



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

UNEP/CBD/CSAB1/3
6 July 2007

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

CHAIRS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BODIES OF BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

First meeting
Paris, 1 July 2007

REPORT OF THE FIRST MEETING OF CHAIRS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BODIES OF BIODIVERSITY-RELATED CONVENTIONS

Options for enhancing cooperation among the scientific advisory bodies of biodiversity-related conventions

INTRODUCTION

1. The first meeting of Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions was held on 1 July 2007 at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle in Paris, France. It was attended by Chairs of scientific advisory bodies or equivalent organs and representatives of the Secretariats of the following organizations: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention), Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), IUCN - The World Conservation Union Countdown 2010 Initiative, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), World Heritage Convention, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP-Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (UNEP-STAP), and WWF-International.
2. The list of participants is contained in the annex.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

3. The meeting was opened by Christian Prip who recalled that this meeting had been called for by the fifth meeting of the Liaison Group of the Biodiversity-related Conventions, held on 14 September 2006 in Gland, Switzerland.
4. Ahmed Djoghlaif expressed his gratitude to all the participants for attending this first meeting in the history of the multilateral environmental agreements. He paid tribute to Mr Christian Prip, Chair of SBSTTA and to his colleagues in the SBSTTA Bureau for the initiative of convening this meeting. He also thanked the Secretary-General of the Ramsar Convention for his support. He thanked the Director of UNEP's Division of Environmental Law and Conventions for his financial support, including for the convening of this meeting. He also thanked the Chair of SBSTA of UNFCCC and attributed his presence to the importance of interlinkages between biodiversity and climate change. He expressed the hope that this first ever meeting of the chairs of the scientific bodies of sister organizations be remembered as the start of a new tradition of enhanced collaboration for meeting as a united family the biodiversity challenges facing mankind.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

5. The meeting adopt the agenda as contained in document UNEP/CBD/CSAB/1/2.

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

6. The meeting came to the following main conclusions:

(a) The first meeting of Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of Biodiversity-related Conventions was a useful start to discuss areas of cooperation and collaboration on the scientific issues of the various convention processes and their translation into policy. These discussions might facilitate similar approaches and considerations at national level.

(b) Conventions' scientific advisory bodies have different mandates with regard to the issues on which they provide advice to their governing bodies, ranging from strict response to requests by their governing bodies to flexible ways of response both in terms of timing of delivery and identification of emerging issues. It may be possible to benefit from the guidance provided by other conventions' bodies on emerging issues.

(c) The needs of the Global Environment Facility with regard to scientific considerations underpinning support in implementation of the provisions of various Conventions should be taken into account in discussions on collaboration, including through involvement of, and interaction with, the UNEP-Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (STAP).

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

Item 4.1. Cooperation on climate change and biodiversity

7. The meeting concluded that:

(a) The material prepared for International Biodiversity Day 2007 (IBD) and the various events taking place in celebration of IBD were a good example of the usefulness of reaching out to the wider public. The theme on "Biodiversity and climate change" was useful to improve the understanding on key issues shared by different conventions.

(b) The toolkit developed by the IUCN Commission on Education contains valuable material that would help in outreach activities.

(c) The importance of climate change as a driver of biodiversity change, and the ongoing activities in all biodiversity-related conventions on the impacts of climate change suggest the usefulness of closer links between the Liaison Group of Biodiversity-related Conventions and the Joint Liaison Group of the Rio Conventions. At the same time it would also appear useful to ensure that general guidance developed by one of the Conventions be brought to the attention of regional conventions for possible application and adaptation to the regional context.

(d) The positive experience of a joint meeting between the Subsidiary Bodies of the CBD and UNFCCC in November 2005 should be translated, where possible, into seizing opportunities and planning meetings to enable such events. It was agreed that the convening of CBD COP-9 in Bonn as well as the two years of German presidency offers a unique opportunity to plan intersessional CBD meetings back-to-back with UNFCCC, UNCCD and CMS events owing to the location of the three secretariat in Bonn.

(e) The JLG options document is a useful basis for enhancing cooperation at the national and international level.

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

8. The meeting agreed that:

(a) All Conventions have, although to varying degrees, incorporated the 2010 biodiversity target and relevant parts of the framework into their programmes of work. Efforts to enhance implementation

focusing on the achievement of the target by 2010 need to continue. At the same time, it is vital to start discussion on a collaborative and cohesive process to formulate appropriate targets and framework for the time beyond 2010. UNEP has offered to facilitate this process.

(b) Various conventions are using indicators, including indicators on the effectiveness of the respective convention processes. The GEF MSP project on the 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership, coordinated by UNEP-WCMC is contributing to integration of suitable outcome-oriented indicators, for example by disaggregated data for the specific needs of specialized conventions.

