

Minutes of the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Montreal, 6 and 7 November 2009 (NB: Report of Joint COP and SBSTTA Bureau not included)

Present: All SBSTTA Bureau members were present. Mr. Habib Gademi attended only on 7 November. Mr. Mostafa Panahi from the Islamic Republic of Iran attended on behalf of Mr. Asghar Mohammadi Fazel. Also present were Prof. A.H. Zakri, past Chair of SBSTTA in his capacity as co-Chair of the Scientific Review Panel on GBO-3, and Mr. Balakhrisna Pisupati from UNEP.

1. Opening of the meeting

Mr. Spencer Thomas, Chairman of the SBSTTA Bureau, opened the meeting by welcoming all members. He highlighted the progress made on the ongoing Sixth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions. He reminded members that the Bureau should make itself available to assist where possible the COP Bureau.

Mr Ahmed Djoghlaif, the Executive Secretary welcomed all participants and thanked them for their presence. He encouraged the Bureau members to visit the Museum of Nature and Culture of the Secretariat of the CBD, highlighting the donation from Tunisia and from Grenada. He stressed the importance of dialogue between the COP and SBSTTA Bureaux in order to increase synergies between science and policy. He briefed members on progress with the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3) and the preparation of the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). He also referred to the role of SBSTTA in promoting synergies among the three Rio Convention based on the AHTEG report which was submitted by the Chair of SBSTTA to the Chair of the UNFCCC Chair of SBSTA with a view of convening a joint meeting of the Bureau of the two scientific bodies of the two Rio Conventions.

Mr. Balakhrisna Pisupati mentioned that UNEP, as the host of SBSTTA 14, welcomed guidance and support from the SBSTTA Bureau and CBD on how to best assist in the preparations of the meeting.

The Chair suggested a reordering of the agenda item and the agenda was adopted with the revised order (as below).

2. Preparations for the third Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-3)

Mr. Robert Höft of the Secretariat introduced the draft GBO-3 document and presented the plans for completing the document. He finished his presentation with a brief report on the scientific advisory group meeting. He indicated that we now had the “extended version” that has been under peer review since August and a synthesis document prepared following some recommendations by reviewers. The synthesis document, addressed to decision makers, presents the key messages of GBO-3. It will be reviewed in the coming weeks for a duration of one month. The final version will be made available by the end of January on time for the 6th Trondheim Conference. Regarding the extended version so far over 1000 comments were received, including from 15 Parties. The Bureau members were invited to talk to experts and other stakeholders from their respective regions to provide comments. Although the deadline has passed, additional comments would be valuable. A number of satellite products will also be prepared later on. Excerpts from the presentation are contained in Annex 1.

GBO-3 will be launched on 10 May 2010 on the opening day of SBSTTA. The Secretariat will work with UNEP for multiple launching in all regional offices.

Prof. Zakri, representing the Chair of the Scientific Review Panel for GBO-3, Mr. Tom Lovejoy, presented a summary of the work of the group when they met on 4-5 November 2009. Conclusions from the meeting included the need for the document to go beyond the environment ministries and to relate biodiversity with economics, climate change, ABS and MDGs. Main points from Prof Zakri's presentation are contained in Annex 2.

The Bureau agreed with the conclusions of the scientific panel. It also provided comments and suggested additions to the document, including lessons learned on successes and failures, consideration of dry and sub-humid lands, and the need to expand the scope while keeping the document short.

More specifically the Bureau praised the work achieved so far in the preparation of both the extended and synthesis versions of GBO-3 and made the following observations:

Regarding the process

- Priority is to finalise the synthesis. The extended version can be finalise after February i.e. the release of the synthesis document

