



**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

2 September 2011

CONFERENCE CALL WITH THE BUREAU OF
THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
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MINUTES OF THE

**CONFERENCE CALL WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU OF THE SUBSIDIARY
BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE (SBSTTA)**

FRIDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER 2011

Present: All ten Bureau Members were present: Dr. Senka Barudanovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Dr. Alexander Shestakov (Russian Federation), Ms. Tone Solhaug (Norway), Ms. Gabriele Obermayr (Austria), Mr. Ignatius Makumba (Zambia), Mr. Nabil Hamada (Tunisia), Ms. Larissa M. Lima Costa (Brazil), Ms. Joyce Thomas Peters (Grenada), Dr. Krishna Chandra Paudel (Nepal), and Dr. Monyrak Meng (Cambodia).

From the CBD Secretariat, the following staff members were present: Jo Mulongoy, Jihyun Lee, David Coates, Jaime Webbe, Kieran Noonan-Mooney, Claudia Paguaga, Annie Cung, Veronica Lo, and Veronique Allain.

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.

The Chair of SBSTTA, Ms. Senka Barudanovic, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, opened the meeting at 9:15 am (Montreal time). She welcomed the Bureau members and introduced the Bureau to a new member, Ms. Larissa Maria Lima Costa, from Brazil, who is replacing Ms. Maria Barcelos Cavalcante Vieira.

The Bureau adopted the agenda for the meeting.

2. Consideration of outlines of SBSTTA 16 documents.

The Bureau reviewed the outlines of SBSTTA 16 documents that were sent by the Secretariat. The Secretariat briefly introduced the documents, and comments from the Bureau were welcomed. Comments on the document outlines are summarized in the table below.

Symbol	Title	Comments
SBSTTA/16/2	In-depth review of the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity	The Secretariat explained that a revised outline had been sent out after taking into account some comments received from the WEOG region. Speaking on behalf of JUSCANZ, a Bureau member appreciated the changes made to the

Symbol	Title	Comments
		<p>first draft</p> <p>The Bureau did not have any specific comments on the outline at this point.</p>
SBSTTA/16/3	Global Biodiversity Outlook: plan for the preparation of the fourth edition	<p>The Bureau noted that the document should probably only contain two sections, one on the assessment of GBO-3 and the other on the format, preparation process and work plan for GBO-4.</p> <p>A reference to IPBES may be needed in the document, depending on how discussions evolve.</p> <p>The communication strategy needs to be well developed.</p> <p>The progress and obstacles in implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity should be clearly reflected in GBO-4.</p>
SBSTTA/16/4	Technical rationales, milestones and indicators for the updated Global Strategy for Plant Conservation 2011 - 2020	<p>The Bureau noted that the document needs to be aligned with the indicators discussion at SBSTTA 15.</p> <p>Technical and technological aspects could be described but financial prescriptions avoided including by just linking to the resource mobilization strategy and harmonizing the titles with the wording of the decision.</p> <p>The role/importance of GSPC national focal points needs to be emphasized.</p>
SBSTTA/16/5	Marine and coastal biodiversity: Identification of ecologically or biologically significant marine areas and addressing adverse impacts of human activities, including underwater noise, on marine and coastal biodiversity	Document 16/5 is the main document for marine and coastal biodiversity. It is accompanied by three progress reports (16/6, 16/7, and 16/8). All four documents reflect 16 requests to the Executive Secretary from decision X/29. The four pre-session documents will be supported by 15 Information Documents.
SBSTTA/16/6	Report on the status of collaboration to establish a repository for scientific and technical information and experience related to the application on the scientific criteria on the identification of EBSAs	The Chair suggested highlighting the links with the new Strategic Plan and mentioning tourism in addressing biodiversity concerns in the assessing the impacts of human activities.
SBSTTA/16/7	Report on collaboration to review the extent to which biodiversity concerns are addressed in existing assessments in fisheries and options to address them	Clarification was made with regard to the document on collaboration with other organizations in developing EBSA repository system. The document will highlight the necessary technical and financial resources to maintain the current good collaboration in developing and maintaining EBSA repository system.
SBSTTA/16/8	Report on collaboration to address biodiversity concerns in marine and coastal commercial activities and	

