



Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB), Formia, Italy, 7 October 2013

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. The sixth meeting of the Chairs of the Scientific Advisory Bodies of the Biodiversity-related Conventions (CSAB) took place on Monday, 7 October 2013 at the Hotel Miramare, Via Appia lato Napoli, Formia, at the invitation of the Secretariats of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
2. The chairs of the scientific advisory bodies of the CBD, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES, interim Chair of the Animals Committee), and the CMS were present, as well as a representative of the Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility (GEF/STAP). The Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar Convention) was represented by Mr. Nick Davidson, Ramsar Secretariat. The Chair of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) was represented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) which provides an advisory role for WHC. In addition representatives of the Secretariats of the CBD, CITES and CMS attended, as well as representatives of the African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement Secretariat (UNEP-AEWA) and the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC). A list of participants is provided as Annex.
3. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Fernando Spina, Chair of the CMS Scientific Council, and Mr. Gemedo Dalle Tussi, Chair of the CBD Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA).
4. The meeting was opened at 9.15 a.m. by Co-chair Fernando Spina, who welcomed participants to the meeting.

ITEM 2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA, MINUTES OF CSAB-5, AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

5. Participants adopted the agenda of the meeting (CSAB/6/1). Participants also took note of the minutes of the previous meeting (25 March 2012, Dublin, Ireland), subject to further comments by CSAB Members not present at the meeting.
6. Participants agreed that the CBD Secretariat will continue to make the reports of CSAB meetings available at its website. In addition, the CITES Secretariat will provide to CSAB Members log-in data for an intersessional discussion forum, hosted on its website.

ITEM 3. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL NEEDS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND THE AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGETS.

7. Under this agenda item, the meeting recalled that the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 had been developed as a framework for action for the entire biodiversity community and the UN system as a whole. Participants provided updates on the work undertaken by their scientific advisory bodies to align them to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity:
 - Under the CMS, the development of a new Strategic Plan for Migratory Species based on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity is undertaken by a working group; and a preliminary draft has been circulated for review. The next meeting of the working group will take place in 25-26 November

2013 in Bonn, back to back with the CMS Standing Committee. Mr. Heredia, CMS Secretariat, highlighted the challenges in reconciling the broad scope of the Aichi Targets with the specific mandate of the CMS.

- Under the Ramsar Convention, the Conference of the Parties (COP) in 2015 will decide on a new strategic plan, and a working group is considering the scope of a potential new strategic plan and ways for aligning it with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.
- Under CITES, the existing Strategic Vision was prolonged until 2020 at the last meeting of the CITES COP in March 2013. It was noted that CITES can be seen to contribute to a number of the Aichi Targets, although a specific mapping exercise towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets is only taking place within the exercise led by the Environment Management Group of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-EMG).
- Mr. Commenville noted for the WHC that the scientific and technical needs of the WHC, as far as it contributes to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, should be considered within the framework of Aichi Target 20.
- Mr. Taylor, for GEF-STAP, noted that the activities required to implement the Aichi Biodiversity Targets need to be linked more clearly to the criteria for funding under the GEF.

8. The participants also emphasized that CSAB was established as a partnership among equals, and that CSAB should find ways, through very concrete initiatives, to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity.

ITEM 4. SHARING EXPERIENCES OF ADJUSTING OPERATIONS AND/OR STRUCTURES OF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BODIES.

4.1 Format of SBSTTA-17

9. Ms. Schiele, CBD Secretariat, presented the format of the seventeenth meeting of SBSTTA, taking place from 14 to 18 October 2013 in Montreal, highlighting that the meeting is intended to allow for more in-depth scientific and technical discussions leading to the identification of scientific and technical needs for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The participants recognized the potential usefulness of the CBD experience with this meeting for the scientific advisory bodies of the other conventions.

4.2 Restructuring of the CMS Scientific Council

10. Mr. Heredia, CMS Secretariat, informed the meeting of the process initiated to address the challenges that the CMS Scientific Council is facing due to its increasing number of members, resulting from an increasing number of Parties to the CMS.

4.3 Experience of others

11. In the discussion following the introduction by the CMS Secretariat, other participants shared their experiences with limited membership in scientific advisory bodies, including the challenge to address cross-cutting issues between the CITES Animals and Plant Committees and to work intersessionally, the nomination of experts in their personal or expert capacity for the Ramsar Convention STRP, the experience of GEF STAP members (who receive financial compensation for their work), and the AEWA Technical committee experience with an online workspace for intersessional work.

