



## Summary Report

### Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (by Zoom)

6 October 2021  
15h00 – 18h00 UK

#### Participants:

**Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD):** Elizabeth Mrema (Executive Secretary), Neil Pratt, Jyoti Mathur-Filipp

**Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES):** Ivonne Higuero (Secretary General), David Morgan

**Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS):** Amy Fraenkel (Executive Secretary), Laura Cerasi

**Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention):** Martha Rojas Urrego (Secretary General), Maria Rivera

**International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC):** Avetik Nersisyan (Officer in Charge)

**International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA):** Kent Nnadozie (Secretary), Francisco Lopez

**International Whaling Commission (IWC):** Rebecca Lent (Executive Secretary and Chair of the meeting), Mark Tandy and Moussa Ki Sow

**World Heritage Convention:** Guy Debonnet, Susanna Kari, Akane Nakamura

#### 1) [CBD COP 15](#) and Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

- a) The Chair requested the CBD leadership to provide updates on the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) process and next steps, and outcomes of the WG2020-3.

#### **CBD COP 15:**

Elizabeth Mrema noted that Part I of the CBD COP 15 will be held virtually during [11-15 October 2021](#), including High-Level Segment on 12-13 October where a 4-minutes' BLG joint statement will be delivered by Dr. Rebecca Lent, Executive Secretary of IWC on behalf of the 8 conventions. In

addition, each BLG Executive Secretary was given an opportunity to prepare a 2-minutes video message which will be posted on the dedicated [CBD website](#).

Ms Mrema noted that she would attend COP 15 in person in Kunming along with other staff members and representatives of parties who are based in China (ambassadors etc.). The Kunming Declaration is to be adopted during the High-Level Segment. The only official side event is the Ecological Civilization Forum organized by Chinese authorities on 15-16 October.

Part II of the COP 15 is currently scheduled for 25 April – 8 May 2022 in presentia in Kunming. The dates might be changed to avoid overlap with Ramadan, taking into consideration of statutory meetings of other conventions (e.g. ITPGRFA and UNCCD in May 2022).

***Follow-up to WG2020-3:***

There will be additional sessions to discuss the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) following the Open-ended Working Group 3 (WG2020-3) which were held in August-September 2021. These will be held in person in January 2022 (Geneva). The CBD Secretariat is preparing the instructions for vaccination/testing for participation.

- b) The outcomes of the WG2020-3 will be summarized/synthesized ahead of the January 2022 meetings. The CBD Secretariat explained the process underway for synthesizing the considerable input received at the WG2020-3. A [report](#) of the WG2020-3 has been made available, and the co-chairs will be preparing and distributing a report to provide guiding questions for the January 2022 meetings. The final text of the Post-2020 GBF, including its monitoring framework is to be adopted at the Part II of COP 15.
  - c) The Chair asked for input from the BLG Executive Secretaries regarding the key messages for the joint BLG intervention during the High-Level Segment. Suggestions included:
    - o Emphasize the need for coherent action/holistic approach to address common drivers/threats for biodiversity, climate change and other overarching issues, along with contributions based on individual mandates.
    - o Ensure that the mandates of the BLG Conventions are woven into the GBF including data collection and reporting, to avoid duplication and reduce burden on members.
    - o More focus on coordinated implementation at the national level, including through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)
    - o Emphasizing the collaborative work already in place by the BLG members through joint programmes of work in science and conservation.
    - o Request that the GBF leverage the national governments for better coordination at the national level, engaging stakeholders at all levels.
- 2) Global Species Action Plan (an initiative led by IUCN) – the Chair invited comments from the BLG members, and then invited IUCN’s Dao Nguyen to provide an overview and address questions
- BLG members noted that they have been approached bilaterally by IUCN to consult on a draft Global Species Action Plan (GSAP). There are some concerns about this

tool given the uncertainty surrounding the GSAP's relationship with the Post-2020 GBF.

- Ms. Dao Nguyen from IUCN presented an overview and updates on GSAP. In order to ensure coordinated action, it was agreed to have an open discussion with the IUCN among the BLG members (focal person to be identified among BLG).
- The Chair asked for a volunteer to lead this effort from one of the BLG members' staff.

3) UNFCCC COP 26 – The Chair invited BLG members to share with the meeting any plans already in place for participating in the upcoming Climate COP in Glasgow (31 October – 12 November 2021).

- The Executive Secretaries of the Ramsar Convention and CBD will be attending the COP in person; side events are planned to underscore the relationship between biodiversity and climate change.
- The World Heritage Convention Secretariat noted a number of climate change related activities underway, including a climate change policy, a publication on carbon fluxes and joint work with IPCC on climate change impact on cultural heritage.
- Among the options for engagement by BLGers, the CBD highlighted the Nature Day on 6 November 2021 as an occasion for joint action by BLG.

4) AOB

a. InforMEA

- The United Nations Information Portal on Multilateral Environmental Agreements, or InforMEA, is hosted by the UN and funded by the European Union.
- Participants from the UNEP InforMEA team provided an overview and the latest news from InforMEA.
- The InforMEA Steering Committee, chaired by the CITES Executive Secretary, is scheduled for 16 November 2021 (from 14:30 CET).

b) Next BLG meeting – the Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention proposed to host the next BLG meeting in Geneva, back-to-back with the meeting on Post-2020 GBF in January 2022.

**Meeting adjourned at 18h00 UK**

## **Annex: schedule of meetings of BLG Conventions:**

- **CBD**
  - CBD COP 15 Part I: 11-15 October 2021, Kunming, China/virtual
  - [Resumed sessions on Post-2020 GBF: 12-28 January 2022](#), Geneva, Switzerland
  - CBD COP 15 Part II: 25 April – 8 May 2022 (TBC), Kunming, China
- **CITES**
  - CITES Standing Committee: 7-11 March 2022 (Lyon, France) [7 March until early April if forced to go online]
  - CITES CoP19: 14-25 November 2022 (Panama City, Panama)
- **CMS**
  - 53rd Meeting of the CMS Standing Committee (StC53): October 2022
- **Ramsar Convention**
  - 3rd Extraordinary COP: 25-29 October 2021 (online)
  - SC59 (resume session): 23-27 May 2022 (Switzerland)
  - COP14: 21-29 November 2022 (Wuhan, China)
- **IPPC**
  - IPPC Strategic Planning Group meeting: 19 and 21 October 2021 (online)
  - Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (CPM-16): 5, 7 and 21 April 2022 (online)
- **ITPGRFA**
  - First Special Session of the Governing Body of the ITPGRFA (IT-GB-Sp1): 7 and 8 December 2021 (online)
  - Ninth Session of the Governing Body: 9-14 May 2022 (India)
- **IWC**
  - Scientific Committee (in-person or hybrid): 26 April – 8 May 2022, Bled, Slovenia
  - IWC68 Commission Meeting (in-person): 13-21 October 2022, Portoroz, Slovenia
- **World Heritage Convention**
  - 23rd session of the General Assembly: 24-25 November 2021, UNESCO Paris
  - 45<sup>th</sup> session of the World Heritage Committee: 19 – 30 June 2022, Kazan, Russian Federation