

Liaison Group with CITES, CMS, WHC & the RAMSAR Convention

A meeting was held at lunchtime on 3 June 2004. Were present: for CBD, Hamdallah Zedan, Executive Secretary and Chair and Jo Mulongoy; for CITES, Willem Wijnstekers, Executive Secretary; for WHC, Ishwaran Natajara, Director of the UNESCO Division of Ecological Sciences; and for the Ramsar Convention, Ms. Estelle Gironnet, Assistant Advisor for Europe. CMS was to be represented by Mr. Marco Barbieri.

The CBD Secretariat called the meeting to inform representatives of CITES, CMS, Ramsar Convention and WHC about CBD COP decision VII/26, which calls for the establishment of 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.

It was agreed that:

(i) A first formal meeting of the liaison group could take place during the forthcoming meeting of the CITES COP to be held in October 2004 in Bangkok, Thailand. SCBD would prepare the agenda of the meeting and organize it;

(ii) For its first meeting, the Group could explore how the members can jointly contribute to the achievement of the 2010 target, the monitoring of progress towards the target and the reporting of the results, including participation in the task forces on indicators. The Group would also identify areas for possible joint activities, building on ongoing initiatives and results; and agree on the modalities of its work having in mind *inter alia*, the modalities of the work of the Joint Liaison Group (CBD-UNFCCC-UNCCD) and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

(iii) Noting that the CBD Secretariat was in the process of recruiting a consultant who would assist with the preparation of a document that will identify, in the texts of the respective conventions and COP decisions, opportunities for synergy among the 5 conventions, WHC offered to provide relevant information to the CBD Secretariat and other members would also contribute to this activity.

(iv) The members of the Group agreed to be involved in the preparation for the regional workshop on synergy in implementing the CBD programmes of work on dry and sub-humid lands and agricultural biodiversity. The workshop is planned for September 2004 in Gaborone, Botswana. The CBD Secretariat will soon invite the secretariats of the other Conventions and partners.