

**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**Distr.
GENERALUNEP/CBD/AHTEG-MB/1/1/Add.1
21 June 2003

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON
MOUNTAIN BIODIVERSITY
Rome, 1-3 July 2003
Item 2.2 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA*Annotations to the provisional agenda***INTRODUCTION**

1. In its decision VI/30, the Conference of the Parties welcomed the proposals presented by the Executive Secretary in his note on preparations for its seventh meeting (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/2) and requested that such preparations continue as outlined in the note. As decided by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting (decision IV/16, annex II), the items for in-depth consideration at the meeting are mountain ecosystems, protected areas, and transfer of technology and technology cooperation. In order to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties, the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) considered mountain biological diversity as the main theme of its eighth meeting, held in Montreal from 10 to 14 March 2003. The Subsidiary Body had before it the notes prepared by the Executive Secretary on the status and trends of, and threats to, mountain biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/5), measures taken for the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/6) and proposed elements for a programme of work on mountain biodiversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/7).

2. The Subsidiary Body adopted the structure of the proposed programme of work on mountain biological diversity, with its elements and goals, as specified in annex I to its recommendation VIII/1 A. Due to time constraints, the Subsidiary Body could develop only an indicative list of possible actions to be taken under the different goals of the proposed programme of work and decided to complete its work at its ninth meeting, to be held from 10 to 14 November 2003, prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

3. To gather as much information as possible on actions to be carried out under each programme element and goal, the Subsidiary Body:

* UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-MB/1/1.

/...

(a) Requested the Executive Secretary to consult with Parties, Governments and relevant organizations on the proposed programme of work on mountain biological diversity and prepare a list of actions for possible inclusion in the proposed programme of work; and

(b) Established an Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Mountain Biological Diversity with the mandate to undertake:

- (i) A review of suggested actions contained in the proposed programme of work on mountain biological diversity as stated in annex I to SBSTTA recommendation VIII/I A;
- (ii) The identification of gaps in suggested actions, and include new suggested actions whenever appropriate, under the relevant programme element and programme goals;
- (iii) The inclusion of the results of the consultation referred to in subparagraph (a) above in the proposed programme of work on mountain biological diversity.

4. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary has convened, with the support of the Government of Italy, a meeting of the Ad-Hoc Technical Expert Group on Mountain Biodiversity from 1 to 3 July 2003 at the StarHotel Metropole in Rome.

5. Members of the Expert Group have been selected among government-nominated experts, taking into account the need for a balanced regional distribution and, to the extent possible, from those delegates that attended the eighth meeting of SBSTTA, in accordance with paragraph 3 of recommendation VIII/1 A.

6. In addition, representatives of competent intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations will participate as observers.

7. A list of documents for the meeting is provided in annex II below.

8. Registration of participants will start from 8.30 to 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 1 July 2003.

ITEM. 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

9. The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity at 9.30 a.m. on Tuesday, 1 July 2003.

10. The participants will be welcomed to the meeting by representative(s) of the Government of Italy.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

2.1. Election of officers

11. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will be invited to elect its two co-Chairs and a Rapporteur.

2.2. Adoption of the agenda

12. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will be invited to adopt the provisional agenda for the meeting prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-MB/1/1).

2.3. *Organization of work*

13. The language of the meeting will be English.

14. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group is invited to consider the proposed organization of work for the meeting as contained in annex I to the present annotated provisional agenda. The Group may wish to conduct its initial deliberations in plenary, and subsequently establish working groups for drafting of specific items deriving from its terms of reference.

ITEM 3. SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

15. Agenda item 3, the main substantive item of the agenda, contains five sub-items, which will collectively fulfil the mandate of the Technical Expert Group.

3.1. Review of the structure of the programme of work adopted by SBSTTA at its eighth meeting

16. The programme of work on mountain biodiversity adopted at the eighth meeting of SBSTTA consists of:

- (a) Three programme elements:
 - (i) Direct actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing;
 - (ii) Means of implementation for conservation, sustainable use and benefit sharing; and
 - (iii) Supporting actions for conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing; and
- (b) A total of 14 goals.

17. Under each of the goals, SBSTTA suggested a number of actions that the AHTEG is requested to consider.

3.2. Review of the list of suggested actions within the structure of the programme of work

18. The AHTEG is expected to review the actions suggested by SBSTTA at its eighth meeting under each of the goals and assess their relevance /suitability taking into account the following guidance from recommendation VIII/1 A:

(a) The overall purpose of the programme of work is the significant reduction of mountain biological diversity loss by 2010 at global, regional and national levels through the implementation of the three main objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, i.e., conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of benefits. One aim of the programme of work is to make a significant contribution to poverty alleviation in mountain ecosystems and in lowlands dependent on the goods and services of mountain ecosystems and thereby contribute to the objectives of the Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and the Millennium Development Goals;

(b) The scope and focus of the programme of work should be on addressing characteristics and problems that are specific to mountain biological diversity. These include:

/...

