



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Fourth meeting  
Montreal, Canada  
21-25 June 1999  
Item 2.2 of the Provisional agenda\*

### ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

#### Annotated Provisional Agenda

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Article 25 of the Convention on Biological Diversity (the Convention) establishes a Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), to provide both the Conference of the Parties to the Convention (COP) and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention.

2. The first meeting of SBSTTA was held in Paris, from 4 to 8 September 1995, in accordance with decision I/7 of the Conference of the Parties. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jameson Seyani (Malawi). In its decision II/1, the Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the first meeting of SBSTTA (contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/5) and endorsed the modus operandi of SBSTTA as outlined in recommendation I/1, requesting SBSTTA to keep this issue under review with a view to improving its functioning.

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\* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/1/Rev.1

3. The second meeting of SBSTTA was held in Montreal, from 2 to 6 September 1996. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Peter J. Schei (Norway). In its decision III/2, the Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the second meeting of SBSTTA (contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/3/3) and decided to give further consideration at its fourth meeting to recommendation II/11 of SBSTTA, which contains the proposed revised elements of its modus operandi, as part of the longer-term review of the programme of work and the operations of the Conference of the Parties and subsidiary organs. The Conference of the Parties also noted, in particular, the recommendation of SBSTTA that it adopt a thematic approach to its work. In its decision III/3, the Conference of the Parties decided that the meetings of SBSTTA be held in the six official languages of the United Nations and that the modus operandi of SBSTTA be modified accordingly.

4. The third meeting of SBSTTA took place in Montreal, from 1 to 5 September 1997. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Zakri A. Hamid (Malaysia). In its decision IV/1, the Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the third meeting of SBSTTA (contained in document UNEP/CBD/COP/4/2). The tasks assigned to SBSTTA by the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties amount to more than it would be possible for SBSTTA to address properly in a single meeting of one week duration. Accordingly, in paragraph 12 of its decision IV/16, the Conference of the Parties approved the holding of two one-week meetings of SBSTTA prior to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Two meetings of SBSTTA, the fourth and the fifth, will therefore take place before the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

5. The fourth meeting of SBSTTA will take place in Montreal, at the Conference Center of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), from 21 to 25 June 1999. Registration of participants will commence on 20 June at 12.00 p.m.

#### ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

##### A. Organizational matters

###### Item 1. Opening of the meeting

6. The meeting will be opened at 10.00 a.m., on Monday, 21 June 1999.

###### Item 2. Organizational matters

###### 2.1 Election of officers

7. In accordance with rule 26, paragraph 3 of the rules of procedure, by which the Conference of the Parties shall elect the chair of each subsidiary body, the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties elected Mr. Zakri A. Hamid (Malaysia) Chairman of SBSTTA and confirmed that his term of office would

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commence at the start of the third meeting of SBSTTA. The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties invited the current Chairman of SBSTTA to remain in office until the end of the fourth session of the Body. The fourth meeting also invited the Chairman-elect of SBSTTA, Mr. Cristi• Samper (Colombia), to participate ex-officio in the Bureau of SBSTTA with immediate effect. Accordingly, the fourth meeting of SBSTTA will be chaired by Mr. Zakri A. Hamid and the fifth meeting by Mr. Cristi• Samper.

8. In accordance with the rules of procedure contained in the modus operandi of SBSTTA (decision IV/16, Annex I, paragraph 5), the fourth meeting of SBSTTA shall elect five new members of its Bureau, one for each of the five groups of States referred to in section I, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, in order to achieve staggered terms of office. The term of office of these new members of the Bureau will be two years and they will take office at the end of the meeting.

## 2.2 Adoption of the agenda

9. At its third meeting, SBSTTA adopted recommendation III/7, which contained a draft provisional agenda for the fourth meeting of SBSTTA. In its decision IV/16, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA and other subsidiary bodies to prepare proposals for their programmes of work based on the priorities set out in Annex II of the decision (The Programme of Work), with a view to streamlining and focusing the agendas of their meetings.

