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# Secretariat Progress Report on Co-operation with other Organisations

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INTERNATIONAL  
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## ABSTRACT

This paper provides a report on progress made by the Secretariat, in collaboration with members of the Scientific Committee and Conservation Committee, on co-operation with other organisations since IWC67. Further update and discussion will be held under the relevant subcommittee agenda items, and a compilation of SC observer reports from meetings of other organisations is presented as a separate document. A full report on co-operation with other organisations will be provided to the Commission at IWC68.

## INTRODUCTION

At IWC67 the Commission endorsed a number of recommendations for strengthening engagement with other organisations, following recommendations made by the Scientific Committee (SC), Conservation Committee (CC) and other subgroups as well as recommendations in an update paper from the Secretariat (IWC67/19). The IWC Secretariat, in collaboration with members of the SC and CC, have been working to take forward these mandates in addition to exploring some newly emerging opportunities.

## PROGRESS REPORT ON CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

### Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions

The Executive Secretary attended the IWC's first meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity related Conventions<sup>1</sup> in September 2018 and the Secretariat have since continued discussions and engagement with this group on topics of mutual interest. The group's main current area of activity is with regards to the development of the post- 2020 framework for Biodiversity and the forthcoming workshop (see below).

### Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Secretariat participated in the most recent CBD Conference of Parties in November 2018, contributing an opening statement and several interventions to highlight IWC Recommendations and Resolutions and SC and CC work on topics of mutual interest with the CBD (e.g. capacity building, indigenous peoples, underwater noise, bycatch). In follow up to this meeting Circular IWC.CCG.1355 alerted IWC members and observers to opportunities to engage in CBD work on its Article 8J (traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples).

#### *Post 2020 framework on biodiversity and forthcoming workshop*

A high priority for the CBD, with other members of the BLG, is the development of the post 2020 framework for Biodiversity and associated targets and indicators. (Information on the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Targets and indicators is at <https://www.cbd.int/sp/default.shtml>). Circular IWC.CCG highlighted the opportunity for the IWC to participate in this process.

The IWC has since been invited to participate, along with other Secretariats of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, in a workshop (10-12 June, Berne, Switzerland) to input to early discussions of the new post 2020 framework and targets (see workshop outline in Annex 1). At its recent meeting in April the Bureau agreed that

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<sup>1</sup> The Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) was established in order to enhance coherence and cooperation in implementation. It meets regularly to explore opportunities for synergistic activities and increased coordination, and to exchange information. Its members are the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), 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 (ITPGR), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the World Heritage Convention (WHC) and the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), and the IWC.

this is an excellent opportunity for the IWC and an important piece of work with respect to biodiversity conservation, whilst also noting the need to balance IWC political and geographical interests, and the domestic priorities of any IWC representatives. The Bureau agreed it would be appropriate for the Chair of the IWC and Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee to attend as well as representatives from the Secretariat (Sarah Ferriss and Sarah Smith). Should the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee not be able to attend then a representative will be sought from the Scientific Committee.

The Secretariat will update the Scientific Committee at its meeting in 2020 on this process and highlight further opportunities for the SC to input.

### **IPBES- Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services**

The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES <https://www.ipbes.net/>) is the intergovernmental body which assesses the state of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services it provides to society, in response to requests from decision makers. Through our membership of the BLG we have been asked to input to development and implementation of their next work programme (which responds to mandates and requests from the biodiversity conventions). We also have the opportunity to contribute information from IWC scientific work to an ongoing IPBES assessment on sustainable use. This opportunity will be further discussed by the Secretariat and with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scientific Committee and taken forward as appropriate.

### **Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and its daughter agreements**

The Secretariat has continued ongoing co-operation with CMS and its daughter agreements ASCOBANS and ACCOBAMS on a range of issues including bycatch; strandings; CMPs; ecosystem functioning (with respect to the organisation of a workshop in collaboration with the CMS) and whale watching.

With regards to CMPs, the IWC is working collaboratively with ACCOBAMS on development of the proposed joint CMP for the Mediterranean Fin Whale and with CMS on the potential CMP for the Humpback Whale of the Arabian Sea.

In April 2019 the IWC jointly convened a workshop with the IUCN and ACCOBAMS that aimed to investigate the utility and process of using IMMAs to help identify areas of high risk for ship strikes, using the Mediterranean Sea as a test case. The report will be presented to the HIM subcommittee at SC68A.

### **Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs).**

We are continuing work to strengthen our collaboration with FAO and the RFMOs particularly on bycatch. This includes engagement with FAO on development of Technical Guidelines for bycatch, engagement on marine debris (including technical guidelines for gear marking) and the potential for collaboration on improvements in reporting and data management.

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) Working Party on Ecosystems and Bycatch are a co-collaborator in the Bycatch Mitigation Initiative Workshop on Bycatch Mitigation Opportunities in the Western Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea (8-9 June) being held prior to SC68B. This will provide further opportunity to discuss opportunities for IWC/IOTC collaboration including in follow up to Scientific Committee recommendations.

