The 12th Ordinary Meeting of the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions (BLG) was held on 28-29 September 2017 at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome, Italy. It brought together the heads of the Secretariats of the biodiversity-related Conventions: Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Executive Secretary of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Secretary General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Secretary General of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, the representative of the Director of the World Heritage Centre which serves as the secretariat to the World Heritage Convention and the Secretary Ad-Interim of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA), the Secretary of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC). The BLG provides a very important space for exchange and identification of areas of collaboration among conventions.

The meeting convened by the CBD on 29 September with participation from BLG members and other agencies provided a good opportunity to discuss how to enhance coordination and collaboration in supporting the implementation of biodiversity-related conventions. The BLG shared developments in each convention and for Ramsar is was an opportunity to speak about the Ramsar Convention COP13, pre-COPs, key issues to be addressed, and the upcoming Wetlands Outlook.

The BLG agreed to work together to build on the momentum of the attention on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Agenda to raise awareness and gather support for biodiversity through the development of a common strategies and workplans. A main area for collaboration agreed was to work together as heads of biodiversity-related conventions towards the High Level Political Forum in July 2018, as it will review SDGs 15 on biodiversity and 6 on water.

There was also agreement on the need to collaborate to give more visibility to the biodiversity agenda towards 2020, building on stepping stones towards 2020, including the Ramsar COP13, the CBD COP13, HLPF in 2018, UNEA 2018, CBD
COP 14 in 2020.

For more information of the 12th BLG meeting, please visit: http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/news/news-detail/en/c/1044332/. The minutes of the meeting will be made available on the BLG webpage on the website of CBD at https://www.cbd.int/blg/.

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