10. On 22 August 1998, by means of a teleconference, the Bureau of SBSTTA agreed upon the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/1/Rev.1. This provisional agenda reflects the tasks assigned to SBSTTA by the relevant decisions of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and, in particular, establishes a thematic focus on the biological diversity of dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland, and savannah ecosystems, and on sustainable use, including tourism, in accordance with annex II of decision IV/16. The provisional agenda also reflects the fact that the work of SBSTTA in preparation for COP V has been strategically divided between the fourth and fifth meetings of SBSTTA.

11. SBSTTA is invited to adopt the provisional agenda contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/1/Rev.1.

## 2.3. Organization of work

12. The modus operandi of SBSTTA provides for the establishment and simultaneous operation during meetings of SBSTTA of two open-ended sessional working groups. Such working groups shall be established on the basis of well-defined terms of reference, and will be open to all Parties and observers. The financial implications of such arrangements are reflected in the budget of the Convention for 1999.

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13. Accordingly, SBSTTA may wish to establish two sessional working groups for its fourth meeting. The following allocation of tasks between the plenary and the two sessional working groups are proposed:

The plenary will consider the following agenda items:

1. Opening of the meeting;
2. Organizational matters;
3. Reports;
- 4.1 Programme of work of SBSTTA;
- 4.2 Ad hoc technical expert groups: establishment of the terms of reference;
5. Draft provisional agenda of the fifth meeting of SBSTTA;
6. Dates and venue of the fifth meeting of SBSTTA;
7. Other matters;
8. Adoption of the report;
9. Closure of the meeting.

Working Group I will consider the following agenda items:

- 4.4 The main ecosystem topic: assessment of the status and trends and options for conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial biological diversity (dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems);
- 4.5 Development of guiding principles for the prevention of impacts of alien species, by identifying priority areas of work on isolated ecosystems and by evaluating and giving recommendations for further development of the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), with a view to cooperation;
- 4.3 Global Taxonomy Initiative: advice on its further advancement.

Working Group II will consider the following agenda items:

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- 4.6 Consideration of the consequences of the use of the new technology for the control of plant gene expression for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;
- 4.8 Development of approaches and practices for the sustainable use of biological resources, including tourism;
- 4.7 Incorporation of biological diversity considerations into environmental impact assessment.

14. There will be no more than two meetings convened at the same time, each with simultaneous interpretation. A provisional organization of work is contained in Annex II below.

15. At the opening session, SBSTTA may wish to receive reports from the meetings organized by the Global Biodiversity Forum and by the International Council for Science-DIVERSITAS, to be held in Montreal immediately prior to the fourth meeting of SBSTTA, as well as any other relevant reports.

#### B. Review of progress

##### Item 3. Reports

##### 3.1 Cooperation with other bodies

16. The Conference of the Parties, at its last meeting, reviewed the operations of the Convention. As a central part of this review, (the results of which are contained in decision IV/16), the Conference of the Parties reviewed the operations of SBSTTA and adopted a revised modus operandi for SBSTTA (see Annex I to decision IV/16). The revised modus operandi provides that SBSTTA shall cooperate with other relevant international, regional and national organisations, under the guidance of the Conference of the Parties, thus building upon the vast experience and knowledge available. The Bureau of SBSTTA, in its guidance on the provisional agenda for this meeting of SBSTTA, determined that an important part of the work of SBSTTA is to review cooperation with other bodies, so as to keep the Conference of the Parties informed in accordance with the modus operandi. Accordingly, the Bureau requested that this item be included in the agenda of the fourth meeting of SBSTTA.

