



Convention on Biological Diversity

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/COP/9/20/Add.3
15 April 2008

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Ninth meeting

Bonn, 19-30 May 2008

Item 4.5 of the provisional agenda*

PROPOSAL FOR TERMS OF REFERENCE OF A POSSIBLE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Note by the Executive Secretary

1. At the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Parties noted, through decision VII/15, that there are opportunities to implement climate change mitigation and adaptation activities in ways that are mutually beneficial and synergistic, and that contribute simultaneously to the CBD, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
2. At the eighth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, Parties to the CBD welcomed, through decision VIII/30 consideration, within the UNFCCC, of ways and means to reduce emissions from deforestation in developing countries as a potentially unique opportunity for biodiversity protection.
3. The same decision noted that the UNFCCC programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change could facilitate communication and cooperation between relevant organizations as well as drawing upon relevant information from, and activities undertaken in, other international and regional organizations.
4. Within the UNFCCC, decision 2/CP.11 states that the Nairobi work programme should draw on information from, and activities being undertaken in, other relevant international, regional and other organizations. Furthermore, the report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) on its twenty-fifth session invited relevant organizations and other stakeholders to participate in the implementation of the activities contained in the Nairobi work programme and to share the outcomes of these activities with the SBSTA at subsequent sessions, as appropriate including through "Action Pledges".

* UNEP/CBD/COP/9/1.

5. Decision 16/CMP.1, affirmed as one of the principles for the treatment of land use, land-use change and forestry activities, that the implementation of land use, land-use change and forestry activities contributes to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources.
6. Furthermore, in paragraph 11 of decision 1/CP.13, on the Bali Action Plan, the UNFCCC agreed that the process shall be informed by, *inter alia*, the best available scientific information and outputs from other relevant intergovernmental processes.
7. In light of these developments, the thirteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) under the Convention on Biological Diversity requested the Executive Secretary to develop a proposal for terms of reference of a possible Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (AHTEG) on Biodiversity and Climate Change to develop information on biodiversity relevant to the UNFCCC decision on the Bali Action Plan as well as the UNFCCC Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, in consultation with the secretariats of the UNFCCC and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification for consideration at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.
8. In response to this request the Executive Secretary prepared the attached proposed terms of reference.
9. The proposed terms of reference were shared with Parties through notification 2008-035 sent on 31 March 2008. Five Parties ^{1/} provided inputs taking into account the draft conclusions proposed by the Chair of the first session of the UNFCCC Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (FCCC/AWGLCA/2008/L.2), in which, *inter alia*, accredited observer organizations are invited to provide additional information, views and proposals on paragraph 1 of the Bali Action Plan, and outputs are invited from relevant intergovernmental processes in a timely manner consistent with paragraph 11 of the Bali Action Plan.
10. The proposed terms of reference were also shared with the secretariats of the UNFCCC and UNCCD for their comments, which were provided within the framework of their distinct mandates.

^{1/} Australia, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom.

Annex

PROPOSED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF A POSSIBLE AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUP (AHTEG) ON BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The purpose of this AHTEG, if established, is to provide biodiversity-relevant information to complement the Bali Action Plan process and the work of the UNFCCC SBSTA in the context of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, in time for adequate consideration by the UNFCCC.

Drawing on the work of the previous Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biological Diversity and Climate Change, presented as CBD Technical Series No. 10 and No. 25, the outcomes from the workshops convened by the Secretariat of the UNFCCC under the Nairobi work programme as well as the documents compiled under this programme, and other relevant documents including the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment,

Guided also by relevant outcomes from the Conference of the Parties and the Subsidiary Bodies of the UNFCCC, and on other bodies as appropriate, and

Reporting to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the Convention, as well as providing timely input in the above-mentioned UNFCCC processes through *inter alia*, submissions to the UNFCCC Secretariat and Action Pledges under the Nairobi work programme, (including, if established, the Nairobi work programme group of experts 2/) and, to the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions through the Executive Secretary,

1. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biodiversity and Climate Change will be re-convened in accordance with the procedures outlined in the consolidated *modus operandi* of SBSTTA (decision VIII/10, annex III) and shall have the following terms of reference:

(a) Provide scientific and technical advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations, and associated socio-economic impacts on biodiversity-based livelihoods, within impact and vulnerability assessments and climate change adaptation through, *inter alia*:

- (i) Identifying relevant tools, methodologies and best practice examples for assessing the impacts on and vulnerabilities of biodiversity as a result of climate change;
- (ii) Highlighting case studies and identifying methodologies for analysing the value of biodiversity in supporting adaptation in communities and sectors vulnerable to climate change;
- (iii) Identifying case-studies and general principles to guide local and regional activities aimed at reducing risks to biodiversity values associated with climate change;
- (iv) Proposing ways and means that traditional and local knowledge related to biodiversity can be included in impact and vulnerability assessments and adaptation to climate change;
- (v) Identifying and compiling existing advice on ways and means to minimize negative impacts of climate change on biodiversity;

2/ The Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC will further consider, at its fourteenth session, in December 2008, the possible need for a group of experts on the Nairobi work programme.

- (vi) Identifying potential impacts of adaptation activities on biodiversity, especially in the regions identified as being particularly vulnerable under the Nairobi work programme (developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States);
- (vii) Analysing the social, cultural and economic benefits of using ecosystem services for climate change adaptation and of maintaining ecosystem services by minimizing adverse impacts of climate change on biodiversity.
- (viii) Propose ways and means to improve the integration of biodiversity considerations within impact and vulnerability assessments and climate change adaptation.

(b) Provide scientific and technical advice on the current degree of integration of biodiversity considerations, and propose ways and means to improve the integration of these considerations, into climate-change responses designed to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, such as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) through:

- (i) Identifying and presenting proposals on how experiences in the implementation of the forest biodiversity programme of work, may inform REDD and LULUCF activities so as to maximize multiple benefits for carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
- (ii) Identifying areas in places other than forested lands (such as areas in peatlands, tundra and grasslands) that have potential to deliver multiple benefits for carbon sequestration, and biodiversity conservation and sustainable use;
- (iii) Identifying possible risks to biodiversity from REDD and LULUCF activities and presenting proposals on how such risks may be avoided; and
- (iv) Providing practical proposals on activities to maximize biodiversity benefits within demonstration activities for REDD.

2. The work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group should be initiated as soon as possible in order to provide timely information to the relevant processes related to the Bali Action Plan and the Nairobi Work Programme, and completed on time for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its fourteenth meeting.

3. The Group should include experts nominated by Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, bearing in mind geographical and gender balance.