- (i) The particularly high concentration of biological diversity hotspots in mountain regions, including high ecosystem diversity, high species richness, high number of endemic and endangered species, and high genetic diversity of crop, livestock, and their wild relatives;
- (ii) The fragility of mountain ecosystems and species and their vulnerability to human and natural disturbances, in particular to land use change and global climate change;
- (iii) The upland-lowland interactions that characterize mountain ecosystems, in particular with relation to water and soil resources;
- (iv) High levels of cultural diversity, and the particularly key role of indigenous and local communities in the conservation and management of mountain biological diversity.

(c) Actions to be included under each of the goals identified by SBSTTA should avoid duplication with existing thematic work programmes and other existing initiatives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

3.3 Review of the list of additional suggested actions submitted to the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity by Parties, other Governments and organizations

19. Under this agenda item, the AHTEG is invited to consider the actions suggested by Parties, other Governments and organisations in response to the notification issued by the Executive Secretary on 26 March 2003 in accordance with paragraph 4 of SBSTTA recommendation VIII/1 A.

20. As of 19 June 2003, the Executive Secretary had received inputs from Argentina, Colombia, Egypt, Germany, Italy, Mozambique, Spain and the United States of America; and from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) and the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA). These inputs have been compiled in a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-MB/1/2) prepared for the meeting.

3.4 Identification of gaps in suggested actions and inclusion of new actions whenever appropriate

21. The AHTEG will assess whether the actions suggested by SBSTTA at its eighth meeting; and by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations through the consultation undertaken by the Executive Secretary are sufficient to meet the goals of the programme of work taking into account the guidance provided in paragraph 18 above.

22. For possible additional actions, the Group may wish to consider information and inputs from international forums, in particular, chapter 13 of Agenda 21, which relates to sustainable mountain development, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which proposes a number of specific actions to be undertaken in regard to mountains, the outcome of the 2002 International Year of the Mountains, and actions from a number of international agreements and bodies, institutions, and initiatives, such as the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), the

International Centre for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA), the International Partnership for Sustainable Development in Mountain Regions, the International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP), the Centre for Mountain Studies, the Consorcio para el Desarrollo de la Ecoregion Andina (CONDESAN), the Mountain Research Initiative (MRI), the Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment (GMBA) of DIVERSITAS, the International Union of Forest Research Organizations (IUFRO), the Alpine Convention, and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC).

3.5 *Drafting of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity*

23. Under this item, the Group will include the identified actions under the relevant goals and may wish to draft some recommendations for the consideration of SBSTTA at its ninth meeting.

ITEM 4. PREPARATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

24. The Group will consider and adopt its report on the basis of the draft report of the meeting to be prepared and presented by the Rapporteur.

ITEM 5. OTHER MATTERS

25. Under this item, participants will be invited to raise other matters related to the subject matter of the meeting.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

26. It is expected that the meeting will be closed at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 3 July 2003.

*Annex I***PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON MOUNTAIN BIODIVERSITY**

Date and time	Agenda item
<p><i>Tuesday, 1 July 2003</i> 9.30 a.m. – 1 p.m.</p>	<p>1: Opening of the meeting</p> <p>2: Organizational matters</p> <p>3.1: Review of the structure of the adopted programme of work</p> <p>3.2: Review of the list of suggested actions in the adopted programme of work</p>
<p><i>Tuesday, 1 July 2003</i> 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.</p> <p><i>Wednesday, 2 July 2003</i> 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.</p>	<p>3.2: Review of the list of suggested actions in the adopted programme of work <i>(continued)</i></p> <p>3.3: Review of the list of additional suggested actions submitted by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations</p>
<p><i>Wednesday, 2 July 2003</i> 2 p.m. – 6 p.m.</p>	<p>3.3: Review of the list of additional suggested actions submitted by Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations</p>
<p><i>Thursday, 3 July 2003</i> 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.</p>	<p>3.4: Identification of gaps in suggested actions and inclusion of new ones</p>
<p><i>Thursday, 3 July 2003</i> 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.</p>	<p>3.5: Drafting of the programme of work and recommendations</p> <p>4: Preparation and adoption of the report</p> <p>5: Other matters</p> <p>6: Closure of the meeting</p>

Annex II

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP
ON MOUNTAIN BIODIVERSITY**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
<i>Working documents</i>	
UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-MB/1/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-MB/1/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/AHTEG-MB/1/2	Comments and suggested actions from Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations
<i>Background documents</i>	
SBSTTA recommendation VIII/1	Main theme: mountain biodiversity
Decision VI/26 of the Conference of the Parties	Strategic Plan for the Convention on Biological Diversity
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/5	Status and trends of, and threats to, mountain biological diversity
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/6	Measures taken for the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biological diversity
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/7	Proposed elements of or a programme of work on mountain biological diversity
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/7/Add.1	Indicative list of technologies relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of mountain biological diversity and other related thematic areas and cross-cutting themes
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/INF/9	Synthesis of information in thematic reports on mountain ecosystems
	Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development
	Millennium Development Goals
	Chapter 13 of Agenda 21