Regarding the structure

- Key messages should be summarized upfront, I a short and easy to read summary

Regarding the content

- Need for stronger interactions with TEEB (complementarity and synergy in messages)
- Although the messages are similar to MA report on biodiversity, the status and trends of biodiversity being essentially the same since 2005, GBO-3 contains additional materials (link with TEEB; emphasis to go beyond Ministries of Environment, studies on scenarios and reference to tipping points;)
- Need to add from the long document reasons of failure of not achieving 2010 target including the fact that community cannot address the root causes and drivers; lack of will and awareness (CEPA), short time between 2001 and today; lag time between time decision is taken and time results are visible in the field; need for appropriate indicators to describe all types of successes; successes made at local could not be extended at larger/wider scales
- Emphasize the possibility of win-win by considering/using opportunities offered by the interlinkages between biodiversity and CC (see e.g. the report of the AHTEG)
- Need to mention cumulative effects of pressures and their possible interactions
- Need to include all the ecosystems in the synthesis e.g. dry and sub-humid lands. Thus importance of peer-review and participation of Bureau members in their respective regions to identify missing key elements; and importance for all Parties to submit national reports. Sources of information may be insufficient, but it was recognized that not all the reports had been exploited, in particularly the ones received recently. Need to put in place monitoring mechanisms at all levels (local, national, regional and global)
- Need to balance negative and positive stories about 2010 target

3. Revision of the new strategic plan: 2010 biodiversity target and post 2010 target

Mr. David Cooper of the Secretariat presented a draft document of elements of the Strategic Plan (SP). The document was prepared to promote further discussion. The formal draft Strategic Plan will be made available in January or February 2010. The new SP will be adopted at COP 10 based on advice by SBSTTA and WGRI.

An analysis of views was conducted in June 2009. Few comments from Parties were received despite 3 notifications sent. More elements will be collected through regional informal consultations. Two key meetings in 2010: the UNGA and London expert workshop for the post 2010 target. Trondheim will also focus on the SP.

The Bureau provided comments on the document, including possible reorganisation of targets and objectives, the need to address drivers and sectors, and the importance of realistic but ambitious targets. More specifically the Bureau made the following observations:

- Issues must be clear issues and not facts like in current strategy
- Not all and every component of biodiversity can be included in the activities of Parties. There is a need to prioritize and focus resources on some components over others during the time of the strategic plan
- Some terms used in the Strategic Plan need to be explained (e.g. value whether economic or ecological; tipping and dangerous points)
- Could be better to have few objectives and more than one target under each objective. That would be greatly improve presentation
- Could be useful to outline what to do between 2020 and 2050
- Some targets are not really SMART and need revision e.g. target 3 (may be necessary to attenuate language on reducing subsidies to make it achievable and credible, while keeping them ambitious); appropriateness of targets needs revision e.g. target 1 (awareness raising may not be enough; there is a need to enhance sense of responsibility); basis for quantification of some targets is not clear e.g. Target 20; how to measure targets 18 and 19; what are sustainability criteria
- Some additional targets may be needed e.g. for peatlands, grasslands
- Need to show how new targets are linked to or built on current targets in GSPC and Cop decision VIII/15
- Need to say something about baselines for the post 2010 targets. Even if 2002, the year when the current strategic plan was adopted, is taken as the baseline year, we will not have data for that year for all the targets/indicators; so there is a need to be flexible and use what is available.
- In order to measure achievement of targets, there is a need to have indicators for all targets. Existing indicators are not always operational. The current list of indicators should not be regarded as restrictive. In fact, there may be a need to draw at the national level from the largest amount of existing indicators and there may not be a need to adopt a limited list of indicators at the international level for use at the national level.
- Ways and means to implement some targets need to be outlined especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition; south-south cooperation can be highlighted more
- The language in the Strategic Plan needs to be more straightforward. Assistance from a communication specialist may be necessary.
- Make sure that the final document is short and readable by various types of stakeholders

The Bureau discussed the link between the strategic plan and the programmes of work. The purpose of the Strategic Plan is described in the updated draft elements for the post 2010 Strategic Plan as “to promote more effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention through a strategic approach comprising a shared vision, mission and targets that will inspire broad-based action by all Parties and stakeholders; to provide a framework for the establishment of national targets and for enhancing coherence in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, including the programmes of work; and to serve as a communication tool to attract the attention of all stakeholders and facilitate the mainstreaming of biodiversity into broader global and national agendas. The

Strategic Plan does not replace the programmes of work; it improves the coherence in the implementation of the activities in the programmes of work”.

