

**CONVENTION ON
BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**Distr.
GENERALUNEP/CBD/COP/6/17/Add.2
13 February 2002

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

**CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL
DIVERSITY**

Sixth meeting

The Hague, 7-19 April 2002

Item 21 of the provisional agenda*

FOREST BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY*Addendum***SUMMARY REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC
TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND CLIMATE
CHANGE, HELSINKI, 21–25 JANUARY 2002***Note by the Executive Secretary*

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biological Diversity and Climate Change, established in by paragraph 5 of recommendation VI/7 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, held its first meeting at the Finnish Environment Institute from 21 to 25 in Helsinki, with the financial support of the Government of Finland and the Government of Switzerland.
2. The meeting was attended by 27 participants, including experts from Argentina, Brazil, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Honduras, Japan, Kuwait, New Zealand, Paraguay, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America; and representatives of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), indigenous and local communities, WWF, Greenpeace International, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). In addition, three experts participated in the meeting in their capacity as co-chair of the ad hoc technical expert group on forest biological diversity, member of the Bureau of the Conference of the Parties or member of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.

* UNEP/CBD/COP/6/1 and Corr.1/Rev.1.

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3. The group reviewed existing information on the interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change, and existing approaches and tools that would facilitate application of scientific advice for integration of biodiversity considerations in the implementation of measures to mitigate or adapt to climate change. In the discussions, the Group took into consideration the relevant articles of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the relevant decisions of the respective conference of the parties and recommendations of their scientific bodies.

4. The Group decided to prepare two documents:

(a) Assessment report on interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change, building essentially on two background documents (the IPCC technical paper and the Secretariat's note on the review of the impact of climate change on forest biological diversity); and

(b) Advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol.

5. The Group developed the contents of these documents, which are presented in the report of meeting, which will be submitted to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its sixth meeting as an information document (UNEP/CBD/COP/6/INF/7). The outlines include the chapter topics and major subheadings and their proposed length; the main editors of each document; lead and co-lead authors of each chapter, and suggested contributors; and key sources of information as well as deadlines for submission of drafts.

6. With regard to SBSTTA recommendation VII/6 on forest biological diversity, in which the Group was invited to consider in its work activities relating to mitigation of the negative impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity, the Group concluded that the output of its work would provide a basis for the development of those activities.

7. The process for the writing, review and publication of the two documents was discussed, and a timetable was agreed. More specifically, the group decided that the inter-sessional work will include

(a) An expert and government peer-review process to ensure credibility and ownership from a wider range of stakeholders; and

(b) The holding of two additional meetings: a meeting of lead authors and invited experts and a meeting of the whole Group, in which all the experts will serve as reviewers/editors. Bearing in mind the additional cost involved, the Group has requested the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to approach Governments to raise the required additional funds so that the Group can complete its work. The Group proposed to hold its next meeting tentatively early or in mid-August 2002 to be able to produce a substantive report for the eighth meeting of SBSTTA.

8. The Group also requested the Executive Secretary to distribute the report of the meeting to participants in the joint liaison group meeting between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity, held on 30 January 2002, for their information and consideration in their development of the tripartite synergy.