17. The Executive Secretary has prepared a report on cooperation with other bodies for the period from the last meeting of SBSTTA in September 1997 until 31 December 1998, which is contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/2. The Secretariat and SBSTTA have given particular emphasis to cooperative activities which further existing relationships with other bodies within the framework of

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the current programme of work for the Convention as a whole and SBSTTA in particular, and the report reflects this emphasis. The activities of most relevance to this item are initiatives with other scientific bodies of related conventions, such as the Scientific and Technical Review Panel of the Ramsar Convention (STRP), the Committee on Science and Technology (CST) of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP) of the Global Environment Facility and scientific bodies, such as the International Council for Science (ICSU) and DIVERSITAS. At the request of the Bureau, the document also addresses several emerging issues of importance: the International Biodiversity Observation Year (IBOY), the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) and key assessments of relevance. This paper has been prepared with a view to facilitating the advice of SBSTTA to the Conference of the Parties on cooperation with other bodies and SBSTTA is therefore invited to prepare such advice for the Conference of the Parties.

### 3.2 Progress in the work programmes on thematic areas

18. The Executive Secretary has prepared document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/3, which reports on progress made in the implementation of the programmes of work in the following thematic areas: agricultural, inland water, marine and coastal, and forest biological diversity. The report covers the period since the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

19. This note also addresses progress made in areas that are common to the different thematic programmes of work, namely, the rosters of experts and the clearing-house mechanism. Options for recommendations by SBSTTA are presented at the end of the note, relating to some of the thematic areas.

### C. Matters on which advice from SBSTTA is required by the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties

#### Item 4. Priority issues

##### 4.1 Programme of work of SBSTTA

20. In decision IV/16, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to prepare proposals for its programme of work based on priorities set out in Annex II to that decision, with a view to streamlining and focusing the agendas of the meetings. The revised modus operandi of SBSTTA, as contained in Annex I of decision IV/16, is noted in this regard. The programme of work of SBSTTA takes into account the different programmes of work for many thematic and cross-cutting areas that have been established by the Conference of the Parties and that are being implemented. This note, therefore, reviews the overall programme of work

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of SBSTTA that has been adopted to date and, taking into account the priorities set out in Annex II of decision IV/16, proposes a longer-term programme of work for SBSTTA for the period up to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (1999-2004). SBSTTA may wish to consider and further develop this programme of work, in the light of its ongoing work, its recommendations under other agenda items of this meeting and taking into account the provisional agenda of the fifth meeting of SBSTTA, with a view to recommending its programme of work for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its next meeting.

#### 4.2 Ad hoc technical expert groups: establishment of the terms of reference

21. In accordance with Annex I to decision IV/16 of the Conference of the Parties, on the modus operandi of SBSTTA, a limited number of ad hoc technical expert groups on specific priority issues in the SBSTTA programme of work may be established for a limited duration. The establishment of such expert groups would be guided, inter alia, by the following elements:

- The ad hoc technical expert groups should draw on the existing knowledge and competence available within, and liaise with, international, regional and national organisations, including non-governmental organisations and the scientific community in fields relevant to the Convention;
- The Executive Secretary will nominate scientific and technical experts drawn from the roster, in consultation with the Bureau of SBSTTA;
- SBSTTA will recommend the exact duration and specific terms of reference, when establishing such expert groups, for the approval of the Conference of the Parties.

22. To assist the fourth meeting of SBSTTA in its consideration of this agenda item, the Executive Secretary has prepared document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/5, which proposes the establishment of at least five such expert groups in the period up to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties. SBSTTA may wish to recommend to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties the consideration and adoption of the terms of reference of these ad hoc technical expert groups.

#### 4.3 Global Taxonomy Initiative: advice on its further advancement

23. The issue of the role of taxonomy in advancing the Convention was first considered in an in-depth manner by the Conference of the Parties at its second meeting, which adopted decision II/8. The fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, taking into account its previous decisions and the recommendations of SBSTTA, as well as existing studies and ongoing initiatives in relation to capacity-building in taxonomy, adopted a further decision (decision IV/1.D) concerning the implementation of a Global Taxonomy Initiative. This decision contains an annex with detailed suggestions for action to be taken by Parties, the Secretariat, and relevant authorities and stakeholders at the national and international levels. The decision calls upon SBSTTA to examine the Suggestions for Action and provide advice on the further advancement of a Global Taxonomy

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Initiative.

