



# CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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## SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Fifth meeting

Montreal, 31 January – 4 February 2000

Item 2.1 of the provisional agenda\*

### ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

#### Annotated provisional agenda

#### BACKGROUND

1. Article 25 of the Convention on Biological Diversity establishes a Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), to provide both the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and, as appropriate, its other subsidiary bodies with timely advice relating to the implementation of the Convention.
2. To date, the Subsidiary Body has held four meetings. The first took place at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in Paris, from 4 to 8 September 1995, in accordance with decision I/7 of the Conference of the Parties. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Jameson Seyani (Malawi). The second meeting was held at the seat of the Secretariat, in Montreal, from 2 to 6 September 1996 and was chaired by Mr. Peter Schei (Norway). The third meeting took place in Montreal from 1 to 5 September 1997 was chaired by Mr. A.H. Zakri (Malaysia).
3. In its decision IV/1, the Conference of the Parties took note of the report of the third meeting of SBSTTA. As the tasks assigned to SBSTTA by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting exceeded what was possible for SBSTTA to address properly in a single one-week meeting. Accordingly, in paragraph 12 of its decision IV/16, the Conference of the Parties approved the holding of two one-week meetings of SBSTTA prior to its fifth meeting. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties also approved a revised modus operandi for SBSTTA (decision IV/16, annex I).
4. The fourth meeting of SBSTTA took place in Montreal, from 21 to 25 June 1999. The meeting was chaired by Mr. A H. Zakri (Malaysia). The agenda included, inter alia: further advancement of a Global Taxonomy Initiative; assessment of the status and trends and options for conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial biological diversity in dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland, and savannah ecosystems; development of guiding principles for the prevention of impacts of alien invasive species; development of approaches and practices for the sustainable use of biological resources, including tourism. After some discussion, action on the agenda item on ad hoc technical expert groups was deferred to fifth meeting of SBSTTA. For the first time, three renowned scientific experts were invited to address a meeting of SBSTTA as an attempt to bring the most up-to-date information and scientific

\* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/1.

evidence as a way to facilitating SBSTTA's task of formulating recommendations for the Conference of the Parties.

5. The fifth meeting of SBSTTA will take place in Montreal, at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), from 31 January to 4 February 2000. Registration of participants will commence on 30 January at 10 a.m.

#### Item 1. Opening of the meeting

6. The meeting will be opened at 10 a.m., on Monday, 31 January 2000.

#### Item 2. Organizational matters

##### 2.1. Election of officers

7. Pursuant to rule 26, paragraph 3 of its rules of procedure, by which the Conference of the Parties shall elect the chair of each subsidiary body, the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting elected Mr. Cristián Samper (Colombia) as the Chair of the SBSTTA Bureau. His term of office commenced at the end of the fourth meeting of SBSTTA and will expire at the end of the sixth meeting of the Body.

8. In accordance with paragraph 5 of its revised modus operandi, SBSTTA at its fourth meeting elected five new Bureau members, who will serve for two sessions of the Body. They will take office at the fifth meeting of SBSTTA. In order to achieve staggered terms of office, SBSTTA at its fifth meeting will elect five new members for a two-meeting term. These new members will take office at the sixth meeting of SBSTTA.

##### 2.2. Adoption of the agenda

9. At its fourth meeting, SBSTTA adopted a draft provisional agenda contained in annex II of the report of its fourth meeting. This provisional agenda is a modification of the one that was previously annexed to document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/12, to reflect modifications made at the fourth meeting of SBSTTA in order to cover additional topics that will be addressed by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, but were not included in the agenda. At its fifth meeting, SBSTTA will therefore cover the following additional items: coral bleaching; alien species: guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts; development of indicators of biological diversity; establishment of guidelines for the second national reports, including indicators and incentive measures; terms of reference of ad hoc technical expert groups, and rosters of experts and proposal on a uniform methodology for their use.

##### 2.3. Organization of work

10. In accordance with its modus operandi, SBSTTA at its meetings may establish two sessional working groups open to all Parties and observers on the basis of well-defined terms of reference to ensure consideration of all the items on the agenda.

