World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)

74. The CMS Secretariat and WAZA revitalized their cooperation by signing a new partnership agreement in December 2008 which replaced the 2006 version. So far cooperation has focused on outreach and education initiatives especially in the promotion of CMS species campaigns (Year of the Gorilla 2009 and Year of the Bat 2011–2012). Further information can be found in UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.13 “Overview of the CMS “Year of ...” Campaigns 2009-2011”.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

75. A Partnership Agreement was signed between the CMS Secretariat and WCS in Bonn in 2007. WCS has been active in assisting with the implementation of CMS instruments in numerous Range States, such as Saiga antelope conservation in Mongolia, and has supported the CMS Secretariat in establishing contacts with non-member states e.g. Afghanistan. The CMS Secretariat and WCS are liaising with a view to align their work and strategies on priority species such as migratory mammals in Central Asia, gorillas, elephants and sharks.

76. Consultation is on-going with regard to the development of a joint work plan, which would include cooperative fundraising activities, for the period 2012-2014.

Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS)

77. A Partnership Agreement was signed between the CMS Secretariat and WDCS in November 2005. A Joint Programme of work was developed and agreed in January 2006.

78. In the last three years, WDCS has continued supporting the implementation of the MoU for the Conservation of Cetaceans and Their Habitats in the Pacific Islands Region through providing advisory and technical assistance. WDCS has sponsored conservation research in the region and supported national implementation of the MoU.

79. WDCS has significantly contributed to the elaboration of the Programme of Work for Cetaceans and the associated reviews called for in Res.8.22, to be considered by COP10. WDCS and the CMS Secretariat have been liaising to identify priorities for their joint work for 2011-2014.

Wetlands International (WI)

80. Cooperation between the CMS Secretariat and Wetlands International (WI) has ancient roots. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed in 1997 as framework for joint work on a range of wetland and bird conservation issues. In the last three years, WI's contribution has been instrumental in the development of future flyways policy in the context of the CMS Scientific Working Group on Flyways. The CMS Secretariat and WI are working towards the establishment of a coordination mechanism to support the implementation of the Action Plan for the conservation of migratory waterbirds and their habitats in the Central Asian Flyway.

Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS)

81. During COP9, a Partnership Agreement was signed with FZS. In the framework of this formal accord, the Frankfurt Zoological Society assisted the CMS Secretariat and the German Ministry for the Environment (BMU) in organizing an important event which specifically contributed to the "Year of the Gorilla" campaign and to gorilla conservation in general. The Gorilla Symposium, which took place at the Frankfurt Zoo in June 2009, brought together most of the key players involved in the effort to ensure the gorillas' survival. The event resulted in the adoption of the Frankfurt Declaration which calls the international community for improved and increased actions to reduce threats to gorilla populations.

82. FZS has been assisting the implementation of CMS in a number of ways, together with CMS Friends, including by successfully raising awareness of and changing the proposed commercial road through the Serengeti National Park, and contributing to the review of publications.

"Friends of CMS" ("Freunde der Bonner Konvention" (FBK))

83. Relationship with the "Friends of CMS", a non-profit organization which was established in October 2005 under the chairmanship of former UNEP Executive Director, Dr. Klaus Töpfer to assist the CMS Secretariat with funding its conservation projects and awareness raising, has been revitalized with the conclusion of a Memorandum of Understanding in 2010.

84. When the board of "Friends of CMS" met in January 2010, new members were elected and Hannes Jaenicke, a famous German TV actor and committed species conservationist, took over the chairmanship.

85. This agreement confirmed the support of "Friends of CMS" towards (i) sharing projects ideas (ii) selecting potential donors (iii) carrying out fundraising activities and (iv) supporting awareness raising and educational activities. The Secretariat would regularly provide a list of prioritized conservation projects for their consideration.