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	management	<p>Next year, the theme for the International Day for Biological Diversity being marine and coastal biodiversity, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that it will collaborate with various organizations and COP Presidencies for a number of high level events.</p>
SBSTTA/16/9	Proposals on the integration of biodiversity considerations into climate change-related activities, including addressing gaps in knowledge and information	<p>The Bureau requested clarifications with regards to some of the proposals presented in the document. It was suggested to more clearly explain that those are simply proposals from Parties received by the Secretariat.</p> <p>Regarding the mention of Rio+20, the Secretariat informed the Bureau of ongoing discussions with DESA for the allocation of a side event slot and the possibility of some text on synergies to be submitted by the 3 executive secretaries of the Rio Conventions.</p> <p>The Bureau highlighted the importance of including text that encourages synergies between the Rio Conventions at national level. The NBSAPs, NAPAs and NAPs should be able to relate with each other and find commonalities and hence avoid duplication of efforts and optimise resource utilisation.</p> <p>The Bureau requested that a Conclusion section be added at the end of the document containing a summary of suggested activities and an overview of what Parties already agreed to do in decisions IX/16 and X/33.</p>
SBSTTA/16/10	Technical and regulatory matters on geo-engineering in relation to the Convention on Biological Diversity	<p>The Secretariat introduced the process behind the preparation of this document.</p> <p>The Bureau drew attention to the fact that COP requested a compilation. The Secretariat informed the Bureau that what is provided is a synthesis of views submitted including a compilation of available definitions. In order to make this point clearer, the Secretariat agreed to add the word 'compilation' and add a reference to it in the document. It will also be made clear in the document that the definition options are only with relevance to the CBD, they are not intended to be put forward to other processes.</p> <p>The Bureau also wanted to ensure that the discussions on impacts focuses on a summary of available information and does not attempt to discuss policy considerations. On the other hand the legal regulatory frameworks section should contain proposals on filling gaps.</p>

Symbol	Title	Comments
		<p>The Secretariat agreed to share the early drafts of the Information Notes accompanying this document with the Bureau next week.</p> <p>The Secretariat also informed the Bureau of the next steps in the process including the peer-review, a videoconference in September, a meeting of the lead authors in October and a consultation with Indigenous and Local Communities as a side event during the 8(j) meeting in Montreal on 1 November. The Secretariat invites the Bureau to take part in these discussions.</p>
SBSTTA/16/11 (no outline provided)	Progress report on the review and revision of the resource kit for national capacity self-assessments to support implementation of decisions on biodiversity and climate change	<p>No outline for this document was provided. Following discussion with UNEP, it was decided that this document is no longer relevant.</p> <p>Therefore this document has been deleted from the draft annotated agenda. Its document number should be given to the report on REDD indicators (see below).</p>
SBSTTA/16/12	Incentive measures: progress report on activities undertaken by Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and initiatives, and the Executive Secretary	<p>It was suggested to include a mention of TEEB, not only in the document on incentive measures, but also other relevant documents. All STTM staff should note this. Current References are currently made under ecosystem restoration and PAs</p> <p>The Chair reminded the Secretariat that if not enough submissions were received, a reminder should be sent.</p> <p>The document was resend to the Bureau because many did not receive it. Bureau members are expected to send written comments.</p>
SBSTTA/16/13	New and emerging issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity	The Bureau did not have any specific comments on the outline at this point.
SBSTTA/16/14	Report on identification and implementation of targeted joint activities between the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Forum on Forests to support Parties	<p>The Bureau suggested that rather than ending the report on “inadequacies” it would be good to end on something positive. Alternative wording could be “challenges”.</p> <p>Whether ‘suggested recommendations’ need to be added to this document and SBSTTA/16/15 will be discussed at the next teleconference</p>
(to be given SBSTTA/16/11)	Report on possible indicators to assess the contribution of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing	<p>Note: this document should be added to the draft annotated agenda.</p> <p>The Bureau did not have any specific comments on the outline at this point.</p>

Symbol	Title	Comments
	countries	
SBSTTA/16/15	Report on the work in response to paragraphs 11 to 14 of decision X/37 on Biofuels and Biodiversity	<p>The Bureau noted that references to other biofuel forums should be added.</p> <p>Reference to second and third generation biofuels should be changed to lignocellulosic biofuels which is a more technical term.</p> <p>The Bureau wondered if the expert group mentioned in the document was really needed bearing in mind that expert groups addressing these issues exist already.</p> <p>The issue of recommendations needs further consideration. As the item is a reporting item, usually it would not have recommendations. However, if there are identified gaps, a recommendation could be added to address the gaps.</p>
SBSTTA/16/16	Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and make full and effective use of IPBES.	<p>There could be a link to be made with GBO.</p> <p>The Bureau suggested including a progress report on recommendations made at SBSTTA 14 on this topic.</p>

In their discussion of the document outlines, several general issues related to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) were discussed. The group noted that they would need to consider how to best address IPBES at SBSTTA 16. One possibility would be to develop a separate document related to IPBES or to include IPBES in the document on the ways and means to improve the effectiveness of SBSTTA. The group agreed to consider this issue again during their next face-to-face meeting.

