



**CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY**

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Third meeting

Montreal, Canada

1 to 5 September 1997

Item 7 of the provisional agenda

IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 7

Report of the meeting of a liaison group on biological diversity indicators

1. A meeting of a liaison group on biological diversity indicators was held from Friday, 30 May to Monday, 2 June at the Wageningen International Conference Centre, The Netherlands, at the invitation of the Government of the Netherlands.
2. The liaison group had been established in accordance with the *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to assist the Executive Secretary with the preparation of the background documents on the implementation of Article 7 of the Convention required for the third meeting of the SBSTTA (items 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 of the provisional agenda).
3. The list of participants is contained in the Annex to this document.

Agenda item 1. Opening of the meeting

4. The meeting was opened at 2 p.m. on Friday, 30 May by Dr. H. Smit, Director of the National Reference Centre for Nature Management, who welcomed the participants on behalf of the Government of the Netherlands.
5. A member of the Secretariat welcomed participants on behalf of the Executive Secretary.

Agenda item 2. Organisational matters

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6. The liaison group choose Mr. Braulio Dias to act as facilitator for the meeting.
7. The draft annotated agenda prepared by the Secretariat (UNEP/CBD/Ind/LG/1/1) was considered and adopted.
8. The liaison group considered the organisation of work of the meeting and decided to consider first the draft document on recommendations for a preliminary core set of indicators of biological diversity, particularly those related to threats.

Agenda item 3. Proposed mechanism of work of the meeting

9. The meeting had before it three preliminary draft documents prepared prior to the meeting by members of the liaison group. It was agreed that the task of the meeting was to review these drafts; analyse the conformity of the scope and treatment to the guidance given in recommendation II/1 of the SBSTTA and in decision III/10 of the Conference of the Parties; suggest amendments and additions; and assist the Executive Secretary with the preparation of the final drafts of the documents.

Agenda item 4. Addressing the issue-areas

10. The liaison group held six sessions, during which it considered the following issues, in accordance with recommendation II/1 of the SBSTTA and in decision III/10 of the Conference of the Parties:

- (a) Provision of scientific advice and further guidance to assist in the national elaboration of Annex I of the Convention;
- (b) Review of methodologies for assessment of biological diversity;
- (c) Current approaches to indicator development and recommendations for a preliminary core set of indicators of biological diversity, particularly those related to threats, and options for capacity-building in developing countries in the application of guidelines and indicators for subsequent national reports.

Agenda item 5. Other matters

11. No other matters were considered.

Agenda item 6. Finalisation and adoption of the reports

12. At its sixth and final session on Monday, 2 June 1997, the liaison group considered the proposed amendments to the three documents. It agreed upon procedures for finalising the drafting of the documents, circulating these drafts amongst the members of the group and submitting its final recommendations to the Executive Secretary.
13. It was agreed that the Secretariat should post on the Internet the final documents to be submitted to the SBSTTA with a call for comments and review by Parties and other relevant organisations. The Executive

Secretary was encouraged to compile comments received in this way and to make them available to the SBSTTA for information.

14. It was noted that, following consideration by the SBSTTA of the documents under preparation and in light of any additional recommendations arising out of the third meeting, further work would need to be undertaken by the Executive Secretary, in particular on the development of a core set of indicators. It was recommended that the Executive Secretary continue to make use of available expertise through a liaison group and that for this purpose, additional experts from international and regional organizations, including non-governmental organizations and scientific unions and societies, be identified to contribute to such work.

#### Agenda item 7. Closure of the Meeting

10. Following an expression of thanks to the host Government and to the support staff, the meeting was closed at 1 p.m. on Monday, 2 June 1997.

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#### ANNEX

#### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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