The SBSTTA Bureau noted it was very important for Bureau members to participate in forthcoming regional and other meetings on post 2010 targets and agreed to be very active in Trondheim. A Bureau meeting could be planned at the margins of the Trondheim Conference.

4. Status of Preparations of the International Year of Biodiversity

Mr. David Ainsworth of the Secretariat made a presentation on preparations for the International Year of Biodiversity (IYB). The main message is to encourage people to discover biodiversity, realise its value and act to save it. The goal of the celebration is to raise awareness, promote new and novel ways to safeguard biodiversity, and encourage taking immediate steps to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss. The Powerpoint presentation was sent to all the Bureau members.

The Bureau was asked to bring the IYB message to their countries, highlighting this great opportunity to reach out to the public. A google calendar and map for IYB activities around the world will be made available on the CBD website. For any questions: IYB2010@cbd.int.

5. Preparation of the fourteenth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Organization in 2 Working Groups:

The Bureau was reminded that items considered on the first week of SBSTTA should not be carried over to the second week, as delegates could be different from one week to the other.

The Bureau agreed that the Co-Chairs of the two Working Groups will be as follows: WG 1: Tone Solhaug and Asghar Fazel; WG 2: Hesiquio Benitez and Gabriele Obermayr. The Rapporteurs will be: Shirin Karryeva and Senka Barudanovic. The other members will assist the Chair of SBSTTA and the co-chairs as follows: Nabil Hamada: WG 2; Krishna Chandra Paudel: WG 1; and Habib Gademi: the Chair of SBSTTA

The Secretariat will provide Bureau members with a document describing guidance on how to chair working groups and will also identify staff members who will assist the chair and co-chairs of the working groups on each issue (see list in Annex 3)

Election of new Bureau members:

Members from the following countries will be replaced: Austria, Mexico, Turkmenistan, Iran and Chad. Outgoing members should ensure that the incoming members can carry out their duties actively and effectively.

Noting that the next Chair of SBSTTA will come from the Central and Eastern Europe region, the Bureau encouraged members from that region to initiate the process of selection.

New and emerging issues:

Ms. Obermayr, on behalf of EU, reported that the EU refrained from suggesting new and emerging issues, and expressed the view that SBSTTA 14 should not identify any new issues due to current workload.

The Secretariat will therefore continue the process adopted by COP 9 by issuing a notification requesting Parties to comment on the submissions received to date. A notification was posted to this effect on 19 November 2009 i.e. notification **SCBD/STTM/JM/lj/69617** (2009-159) accessible at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2009/ntf-2009-159-emergingview-en.pdf>. Comments and submissions will then be compiled and submitted to SBSTTA 14.

Status of documentation:

Documents will be posted on the CBD website in the coming weeks for peer-review. Notification **SCBD/STTM/JM/va/69590** (2009-156) accessible at <http://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2009/ntf-2009-156-sbstta14-en.pdf> was posted on 17 November 2009. All documents will be ready in languages for dispatch no later than 10 February 2010.

6. Other matters

On 6 November at lunchtime, the Bureau attended a seminar presented by Mike Parr, Secretary of the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE), a joint initiative of biodiversity conservation organizations that aims to prevent extinctions by identifying and safeguarding key sites, each one of which is the last remaining refuge of one or more threatened species. Some of success stories of the Alliance are described in GBO-3. Dr Parr presented some future plans of the Alliance. Questions and comments from Bureau members included

- In order to ensure sustainability in the prevention of extinctions, indigenous and local communities need to be involved more and alternatives to activities leading to biodiversity loss found and supported;
- Need to take into account migratory species when paying attention to specific sites to be protected
- Baselines need to be clearly identified for monitoring and costs of actions evaluated
- Protection of sites needs to take into account pressures and drivers of biodiversity loss to be effective and sustainable
- More marine areas/sites should be included

Dr. Parr was invited to organise a site event at SBSTTA 14 and at COP-10

At lunchtime on 7 November, Japan MOE and UNU-IAS gave a seminar on the Satoyama Initiative concept. A report is given in the report of the joint COP and SBSTTA Bureau meeting