86. A project for the conservation of small cetaceans in the ASCOBANS region has been sponsored already while other two projects are currently being considered. “Friends of CMS” developed a new website, two different trailers in English and German and a new flyer about the organization, CMS and the needs of migratory species that would target potential donors and assist their fundraising efforts as well. “Friends of CMS” is also exploring different modes to obtain resources for conservation. Thus, cooperation with “Mondberge”, a German species conservation group was started. A 2011 calendar, featuring species, has been produced for sale by “Mondberge”, and will be launched in October 2011. A quarter of the profits made from this calendar have been pledged to the “Friends of CMS”.

87. Cooperation on awareness raising has been also active and successful. A video message by the Chair of the Friends of CMS, Hannes Jaenicke, was delivered to contribute to the International Day of Biodiversity. Mr. Jaenicke produced documentaries on sharks and gorillas and promoted related initiatives under CMS. Further details can be found in UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.14: Outreach and Communication.

Humane Society International

88. The Humane Society International and the CMS Secretariat are developing a Partnership agreement which is expected to be signed shortly. The Humane Society International has already contributed to several areas of CMS work and has been active in its daughter instruments including the Gorilla Agreement and ACAP. This formal arrangement will provide the framework for strengthening cooperation on areas of common interest including conservation of seabirds; sharks and other aquatic, terrestrial mammals; and cross-cutting issues such as by-catch; underwater noise and marine debris.

Migratory Wildlife Network

89. In September 2011, the CMS Secretariat signed a Partnership agreement with the Migratory Wildlife Network. This newly born NGO has been established to reach out to civil society and other non-governmental organizations in support of CMS and conservation of migratory species in general. They are independently disseminating key information about CMS activities to NGOs, wildlife scientists and wildlife policy experts, and providing direct support to Network members to increase their involvement and engagement with CMS processes. The Migratory Wildlife Network is currently promoting the participation of the NGO community in COP10.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

90. A Letter of Cooperation was signed in 2008 between NOAA (a bureau within the Department of Commerce of the United States of America) and the CMS Secretariat regarding the conservation and management of marine migratory species and their habitats.

91. NOAA played a crucial role in the conclusion of the CMS MoU for the conservation of sharks, which took place in 2010, and in the drafting of its Conservation Plan and continues being instrumental to its further development. The further elaboration of the plan, due to be submitted to the First Meeting of the Signatories to the MoU in 2012, is in effect being coordinated by NOAA.

TUI AG

92. Following the formalization of a partnership agreement in 2005 and a close cooperation on the “Year of the Dolphin” (YoD) campaign in 2007-2008; the Secretariat and TUI have continued liaising on activities related the CMS-led awareness and in particular on the dissemination of information materials.

DE FACTO PARTNERSHIPS

93. Within its global network of partners, the Secretariat also has plentiful informal collaborative arrangements which provide long-standing and valuable support to the work of the Secretariat including the development and implementation of instruments under the CMS umbrella.

94. A variety of dedicated organizations, ranging from NGOs to universities, private sector to academic societies and media and numerous members of the civil society are instrumental in promoting the conservation of migratory species. Collaboration with this wide community has covered many and different aspects of conservation in the period 2009-2011 and has brought about significant results.

95. The CMS Secretariat has been heavily relying on sharing of information and scientific data with specialized organization such has the Zoological Society of London which has conducted research Secretariat assessing the effects of climate change on migratory species and has provided critical inputs on further discussions on this issue.

96. Most of the CMS MoUs have received supplementary technical support from external bodies, primarily pre-existing expert and advisory groups, or through organizations whose core business is conservation action on the ground. Examples of these associations include the support provided by the Central Asia Programme of WWF Russia to the implementation of the Action Plan under the CMS Bukhara deer MOU in numerous Range States in Central Asia and the support of the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan and Saiga Conservation Alliance to the implementation of the Saiga MoU (see UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.9: Progress in the Implementation of Article IV Agreements already concluded, and development of new Agreements” for more details).

