

Mandates for the Bern Process

The present document was developed in preparation of the "[Bogis-Bossey Expert Workshop: The Bern Process and the contribution of MEAs to the implementation of the KM-GBF](#)", held on 27-28 August 2025 in Bern, Switzerland. The workshop was organized by UNEP in partnership with the Federal Office for the Environment of Switzerland (FOEN) and with technical support from the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and from UNEP-WCMC.

The document was shared with participants ahead of the workshop and serves an update to the [Bern III Conference Mandate](#) (2023), which is publicly available [UNEP's Bern III Conference webpage](#).

It compiles selected clauses from decisions adopted by various Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) governing bodies that are directly relevant to the Bern Process and the Bogis-Bossey workshop agenda. These clauses are intended to support participants during discussions.

Please note:

- The included clauses specifically refer to the Bern Process.
- Earlier mandates on inter-agency cooperation, while still relevant, are not included here.
- Other decisions or paragraphs that may be relevant but do not explicitly mention the Bern Process have also been excluded.

The Bern Process originated from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP [decision 14/30](#), which called for a workshop on collaboration among the Parties to the biodiversity-related conventions. It also aligns with the [decision 14/34](#), on a comprehensive and inclusive process for preparing the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The Bern I and II consultations that followed informed the content of the framework accordingly. Subsequently, the CBD ([decision 15/13](#)), the FAO International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) ([resolution 13/2022](#)), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands ([resolution XIV/26](#)), and the Carpathian Convention ([decision 7/4](#)) called for the continuation of the Bern Process by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and encouraged their contracting parties/ secretariats to engage in it.

The outcomes of the Bern Process from Bern III Conference were further welcomed by the CBD ([decision 16/35](#)), the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES) ([SC78 Doc.16 \(Rev. 1\)](#)), the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) ([Resolution 11.10 \(Rev.COP14\)](#)), the UNESCO World Heritage Convention WHC ([decision 46 COM 5A](#)), the International Whaling Commission (IWC) ([resolution 2024-2](#)), the ITPGRFA ([resolution 1/2023](#) and [resolution 13/2023](#)), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) ([CPM-18 Draft Report Part 2](#)), the Convention on Wetlands ([COP15 Doc.23.4 \(Rev.2\)](#)), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) ([decision 8/COP.16](#)), the Basel Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions ([draft decisions BC-17/23, RC-12/10, SC-12/24](#)) and the Minamata Convention on Mercury ([decision MC-5/17](#)).

In addition, UNEA-6 took note of the Bern III Conference outcomes in [Resolution 6/4](#).

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Mandates from the Biodiversity-related MEAs

1. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

CBD COP 15 [Decision 15/13](#) (2022): Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

- *"Invites the United Nations Environment Programme to build on the [Bern Process](#) and continue to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions, contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by facilitating a process for cooperation among Parties to the relevant biodiversity-related conventions;" (paragraph 13)*
- *"Requests the Executive Secretary and encourages Parties to actively engage in the [Bern process](#) on cooperation among Parties to the various biodiversity-related conventions facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme, contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;" (paragraph 14)*

CBD COP 16 [Decision 16/35](#) (2024): Cooperation with other conventions and international organizations

- *"Takes note of the outcomes of the [Bern III Conference](#) as an important contribution to effective implementation of the Framework;" (paragraph 3)*
- *"Invites Parties to consider the report of the [Bern III Conference](#);" (paragraph 13)*

2. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

CITES [Decision 17.56 \(Rev. COP19\) directed to the Standing Committee, with support of the Secretariat](#) (2022): Cooperation with Multilateral Environmental Agreements and other international organizations

- *"The Standing Committee shall, with support of the Secretariat, explore options consistent with the CITES Strategic Vision to strengthen cooperation, collaboration and synergies at all relevant levels between CITES and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, taking into account the outcomes of the [Second Consultation Workshop of Biodiversity-related Conventions on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework \(Bern II\)](#), as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. This should involve the members of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions, and, as appropriate, engagement with other relevant organizations and processes, including processes under the Rio Conventions. The Standing Committee shall report on the implementation of this Decision at the 20th meeting of the Conference of the Parties."*