Annex 1: Global Biodiversity Outlook 3 - Progress and update -

Three types of products

- **GBO-3 Synthesis**
 - Relatively short document for decision makers
 - Provides main conclusions and policy implication
 - Based on the findings of the extended version of GBO-3
- **GBO-3 Extended version**
 - More detailed with additional national examples
 - Evidence base for the information contained in the synthesis
- **Ancillary/satellite products**
 - Products for specific target audiences (children, teachers, different sectors etc.)
 - Include such things as brochures, fact sheets, PowerPoint presentations, electronic publications, website etc.

Structure of the GBO-3 Synthesis

- **Section 1:** The state of biodiversity in 2010
 - Assessment of the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target and the status and trends of biological diversity,
 - Drivers of biodiversity loss and impacts on ecosystems and human wellbeing
- **Section 2:** Biodiversity futures for the 21st century
 - Implications of current biodiversity trends in terrestrial, marine and inland water systems
 - Possible tipping points and options for avoiding them
- **Section 3:** A strategy and vision for reducing biodiversity loss
 - Global and regional trends in the implementation of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity based, *inter alia*, on a review of implementation of the Strategic Plan and the fourth national reports
 - The implementation of the biodiversity agenda and progress made in mainstreaming biodiversity
 - Actions for significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss, including considerations for a framework to set targets beyond 2010 and the future strategic plan of the Convention

Main messages

1. The 2010 target has not been met globally.
2. Scientific consensus projects continuing extinctions and loss of habitats throughout this century, with the risk of drastic consequences to human societies as numerous thresholds or “tipping points” are crossed.
3. Unless urgent action is taken to reverse current trends, a wide range of services derived from ecosystems, underpinned by biodiversity, could rapidly be lost, with the harshest impacts falling on the poor.
4. The actions taken over the next two decades will determine whether the relatively stable environmental conditions on which human civilization has depended will continue beyond this century.
5. A wide range of action by governments, voluntary organizations and businesses has been taken in support of biodiversity
6. Even though continued loss of biodiversity is unavoidable for the near-term future, smarter policies can help to avoid the most dangerous impacts on people and societies. In the longer

term, biodiversity loss may be stopped or even reversed, if urgent and concerted action is applied in support of an agreed long-term vision

7. We can no longer see the continued loss of biodiversity as an issue separate from the core concerns of society: to tackle poverty, to improve the health, prosperity and security of our populations, and to deal with climate change. Each of those objectives is undermined by current trends in the state of our ecosystems, and each will be greatly strengthened if we finally give biodiversity the priority it desperately needs.

Process and time table

- **Extended version distributed for peer review in August 2009**
 - Comments from more than 90 government agencies, NGOs, international organizations and individuals, including comments from 15 Parties
- **Synthesis for review by Advisory Group and Bureaux**
 - Bearing in mind the review comments, the GBO-3 synthesis was prepared
- **Finalization of text based on comments received**
 - The synthesis will be revised by 25 November and released for peer review until 24 December and the extended version will be completed early in the new year
- **Graphic design, layout and translation to begin early in the new year**
- **Final synthesis available for review during the Trondheim Biodiversity Conference**
- **Launched in May during the 14 meeting of SBSTTA in Nairobi**
 - Several simultaneous regional launches are foreseen
 - Extended version available

Annex 2 Report from the meeting of the scientific review panel Montreal 4-5 November 2009

Issues considered during the meeting

- Logical thread of the narrative and style
- Messages correct, clear and enabling action
- Balance between the aim to reach a wide audience and maintain scientific rigour
- Scientific soundness
- Summary conclusions on 2010 assessment (tables on targets and indicators)
- Too few/too many country examples
- Development of infographics
- Which graphs to include
- Which products to develop

Conclusions from the scientific review panel meeting

- **Purpose of synthesis:** enable/empower action
- **Purpose of extended version:** provide scientific foundation for statements and messages, drawing on national examples and providing link to scientific literature
- Both drafts considered to be strong
- Good process so far and steps planned for completion considered appropriate and in line with best practice for peer review