24. To assist the fourth meeting of SBSTTA in its preparation of the advice requested by the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary has prepared document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/6. The note focuses specifically on the suggestions contained in the Annex to Decision IV/1.D, with a view to identifying the type of final products, tools or instruments which can be expected from those suggestions and to proposing options which SBSTTA may wish to examine when considering what advice it may provide to the Conference of the Parties concerning the development, in a timely manner, of such products, tools or instruments for the further advancement of a Global Taxonomy Initiative.

4.4 Assessment of the status and trends of terrestrial biological diversity (dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland, and savannah ecosystems) and identification of options for conservation and sustainable use

25. Consideration of this agenda item arises from paragraph 2(a) of Article 25 of the Convention, which calls upon SBSTTA to provide scientific and technical assessments of the status of biological diversity. The advice of SBSTTA developed under this item will contribute to in-depth consideration of this topic by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting. In accordance with its programme of work (Annex II of decision IV/16), the Conference of the Parties will consider 'options for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems', as one of three items for in-depth consideration at its fifth meeting.

26. The second meeting of SBSTTA identified the need to examine the biological diversity of drylands and considered important the preparation of thematic assessments of the knowledge and status of biological diversity in, inter alia, rangelands, arid and semi-arid lands, and grassland ecosystems (recommendation II/1). In its recommendation II/7, SBSTTA also noted that the expansion of agriculture to frontier areas, including, inter alia, savannas and arid lands, can contribute to degradation of biological diversity. Finally, under recommendation II/8, SBSTTA recommended that ways and means be explored to cooperate with the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification on matters relating to biological diversity and drylands with a view to identifying common priorities. This last recommendation was endorsed by the Conference of the Parties in its decision III/13.

27. To assist SBSTTA with the preparation of its advice to the Conference of the Parties on these matters, the Executive Secretary has prepared document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/7, which reviews the status and trends of the biological diversity of dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems, and identifies priorities for future work under the Convention. SBSTTA may wish to consider recommending the adoption of a specific programme of

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work on drylands under the Convention , to cover some types of dryland ecosystems that are not covered by the current thematic programmes and to outline some elements of priority of such a workplan to be considered at its fifth meeting.

4.5 Development of guiding principles for the prevention of impacts of alien species by identifying priority areas of work on isolated ecosystems and by evaluating and giving recommendations for further development of the Global Invasive Species Programme

28. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted its decision IV/I.C, on alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats, or species, and requested SBSTTA to develop guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species and to report on those principles and any related work programme to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

29. In the same decision, SBSTTA was requested to identify the priority work pertinent to the issue of alien species in geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems and to report on these matters to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. SBSTTA was also requested to examine, at its fourth meeting, the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), with a view to considering concerted action and developing proposals for further action on this issue under the Convention.

30. In addition, in its decision IV/16, the Conference of the Parties established that alien species will constitute an item for in-depth consideration at its sixth meeting.

31. To assist SBSTTA in its consideration of this agenda item, the Executive Secretary has prepared document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/8, which presents an overview of the significant adverse ecological and economic effects of certain alien species on biological diversity. The document also assesses the outcome of relevant processes and activities, such as those of relevant international and regional organizations, as well as the results of main scientific initiatives, in particular, that of DIVERSITAS and its Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP). The note also considers the findings and recommendations of relevant expert meetings, including, in particular, the Norway/United Nations Conference on Alien Species.

32. SBSTTA may wish considering and endorsing the conclusions and recommendations at the end of the document. In doing so, SBSTTA may wish to also elaborate, as necessary, on the general guidance to the proposed ad hoc technical expert group in carrying out its work, and identify eventual additional aspects on the priority work on alien species in geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems.