The Secretariat plans to attend the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) meeting and associated Regional Secretariats' Network (RSN) meeting in 2020 to take forward further collaboration.

### **Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR)**

Earlier this year, the Secretariat held a teleconference with the Executive Secretary and Science Manager at CCAMLR at which a number of opportunities for collaboration were discussed including on the proposed joint IWC/CCAMLR workshop on ecosystem modelling (which it is hoped will be scheduled for 2020-21). A number of actions for follow up were agreed and will be taken forward over the next few months. This includes IWC input to the next CCAMLR meeting in October, on which the Secretariat will send out a Circular in due course. The IWC will also input to an University of Cambridge MPhil internship hosted by the British Antarctic Survey, to conduct a review of collaboration between IWC and CCAMLR on scientific work.

### **International Maritime Organization (IMO)**

The Secretariat has continued engagement with the International Maritime Organization on the issue of noise and ship strikes. The Secretariat attended a workshop on underwater noise at the IMO Headquarters in January 2019 which focused on technologies to quiet ships and will attend a follow up session in May 2019, (again convened by Canada) to discuss potential next steps. On the issue of ship strikes, the convenor of the SC Human Induced

Mortality Subcommittee represented the IWC at an IMO meeting in Sri Lanka to discuss the issue of ship strikes to blue whales and a meeting of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee.

### **North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO)**

The Executive Secretary attended the 27<sup>th</sup> NAMMCO council meeting on behalf of the IWC. The IWC's Opening Statement and interventions emphasised the benefits already realised from collaboration on science, and opportunities to collaborate on new NAMMCO work programmes on strandings, entanglement response, and bycatch.

### **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)**

The Secretariat Head of Science has been reappointed as co-chair of the IUCN Western Gray Whale Advisory Panel (WGWAP) and chair of the WGWAP Noise Task Force. The WGWAP met in November 2018 in Moscow and topics included the updating of the IUCN-IWC CMP on western gray whales and a joint stakeholder workshop. As noted above, the IWC jointly convened a workshop with the IUCN and ACCOBAMS on using the IUCN Important Marine Mammal Areas to identify areas of high risk for ship strikes.

The IWC Strandings Coordinator (also a member of IUCN New Zealand) collaborated with IUCN with respect to CITES and how biological samples can be expediently transferred to registered labs for diagnostic analyses during a stranding event.

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

The Scientific Committee is invited to note and to make any comments or recommendations on the progress made and next steps outlined above.

The Secretariat will continue to keep the Scientific Committee updated on these and other activities, including by issuing Circulars when it plans to engage in a particular IGO meeting or event and to seek collaboration or input from the IWC community.

## **WORKSHOP AMONG BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS ON THE POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK, BERN, 10 TO 12 JUNE 2019**

### ***Outline of the Workshop<sup>1</sup>***

This note describes the workshop among biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework that will be convened under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Bern, Switzerland, from 10 to 12 June 2019.

#### ***Background***

In November 2018, at its fourteenth meeting, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) launched the process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ([decision 14/34](#)). In [decision 14/30](#) (para 12), COP requested the organization of 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 framework and identify specific elements that could be included in the framework.

#### ***Logistics***

The workshop will be held from 10 to 12 June 2019 at the headquarters of the Universal Postal Union in Bern, Switzerland, hosted and sponsored by the Government of Switzerland. It will be conducted in English.

#### ***Participation***

The workshop will bring together representatives of Parties to ten global conventions, being those represented in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and the Rio Conventions<sup>2</sup>. Government representatives of the Parties to the conventions will be drawn from the bureaux or other standing bodies of the conventions, nominated by the conventions concerned, five per convention and selected in a manner to provide regional balance<sup>3</sup>. In the case of CBD, in addition to members of the COP Bureau, the chairpersons of its two subsidiary bodies, the co-chairs of the open-ended intersessional working group for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and members of the CBD informal advisory group on synergies<sup>4</sup>, selected in such a way as to provide regional balance, are also expected to participate so that the insights generated by the workshop are effectively carried forward to inform negotiation of the post-2020 framework.

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<sup>1</sup> The agenda and the programme / organization of work will be finalized in consultation with the convention secretariats, the co-chairs of the open-ended intersessional working group and other relevant stakeholders.

<sup>2</sup> The eight conventions represented in the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions are: the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (World Heritage Convention, WHC), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), and International Whaling Commission (IWC). The Rio Conventions comprise CBD, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

<sup>3</sup> UNFCCC Secretariat is considering the manner in which UNFCCC will engage.

<sup>4</sup> In decision 14/30 (para. 10), in extending the work of the informal advisory group, among the tasks it was assigned by the COP is to: "... provide the Secretariat and the open-ended working group... with advice on ways to optimize synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions in the development of the post-2020 biodiversity framework".

The workshop will involve approximately 120 participants, comprising approximately 60 government representatives of Parties to the conventions and approximately 60 representatives / technical experts of the secretariats of relevant organizations, including the convention secretariats. The overall number of participants is influenced by the conference facilities and the funding available to provide support for the travel and participation of eligible participants.