11. Accordingly, SBSTTA may wish to establish two sessional working groups for its fifth meeting. In consultation with the Bureau, the following allocation of tasks between the plenary and the two sessional working groups are proposed:

12. The plenary would consider the following agenda items:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters.
- 3.1. Cooperation with other bodies;
- 3.2. Pilot phase of the clearing-house mechanism;

- 3.3. Review of the Global Taxonomy Initiative;
    - 3.5.1. Inland waters biological diversity: ways and means to implement the work programme;
    - 3.5.3. Forest biological diversity: status and trends and identification of options for conservation and sustainable use;
    - 4.3.1. Guidelines for the second national reports; and
    - 4.3.2. Ad hoc technical expert groups: terms of reference, and rosters of experts and proposal on a uniform methodology for their use.
  5. Draft provisional agenda for the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
  6. Dates and venue of the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice.
  7. Other matters.
  8. Adoption of the report.
  9. Closure of the meeting.
13. It is also envisaged that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau would invite keynote speakers to provide scientific background on one or two of the priority issues of the meeting.
14. Working Group I would consider the following items:
- 3.4 Alien species: guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts;
  - 3.5.2. Marine and coastal biological diversity: consideration of implementation tools for the programme of work, and analysis of coral bleaching
  - 4.1.1. Programme of work for dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah biological diversity; and
  - 4.1.2. Agricultural biological diversity: assessment of ongoing activities and priorities for a programme of work.
15. Working Group II would consider the following items:
- 4.2.1. Ecosystem approach: further conceptual elaboration;
  - 4.2.2. Development of indicators of biological diversity; and
  - 4.2.3. Sustainable use of the components of biological diversity: identification of sectoral activities that could adopt biodiversity-friendly practices and technologies.
16. There will be no more than two meetings convened at the same time, each with simultaneous interpretation. A provisional organization of work is contained in annex II.

### Item 3. Reports

#### 3.1. Cooperation with other bodies

17. In accordance with its revised modus operandi, SBSTTA is requested to review cooperation with other bodies, so as to keep the Conference of the Parties informed.
18. The Executive Secretary has prepared a report on cooperation with other relevant international, regional and national organizations and bodies for the period from January to September 1999 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/2). The Subsidiary Body may wish to take note of the ongoing cooperation activities and provide additional guidance.

### 3.2. Pilot phase of the clearing-house mechanism including a longer-term programme of work

19. In its decision IV/2, the Conference of the Parties instructed the Executive Secretary to undertake an independent review of the pilot phase of the clearing-house mechanism, starting at the end of 1998, to be presented to SBSTTA for its consideration together with a longer-term programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism. In so doing, the overall process of producing the independent review, the strategic plan and the longer term programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism has been characterized by its transparency, openness and active participation of the clearing-house mechanism national focal points and the Informal Advisory Committee (IAC). The secretariats of the Rio conventions, the biodiversity-related conventions, the Global Environment Facility and its implementing agencies, and a cadre of clearing-house mechanism partners have also been consulted.

20. The note prepared by the Executive Secretary under this item (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/3) presents the results of the independent review of the pilot phase, a strategic plan and a longer-term programme of work for the clearing-house mechanism. The note also contains suggested recommendations that SBSTTA may wish to consider for submission to the Conference of the Parties. The full versions of the independent review of the pilot-phase of the Clearing-house Mechanism (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/1), the strategic plan (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/2) and longer-term programme of work (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/3) will also be before SBSTTA at its fifth meeting. The list of national focal points to the Clearing-house Mechanism is also available (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/4).

### 3.3. Review of the Global Taxonomy Initiative

21. At its second meeting, SBSTTA proposed in paragraph 10 of its recommendation II/2 a Global Taxonomy Initiative to promote capacity-building for taxonomy in order to overcome the gaps of knowledge in the current taxonomic systems, the shortage of trained taxonomists and curators, and the impact these deficiencies have on the ability to manage and use biological diversity. At its third meeting, the Conference of the Parties in its decision III/10 endorsed SBSTTA recommendation II/2. At its third meeting, SBSTTA adopted recommendation III/1 D advising the Conference of the Parties to consider, at its fourth meeting, directing the Executive Secretary to take decisive action to advance the Global Taxonomy Initiative as set out in decision III/10. In response, the Conference of the Parties adopted a comprehensive decision, namely decision IV/1 D, regarding the implementation of a Global Taxonomy Initiative. Paragraph 3 of this decision calls on SBSTTA to examine and provide advice on the further advancement of a Global Taxonomy Initiative.

22. At its fourth meeting, SBSTTA considered the Global Taxonomy Initiative and formulated recommendation IV/2 that, in paragraph 3, requested the Executive Secretary to identify options for a coordination structure for a Global Taxonomy Initiative and to report thereon to SBSTTA at its fifth meeting.

23. In response, the Executive Secretary has prepared in collaboration with DIVERSITAS a note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/4), which presents some options for a coordination structure for a Global Taxonomy Initiative. SBSTTA may wish to consider those options and recommend to Conference of the Parties the most appropriate coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Initiative.