97. The work of the CMS Secretariat on raising awareness, educating the general public and disseminating information on conservation issues has also been boosted by the valuable work of a variety of partners. In 2011, for the third edition of the CMS Thesis Award, the Natural History Museum of Bonn, Museum Koenig, has reviewed all the PhD theses submitted and has coordinated the initiative. This advisory position is reciprocated by the CMS Executive Secretary who is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Alexander-Koenig-Society guiding the museum’s development. The support of corporate partners such as Lufthansa, which also contributes to the Thesis Award and to the work of Friends of CMS, is critical to provide the funds to facilitate CMS-relevant activities.

SYNERGIES WITH UNEP AND THE CMS FAMILY

98. The following section gives an overview of synergies created and enhanced in the last triennium with UNEP and the CMS Family Secretariats.

UNEP Headquarters and its Regional Offices

99. UNEP not only administers the Convention Secretariat but also extends support, through its headquarters, thematic programmes and regional offices, to some of the Convention's areas of work and instruments.

100. The support of UNEP has been crucial for the implementation of the Convention at a regional level, especially in the Americas and Africa, and for the development of initiatives related in particular to capacity building and information management.

101. The Secretariat has been cooperating with the UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions (UNEP/DELIC) in the initiative of the MEA Information and Knowledge Management which seeks to develop harmonized information systems in support of knowledge management activities among MEAs.

102. The Secretariat has also benefitted from the work of MEAs focal points for Biodiversity and Ecosystem, established by UNEP/DELIC to encourage inter-linkages between UNEP programmes and those of MEAs. Based in four different regions, MEA focal points have been assisting the Secretariat in establishing contacts with non-member states of their own region to promote their accession to the Convention and facilitating, in cooperation with UNEP regional offices, the organization of workshops aimed at increasing the negotiating skills and capacity of governments from developing countries to implement the Convention. Their support also extended to assisting the Secretariat in delivering its message at meetings of other MEAs as well as to attaining translation of relevant documents into Arabic. Further details can be found in UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.19: Report on Resource Mobilization.

CMS Family

103. Since 2009, synergies within the CMS Family, particularly those Secretariats based in Bonn and whenever appropriate also the out-posted offices and stand-alone Secretariats¹, have significantly increased with the aim to reducing duplication of activities and efforts and align work on matters of common interest, e.g., cross-cutting issues. The inter-sessional process on the Future Shape of CMS has provided opportunities for discussions and the incentive for finding possibilities to strengthen such collaborations.

104. Being the administrative body of the mother Convention, the CMS Secretariat has seized opportunities to develop a more harmonized *modus operandi* across the Family, through providing centralized support to activities such as fundraising, partnership development and the organization of meetings,. In many cases these efforts have resulted in saving both human and financial resources and achieving operational efficiencies.

¹ Family of CMS Secretariats: Independent Secretariats of legally binding instruments developed under the aegis of CMS being those based in Bonn (CMS, AEW, EUROBATS, ASCOBANS and Gorilla Agreement) and the out-posted ones (ACCOBAMS in Monaco, ACAP in Australia and Wadden Sea Seals in North of Germany). The Co-ordination Units of IOSEA MoU (based in Bangkok) and of the Raptors and Dugongs MoUs (based in Abu Dhabi) are also included. Other CMS MoUs are serviced by the CMS Secretariats.

105. This “corporate” approach, which manifested itself in the engagement with partners and donors and also in the preparation of meetings, has a double objective and effect: streamlining work and presentation to limit investment of time and resources and to assist stakeholders by using tools and language that are common to all instruments and easily recognizable and understood.

106. The Secretariat has in fact been coordinating, to the extent possible, fundraising efforts especially across the Bonn-based Family by (i) developing a template for project proposals which was based on the one developed by AEWA (ii) prioritizing funding requests on projects envisaging joint implementation or activities with other CMS instruments (iii) collating fundraising needs from other Secretariats when approaching donors. Further details can be found in UNEP/CMS/Conf.10.19: Report on Resource Mobilization.

107. The latest partnerships agreements have also been developed with the involvement of other relevant Family Secretariats. Furthermore, the CMS Secretariat has recently created, in consultation with CMS instruments, a template for partnership agreements which provides the grounds for the development of joint work plans not only between the CMS Secretariats and the partner organization but also between the latter and Secretariats of other CMS instruments where applicable.

