



CBD

Meeting of the Consortium of Scientific Partners  
Montreal, Canada, 27 November 2019  
18:30 – 20:30

---

## MEETING REPORT

### *Introduction*

The objectives of this meeting were to reflect on the work of the Consortium of Scientific Partners (CSP), prepare for next steps of the work plan adopted by the CSP at its last meeting, and to follow-up on discussions and agreed action items from the previous meetings organized at the margins of COP 14 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, on 20 November 2018, and SBSTTA 22, in Montreal, Canada, on 4 July 2018. This meeting also presented an opportunity to exchange on the work of member institutions in relation to the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to discuss further how to reinvigorate the work of CSP to ensure that this body advances work within the context of technical and scientific cooperation and ensures that it is well-positioned to contribute to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

Based on the agenda prepared by the CSP Co-Chairs (Smithsonian Institution and Alexander von Humboldt Institute) and the CBD Secretariat, the meeting was carried out as follows.

### *1. Welcome remarks and opening of the meeting*

Mr. Erie Tamale, Senior Environmental Affairs Officer of the Convention on Biological Diversity, gave some welcome remarks and opened the meeting, and the co-chairs also welcomed participants and introduced the agenda of the meeting, which was adopted by all the CSP Members which attended the meeting.

### *2. Adoption of the agenda*

The co-chair of the CSP, Ms. Britta Garfield, introduced the agenda items. All CSP members agreed on the proposed agenda and decided to adopt it without amendments.

**DECISION:** Members of the Consortium of Scientific Partners unanimously adopted the proposed agenda without deviation.

### *3. Report of the CSP co-chairs and CSP members*

Under this agenda item the co-chairs briefly ran through some of the activities that were carried out in the last year, for example following up with inactive members. More recently, the work was concentrated on the preparation of the side events organized by the CSP and CBD Secretariat at the SBSTTA23. It was also mentioned that some of the CSP Members reported how some of their daily activities have contributed to the CBD 2011-2020 Strategic Plan and that reported information was incorporated by the Secretariat into the CBD website to merge information under the CSP with profiles of CSP members which have accepted to become providers of technical and scientific cooperation.

In addition, it was mentioned that the CSP will focus on coming activities, including from the work plan, to be implemented by the CSP between 2019 and 2020: technical paper, next side events, and science forum at COP15. The co-chairs invited members to become part of different committees that will help with different activities of the Consortium including the Science Forum and the Technology Expo at COP15, in China.

In regards to welcoming new members to the CSP, at the last meeting, in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, it was decided that the group would not formally make a call for open membership until 2020, however it was agreed that new members could be considered on a case-by-case basis and be accepted if they fulfil the criteria for new members. Taking into account that the CSP does not have a Steering Committee, it was agreed that decisions on new members would be taken by the CSP Chair or Co-chairs, in close consultations with the Secretariat of the CBD. Those criteria were prepared based on what is in the spirit of the Memorandum of Understanding and were projected for all those who were present to see them. The institutions that expressed interest in joining the CSP are the following:

1. Consortium of European Taxonomic Facilities: <https://www.cetaf.org/>
2. Ethiopian Biodiversity Institute: <http://www.ebi.gov.et/>
3. National Biodiversity Data Bank (NBDB) of Uganda: <http://nbdb.mak.ac.ug/>
4. National Institute of Biodiversity, Ecuador: [www.biodiversidad.gob.ec](http://www.biodiversidad.gob.ec)
5. National Museums of Kenya (Centre for Biodiversity): <https://www.museums.or.ke/9-2/>

There was no objection by members to accepting these institutions in the CSP. It was suggested that, in the future, new members could make a presentation at a CSP meeting in order for the current members to learn more about their activities and planned contributions to the work of the CSP.

Instead of having each member present their activities, as per the agenda, Mr. Vince Fleming suggested to use other means, such as e-mails, to share updates given the limited time and in light of the upcoming contact group that had to be attended by some of the participants.

Mr. Marco Fritz also introduced the idea of inviting ALTER-Net to become a member of the Consortium as he thinks they could bring important contributions to CSP work. The co-chairs promised to send him the criteria for new members. Mr. Hendrik Segers who has worked with ALTER-Net and knows their work very well supported the idea of inviting them and suggested they would bring added value to CSP work.

**ACTION ITEM:** Members who wish to do so will send e-mail updates to all CSP members about any relevant activities or opportunities to work together.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Secretariat will contact the institutions which expressed interest in becoming members to sign Memoranda of Understanding.

**ACTION ITEM:** The CSP Co-Chairs will share the criteria for new members (which are based on the language used in the MoU).

