



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
LIMITED

CBD/SBSTTA/24/Part1/L.1
7 June 2021

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC,
TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Twenty-fourth meeting (part I)
Online, 3 May–9 June 2021

DRAFT REPORT OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE ON ITS TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING (PART I)

Rapporteur: Ms. Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

I. ACCOUNT OF PROCEEDINGS

INTRODUCTION

1. The first part of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention on Biological Diversity was held online from 3 May to 9 June 2021, back-to-back with the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation. It was understood that the meeting would be resumed for a second part, in-person, at a later date.

Attendance

2. The meeting was attended by representatives of the following Parties and other Governments: [*to be completed*].
3. Observers from the following United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, convention secretariats and other bodies also attended: (*to be completed*).
4. The following organizations were also represented by observers: [*to be completed*].

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The meeting was opened at 11:00 Universal Time Coordinated (UTC) (7 a.m. Montreal time) on Monday, 3 May 2021, by the Chair, Mr. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Mexico), who welcomed the participants to the first of nine virtual plenary sessions that would take place in three blocks during May and June, back-to-back with the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, which would also hold its plenary sessions online in three blocks. He expressed the hope that the participants, and those close to them, were healthy and safe, and his condolences to those that had lost loved ones. He called for a moment of silence to remember those lost during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

6. Opening statements were made by Mr. Hamdallah Zedan (Egypt) and Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

7. Mr. Zedan, speaking on behalf of the President of the Conference of the Parties, welcomed the participants and expressed his solidarity with them during the pandemic and his hope that they and their loved ones were well. He thanked the Chair of the Subsidiary Body and the members of the Bureau for their leadership in preparing for the meeting and said that, under their guidance, the participants would carry forward the work of the Convention and its Protocols. The present meeting would advance preparations for the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. The agenda items covered the principal areas of work of the Convention and its protocols, and progress on them would allow the development of an ambitious and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework by providing advice to the Open-ended Working

Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework for its third meeting. The discussions at the present meeting would advance the work of the Working Group and ultimately the work of the Conference of the Parties, which was scheduled to adopt the post-2020 global biodiversity framework at its fifteenth meeting, in Kunming, China.

8. Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, also delivered opening remarks, thanking the Chair and the other members of the Bureau for their leadership in preparing for the formal session of the Subsidiary Body in difficult times, as well as the Government of Canada for covering the additional costs of the virtual formal session and providing a dedicated team of volunteers. Noting that over 1,500 people representing 102 countries were registered, she expressed the hope that participants had had the opportunity to attend the pre-meeting webinars and the informal session held earlier in the year in preparation for the current formal session. The Executive Secretary briefly reviewed the items that were on the agenda of the meeting.

9. The Chair also provided an update on the fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity and the eighth International Conference on Sustainability Science, which had been held virtually as joint sessions the previous month. The main message conveyed was that coming decade would be crucial for bending the curve of biodiversity loss, putting biodiversity on a path towards living in harmony with nature. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework would need to be both nature positive, aiming for a net gain in the status of biodiversity and nature's contribution to people by 2030, and reflect the systemic challenges. For mainstreaming of biodiversity to be implemented effectively, central attention needed be given to nature-based solutions that were framed by ecosystem approaches. Ambitious targets were needed to address the systemic drivers of biodiversity loss, as were actions that went beyond limiting biodiversity loss to supporting restoration and moved towards a "net gain" through regenerative practices.

ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

10. The Chair recalled that the informal virtual session of the Subsidiary Body held in February 2021 had contributed to maintaining momentum towards, and advancing the preparations for, the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, scheduled to be held from 11 to 24 October 2021, and the third meeting of Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, scheduled to be held in August 2021. The present meeting had been organized in the light of both those meetings and the extraordinary circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. It did not set a precedent for the organization of similar meetings under the Convention in the future. At the informal session, the Subsidiary Body had already considered six of the eight topics on the agenda, in a manner similar to the first reading of pre-session documents at a formal meeting of the Subsidiary Body. At that time, participants had been encouraged to focus their interventions on the draft recommendations set out in the pre-session documents, but no negotiations had taken place and no formal substantive outcomes or conference room papers had been produced.