4.6 Consideration of the consequences of the use of the new technology for the

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control of plant gene expression for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity

33. In paragraph 11 of its decision IV/6, on agricultural biological diversity, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to consider and assess, in light of contributions to be provided by Parties, Governments and organizations, whether there are any consequences for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity from the development and use of the new technology for the control of plant gene expression, such as that described in United States patent 5723765, and to elaborate scientifically-based advice to the Conference of the Parties. The Conference of the Parties reiterated the precautionary approach which it urged Parties, Governments, as well as civil society and public and private institutions to consider in the application of this technology.

34. Pursuant to paragraph 11 of decision IV/6, the Executive Secretary invited contributions from Parties and organizations on assessment of the consequences for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of the development and use of the new technology for the control of plant gene expression, and similar technologies.

35. In light of the fact that no direct contributions were received in response to this invitation, the Executive Secretary constituted a drafting group of experts to assist in the preparation of a scientifically-based paper to assist SBSTTA in its consideration of this agenda item. This paper has been subject to a process of review, and is contained in the note of the Executive Secretary provided in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/9. On the basis of its consideration, SBSTTA may wish to develop recommendations for the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, including any further work that may be required under the Convention and in collaboration with relevant bodies, such as FAO and the CGIAR system, to further the assessment and, on the basis of the findings, initiate appropriate actions at the international and national levels.

4.7 Incorporation of biological diversity considerations into environmental impact assessment

36. In its decision IV/10.C, on "Impact assessment and minimizing adverse effects: consideration of measures for the implementation of Article 14", the Conference of the Parties invited Parties, Governments, national and international organizations, and indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles, to transmit information to the Executive Secretary for the purpose of exchanging information and sharing experiences on specific issues listed in the decision. The Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare a synthesis report based on the information contained in these submissions and other relevant information, for the consideration of SBSTTA.

37. The Conference of the Parties also instructed SBSTTA to identify further actions that would promote implementation of the impact assessment procedures requested by Article 14 of the Convention, including consideration of whether there is a need for additional work to develop guidelines on the incorporation of biological diversity considerations into environmental impact assessment, and to report to the Conference of the Parties. If this is the case, SBSTTA may wish to establish a time-frame in order to submit the achieved results to the appropriate meeting of the COP.

38. To assist SBSTTA in its consideration of this agenda item, the Executive Secretary has prepared document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/10, which contains a synthesis of reports and case-studies relating to environmental impact assessment.

4.8 Development of approaches and practices for the sustainable use of biological resources, including tourism.

39 In accordance with its programme of work (Annex II of decision IV/16), at its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties will consider "sustainable use, including tourism", as one of three themes for in-depth consideration.

40. Accordingly, document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/11 has been prepared by the Executive Secretary for the fourth meeting of SBSTTA, in order to assist the meeting in its consideration of the development of approaches and practices for the sustainable use of biological resources, including tourism. At this meeting, SBSTTA should be focusing on tourism as one example of sustainable use. At its fifth meeting, SBSTTA will broaden the scope of its consideration of sustainable use to cover other activities relevant to the thematic areas so far addressed under the Convention process.

41. In addition, in paragraph 14 of decision IV/15, the Conference of the Parties requested Parties to submit information on current threats to biological diversity from tourism activities; basic approaches, strategies and instruments; the involvement of the private sector; local and indigenous communities; regional and subregional level collaboration; infrastructure planning; and relevant policies and activities. This information gathering is aimed at initiating a process of exchange of experiences, knowledge and best practices, under SBSTTA, in particular at the national and regional level, on sustainable tourism and biological diversity within the framework of the Convention, including considerations regarding protected areas. SBSTTA may also wish to take into account, in its consideration of this agenda item, the outcome of the seventh session of the Commission on Sustainable Development on tourism.