#### ***4. Technical Paper***

Members agreed that the timeline might be too short and that it would be important to first more clearly define the content of the technical paper. In this regard, it was agreed that the Humboldt Institute would prepare a very short concept note to see clearly what would be the objective of the technical paper and the target audience, and the CSP would then decide whether it wants to work on a technical paper before COP15 or if it is better to have a paper after COP15 about the implementation of the approved Post2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Humboldt Institute will prepare a very short concept note for the technical paper

### **5. *Science for Biodiversity Forum***

Being formed by a group of scientific institutions, it becomes natural for the CSP to be a co-organizer of this forum at COP15. It is also of critical importance that this forum ties in with existing efforts. It was noted that another forum will be organized in Kunming, China, as part of COP 15 by the UN Environment Programme, so firstly it is necessary for the Secretariat to establish contact with them in order to co-organize (if agreed) a single science forum with other interested institutions. The Co-Chairs suggested that CSP members who would like to be involved in these discussions and in the planning of the Science Forum, form a Committee, as previously discussed.

In addition, it was discussed the importance to bring scientists, as well as negotiators, Parties and decision makers together in the objective of providing scientific and policy expertise to the implementation of the Post-2020 GBF. There is a need to directly link the Science Forum to the accomplishment of CBD goals and programmes and this is a great time to do so by having a greater involvement of this body of scientific institutions.

It was highlighted by members that the costs of the forum can be high (in terms of monetary resources and personnel) and CONABIO agreed to share the Cancun forum proposal as reference for planning this science forum. The secretariat presented and explained some figures it has received from the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS) about the funds they spent. A representative from the European Commission, who co-organized the Science Forum in 2018 together with IUBS, Mr. Marco Fritz from the European Commission, was invited to provide some insights about his experience organizing the Forum. Mr. Marco Fritz explained that besides IUBS and the European Commission there were two more partners: The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and EKLIPSE, the EU science-policy interface mechanism on biodiversity and ecosystem services. He went through the process of organizing this event and shared some key takeaways and recommendations. It is important to keep in mind that the objective of the Forum is to advise COP on scientific issues. For that 2-day forum, preparations started way in advance but there should be full-time staff working only on the organization of the forum for the last three months at least, in their case it was about two staff members from each partner. He offered to share some of the background and planning documents. Both IUBS and the European Commission are willing to contribute to the organization of the next forum but at a lower level, especially when it comes to costs involved. It was also highlighted that support from the host country is essential. Some members recommended to contact Chinese partners such as the Kunming Institute of Botany (potentially through the focal point), as host country for the COP15 and in order to help with internal contacts, such as the Chinese Academy of Science as one important partner.

The group discussed the importance of clearly defining the desired outcomes of this forum and the target audience. Given the timing of the forum, it will most likely be too late to influence any COP decisions, however it could potentially inform the implementation of the post 2020 framework by presenting innovative techniques and novel approaches. A good strategy could be to define a core theme to be developed throughout the forum (for instance science behind indicators or citizen science) and identify the audience (open or close event, etc.). For the latter, it will also depend on the accessibility of the venue and whether civil society would be able to register. Mr. Fritz advised that it could be interesting to focus on regional issues. It would also be good to encourage members of the delegations to participate in the Forum, not just on a voluntary basis, and to make sure it is integrated into different negotiations teams of the countries. The Secretariat explained that this time there will be a space dedicated only to science which is where the Forum will take place. The Secretariat will provide more information about the outcomes from the discussions with the host country, including details about the venue and the date.

After the meeting, Mr. Marco Fritz shared the link to background documents and results of the last Science Forum:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/index.cfm?pg=events&eventcode=1454CA7D-F9A8-534C-3050A745A1F4D397>

**ACTION ITEM:** CSP members who are interested in being involved in the organization of the Science Forum will notify the Co-Chairs and the Secretariat, and a Committee will be formed. Mr. Tim Hirsch offered to discuss with GBIF partners to determine who could be exhibitors at the Expo and see how GBIF could support their participation.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Secretariat will share a concept note for the forum and will provide more information about the organization of the forum as well as the exact date and the accessibility of the venue. The Secretariat will also make sure to facilitate coordination with similar initiatives, for example through establishing the connection with UNEP.

## ***6. Adoption of a logo for the Consortium***

The need for branding of the Consortium of Scientific Partners was expressed by many members, and it was decided, at the last CSP meeting, that a logo would be created for the Consortium. Thus, the Secretariat prepared a few logos for considerations of the members. Of the samples prepared by the Secretariat the group agreed unanimously that the first logo could be removed. However as not all CSP members could attend the meeting, it was decided to send the remaining three logos by e-mail to all members in order to decide which one will be chosen by a majority of people and to be able to reach quorum. That list is attached to the report as Annex I.

**ACTION ITEM:** The co-chairs will send three of the logos to all CSP members in order for them to choose which one they prefer.