11. While all Parties maintained their right to take the floor and make statements at the present meeting, the Chair urged participants not to repeat the points already made during the informal session and to only add new points in their statements, except for agenda items 8 and 9, which had not been considered at the informal session. The statements made at the informal session would be taken into account in the preparation of any conference room papers or non-papers produced for the present meeting. No final documents would be considered or adopted at the present virtual sessions of the meeting (part I); that would be deferred to later physical sessions of the meeting (part II), to be organized back-to-back with either a physical meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework or the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, unless otherwise decided by the bureaux of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties. The Chair would report to the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on items needed for the post-2020 process.

A. Adoption of the agenda

12. At the first plenary session, on 3 May 2021, the Subsidiary Body adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda prepared by the Executive Secretary in consultation with the Bureau (CBD/SBSTTA/24/1):

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters: election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework.
4. Synthetic biology.
5. Risk assessment and risk management of living modified organisms.
6. Marine and coastal biodiversity.
7. Biodiversity and agriculture.
8. Programme of work of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.
9. Biodiversity and health.
10. Invasive alien species.
11. Other matters.
12. Adoption of the report.
13. Closure of the meeting.

13. The Chair drew the attention of the meeting to the annotated provisional agenda (CBD/SBSTTA/24/1/Add.1) and the scenario note for the meeting (CBD/SBSTTA/24/1/Add.2). While all agenda items would be addressed, priority would be given to elements directly related to the post-2020 process to enable the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, and its Co-Chairs, to develop a high-quality global biodiversity framework at the third meeting of the Working Group.

14. Taking into account the extraordinary circumstances prevailing due the ongoing pandemic situation and recognizing the complexities involved in holding the meeting in a virtual setting, it was indicated in the scenario note (CBD/SBSTTA/24/1/Add.2) that finalization of the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body would be deferred to a later date at a physical meeting organized back-to-back with a physical meeting of the Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework or the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, unless otherwise decided by the Bureau. Owing to the suspension of the meeting, the last three items of the agenda, namely items 11 (other matters), 12 (adoption of the report), and 13 (closure of the meeting), are deferred to a resumed session of the meeting that would be held at a later date.

B. Election of officers

15. In accordance with the elections held at the twenty-third meeting of the Subsidiary Body, the Bureau for the twenty-fourth meeting comprised the following members:

- Chair: Mr. Hesiquio Benítez Díaz (Mexico)
- Vice-Chairs: Ms. Alison McMorrow (Australia)
Ms. Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Ms. Marina Von Weissenberg (Finland)
Ms. Kongchay Phimmakong (Lao People's Democratic Republic)
Mr. Larbi Sbai (Morocco)
Ms. Gwendalyn Sisior (Palau)

Mr. Adams Toussaint (Saint Lucia)
Ms. Marie-Mae Muzungaile (Seychelles)
Mr. Volodymyr Domalishnets (Ukraine)

Alternate Vice-Chairs for the Nagoya Protocol:

Ms. Helena Jeffery Brown (Antigua and Barbuda) for St. Lucia
Ms. Tatsiana Lipinskaya (Belarus) for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine
Mr. Moustafa M.A. Fouda (Egypt) for Seychelles
Mr. Gaute Voigt-Hanssen (Norway) for Australia

16. The Subsidiary Body was reminded that it needed to nominate new members to the Bureau to replace the outgoing members from Finland, Morocco, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Ukraine. Depending on the outcome of those nominations, it might also be necessary to nominate substitute members of the Bureau that were also Parties to the protocols to the Convention. As the present meeting of the Subsidiary Body would not have a closing session, new Bureau members only took office after the closure of the meeting of the Subsidiary Body, and the Subsidiary Body would not be approving any formal recommendations at the present virtual sessions of the meeting (part I), it was agreed that the Subsidiary Body would elect the new members of the Bureau at the same time that it approved its formal recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

17. Following a recommendation from the Bureau, Ms. Senka Barudanović (Bosnia and Herzegovina) was elected Rapporteur for the meeting.

