



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

UNEP/CBD/1/1/ADD.1
16 March 2007

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CHAIRS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BODIES OF BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

First meeting
Paris, 1 July 2007

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Annotations to the provisional agenda

INTRODUCTION

1. The fifth meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, held on 14 September 2006 in Gland, Switzerland, considered ways to strengthen the cooperation among the scientific advisory bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions and to further improve the scientific advice available to these bodies.

2. The meeting agreed that a meeting of Chairs of the scientific and technical bodies or advisory bodies of the Conventions together with representatives of the Convention Secretariats and from the United Nations Environment Programme should be organized prior to the twelfth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) and that a report of this meeting should be provided to SBSTTA.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting will be held at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle. It will be opened at 10 a.m. on 1 July 2007.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

4. The meeting will be opened by the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It will be chaired by the Chair of SBSTTA-12.

5. The meeting will be invited to adopt its agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/CSAB/1/2).

ITEM 3. REVIEW OF PROCESSES AND APPROACHES OF THE CONVENTIONS' SCIENTIFIC BODIES IN PROVIDING SCIENTIFIC ADVICE

6. Several Biodiversity-related Conventions have recently reviewed, or are in the process of reviewing, the effectiveness of the mechanisms for providing scientific advice and/or the procedures of these bodies with a view to improving the scientific advice made available to the respective governing bodies, reducing the burden of Parties and optimizing the use of financial resources and capacities available to the Secretariats.

7. Under this agenda item the Chairs of the scientific and technical bodies or advisory bodies of the Conventions will be invited to report on significant processes and approaches, including relevant recent developments and considerations, and to share the experiences made. An information note providing an overview of the respective processes and approaches will complement these reports (UNEP/CBD/ /INF).
8. The meeting may wish to discuss ways for further improving the effectiveness of processes and approaches in providing scientific advice.

ITEM 4. STRATEGIC ISSUES FOR FUTURE PROCESSES AND APPROACHES OF THE CONVENTIONS

9. All Biodiversity-related Conventions are concerned with the development and implementation of strategies conservation and sustainable/wise use of biodiversity for sustainable development and human well-being. At the same time Parties to the respective Conventions continue to observe overlaps and idiosyncrasies between the different processes.

Item 4.1. Cooperation on climate change and biodiversity

10. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is finalizing its Fourth Assessment Report "Climate Change 2007", which provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the current state of knowledge on climate change. The publication coincides with 2007 having been proclaimed the International Polar Year and the themes for World Environment Day ("Climate Change") and the International Day for Biological Diversity ("Biodiversity and Climate Change") have been selected accordingly.
11. The meeting will be invited to note the reports, review the outcomes of relevant events and consider collaborative arrangements that facilitate implementation of the climate change and biodiversity agendas in a mutually supportive and beneficial way. The Chair of the IPCC will participate in the discussion on this item.

Item 4.2. The 2010 Biodiversity Target: a coordinated approach for the work beyond 2010

12. In 2002, the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted, as the mission statement of its Strategic Plan, the target of achieving 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. The target has subsequently been endorsed through various fora and processes and, following the proposal by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, was recently incorporated as a new target under Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals ("Ensure environmental sustainability").
13. Although other Biodiversity-related Conventions also took up the target, advance planning and coordination would have facilitated making it a central focus for implementation, assessment and reporting in those processes.
14. The Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity has decided to consider at its ninth meeting in May 2008 the process for revising and updating the Strategic Plan with a view to adopting a revised Strategic Plan at its tenth meeting. The Second Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Review of Implementation of the Convention (9 - 13 July 2007, UNESCO, Paris, France) will make a recommendation on the process and SBSTTA will consider the scientific aspects.
15. On the basis of the background document (UNEP/CBD/CSAB/1/2) the meeting may wish to consider options for a coordinated approach for the formulation and endorsement of a biodiversity target beyond 2010 and for developing a coherent strategy for its achievement.

Item 4.3. Management of information and knowledge: towards a coherent system for biodiversity information management

16. The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) has constituted a major effort to analyse and interpret data across scientific fields in a holistic way. It has made use of, and added value to, an

abundance of available, but hitherto disconnected, scientific information, often through storylines. It has also pointed out uncertainties over, or gaps in, existing information.

17. A major challenge for the MA was the fact that much data and information on biodiversity is fragmented, not easily accessible, exists in different formats or standards, or derived from different methods, and therefore cannot be easily integrated and compared. This makes it virtually impossible to develop comprehensive analysis models to accurately determine the status and trends of biodiversity to guide policy analysis and decision-making.

18. On the basis of the background document the meeting may wish to consider options for a coherent system for biodiversity information management.

Item 4.4. Scientific and technical guidance: consideration of complementarities and gaps in guidance developed under the Conventions

19. Global Biodiversity Outlook 2 considers that, by and large, Convention on Biological Diversity has developed the tools and guidance required to address biodiversity loss, with biodiversity valuation being the notable exception. In several cases, tools and guidance have been developed jointly with other Biodiversity-related Conventions and are in use, sometimes with annotations to the specific context of those Conventions.

20. The background document (UNEP/CBD/CSAB/1/2) provides an overview of existing tools and guidance and their application among the Biodiversity-related Conventions.

21. The meeting may wish to consider gaps in the development or application of tools and guidance and deliberate on options for addressing these gaps in a coherent way.

ITEM 5. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

22. The fifth meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-Related Conventions agreed that meetings of the Chairs of the scientific and technical bodies or advisory bodies of the Conventions should be take place on a regular basis with meetings being held back-to-back with relevant meetings of different conventions. Venues should be selected in a strategic way to maximize the presence of participants and to minimize the necessary financial support.

23. On the basis of these considerations the meeting may wish to decide on the date and venue of the next meeting.

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

24. Under this item, the meeting may wish to consider any other matter of relevance raised by participants.

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

25. The meeting may wish to invite the Chair of the meeting, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to present the report of the meeting at the side event scheduled to be held at lunchtime on 2 July at SBSTTA.

26. The meeting is expected to close at 3 p.m. on 1 July 2007.