Synthesis

- Focus of effort in the coming weeks/months
- Primary target audience: governments beyond environment ministries
- Main point regarding structure and content: Key message for decision makers; brief introductory part on BD and CBD; better integration between sections; greater emphasis on action to be taken
- Use graphic elements, boxes, maps, extended captions to pictures etc. to tell a story
- Shorter than GBO-2

Content and structure

- Messages that speak to sectors (i.e. how sectors benefit from/depend on BD and how negative impacts can be minimized through sound planning and coordination)
- Tangible implications for humans (health, food, the world our children live in etc.)
- Greater emphasis of economic value, comparison to economic crisis etc.
- Biodiversity offering mitigation approaches and adaptation responses to climate change and disaster reduction/prevention; ecosystem restoration (good rates of return – but second to conservation);
- Greater geographic resolution through regional/national examples and where possible regional trends information
- Reflect ABS
- Link to MDGs
- Discuss non-utilitarian value of biodiversity at par with utilitarian value
- Need to balance negative with positive messages
- Reflection of progress in implementation of programmes of work

Timeline for completion

- 3 weeks to revise Synthesis on the basis of scientific review meeting and Bureau meeting
- Peer review (Parties, organizations, ILCs stakeholders) until Christmas (about 4 weeks)
- Trondheim for final observations
- Explanation how each comment is dealt with publicly available
- Completion of extended version after synthesis
- Range of additional targeted products

Annex 3: Agenda items and corresponding Staff

	<i>Plenary(SBSTTA Chair+ Rapporteur+ H. Gademi)</i> Staff : Jo Mulongoy and Jaime Webbe	<i>Working Group I (Chaired by Tone and Asghar, assisted by Krishna)</i>	<i>Working Group II (Chaired by Hesiquio and Gabriele and assisted by Nabil)</i>
<i>Monday, 10 May 2010</i> 10 a.m. –11:30 a.m.	<i>Agenda items:</i> 1. Opening of the meeting; 2. Election of officers, adoption of the agenda and organization of work; Keynote presentation on the GBO-3		
<i>Monday, 10 May 2010</i> 11:30 a.m. –1 p.m.		3.1.1. In-depth reviews of implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity Staff: Sarat B. Gidda	3.1.5. In-depth reviews of implementation of the programme of work on biodiversity and climate change Staff: Jaime Webbe
<i>Monday, 10 May 2010</i> 3 p.m.–6 p.m.		3.1.1. In-depth reviews of implementation of the programme of work on mountain biodiversity (<i>continued</i>) 3.1.2. In-depth reviews of implementation of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity Staff: David Coates	3.1.5. In-depth reviews of implementation of the programme of work on biodiversity and climate change (<i>continued</i>) 3.1.6. In-depth reviews of implementation of the programme of work on Article 10 of the Convention (sustainable use of biodiversity) and application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines Staff: Tim Christophersen
<i>Monday, 10 May 2010</i>	Poster session begins		