18. At the invitation of the Chair, the Rapporteur made a statement on behalf of all the participants in the meeting. She congratulated the Chair of the Subsidiary Body, the members of the Bureau and the Executive Secretary and her team for the high quality of the preparations for the meeting. She expressed confidence that the deliberations would be productive and thanked the Chair for giving her the opportunity to speak on behalf of all the participants.

C. Organization of work

19. At the first plenary session, on 3 May 2021, the Subsidiary Body agreed to the organization of work as set out in the annotated provisional agenda (CBD/SBSTTA/24/1/Add.1) and the scenario note for the meeting (CBD/SBSTTA/24/1/Add.2). The Chair said that he would chair all plenary sessions except the session on agenda item 9, on biodiversity and health, would be chaired by Ms. Helena Brown (Antigua and Barbuda).

20. The Chair then explained how contact groups would operate during the meeting. Contact groups would meet for sessions of up to three hours and multiple sessions could be scheduled each day provided that different contact groups did not meet in parallel. The sessions would be open to representatives of all Parties, other Governments and observers. The usual practice would apply to participation of observers: at the discretion of the co-chairs, they might be given the floor after Parties had spoken and any substantive proposals made by them would need to be supported by at least one Party for it to be taken up by the contact group. The participants were encouraged to use the chat function of the web-based Interactio conference system to indicate such support rather than by requesting the floor.

21. The contact groups would only be accessible through the Interactio conference system, and, in order to maintain the integrity of that system, Parties and other accredited organizations were asked to limit themselves to one or two speakers. The remaining members of delegations could observe the discussion and speakers could be exchanged at any time. All other participants could join as viewers. Following the usual practice, the deliberations could not be recorded or shared through social media.

ITEM 3. POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

22. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 3 at the first plenary session, on 3 May 2021. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it notes by the Executive Secretary on: (a) the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook* and its summary for policymakers (CBD/SBSTTA/24/2); (b) scientific and technical information to support the review of the updated goals and targets, and related indicators and baselines of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/24/3); (c) the proposed indicators and monitoring approach for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.1); (d) scientific and technical information to support the review of the proposed goals and targets in the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which had been updated following a technical peer-review process (CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1). The official pre-session documents were supported by a number of information documents: (a) synthesizing the scientific evidence to inform the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/9); (b) annotations for terms and concepts used in the language of interim updated post-2020 goals and targets (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/11); (c) the linkages between the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/12); (d) indicators for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/16); (e) development of a post-2020 Global Strategy for Plant Conservation as a component of the global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/20); (f) detailed scientific and technical information to support the review of the proposed goals and targets in the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/21); and (g) the report of the second consultation workshop of biodiversity-related conventions on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (Bern II) (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/27).

23. Introducing the item, the Chair recalled that the topic had been considered during the informal session, on 17 and 18 February 2021, at which time representatives of 48 Parties and regional groups and 18 observers had made statements. The Secretariat had also received written statements from 1 other Party and 20 other observers.¹

24. Regional statements were made by representatives of Argentina (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group) and South Africa (on behalf of the African Group).

25. Additional statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, the European Union, Finland, France, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

26. The Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of the item during the second plenary session, on 4 May 2021.

27. Statements were made by representatives of Cambodia, Cameroon, China, Denmark, Ethiopia, India, Peru and Senegal.

28. Statements were also made by representatives of the Advisory Committee of Subnational Governments for Biodiversity (coordinated by Regions4 and the government of Quebec) (also on behalf of the European Committee of the Regions, the Group of Leading Subnational Governments toward Aichi Biodiversity Targets, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, and on behalf of the Edinburgh Process partners), the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women’s Caucus, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN), the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (also on behalf of the Born Free Foundation, the Center for Biological Diversity, the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, Defenders of Wildlife, the Environmental Investigation Agency, Fondation Franz Weber, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Pro Wildlife and the World Federation for Animals).

¹ The report on the informal session is available at <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3/sbstta-24-prep-03/documents>.