### ***Aims and outputs***

The workshop aims to:

- Identify ways in which the conventions can further contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- Identify ways in which the areas of work under other conventions can be reflected in the framework and contribute to its implementation, in order to maximize its common relevance and applicability as a 'global' framework;
- Identify specific elements that could be included in the framework, based on the respective mandate, strategy and vision of each convention;
- Identify areas of cross-cutting importance to the conventions, for example related to capacity-building and resource-mobilization<sup>5</sup>, that could be reflected in the framework
- Identify any possible elements that could be included in the framework to enhance synergies among biodiversity-related conventions.

Expected outputs of the workshop include:

- Recommendations that could be conveyed to the CBD open-ended intersessional working group and, through appropriate means, to the relevant bodies of the respective conventions for their consideration on how the conventions can contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- Recommendations to the open-ended intersessional working group on how the areas of work under other conventions can be reflected in the framework;
- Recommendations to the open-ended intersessional working group on the form and content of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to best enable it to serve as a holistic framework for the biodiversity-related conventions and to harness benefits from the implementation of each these conventions;
- Recommendations on aspects of the framework to enhance synergies among the biodiversity-related conventions.

### ***Structure and organization of work***

The workshop will be conducted over three full days along the following lines<sup>6</sup>.

#### ***First Day***

The first day of the workshop will be conducted in plenary. After a short formal opening and brief attention to procedural matters, relevant background will be presented and discussions held.

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<sup>5</sup> Noting that the issues of capacity-building and resource mobilization will be addressed in dedicated workshops to be held later in 2019

<sup>6</sup> The programme will be finalized with appropriate consultation.

Presentations will include:

- Overview of the process for the preparation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;
- Summary of views submitted on the possible content and scope of the framework and outcomes of the regional consultation workshops;
- Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs and targets;
- Strategies / strategic plans and frameworks of other biodiversity-related conventions<sup>7</sup>;
- Other relevant global and regional MEAs and frameworks<sup>8</sup>.

Discussion will include:

- Implications of these for the content and scope of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and the contribution of other biodiversity-related conventions;
- How to make the post-2020 framework align with and contribute to the entire sustainable development agenda;
- Alignment of the post-2020 framework and the strategies of other conventions – relationships between strategies, and with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020; the strategic planning cycles/processes of the conventions, and how they align;
- How the conventions can contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

### *Second Day*

The second day will be conducted largely in thematic break-out groups and in focus groups tailored to each of the specific conventions.

Convention focus groups:

- Potential scenarios (structure, elements, targets etc.) for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework from the perspective of individual conventions.

Followed by thematic break-out groups:

- Ecosystem and area-based objectives, targets and measures;
- Species-based objectives, targets and measures;
- Genetic-based objectives, targets and measures;
- Trade related aspects and measures;
- Mainstreaming: measures addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and the direct pressures on biodiversity – the conventions' roles in mainstreaming biodiversity into sectors;
- Cross-cutting issues – the conventions' roles in addressing shared objectives including: gender equality, women's empowerment and social inclusion; indigenous peoples and local communities; and human rights;
- Reporting – potential for national reporting under the various conventions to contribute to the monitoring and assessment of progress of a post-2020 global biodiversity

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<sup>7</sup> Including those of the CMS daughter Agreements and an analysis of the CITES trade trends (using both legal and illegal trade data) to show how it can contribute to the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework

<sup>8</sup> For example, regional seas conventions, BRS, SAICM etc

framework; exploring the use of the different national reports from MEAs to undertake analyses

- Monitoring and compliance – the potential role of monitoring and compliance under various instruments as a contribution to the post-2020 framework (issues of baseline, indicators and monitoring tools available in conventions).

Conducted in plenary:

- Presentations from the convention focus groups and thematic break-out groups;
- Discussion and conclusions on the above;
- Identifying elements that could be included in the framework to enhance synergies among biodiversity-related conventions.

### *Third Day*

The first part of the morning of the third day will be conducted largely in small groups, following on and building from the discussions of the second day. This will lead on to discussion held in plenary on:

- Identifying unique roles and responsibilities for each of the biodiversity-related conventions in the components of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework in line with their unique mandates (e.g. responsibility for potential targets/sub-targets and for actions towards these)
- Potential structures and components of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework (or things to take into account in determining these) from the point of view of other conventions and their tools and mechanisms of implementation (framework, timelines, targets, indicators, implementation plan, means of implementation, means of monitoring and assessment, indicators, reporting, roles and responsibilities of actors including state actors and non-state actors)
- Recommendations that could be conveyed to the relevant bodies of the respective conventions with respect the further inputs of the conventions to the continued development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- Recommendations concerning the relationship between the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and existing and incoming convention strategies that go beyond 2020 and the potential for integration or alignment

The afternoon will continue in plenary, devoted to conclusions, including recommendations to the open-ended intersessional working group, the report of the meeting, and closing.