3. Organization of work during SBSTTA 15.

It was agreed that this item will be considered at the next teleconference

3.1 Consideration of item 3.1. “Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020: Updated technical rationale and indicators” and

3.2 Points to be added to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/1/Add.2, Note by the Chair

The Bureau mentioned some points for integration in the Note by the Chair (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/1/Add.2). One of them is regarding how the item on indicators could be addressed bearing in mind that document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/15/2 was not peer reviewed because it was finalised very close to the deadline for posting of pre-session documents. A proposal included: brief introduction by the AHTEG co-Chairs, and establishment of a contact group if needed. If a contact group on indicators is formed it should have clear terms of reference.

Amongst other things, the Note by the Chair will need to explain the different mandates of WGRI and SBSTTA in relation to the strategic plan and how these will be addressed. Mention of this was made in the report of the June meeting of the SBSTTA Bureau and attention of COP Bureau drawn. The Secretariat will prepare a draft of the note for the consideration of the Bureau.

In addition, the Secretariat informed the Bureau that the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) had awarded the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity the 2011 Special Recognition Award on the margins of the 4th World Conference on Ecological Restoration for their

Strategic Plan that stresses the importance of ecosystem restoration, including a commitment to restore 15% degraded ecosystems by 2020 (target 15 of the Strategic Plan). Given this, it was suggested that SER could be invited to SBSTTA 15 to present the award and to say a few words (either during the opening or when the item on ecological restoration is being introduced). Further, given the outcomes of the Bonn Challenge meeting, the Chair of the meeting could be invited to say a few words on restoration. The Secretariat will prepare a choreography which contains these points and will share it with the Bureau for its consideration.

The Secretariat mentioned the need to increase the visibility of the poster session at SBSTTA 15. One possibility being explored is inviting Dr. Eric Chivian, Nobel Prize winner, to make a short presentation on ecosystem restoration and human health at the end of Monday afternoons' plenary session, for the launching of the poster session. The Secretariat will keep the Bureau informed as more information becomes available.

4. Other matters.

The Bureau discussed arrangements for the next teleconference and face-to-face meeting. It was agreed to try to have another teleconference during the week of 12-16 September 2011 in order to discuss outstanding matters for the preparation of SBSTTA 15. The Secretariat will liaise with the Bureau to find the most suitable date.

The next face-to-face meeting is scheduled for 12 November 2011. The Chair raised some concerns regarding this meeting due to the fact that there will be a change in Bureau members, with some new members being elected during SBSTTA 15 (taking place from 7 to 11 November 2011). As such, it will be very difficult to have those new members join the face-to-face meeting of 12 November due to the short notice. The Secretariat agreed that this is a challenge. It is an issue to be looked at, together with the possibility of making the meeting a 2-day meeting.

It was requested that, in keeping with past tradition, that the Secretariat prepare a list of all SBSTTA requests to the Executive Secretary and their implied costs and distribute it to the Bureau for their consideration. The list will be ready for the next teleconference.

The Bureau requested the Secretariat to send a revised list of relevant meetings for the Bureau to attend when possible. The Chair reminded the Bureau of the importance of trying as much as possible to have at least one Bureau member participate in each meeting, in particular the upcoming meeting on ocean acidification which will take place in October in Montreal (A. Shestakov currently in Canada could be considered for the meeting being held in Montreal).

The Chair noted that in the SBSTTA 15 document on ways and means to improve the effectiveness of SBSTTA, there is a mention that the results of the survey for SBSTTA focal points would be posted on the CBD website, however, they have not been posted yet. The Secretariat will make sure that they will be posted as soon as possible.

5. Closure of the meeting.

The Chair thanked the Bureau for their participation in the teleconference. The Secretariat also thanked the Bureau, acknowledging that all Bureau members were present. The meeting was closed at 11:30 am (Montreal time).

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