



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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EXPERT CONSULTATION ON
CORAL BLEACHING
Manila, 11-13 October 1999

ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting

The Expert Consultation on Coral Bleaching, organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity within the framework of the programme of work for the Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, will be held in Manila from 11 to 13 October 1999. The Consultation will be hosted by the International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM).

After welcoming remarks, the meeting will be officially opened by the representative of the local host, at 10 a.m., on Monday, 11 October 1999.

2. Organizational matters

2.1. Administrative arrangements

At the outset of the meeting, the representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity will brief participants on the administrative arrangements for the Consultation.

2.2. Election of the Chairperson and Rapporteur

Participants are invited to designate a Chairperson and a Rapporteur for the Consultation, on the basis of nominations from one or more participants.

The Secretariat of the Convention will provide the technical services for the Consultation.

2.3. Adoption of the agenda

The Chairperson, once elected, will invite the meeting to consider for adoption the provisional agenda prepared by the Secretariat (UNEP/CBD/JM/Expert/2/1). Participants will have an opportunity to propose amendments, as necessary.

2.4. Overview of the documentation

The Secretariat will introduce the documentation for the meeting, which will include an analysis of the coral bleaching phenomenon, the

potential for severe loss of biological diversity, and its consequent socio-economic impacts.

3. Objectives of the Consultation

The Chairperson, with the assistance of the Secretariat, will present to participants the objectives of the Consultation, which include the integration of existing scientific knowledge of the phenomenon of coral bleaching from a biodiversity perspective and to assist in providing the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) with a scientifically sound description of the problem, including priorities for action and constraints, as an input to its consideration of the topic at its fifth meeting, to be held in January/February 2000 in response to decision IV/5 of the Conference of the Parties and SBSTTA recommendation IV/1. The envisaged main outcome of the Consultation is a report upon which the note by the Executive Secretary to SBSTTA will be based. This report will have to address the issue of coral bleaching in light of the subsequent potentially severe loss of biological diversity and consequent socio-economic impacts. The report will thus provide a basis for an analysis of scientific, technical and technological aspects of coral bleaching by SBSTTA, for subsequent policy debate by the Conference of the Parties.

4. General introduction to the issue of coral bleaching

The Chairperson will invite one expert to give a general introduction to the issue of coral bleaching, including the possible consequence of global warming and its trend in the future. Participants will be invited to identify additional points that may require subsequent discussion, based on the objectives of the meeting.

5. Impacts of coral bleaching on marine and coastal biological diversity

The Chairperson will invite one expert to illustrate the potential severe loss of biological diversity due to coral bleaching phenomenon. It is expected that this presentation will be followed by a discussion of relevant issues, including the possible recovery of coral communities.

6. Socio-economic effects of coral bleaching

One expert will be invited to outline the likely socio-economic impacts of coral bleaching. The Chairperson will invite the participants to discuss relevant points. In addition, participants will have an opportunity to discuss possible measures to mitigate the effects of this event, in particular for local/coastal communities.

7. Conclusions and recommendations

As noted in the annotation to item 3 above, the conclusions and recommendations of the Consultation will serve as the basis for the preparation of a pre-session document to assist the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice in its consideration of the topic at its fifth meeting. The Chairperson will propose general conclusions for discussion. The participants will be invited to identify recommendations for relevant future programmes, including the identification of suitable prevention and mitigation measures.

8. Adoption of the report of the Consultation, including the approval of the pre-session document for the fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

The Rapporteur, together with the Secretariat and selected experts, will finalize the draft pre-session document and report of the meeting. The Chairperson will invite the participants to consider and adopt the report of the Consultation, including the draft pre-session document for submission to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its fifth meeting.

9. Closure of the meeting

The meeting will be closed at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, 13 October 1999.
