



## CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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### SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Tenth meeting

Bangkok, 7-11 February 2005

Item 5.1 of the provisional agenda\*

### OPERATIONAL PLAN OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

*Revised draft submitted by the Bureau*

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

At its sixth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted a Strategic Plan for the Convention, including the target to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction of the current rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level as a contribution to poverty alleviation and to the benefit of all life on Earth (decision VI/26, annex). It also adopted, for the first time, outcome-oriented targets for 2010, in decision VI/9, on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. At its seventh meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted additional targets in the programme of work on protected areas (decision VII/28), a framework, consisting of seven focal areas including goals and targets to be integrated into the Convention programmes of work and provisional indicators, for enhancing the evaluation of achievements of, assessing progress towards, and communicating, the 2010 target at the global level (decision VII/30), and its multi-year programme of work up to 2010 (decision VII/31).

Bearing in mind all of these and other decisions of the Conference of the Parties regarding the operations of the Convention, the Bureau of SBSTTA decided, at a meeting held during the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, in April 2002, to draft a strategic plan for SBSTTA that will ensure that the programme of work of the SBSTTA is coherent and realistic and responds fully to the needs of the Conference of the Parties.

For the eighth meeting of SBSTTA held in March 2003, the SBSTTA Bureau had prepared a Strategic plan of the SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/8/12). The Subsidiary Body considered the document and requested in recommendation VIII/6 that its Bureau review the strategic plan, to be referred to as the "Operational Plan of the SBSTTA", for consideration by the Subsidiary Body at its tenth meeting. The review should take into account, *inter alia*, the recommendations of the Open-ended Inter-Sessional Meeting on the Multi-Year Programme of Work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010, decisions of the Conference of the Parties at its seventh meeting relevant to scientific, technical and technological matters, and comments made by Parties at the eighth meeting of SBSTTA, in particular, on

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the importance of using a holistic approach in addressing matters addressed by the Subsidiary Body, the need for promoting synergy between the Convention and other relevant conventions and agreements, the need for improving the efficiency of focal points for the Subsidiary Body in their national environment and the participation of the scientific community in the implementation of the Convention, and the need for timely and adequate financial resources to implement the Plan.

#### **SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION**

4. The Subsidiary Body may wish to consider and recommend to the Conference of the Parties the Operational Plan of the SBSTTA contained in the annex to this note, taking into account its mandate in Article 25 of the Convention, its *modus operandi*, the Strategic Plan of the Convention, the multi-year programmes of work and the framework for achieving, assessing progress towards and communicating the 2010 biodiversity target.

## **OPERATIONAL PLAN OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

### ***A. Purpose of the Operational Plan***

1. The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) was established by the Convention, with its terms of reference set out in Article 25, paragraph 2. <sup>1/</sup> The present Operational Plan elaborates that role, reflecting the evolving nature of the work of SBSTTA, as the Convention moves to an implementation phase.
2. The plan is intended to guide the work of SBSTTA. It is designed to support implementation of the Strategic Plan of the Convention, in particular the 2010 biodiversity target (decision VI/26) and other targets agreed upon in its other decisions; the multi-year programme of work of the Conference of the Parties up to 2010 (decision VI/31); and other global goals such as the Millennium Development Goals and the goals in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

### ***B. Mission***

3. To provide the scientific, technical and technological advice and support for the development and implementation of the Convention, under the authority of the Conference of the Parties and upon its request.

### ***C. Outcomes***

4. Advice to the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies that provides timely, up-to-date, policy-relevant and accessible scientific and technical perspectives on issues that they are considering, in particular outcome-oriented targets, which the Conference of the Parties decided in paragraph 12 (c) of its decision VII/30 to be a key priority for SBSTTA.
5. State of progress, including obstacles to and effectiveness of the Convention processes, in achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan and progress towards the achievement of the Convention's 2010 target, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and relevant Millennium Development Goals. This information will be provided essentially through the assessments of the status and trends of biodiversity, the analysis of threats and gaps in knowledge, and the assessments of the effects of types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, in particular in the framework of the implementation of the programmes of work and related outcome

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1/ Article 25 of the Convention on Biological Diversity reads as follows:

“1. A subsidiary body for the provision of scientific, technical and technological advice is hereby established to provide the Conference of the Parties and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of this Convention. This body shall be open to participation by all Parties and shall be multidisciplinary. It shall comprise government representatives competent in the relevant field of expertise. It shall report regularly to the Conference of the Parties on all aspects of its work.

2. Under the authority of and in accordance with guidelines laid down by the Conference of the Parties, and upon its request, this body shall:

- (a) Provide scientific and technical assessments of the status of biological diversity;
- (b) Prepare scientific and technical assessments of the effects of types of measures taken in accordance with the provisions of this Convention;
- (c) Identify innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know-how relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and advise on the ways and means of promoting development and/or transferring such technologies;
- (d) Provide advice on scientific programmes and international cooperation in research and development related to conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; and
- (e) Respond to scientific, technical, technological and methodological questions that the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies may put to the body.