29. In addition to the statements by observers presented orally, statements by the following observer organizations could not be delivered due to limited time but were made available on the meeting web page: the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Centre for Tropical Agriculture, Coastal Oceans Research and Development in the Indian Ocean (CORDIO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Future Earth, the German Centre for Integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena-Leipzig, the Global Forest Coalition (GFC), Griffith University, the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON), the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the International Fertilizer Association (IFA), the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA), the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), Island Conservation, the Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN), New Wind Association, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Public Research and Regulation Initiative (PRRI), the secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, the secretariat of the Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians, the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations University, the Western Ghats Hotspot Conservation Forum, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the World Heritage Centre.

A. Fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*

30. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that he would prepare a revised text on the elements of the agenda item related to the fifth edition of the *Global Biodiversity Outlook*, taking into account the views expressed orally by the Parties or supported by them and the comments received in writing, during the informal session in February and at the current meeting.

31. At the fifth plenary session, on 25 May 2021, the Subsidiary Body considered the draft recommendation submitted by the Chair. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/24/L.2, for formal adoption at a later stage.

B. Technical and scientific aspects of the goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and suggested monitoring framework

32. Following the exchange of views at its plenary session on 4 May 2021, the Chair established a contact group facilitated by Ms. Anne Teller (European Union) and Mr. Jorge Murillo (Colombia). The mandate of the group was to work on the scientific and technical review of goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework on the basis of document CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1 and the issues and recommendations related to the monitoring framework on the basis of documents CBD/SBSTTA/24/3 and Add.1, for which a non-paper would be developed.

33. At the fifth plenary session, on 25 May 2021, one of the co-chairs of the contact group reported to the Subsidiary Body on the work of the group.

34. In her report, the co-chair of the contact group indicated that, with respect to the scientific and technical review of goals and targets in the updated zero draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and general elements of organization of the monitoring framework, the contact group co-chairs had opened an in-session online survey on headline indicators. The co-chairs had then prepared a text ("Co-chairs' text on item 3"), taking into account the discussions in the contact group and the views expressed in plenary and during the February informal session of the Subsidiary Body, as well as the survey results; the co-chairs' text was accompanied by an annex showing the results of the survey graphically for each headline indicator. The understanding was that the Chair of the Subsidiary Body would forward the contact group co-chairs' text on item 3 to the Co-Chairs of the Open-ended Working Group, to be taken into account in the preparation of the

first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, together with document CBD/SBSTTA/24/3/Add.2/Rev.1 and all original statements.

35. Comments provided by Parties in the survey were compiled in information document CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/29. The understanding was that the Secretariat would use the survey results, along with the more general views expressed, to revise the monitoring framework when aligning it with the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

36. With respect to issues and recommendations related to the monitoring framework for the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the outcome of the discussions in the contact group had been captured in a draft recommendation submitted for the consideration of the Parties.

37. Following the report of the contact group co-chair, statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom.

38. It was noted that the Executive Secretary would align the monitoring framework, including the headline, component and complementary indicators, with the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and would further update it as necessary to align with the outcomes of the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, for subsequent consideration at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

39. The Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of the draft recommendation at the sixth plenary session, on 26 May 2021. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/24/L.3, for formal adoption at a later stage.

ITEM 4. SYNTHETIC BIOLOGY

40. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 4 at the third plenary session, on 23 May 2021. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on Synthetic Biology (CBD/SBSTTA/24/4/Rev.1), including a suggested recommendation. It also had before it, as information documents: (a) a list of references on synthetic biology (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/6), (b) an update of the *Technical Series on Synthetic Biology* (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/19), (c) the Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology (CBD/SYNBIO/AHTEG/2019/1/3), (d) a synthesis of submissions on synthetic biology (CBD/SYNBIO/AHTEG/2019/1/INF/1) and (e) a synthesis of discussions of the Online Forum on Synthetic Biology (CBD/SYNBIO/AHTEG/2019/1/INF/2).

41. Introducing the item, the Chair recalled that the topic had been considered during the informal session, held on 18 and 19 February 2021, at which time representatives of 31 Parties, 2 regional groups and 8 observers had made statements. The Secretariat had also received written statements from 1 other Party and 2 other observers.²

42. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Switzerland and Uganda.