## ***7. Financial considerations***

In order for the CSP to be effective and fulfil its mandate, it will require funding. This agenda item addressed how the CSP will fund its activities going forward and discussed the best ways to raise funds towards the objectives of the MoU. At the last meeting it was decided that a list of the cost of the various CSP activities would be prepared by the Secretariat of the CBD, and this list was presented at the meeting, in order to allow members to discuss and decide effective ways of raising funds. A pre-estimation of 610 500 dollars would be necessary for the planned CSP activities as well as a contribution to Technical and Scientific Cooperation through the Bio-Bridge Initiative, to effectively contribute to the implementation of the Convention. This estimate will facilitate members in identifying how they could contribute to some activities. In the Case of Technological and Scientific Cooperation, especially the Bio-Bridge Initiative, it is becoming paramount to find other contributions as the only current donor of the initiative, the Government of Korea, requires the inclusion of other donors. Ms. Wendy for example came up with the idea of asking the Korean Government to take in-kind contribution into consideration as some institutions' policies, such as hers, do not usually allow them to give financial contributions. Mr. Han de Koeijer, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences, thought the estimate might have come a little too late as they have already submitted their budget for 2020. It was therefore suggested that the financial planning should be conducted in a more long-term manner to align with members' schedules.

Members also brought up the possibility of searching for additional external funding, for example from the business community (especially as we may showcase drones and innovative technologies), and from grant mechanisms such as Germany's International Climate Initiative.

The topic was closed while encouraging all CSP members that are in a position to help to do so. That list will be attached to the report as Annex II.

**ACTION ITEM:** The co-chairs will send the cost estimate to all CSP members to see how they could contribute to planned CSP activities.

**ACTION ITEM:** The Secretariat will work on a more long-term estimate to discuss at the next SBSTTA meeting.

## **8. *Participants***

A total of 13 participants were present at the meeting, even though some of them had to leave before the end of the meeting to participate in a contact group. The complete list of participants can be found below as Annex III.

## **9. *Any other business***

CSP Members were invited to designate a member who would help evaluate the posters of a competition organized by the Secretariat, Mr. Hendrik Segers and Mr. Han de Koeijer offered to represent the CSP in that evaluation.

Members also talked about enhancing connections with other major global events, such as the World Conservation Congress, and make more coordinated efforts to mainstream biodiversity conversation.

## **10. *Closure of the meeting***

The co-chair of the CSP, Ms. Britta Garfield, summarized the salient points and follow-up action items raised during the discussion and closed the meeting.

**Annex I**

**Adoption of a logo for the Consortium**

**Three remaining logo samples for CSP members to choose from**



## Annex II

## Cost estimate of CSP activities

Proposed Activity	Rationale	Cost estimate in U\$	Timeframe
Prepare a Technical Paper	This document will give members an opportunity to present how the CSP wants to position itself to effectively contribute to the post-2020 biodiversity agenda and to feed into the process of informing the dialogue during the preparation Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The cost would go mostly into printing of copies of this document to make it more accessible.	5000	Q1 2020
Side-events at SBSTTA 24 and SBI 3	The CSP will organize 2 side events and a meeting during the Twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, and the Third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, 18 - 30 May 2020. Montreal, Canada.	2500	Q4 2020
Co-organize the Science Forum	It has been decided that the CSP would be a co-organizer of the fifth Science Forum, in Kunming, China, as part of its COP 15 activities.	50 000	Q4 2020
Organize side events around a cluster of themes aligned with the Convention	Promote and publicize the work of the CSP members and their expertise on capacity building.	2500	Q4 2020
Co-organise a Biodiversity Innovations and Technology Expo at COP 15	Encourage Parties, organizations and companies to showcase technologies and innovations in support of the Convention at the Biodiversity Innovations and Technology Expo.	50 000?	Q4 2020
Contribution to the Bio-Bridge Initiative (BBI).	The operation of the Bio-Bridge Initiative has been until now funded by the Korea Government, however in order for them to continue supporting the BBI, they require to have	500 000?	2020

<b>Proposed Activity</b>	<b>Rationale</b>	<b>Cost estimate in U\$</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
	other financial support. Thus, contributions from the CSP would allow the operations of BBI to continue.		
<b>Total</b>		<b>610 000</b>	



## Annex III

List of Participants

No	Organization	Location	Contact Name
<b>CORE CSP MEMBERS</b>			
1.	Instituto Humboldt	Colombia	Ms. Maria Cecilia Londoño
2.			Mr. Sergio Andrés Aranguren Zaldúa
3.	Singapore Botanical Gardens	Singapore	Ms. Wendy Yap
4.			Mr. Jeremy Yap
5.	Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences	Belgium	Mr. Han de Koeijer
6.			Mr. Hendrik Segers
7.	CONABIO	Mexico	Mr. Hesiquio Benitez
8	German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation	Germany	Mr. Lennart Kuemper -Schlake
9	Joint Nature Conservation Committee	United Kingdom	Mr. Vincent Fleming
10	Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle	France	Mr. Denis Duclos
11	Smithsonian Institution	USA	Ms. Britta Garfield
<b>OBSERVERS</b>			
12	Global Biodiversity Information Facility	Denmark	Mr. Tim Hirsch
13	European Commission	Belgium	Mr. Marco Fritz