3. The functions, terms of reference, organization and operation of this body may be further elaborated by the Conference of the Parties.”

oriented targets, the items identified as priorities by the World Summit on Sustainable Development, <sup>2/</sup> and in line with the timetable for in-depth reviews of ongoing work under the thematic areas and cross-cutting issues (see the annex to the present note). These assessments and analyses could be used for the Global Biodiversity Outlooks and will be designed to support decisions by the Conference of the Parties, inform Parties and other stakeholders, and assist them in the preparation, review and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans and the work of the Convention.

6. Improved scientific, technical and technological capacity to implement the Convention at the national and regional levels, including identification and sharing of innovative, efficient and state-of-the-art technologies and know-how relating to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

7. Increased engagement by the scientific and technical community in SBSTTA work and Convention implementation.

8. Enhanced scientific, technical and technological cooperation among Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations.

#### ***D. Strategic ways and means for achieving the outcomes***

9. Improving the scientific, technical and technological inputs into SBSTTA papers, by:

(a) More systematically identifying the matters that need to be covered in the papers, with timely commencement of preparatory processes;

(b) Engaging a wider range of partners, including in particular the other Rio conventions and biodiversity-related conventions and ongoing global and regional assessments, and using a wider range of contribution processes for the production of formal information papers and supporting material;

(c) Establishing effective exchange of information particularly through the clearing-house mechanism with and involvement by other relevant bodies;

(d) Making use of peer-review and other processes to improve the quality of documents and their acceptability to the scientific community;

(e) Using innovative means (e.g. the use of new information and communication technologies) to increase the breadth and depth of input into preparatory processes taking into account environmental and socioeconomic dimensions of issues pursuant to the holistic approach.

10. Improving the scientific, technical and technological debates during SBSTTA meetings, by:

(a) Facilitating participation by delegates, particularly those in one-person delegations and who have no United Nations experience;

(b) Using innovative means to overcome the disadvantages of the standard United Nations meeting format;

(c) Ensuring that chairs are carefully selected, well prepared and well supported;

(d) Increasing the scientific, technical and technological activities within the meetings, through key note speakers, posters, round table debates, side events, etc.;

(e) Providing good, brief and relevant scientific, technical and technological inputs as a basis for the debates, through papers, technical series documents, etc. taking into account the strategic issues identified by the Conference of the Parties for evaluating progress or supporting implementation of the 2010 biodiversity target.

11. Improving the transmission of SBSTTA advice to the Conference of the Parties and Parties, by:

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<sup>2/</sup> Items identified as priorities by the World Summit on Sustainable Development include poverty alleviation, human health, sustainable communities and livelihoods, hotspots, ecological networks and corridors.

(a) Providing concise, clear, understandable and well justified advice with clear linkages between topics;

(b) Using a wider range of tools for transmitting advice, including internet and paper-based tools;

(c) Increasing the visibility of SBSTTA (through the Chair and Bureau) at meetings of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) Capturing data and information that is identified or generated during preparatory processes, to make that raw material more accessible to Parties and other stakeholders.

12. Commissioning or encouraging the production of material to support implementation work by Parties, and in particular the preparation, review and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, by:

(a) Explicitly identifying priority needs as part of the consideration of issues;

(b) Actively expressing those needs to potential providers;

(c) Adjusting preparatory work (for example, the work of ad hoc technical expert groups) where appropriate so that it will provide additional material of value to Parties.

13. Providing a forum for initiating cooperative/partnership work, including through:

(a) Round-table forums, workshops, electronic conferences etc., to allow experts, from different sectors including the private sector, to identify other experts with similar problems or relevant experience;

(b) Allowing countries with similar biodiversity issues to identify the potential for cooperation;

(c) Allowing countries with needs to identify scientific, technical or technological assistance that is available.

14. Improving the capacity for dialogue and cooperation between actors, by:

(a) Developing or promoting useful conceptual frameworks within which dialogue can occur;

(b) Identifying and promoting the use of standardised definitions, language, etc.;

(c) Identifying and promoting the use of standardised methodologies (e.g. for data management);

(d) Identifying, during the development or review of work programmes, methods to increase the participation and contribution of organizations, communities, academia and the private sector to the development and sharing of scientific knowledge and the diffusion of technology needed for the implementation of those work programmes. <sup>3/</sup>

15. Actively building relationships with the scientific and technical community, by:

(a) Providing material about the work of SBSTTA that is accessible to the scientific and technical community (i.e. expresses it in language that is understandable by the scientific and technical community, and relates the material to the work of the scientific and technical community);