ITEM 5. UPDATE ON THE LATEST MEETINGS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL SCIENCE-POLICY PLATFORM ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES (IPBES)(CBD)AND REQUESTS TO IPBES ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MATTERS

12. Mr. Dalle Tussi, CBD SBSTTA Chair, informed the meeting of the outcomes of the latest meeting of the Multidisciplinary Expert Panel of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES MEP). In the discussion following his presentation, CSAB Members discussed both the different proposals contained in the IPBES draft work programme and opportunities for CSAB to

provide input to the IPBES process. Mr. Spina, Chair of the CMS Scientific Council, suggested that IPBES should facilitate assessment processes at different spatial scales, including through capacity-building.

13. Participants agreed that in addition to a member of the IPBES Secretariat, a representative of IPBES, e.g. its chair or a co-chair of the MEP, will be invited to future meetings of CSAB. In addition, a list with the names of those individuals that are members of the IPBES MEP and also fulfil a role in one of the six biodiversity-related Conventions, e.g. as chair of a scientific advisory body or member of its bureau, should be compiled. Furthermore, CSAB Members agreed to share with the group further requests submitted by the respective Conventions to IPBES, for further discussion. In particular, the CBD Secretariat will share the outcomes of CBD SBSTTA-17 on IPBES, especially with regard to the impact of neonicotinoid pesticides on pollinators and biodiversity more broadly. Participants also agreed that those Members present at IPBES-2 will represent CSAB at this meeting.

ITEM 6. NEW AND EMERGING ISSUES

14. Under this agenda item, Ms. Schiele, CBD Secretariat, informed participants of the submissions received under the agenda item “new and emerging issues” for SBSTTA-17, in particular on the impact of neonicotinoid pesticides on pollinators and biodiversity more broadly. Mr. Davidson, Ramsar Secretariat mentioned the RAMSAR STRP wetlands scanning exercise, and Ms. Caceres, Chair of the CITES Animals Committee, noted the decisions by CITES Parties to list a number of high value timber and marine species within the CITES Appendices.

ITEM 7. DISCUSSION ON THE ROLE OF CSAB AND IDEAS FOR PRACTICAL INITIATIVES

15. The participants agreed that the CSAB should focus on very concrete activities, and potentially start with a small number of initiatives. Preparatory work should be done before the next meeting of the CSAB. Suggestions for activities included a meeting of the scientific national focal points of the Conventions, a further mapping of the contribution of the activities of the Conventions to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and work on pollination. The participants agreed, as an initial activity, to share with the group information on the definition and activities on ecosystem connectivity from their respective Conventions.

ITEM 8. OTHER MATTERS.

16. Ms. Schiele, CBD Secretariat, informed the meeting of progress in the preparation for the Fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4) and invited the CSAB to consider its potential role, e.g. to review the draft GBO-4, in this process.

ITEM 9. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

17. The CBD Secretariat offered to host the next CSAB meeting in Montreal in June 2014, following CBD SBSTTA-18, but remained open to suggestions from other members. UNEP/WCMC mentioned that they would also be in a position to host the meeting in Cambridge if the need arises.

ITEM 10. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

18. The meeting was closed at 5 p.m. on 7 October 2013.

Annex 1

List of Participants

Chairs of Scientific Bodies:

Fernando Spina, Chair of the Scientific Council, **CMS**, fernando.spina@isprambiente.it

Gemedo Dalle Tussi, Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, **CBD**, gemedod@yahoo.com

Carolina Caceres, interim chair of Animal Committee, **CITES**, carolina.caceres@ec.gc.ca

Representatives of Chairs of Scientific Bodies:

Nick Davidson, **Ramsar** Secretariat, (representing Royal Gardner, Chair of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel, gardner@law.stetson.edu), Davidson@ramsar.org

Pierre Commenville, **IUCN**, (representing Tim Badman, UNESCO WHC, tim.badman@iucn.org)

Douglas Taylor, (representing Rosina Bierbaum, Chair of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel, GEF, rbierbau@umich.edu), douglas.taylor@myeden.org

Secretariats:

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Observers:

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Jon Hutton, Director, **UNEP-WCMC**, Jon.Hutton@unep-wcmc.org