(c) There is a multitude of examples where good management practices and suitable policy frameworks have had positive impact on biodiversity. There is a need to emphasize and showcase such positive results and success stories from the implementation of various conventions to enlist continued support for achievement of the 2010 target and the target post-2010.

(d) The participants welcomed the offer of the representative of UNEP to provide financial support for the planned activities on issues related to the post-2010 biodiversity target.

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

9. The meeting agreed to discuss this item together with item 4.4.

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

10. The meeting concluded that:

(a) There is abundant data and information on biodiversity but these data are often not available to the Conventions' scientific advisory bodies. If a need for IMOSEB is confirmed it should be ensured that its work focuses not on collecting additional data but on bringing together various sources of scientific information, including traditional ecological knowledge, in a coherent and comparable form. If the proposal to give the Chairs of the biodiversity-related conventions a prominent role in guiding the work of IMOSEB is agreed, they should insist on linking research efforts in biodiversity science with policy implementation. Data-holders, such as UNEP-WCMC have an important role in promoting the harmonization of data.

(b) There are many examples where guidance and guidelines developed by one convention have been endorsed – fully or in part – by other conventions, or where guidance have been jointly developed. It will be useful to fully examine all relevant guidance, including from IUCN, and their respective relevance and adaptability to the work of other conventions. The Secretariats will undertake to complete the analysis contained in the background document. Such an analysis will also draw on and contribute to the UNEP project on issue based modules. 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

11. The meeting decided that next meeting of Chairs of scientific advisory bodies should be held at the margins of CBD COP-9 in May 2008 in Bonn with a limited focus on reporting back on progress made since this meeting. A full-fledged meeting would then be held at the margins of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in October 2008 in Barcelona.

ITEM 6. OTHER MATTERS

12. No other matters were discussed

ITEM 7. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

13. On behalf of the Director-General of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, M. Galey, Jean-Patrick Le Duc reported that more than 100 delegates has participated in the training workshops organized in preparation of SBSTTA-12. This was a demonstration of the demand of delegates to be better prepared for the SBSTTA meeting. He also invited participants to a guided tour of the museum, zoo and botanic garden.

14. Speaking on behalf of the Ministry of Environment of France, Véronique Herrenschmidt welcomed participants to Paris and invited them to a cocktail offered by the Ministry. She thanked the chair for his guidance throughout the meeting and emphasized that the atmosphere of synergy and friendship established through this meeting boded well for future collaboration among the scientific organs of international and regional conventions.

15. The Executive Secretary of the CBD, Ahmed Djoghlaif predicted that the Bureau of SBSTTA-12 would be remembered for its leadership in streamlining the agenda for SBSTTA-12 and in calling for and taking part in this meeting. He said the decision to hold follow-up meetings was demonstration that there was a need for meetings with this composition. He warmly thanked the Chair of the meeting for his able leadership.

16. The Executive Secretary of the CBD, Ahmed Djoghlaif stated that the Bureau of SBSTTA-12 will be remembered for its leadership in streamlining the agenda for SBSTTA-12 and in calling for, and taking part in, this meeting. He said the decision to hold follow-up meetings was demonstration that there was a need for meetings with this composition. He warmly thanked the Chair of the meeting for his able leadership and expressed his gratitude to the representative of UNEP for the decision to continue providing financial support for the convening of future meetings as well as for the contemplated activities regarding the post-Johannesburg biodiversity target.

17. Christian Prip closed the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Annex

List of Participants

CBD SBSTTA: Christian Prip (Chair SBSTTA 11 and 12 and Chair of this meeting), Chaweewan Hutacharern, Joel E. Miles, Linus Spencer Thomas, Rawson Piniel Yonazi, Shirin Karryeva (Members of SBSTTA-12 Bureau), Asghar Mohammadi Fazel (Chair of SBSTTA-13 and 14)

CBD Secretariat: Ahmed Djoghlaif, Jo Mulongoy, Robert Höft, Sarat Babu Gidda, Tim Christophersen, Caroline Sanchez-Valero

CITES Scientific Committees: Margarita África Clemente Muñoz (Chair Plants Committee), Thomas Althaus (Chair Animals Committee)

CITES Secretariat: David Morgan

CMS Scientific Council: John H. Mshelbwala (Chair)

Ramsar STRP: Heather MacKay (Chair)

Ramsar Secretariat: Peter Bridgewater, Nick Davidson

World Heritage Convention, Advisory Body for Natural Heritage sites: Kari Lahti

WHC Secretariat: Marc Patry

UNFCCC SBSTA: Kishan Kumarsingh (Chair)

Bern Convention Governing Body: Véronique Herrenschmidt (Chair)

Council of Europe: Eladio Fernandez-Galiano

UNEP-STAP: Yolanda Kakabadse (Chair)

UNEP: Bakary Kante

IUCN Countdown 2010 Initiative: Ines Verleye

WWF International: Rolf Hogan

Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle: Jean-Patrick Le Duc