(b) Actively disseminating the results of the work of SBSTTA through the scientific literature, both as reporting items and as scientific papers, as reviewed and approved by the Conference of the Parties;

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<sup>3/</sup> See for example paragraph 11 of decision VII/29 on Transfer of technology and technology cooperation (Articles 16 to 19)

(c) Building relationships with key individuals or organizations within the scientific and technical community, through the use of Bureau members, past chairs, delegates, chairs of ad hoc technical expert groups, and other individuals, including by participating or contributing to the work of the Joint Liaison Group of the three Rio conventions, and the Biodiversity Liaison Group with the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the World Heritage Convention (WHC);

(d) Using other bodies as a bridge between SBSTTA and the scientific and technical community in relation to work programmes (e.g. international thematic focal points and key partners).

16. Helping the clearing-house mechanism to become an effective vehicle for scientific and technical cooperation, and to become a true partner in the work of SBSTTA, including by:

(a) Stimulating cooperation between Convention/SBSTTA focal points and focal points for the clearing-house mechanism within Parties, and between focal points of the Convention on Biological Diversity and focal points of GEF, Rio conventions and other biodiversity-related conventions;

(b) Active involvement of the Chair and Bureau members in informal advisory committee work;

(c) Facilitating the work of clearing-house mechanism focal points, to allow them to expand their work from information management to supporting active cooperation between experts/organizations.

17. Creating an active and useful network of SBSTTA focal points, and using the network during the preparatory and follow-up work of SBSTTA, by:

(a) Encouraging all Parties to appoint SBSTTA focal points, with an emphasis on appointing experts who are actively involved in the preparation, review and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans;

(b) Encouraging attendance of SBSTTA focal points at meetings of SBSTTA and the Conference of the Parties, and having a meeting of SBSTTA focal points at each of each these meetings, whenever possible;

(c) Using SBSTTA focal points to provide comments on issues that cannot be included in SBSTTA agendas, or on preparatory documents;

(d) Encouraging SBSTTA focal points to play an active role in transferring information from SBSTTA to relevant agencies within their country, and supporting cooperation between SBSTTA and clearing-house mechanism focal points at the national level;

(e) Using SBSTTA focal points to connect experts within their country with other experts or with SBSTTA processes;

(f) Encouraging SBSTTA focal points to facilitate cooperation between agencies working on biodiversity-related conventions within their countries;

(g) Encouraging SBSTTA focal points to take an active role in facilitating national or regional discussions on SBSTTA agenda items, to allow a wider range of contributions to feed into the work of delegations.

18. Requesting the Conference of the Parties to invite Parties, other Governments and organizations to support the work of SBSTTA with financial resources, expertise, and relevant information in preparation for its meetings.

*Annex***ASSESSMENTS REQUIRED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES UP TO 2010**

<b>Prior to</b>	<b>Programme of work</b>	<b>Types of assessment</b>
COP 8 (2006)	1. Dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity	Status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity Status of implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work <u>4/</u>
	2. Global Taxonomy Initiative	Status of implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work
COP 9 (2008)	1. Agricultural biodiversity	Status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity Status of implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work
	2. Global Strategy for Plant Conservation	Status of implementation and effectiveness of the strategy
	3. Invasive alien species	Ecological and socioeconomic impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity (in all thematic areas, and in protected areas)
	4. Forest biodiversity	Status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity Status of implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work
	5. Incentives	Status of implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work
	6. Ecosystem approach	Assessment of the implementation of the ecosystem approach, including tools, consistent approaches, and best practices <u>5/</u>
COP 10 (2010)	1. Inland waters biodiversity	Status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity Status of implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work Status of implementation and effectiveness of the joint programme of work with the Ramsar Convention
	2. Marine and coastal biodiversity	Assessment of status and trends and threats to marine biodiversity in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction (to be considered by the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Protected Areas in 2005) Assessment of status and trends and threats to deep seabed genetic resources beyond national jurisdiction Status of implementation (including

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4/ Pursuant to paragraphs 3 and 5(a) of decision VII/31

5/ See decision VII/11 paragraph 12

		whether the targets for the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity were met) and effectiveness of the programme of work (including assessment of progress made towards the global goal on marine and coastal protected areas)
	3. Sustainable use	Assessment of the integration of sustainable use provisions, including the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for Sustainable Use of Biodiversity and the CBD Guidelines on Biodiversity and Tourism into each of the thematic areas of the Convention; Assessment of the progress in the implementation of Article 10 and related provisions based on information submitted in national reports, and other relevant information, including case-studies.
	4. Protected areas	Status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity
	5. Mountain biodiversity	Status and trends of, and threats to, biodiversity Status of implementation and effectiveness of the programme of work
	6. Climate change	Climate change issues in the implementation of the thematic programmes of work of the Convention

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