43. Statements were also made by representatives of the CBD Alliance and the IIFB (also on behalf of the Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network).

44. In addition to the statements by observers presented orally, written statements were received, and made available on the meeting web page from: the CBD Women's Caucus, the German Foundation of Future Farming (also on behalf of Save Our Seeds), GYBN, the Institute on Ethics and Policy for Innovation at McMaster University and TWN.

² The report on the informal session is available at <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3/sbstta-24-prep-03/documents>.

45. Following the exchange of views, the Chair established a contact group facilitated by Ms. Ntakadzeni Tshidada (South Africa) and Mr. Werner Schenkel (Germany). The mandate of the contact group was to work on the process for horizon scanning described in the annex to the draft recommendation contained in document (CBD/SBSTTA/24/4/Rev.1). In setting out the mandate of the contact group, the Chair specified that while there had been divergent views on whether synthetic biology ought to be considered a new and emerging issue, the Parties had agreed, in decision 14/19, that horizon scanning of new technological developments in synthetic biology was needed, and that the contact group should therefore focus its work on the issue of horizon scanning only.

46. During the fourth plenary session, on 24 May 2021, the representative of Brazil expressed his disagreement with the decision that the work of the contact group would be limited to discussing the issue of horizon scanning, saying that the divergent views on whether synthetic biology was a new and emerging issue should be discussed first. The Chair reiterated that decision 14/29 had provided a clear mandate on the issue of horizon scanning and indicated that other concerns could be raised in plenary during consideration of the draft recommendation.

47. At the sixth plenary session, on 26 May 2021, the Chair said that, after considering the diverse views, he had decided to convene a group of friends-of-the-chair, composed of Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Ethiopia, the European Union, Finland, Japan, Mexico and Norway, to help him to work on a text proposal on the relationship between synthetic biology and the criteria on new and emerging issues. He requested one of the members of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body, Ms. Helena Brown (Antigua and Barbuda), to facilitate the group.

48. [to be completed].

ITEM 5. RISK ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT OF LIVING MODIFIED ORGANISMS

49. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 5 at the fourth plenary session, on 24 May 2021. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on risk assessment and risk management (CBD/SBSTTA/24/5), including a suggested recommendation. It also had before it, as information documents: (a) a list of bibliographic references on engineered gene drives and living modified fish (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/7); (b) a synthesis of relevant information from the fourth national reports on the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/13); (c) a study on risk assessment: application of annex I of decision CP-9/13 to living modified fish (CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2020/1/3); (d) a study on risk assessment: application of annex I of decision CP-9/13 to living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives (CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2020/1/4); (e) the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Risk Assessment (CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2020/1/5); (f) a synthesis of submissions on experiences, challenges and needs regarding risk assessment of living modified organisms containing engineered gene drives and living modified fish (CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2020/1/INF/1); and (g) a synthesis of the interventions from the Open-ended Online Forum (CBD/CP/RA/AHTEG/2020/1/INF/2).

50. Introducing the item, the Chair recalled that the topic had been considered during the informal session, on 19 and 24 February 2021, at which time interventions had been made by 21 Parties, 2 non-Parties, 2 regional groups and 5 observers, with written statements also received from 3 other Parties and 2 other observers.³

51. Statements were made by the representatives of Austria, Belarus, Brazil, Cuba, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, the Republic of Korea, South Africa and Switzerland.

52. In addition to statements presented orally by Parties, a written statement by Portugal was made available on the meeting web page.

³ The report on the informal session is available at <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3/sbstta-24-prep-03/documents>.