Item 5. Draft provisional agenda of the fifth meeting of SBSTTA

42. To assist the meeting in its consideration of this agenda item, the

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Executive Secretary has prepared a draft provisional agenda for the fifth meeting of SBSTTA, contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/12. The draft provisional agenda has been prepared in light of the note prepared for consideration of item 4.1 of the agenda of this meeting. It incorporates advice provided by the Bureau of SBSTTA and takes into account relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting and, in particular, decision IV/16.

Item 6. Dates and venue of the fifth meeting of SBSTTA

43. It is proposed that the fifth meeting of SBSSTA be held from 31 January to 4 February 2000. The rules of procedure for meetings of the Conference of the Parties provide that meetings of the Conference of the Parties shall take place at the seat of the Secretariat, unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise or appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat in consultation with the Parties' (Rule 3). The rules of procedure apply mutatis mutandis to the proceedings of subsidiary bodies. It is therefore proposed that the fifth meeting of SBSTTA take place in Montreal.

Item 7. Other matters

44. The meeting will consider any other items proposed and accepted for discussion.

Item 8. Adoption of the report

45. The meeting will consider and adopt its report, which will be presented by Mr. Zakri A. Hamid ( Malaysia), Chairman of SBSTTA, to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties for its consideration under the relevant agenda items.

Item 9. Closure of the meeting

46. The meeting will be closed on Friday, 25 June 1999, at 6.00 p.m.

Annex IPROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE  
SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/1/Rev.1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/2	Report on cooperation with other bodies
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/3	Progress report on the implementation of programmes of work on thematic areas
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/4	Proposal on the draft programme of work of SBSTTA
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/5	Terms of reference for the <u>ad hoc</u> technical expert groups
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/6	Further advancement of the Global Taxonomy Initiative
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/7	Assessment of the status and trends and options for conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial biological diversity: drylands, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland, and savannah ecosystems
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/8	Development of guiding principles for the prevention of impacts of alien species by identifying priority areas of work on isolated ecosystems and by evaluating and giving recommendations for the further development of the Global Invasive Species Programme, with a view to cooperation
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/9	Consequences of the use of the new technology for the control of plant gene expression for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/10	Synthesis of reports and case-studies relating to environmental impact assessment

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UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/11	Development of approaches and practices for the sustainable use of biological resources, including tourism
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/12	Draft provisional agenda for the fifth meeting of SBSTTA
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/13	Dates and venue of the fifth meeting of SBSTTA

Annex II

A provisional organization of work for the fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice is proposed.

	Plenary	Working Group 1	Working Group 2
Monday 21 June 1999 10 a.m to 1 p.m.	Agenda items 1. Opening 2. Organizational matters 3. Reports		
3 p.m to 6 p.m.	Agenda items 4.1 SBSTTA Work Programme 4.2 <u>Ad hoc</u> Technical Expert Groups		
Tuesday 22 June 1999 10 a.m to 1 p.m.		Agenda item 4.4. Drylands Ecosystems	Agenda item 4.6. New Plant Technology
3 p.m to 6 p.m.		Agenda item 4.4. Drylands Ecosystems (cont.)	Agenda item 4.8. Sustainable Use/Tourism
Wednesday 23 June 1999 10 a.m to 1 p.m.		Agenda item 4.5. Alien Species	Agenda item 4.7. EIA
3 p.m to 6 p.m.		Agenda item 4.3. Global Taxonomy Initiative	Agenda item 4.6. New Plant Technology (cont.)
Thursday 24 June 1999 10 a.m to 1 p.m.		Agenda items 4.3. Global Taxonomy Initiative (cont.) 4.5. Alien Species (cont.)	Agenda items 4.8. Sustainable Use/Tourism (cont.) 4.7. EIA (cont.)
3 p.m to 6 p.m.	Agenda items 5. SBSTTA-5 Agenda 6. SBSTTA-5 Dates and Venue 7. Other Matters		

Friday 25 June 1999 10 a.m to 1 p.m.	Agenda item 8. Adoption of the Report		
3 p.m to 6 p.m.	Agenda items 8. (cont.) 9. Closure		