	<p><i>Plenary(SBSTTA Chair+ Rapporteur+ H. Gademi)</i></p> <p>Staff : Jo Mulongoy and Jaime Webbe</p>	<p><i>Working Group I (Chaired by Tone and Asghar, assisted by Krishna)</i></p>	<p><i>Working Group II (Chaired by Hesiquio and Gabriele and assisted by Nabil)</i></p>
<p>6 p.m.</p>			
<p><i>Tuesday, 11 May 2010</i></p> <p>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</p>		<p>3.1.2. In-depth reviews of implementation of the programme of work on inland waters biodiversity (<i>continued</i>)</p>	<p>3.1.6. In-depth reviews of implementation of work on Article 10 of the Convention (sustainable use of biodiversity) and application of the Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines</p>
<p><i>Tuesday, 11 May 2010</i></p> <p>3 p.m. – 6 p.m.</p>		<p>3.1.3. In-depth reviews of implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity</p> <p>Staff: Jihyun Lee</p>	<p>3.1.4. In-depth reviews of implementation of the programme of work on protected areas</p> <p>Staff: Sarat B. Gidda</p>
<p><i>Wednesday, 12 May 2010</i></p> <p>10 a.m.–1 p.m.</p>		<p>3.1.3. In-depth reviews of implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity (<i>continued</i>)</p>	<p>3.1.4. In-depth reviews of implementation of the programme of work on protected areas (<i>continued</i>)</p>
<p><i>Wednesday, 12 May 2010</i></p> <p>3 p.m.–6 p.m.</p>		<p>4.3. Forest biodiversity: joint work plan with the UNFF secretariat and report on cooperation on the monitoring of forest biodiversity and on clarifying the definitions of forest and forest types</p> <p>Staff: Tim Christophersen</p>	<p>4.5. Global Taxonomy Initiative: results and lessons learned from regional taxonomic needs assessments and identification of priorities</p> <p>Staff: Junko Shimura</p>
<p><i>Thursday, 13 May 2010</i></p> <p>10 a.m–1 p.m, 3 to –6 p.m.</p>		<p>Pending issues</p>	<p>Pending issues</p>

	<i>Plenary(SBSTTA Chair+ Rapporteur+ H. Gademi)</i> Staff : Jo Mulongoy and Jaime Webbe	<i>Working Group I (Chaired by Tone and Asghar, assisted by Krishna)</i>	<i>Working Group II (Chaired by Hesiquio and Gabriele and assisted by Nabil)</i>
<i>Friday, 14 May 2010</i> 10 a.m.–1 p.m.		Pending issues	Pending issues
<i>Friday, 14 May 2010</i> 3 p.m.–6 p.m.	Adoption of recommendations on items considered during the first week		
<i>Monday, 17 May 2010</i> 10 a.m. –1 p.m.		4.1. Agricultural biodiversity 4.1.1 Follow-up to requests of the Conference of the Parties in decision IX/1 Staff: David Coates	3.2. Consideration of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook, its messages and implications Staff: Robert Höft
<i>Monday, 17 May 2010</i> 3 p.m.–6 p.m.		4.1. Agricultural biodiversity: 4.1.2. Biofuels and biodiversity: consideration of ways and means to promote the positive and minimize the negative impacts of the production and use of biofuels on biodiversity Staff: David Coates	3.3. Proposals for a consolidated update of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation Staff: Stella Simiyu
<i>Tuesday, 18 May 2010</i> 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.		4.2. Consideration of proposals related to the programme of work on the biodiversity of dry and sub-humid lands Staff: Jaime Webbe	3.4. Examination of the outcome-oriented goals and targets, and associated indicators, and consideration of their possible adjustments for the period beyond 2010 Staff: Robert Hoft

	<i>Plenary(SBSTTA Chair+ Rapporteur+ H. Gademi)</i> Staff : Jo Mulongoy and Jaime Webbe	<i>Working Group I (Chaired by Tone and Asghar, assisted by Krishna)</i>	<i>Working Group II (Chaired by Hesiquio and Gabriele and assisted by Nabil)</i>
<i>Tuesday, 18 May 2010</i> 3 p.m. – 6 p.m.		4.4. Further work on gaps and inconsistencies in the international regulatory framework on invasive alien species introduced as pets, aquarium and terrarium species, as live bait and live food, and best practices for addressing the risks associated with their introduction Staff: Junko Shimura	4.6. Incentive measures (Article 11): good practice cases from different regions on the identification and removal or mitigation of perverse, and the promotion of positive, incentive measures Staff: Robert Hoft
<i>Wednesday, 19 May 2010</i> 10 a.m. –1 p.m.	5. Ways and means to improve the effectiveness of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice 4.7 New and emerging issues		
<i>Wednesday, 19 May 2010</i> 3 p.m.–6 p.m. to <i>Friday, 21 May 2010</i> 10 a.m.–1 p.m.		Pending issues	Pending issues
<i>Friday, 21 May 2010</i> 3 p.m.–6 p.m.	Adoption of recommendations on items considered during the second week 6. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting		

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