53. Statements were also made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's caucus, IIFB, Target Malaria and the National Institute of Health.
54. In addition to statements presented orally by observers, a written statement by IPC was made available on the meeting web page.
55. Following the exchange of views, the Chair established a contact group facilitated by Ms. Ntakadzeni Tshidada (South Africa) and Mr. Werner Schenkel (Germany), with the mandate to further consider issues related to process to develop specific guidance materials for organisms containing engineered gene drives, for which a non-paper would be developed.
56. [to be completed]

ITEM 6. MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

57. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 6 at the second plenary session, on 4 May 2021. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on marine and coastal biodiversity (CBD/SBSTTA/24/6). It also had before it, as information documents: (a) the report of the Expert Workshop to Identify Options for Modifying the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas and Describing New Areas (CBD/EBSA/WS/2020/1/2); (b) the report of the Thematic Workshop on Marine and Coastal Biodiversity for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CBD/POST2020/WS/2019/10/2); (c) a compilation of submissions on experiences in the implementation of marine spatial planning (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/1); (d) a synthesis of experiences to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 10 for coral reefs and closely associated ecosystems (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/2); (e) a synthesis of submissions on experiences for the implementation of the voluntary specific workplan on biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/3); (f) a technical paper updating *CBD Technical Series No. 83* (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/4); (g) the draft CBD Technical Series on anthropogenic underwater noise (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/5); (h) the report of the Expert Meeting on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures in the Marine Capture Fishery Sector (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/10); (i) the available monitoring frameworks and information to support monitoring of progress towards goals and targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework with respect to marine and coastal biodiversity (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/23); (j) the report on regional seas biodiversity under the post-2020 global biodiversity framework (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/24); and (k) *CBD Technical Series No. 87: Assessing progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 6 on sustainable marine fisheries*.
58. Introducing the item, the Chair recalled that the topic had been considered during the informal session, on 24 and 25 February 2021, at which time interventions had been made by 32 Parties and regional groups and 14 observers, with written statements also received from 4 other Parties and 5 other observers.⁴
59. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Peru Portugal, the Republic of Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom.
60. In addition to statements presented orally by Parties, written statements by Israel, Japan, Mexico and Samoa were made available on the meeting web page.
61. Statements by the following observer organizations could not be delivered due to limited time but were made available on the meeting web page: BirdLife International, the CBD Women's Caucus, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations, FAO, GEO BON, IIFB, the National Geographic Society, UNEP, the United Nations University (UNU), the University of Cambridge Conservation Leadership Alumni, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

⁴ The report on the informal session is available at <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3/sbstta-24-prep-03/documents>.

62. Following the exchange of views, the Chair established a contact group facilitated by Ms. Marie-May Muzungaile (Seychelles) and Mr. Matthias Steitz (Germany), with the mandate to focus on annexes VI, VIII, XI and XIII of the draft recommendations contained in document CBD/SBSTTA/24/6.

63. [to be completed]

ITEM 7. BIODIVERSITY AND AGRICULTURE

64. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 7 at the fourth plenary session, on 24 May 2021. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on the review of the International Initiative for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Soil Biodiversity and updated plan of action (CBD/SBSTTA/24/7/Rev.1), including a suggested recommendation. It also had before it, as an information document, a report on the state of knowledge of soil biodiversity (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/8).

65. Introducing the item, the Chair recalled that the topic had been considered during the informal session, on 25 and 26 February 2021, at which time interventions had been made by 33 Parties, 2 regional groups and 10 observers, with written statements also received from 2 other Parties and 7 other observers.⁵

66. A regional statement was made by the representative of Ghana (on behalf of African Group).

67. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Indonesia, Kenya, Morocco, Peru, Samoa (also on behalf of Palau), Spain, South Africa, Switzerland and Uganda.

68. In addition to statements presented orally by Parties, written statements by Australia, Mexico and Portugal were made available on the meeting web page.

69. Statements were also made by representatives of the CBD Alliance, the CBD Women's caucus, FAO, IPC, the Nature Conservancy (also on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund) and the University of Cambridge Conservation Leadership Alumni Network.

70. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that he would prepare a revised text on the elements of the agenda item related to biodiversity and agriculture, taking into account the views expressed orally by the Parties or supported by them and the comments received in writing, during the informal session in February and at the current meeting.

71. The Subsidiary Body considered the draft recommendation prepared by the Chair at the seventh plenary session, on 7 June 2021.

72. Statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia Costa Rica, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Peru, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

73. [to be completed]

ITEM 8. PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

74. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 8 at the second plenary session, on 4 May 2021. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on the programme of work of IPBES (CBD/SBSTTA/24/8), which included a suggested recommendation. It also had an information document on the topic (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/17) for its consideration.

75. Regional statements were made by representatives of Serbia (on behalf of the Central and Eastern European countries) and South Africa (on behalf of the African Group).

76. Additional statements were made by representatives of Argentina, Brazil, Japan, Mexico and Switzerland.

⁵ The report on the informal session is available at <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3/sbstta-24-prep-03/documents>.

77. The Subsidiary Body resumed its consideration of the item during the third plenary session, on 23 May 2021.

78. Statements were made by representatives of Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, the European Union, Finland, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Morocco, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.

79. A statement was also made by the representative of the secretariat of IPBES.

80. Further statements were made by representatives of the CBD Women's Caucus, GYBN and the IIFB.

81. In addition to the statements by observers presented orally, statements by the following observer organizations could not be delivered due to limited time but were made available on the meeting web page: the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Griffith University, the secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (also on behalf of the secretariat of UNESCO) and the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa.

82. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that he would prepare a revised draft recommendation for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body, taking into account the views expressed orally by the Parties or supported by them and the comments received in writing.

83. At the seventh session of the meeting, on 7 June 2021, the Subsidiary Body considered a revised draft recommendation submitted by the Chair. Following an exchange of views, the Subsidiary Body approved the revised draft recommendation, as orally amended, as draft recommendation CBD/SBSTTA/24/L.4, for formal adoption at a later stage.

ITEM 9. BIODIVERSITY AND HEALTH

84. At the xx plenary session, on [*to be completed*].

ITEM 10. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

85. The Subsidiary Body considered agenda item 10 at the sixth plenary session, on 26 May 2021. In considering the item, the Subsidiary Body had before it a note by the Executive Secretary on invasive alien species (CBD/SBSTTA/24/10, and Corr.1), including a suggested recommendation. It also had before it, as information documents: (a) a note by the Executive Secretary on invasive alien species: technical specifications under the World Customs Organization Framework of Standards on Cross-border E-commerce (CBD/SBSTTA/24/INF/15); (b) a note by the Executive Secretary on draft advice or elements for the development of technical guidance on management measures for invasive alien species to be implemented by broad sectors to facilitate achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 9 and beyond (CBD/IAS/AHTEG/2019/1/2); and (c) the report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Invasive Alien Species (BD/IAS/AHTEG/2019/13).

86. Introducing the item, the Chair recalled that the topic had been considered during the informal session, on 26 February 2021, at which time interventions had been made by 26 Parties and 2 regional groups, with written statements also received from 2 other Parties and 7 observers.⁶

87. Statements were made by the representatives of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Morocco, Peru, Portugal, Samoa, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Uganda.

88. In addition to statements presented orally by Parties, written statements by Canada, Mexico and Panama were made available on the meeting web page.

89. Statements were also made by representatives of the CBD Women's Caucus, FAO, IIFB, Island Conservation and IUCN.

⁶ The report on the informal session is available at <https://www.cbd.int/conferences/sbstta24-sbi3/sbstta-24-prep-03/documents>.

90. Following the exchange of views, the Chair said that he would consult on the need for a contact group or other arrangements to facilitate progress on the item. Pending those consultations, he would also prepare a revised text on the elements of the agenda item related to invasive alien species, taking into account the views expressed orally by the Parties or supported by them and the comments received in writing, during the informal session in February and at the current meeting.

91. [*to be completed*].

SUSPENSION OF THE MEETING

92. As indicated in the Chair's note (CBD/SBSTTA/24/1/Add.2) and described in paragraph 14 above, the Subsidiary Body agreed, at its xx plenary session, on 9 June 2021, to suspend its twenty-fourth meeting and resume it at a later date.

93. Following an introduction by the Rapporteur, the present report (CBD/SBSTTA/24/Part1/L.1) was approved by the Subsidiary Body with the understanding that the full report would be considered and adopted at a resumed session.