108. The organization of meetings has also benefitted in many ways from a more coordinated approach. Holding back-to-back meetings (AEWA Standing Committee and Gorilla Agreement meetings associated with COP10) has led to some financial savings relating to travel but mostly to services and venue costs and to a more harmonized use of personnel for the same tasks. In addition, for the first time, the CMS Secretariat has developed an on-line registration system for participants that can be used, subject to limited adjustments, by other CMS Family Secretariats.

109. On the other hand, the CMS Secretariat has enjoyed the support and special expertise of CMS co-located Secretariats personnel to complement the work of its own staff. For instance, discussions on the UNEP-led process on knowledge management amongst biodiversity-related MEAs have been coordinated by the AEWA Secretariat as has the development CMS Family Online Reporting System implemented by UNEP/WCMC. The CMS Secretariat also benefits from borrowing staff at peak times of activity such as COP10.

110. Consultations on the development and maintenance of a CMS Family website are ongoing and involving all staff in Bonn. Close cooperation has also taken place for several years in the implementation of awareness campaigns e.g., the World Migratory Bird Day (AEWA and CMS Secretariats), Year of the Bat (EUROBATS and CMS) and public events.

111. Joint efforts have also been made when approaching the private sector and other potential stakeholders. The CMS Secretariat has welcomed the relationship established by the AEWA Secretariat with RWE Rhein-Ruhr Netzservice GmbH and also contributed to negotiating and formalizing the partnership and donor agreement for work on migratory birds and electricity power grids in the African-Eurasian region. Contacts have been established with HeidelbergCement (global manufacturers of building materials) with a view to exploring possibilities for cooperation.

112. The CMS, AEWA and EUROBATS Secretariats are also working to promote discussion on developing cooperation on wind farming and migratory species conservation. Preliminary discussions took place in summer 2011 with the KfW Bankengruppe, a promotional bank of the

German Government, to bring together German State institutions and other relevant bodies to assist ensuring that migratory species conservation is fully embedded in the development of wind farms at international level supported with German development funding.

113. Communication has improved in particular between Bonn based Secretariats through ad hoc and staff meetings, which are held regularly, to discuss and update each other on progress on issues of common interest. The mutual representation in relevant meetings also increased.

CONCLUSION

114. There has been considerable progress particularly in maintaining or enhancing existing partnerships and collaborative relationships. It is however recognized that great potential remains to be explored. For instance work with a number of formal partners, i.e. the Cartagena Convention, International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO); Global Biodiversity Information Facility Secretariat (GBIF); Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums (AMMPA); Global Nature Fund (GNF) has unfortunately not received the attention that it deserved.

115. Building on effective co-operations for streamlining activities; leveraging resources; and achieving meaningful results require however great investments of time and resources. Although a junior professional staff member came on board in mid-2010, that Secretariat staff dedicated to these activities have been limited in what they have been able to achieve in this area, by the many other demands on their time e.g. coordination of Future Shape process and organization of COP. Considering that these additional assignments will not continue in the next triennium, much more attention will be given to networking with partners.

Action requested:

The Tenth Conference of the Parties is invited to:

- a. Take note of the report presented on synergies and partnerships;
- b. Take note of and appreciate the efforts made by the Secretariat in making progress on existing collaborations (both formal and non-formal partnerships) and developing new ones during 2009-2011;
- c. Make suggestions for any further collaborations and priorities for existing ones;
- d. Consider providing additional extra-budgetary resources to further support the implementation of activities agreed with partners; and
- e. Adopt the actions proposed in the draft resolution UNEP/CMS/Resolution 10.21, UNEP/CMS/Resolution 10.18/Rev.1.



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 Convention¹) 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:

¹ ITPGRFA joined the BLG at its 5th meeting in September 2006.



- 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;

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 recognises 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 maximise 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 finalised 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.