CITES [SC78 Doc. 16 \(Rev. 1\)](#) (2025): Implementation of Decision 17.56 (Rev. CoP19)

- *"[Bern III Conference](#) on synergies, Bern, 23-25 January 2024. In collaboration with the co-Chairs Mexico and Sweden and with funding provided by Switzerland, UNEP organized the [Bern III Conference on synergies](#) from 23 to 25 January 2024. The conference built on the outcomes of [Bern I](#) (Bern, June 2019) and [Bern II](#) (online, January-February 2021) and focused on strengthening synergies for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) with inputs from relevant MEAs and international organizations. Approximately 200 participants from Parties to MEAs and other relevant Conventions, MEA Secretariats, development partners and other international*

organizations participated in the conference. CITES was represented by Representatives or alternate Representatives of the Standing Committee from the following Parties: Cuba, Indonesia, Kenya and Zambia, as well as Mexico and the CITES Secretariat. The Party Representatives and the Secretariat contributed case studies and to [the Bern Conference outcomes](#) that identified key entry points for exploring synergies, drawing on its mandates, including through the KMGBF Framework Target 5. The Parties are invited to consider the practical outcomes in the [Bern III Report](#), including the mapping paper of interlinkages with the KMGBF and other MEAs.” (paragraph 7)

3. The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

CMS COP 14 [Resolution 11.10 \(Rev.COP14\)](#) (2024): Synergies and Partnerships

- *“Recognizing the importance of ongoing cooperation among secretariats of biodiversity-related conventions through the Biodiversity Liaison Group to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and welcoming the [Bern Process](#) to strengthen cooperation and collaboration among biodiversity-related conventions, contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Framework”*

4. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Convention on Wetlands)

Convention on Wetlands [COP Resolution XIV/6](#) (2022): Enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with other MEAs and international institutions

- *“Invites UNEP to build on the [Bern Process](#) and continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination among biodiversity-related Conventions contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, when adopted, by facilitating the process for cooperation among Parties to the relevant biodiversity-related Conventions,” (paragraph 46)*
- *“Requests the Secretary General, encourages Contracting Parties and invites other Governments to actively engage in the [Bern Process](#) among Parties to the various biodiversity-related Conventions facilitated by UNEP contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, when adopted,” (paragraph 47)*

Convention on Wetlands [SC64 Doc.14 / COP15 Doc.23.4 Rev.2](#) (2025): Draft Resolution on Enhancing the Convention’s visibility and synergies with multilateral environmental agreements and other international institutions

- *“NOTING the outcomes of the [Bern III Conference](#) on cooperation among the biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the KMGBF, held in January 2024 with the active participation of representatives of Parties to the Conventions, secretariats of MEAs, relevant organizations and stakeholders, and RECOGNIZING the support provided by the Government of Switzerland towards the [Bern process](#),” (paragraph 11)*
- *“REAFFIRMS the importance of enhancing cooperation and synergies in the implementation of the Convention on Wetlands, the Rio Conventions and other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), at the global, regional and national levels, in a manner fully consistent with their mandates and priorities, and in this context WELCOMES the outcomes of the [Bern III Conference](#) as an important contribution to enhancing synergies among MEAs,” (paragraph 20)*

5. The World Heritage Convention (WHC)

46th session of the World Heritage Committee [Decision 46 COM 5A](#) (2024): Report of the World Heritage Centre on its activities and the implementation of the World Heritage Committee's Decisions¹

- *"Welcomes the continued efforts of the World Heritage Centre to collaborate and enhance synergies among UNESCO's Culture conventions and the Biodiversity-related conventions and programmes towards the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), thanks the government of Switzerland for its funding to strengthen this work, and reiterates its requests to the States Parties to pursue such cooperation also at the national level, including in the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)." (paragraph 6)*

6. The International Whaling Commission (IWC)

IWC 69th Meeting [Resolution 2024-2](#): Resolution on Synergies Between the IWC, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Adopted Thereunder, and the Agreement Under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

- *NOTES the outcomes of the 2024 Bern III Conference on Cooperation among the Biodiversity related Conventions for the efficient and effective implementation of the KMGBF;*

7. The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA)

ITPGRFA GB [Resolution 13/2022](#): Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity

- *"Invites the United Nations Environment Programme to build on the Bern Process and continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination among biodiversity-related conventions contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Post-2020 GBF, when adopted, by facilitating the process for cooperation among Parties to the relevant biodiversity-related conventions;" (paragraph 19)*
- *"Requests the Secretary and encourages Contracting Parties to actively engage in this effort contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the Post-2020 GBF, when adopted;" (paragraph 20)*

ITPGRFA GB [Resolution 13/2023](#): Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity

- *"Takes note of the Bern Process on cooperation and coordination among Parties of the biodiversity-related conventions and its contribution to the effective and efficient implementation of the GBF;" (paragraph 4)*

ITPGRFA GB [Resolution 1/2023](#): The role of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- *"Welcomes the Bern process on cooperation and coordination among Parties of biodiversity-related conventions, contributing to an effective and efficient implementation of the GBF." (paragraph 15)*

¹ Although the term 'Bern Process' is not explicitly mentioned in WHC decision 46 COM 5A, the text does refer to Switzerland's work on enhanced synergies for the implementation of the KMGBF, which is implicitly the Bern Process.

8. The International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)

IPPC [CPM-18 Report](#) (2024): 21.2 Update on international cooperation²

- “Contracting parties *encouraged* the secretariat to continue engagement with the [Berne process](#) on biodiversity and report this activity to the CPM. [...]” (paragraph 163)

9. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

UNCCD COP [decision 8/COP.16](#) (2024): Promotion and strengthening of relationships with other relevant conventions and international organizations, institutions and agencies

- “*Taking note* of the outcomes of the [Bern III Conference](#) on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;”

[Mandates from the Chemicals & Waste MEAs](#)

10. The Minamata Convention on Mercury (Minamata Convention)

Minamata Convention COP [Decision MC-5/17](#) (2023): Mercury and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

- “*Welcomes* the [“Bern meetings”](#) initiated by Switzerland to support synergies between relevant Multilateral environmental agreements, including the Minamata Convention;” (paragraph 3)
- “*Requests* the Secretariat to continue supporting [the relevant processes](#) to improve coherence among multilateral environmental conventions ...” (paragraph 7)

11. The Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (BRS Conventions)

BRS [Draft Decision \(unedited advanced\) BC-17/23, RC-12/10, SC-12/24](#) (2025): International cooperation and coordination with other organizations

- “*Also welcomes* the work facilitated by the United Nations Environment Programme under the [Bern process](#), including the outcomes of its third conference, and invites the Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue its engagement, in collaboration with other multilateral environmental agreements, in the process;” (paragraph 9)
- “*Encourages* Parties to engage in the [Bern process](#) and actively promote cooperation and policy coherence among multilateral environmental agreements at the national level, taking into account national circumstances, needs and priorities through, as appropriate, a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach;” (paragraph 10)

² Unlike other MEAs, the IPPC’s mandate is not set out in a decision or resolution, but in a report.

Mandate from a regional MEA

12. The Carpathian Convention

Carpathian Convention COP [Decision 7/4](#) (2023): Cooperation with United Nations Environment Programme

- *"Invites the United Nations Environment Programme to build on the ongoing [Bern Process](#) and continue to strengthen cooperation and coordination among biodiversity-related conventions contributing to effective and efficient implementation of the GBF by facilitating the process for cooperation among Parties to the relevant biodiversity-related conventions, and while recognizing that Carpathian Convention is a viable vehicle for the implementation of the GBF, encourages better consideration of regional convention and initiatives in the process; in that regard acknowledges the organization of the [Bern III Conference](#) on Cooperation among the Biodiversity-related Conventions for the implementation of the GBF [...] organized by UNEP in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the CBD and Switzerland, with the objective to identify opportunities for MEAs collaboration in implementing the GBF at all appropriate levels, make recommendations on further steps to strengthen cooperation and collaboration, and share practical experiences on synergies in implementing MEAs."* (paragraph 4)

Mandate from other Multilateral Environmental Processes

13. The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

UNEA [Resolution 6/4](#) (2024): Promoting synergies, cooperation or collaboration for national implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and other relevant environmental instruments

- *"Noting with appreciation the outcomes of the [Bern III Conference](#) on cooperation among the biodiversity-related conventions for the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework as an important contribution to effective implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework,"*