### 3.4. Alien species: guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts

24. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision IV/1 C on alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. In this decision, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to develop guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species; to identify the priority work pertinent to the issue of alien species in geographically and evolutionarily isolated ecosystems; examine the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

25. Pursuant to the request made by SBSTTA at its fourth meeting, the Executive Secretary has developed an outline for case-studies on alien species (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/5, annex II) and invited all Parties, other Governments and relevant bodies to submit available case-studies on alien species.

26. In its recommendation IV/4, SBSTTA reiterated part of decision IV/1 C and requested the Executive Secretary to develop, in cooperation with the Global Invasive Species Programme, guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. According to the same recommendation, in developing those principles, the Executive Secretary has taken into account the proposed principles presented for debate at the fourth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/4/Inf.8) and the IUCN draft Guidelines on the Prevention of Biological Diversity Loss Due to Biological Invasions. The process has also benefited from case-studies on alien species submitted by Parties, other Governments and relevant bodies, as well as from information available within national reports.

27. The Executive Secretary has prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/5), annex I of which contains guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species. SBSTTA may wish to recommend the draft principles to the Conference of the Parties for adoption. SBSTTA may also wish to recommend the integration of the guiding principles in the thematic work programmes and encourage the development of guidelines to minimize or mitigate negative impact of alien invasive species. These issues are also on the agenda of SBSTTA at its sixth meeting, in preparation for the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, when alien invasive species will be considered in depth.

### 3.5. Specific issues in ongoing work programmes on thematic areas

#### 3.5.1. Inland water biological diversity: ways and means to implement the work programme

28. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties a work programme on biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and the associated matters of identification and monitoring, assessment methodology and taxonomy (decision IV/4, annex I). Annex II to the decision IV/4 contains a possible time-frame for the work programme pertaining to activities of SBSTTA.

29. At its fourth meeting, SBSTTA included in its provisional agenda for the fifth meeting, the consideration of ways and means to implement the programme of work on inland water biodiversity. To assist the fifth meeting of SBSTTA in its consideration of this agenda item, the Executive Secretary has prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/6), which includes: a proposal of ways and means to develop an improved picture of inland water biological diversity, its uses and threats around the world, aiming at identifying areas where the lack of information severely limits the quality of assessment; a compilation of case studies on watershed, catchment and river basin management experiences and best practices. SBSTTA may wish to take note and encourage the Executive Secretary to further develop joint work plans with relevant organizations and continue activities that will allow developing an improved assessment of inland water biodiversity.

#### 3.5.2. Marine and coastal biological diversity: consideration of implementation tools for the programme of work, and analysis of coral bleaching

30. Under item 3.5.2, SBSTTA will have before it a note prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/7) listing the tools that are being used at the international level and by the Secretariat to enhance the implementation of the work programme on marine and coastal biological diversity at the national and regional levels. SBSTTA may wish to note these tools and recommend any action needed to improve them.

31. In addition, the Conference of the Parties, at its fourth meeting, expressed deep concern at the severe coral bleaching that was occurring possibly caused by abnormally high water temperatures. In light of this, and consistent with the precautionary approach, the Conference of the Parties requested in its decision IV/5, section II, that SBSTTA make an analysis of the coral-bleaching phenomenon and provide relevant information to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting and that the Executive

Secretary invite the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Wetlands to consider this matter in their deliberations. Accordingly, the Executive Secretary conveyed the message to those two conventions.

32. The note by the Executive Secretary under this item (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/7) contains a section dealing with the phenomenon of coral bleaching, its causes, associated potentially severe loss of biological diversity, and consequent socio-economic impacts. This baseline information is meant to assist SBSTTA in its analysis of the phenomenon and possibly in developing a programme of work to minimize or stop the phenomenon. In addition, the Executive Secretary organized, in collaboration with a few specialized organizations, a meeting of experts to identify the most critical causes and consequences of coral bleaching and appropriate ways and means to control them. Document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/11 contains the report of the Expert Consultation on Coral Bleaching held in Manila from 11 to 13 October 1999, as well as key elements of a research agenda on coral bleaching. SBSTTA may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties notes the results of the analysis and of the workshop held in Manila as the basis for possible actions that would control the causes and undesirable consequences of coral bleaching.

### 3.5.3. Forest biological diversity: status and trends and identification of options for conservation and sustainable use

The Conference of the Parties, at its fourth meeting, adopted decision IV/7 on forest biological diversity and its work programme as contained in its annex. In paragraph 12, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to provide advice on the status and trends of forest biological diversity and the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting. SBSTTA at its fourth meeting urged the Executive Secretary to promote the implementation of the programme of work on forest biological diversity in accordance with decision IV/7, to identify actions required for its future development and report to it at its fifth meeting on progress made.

33. Accordingly, under this item, SBSTTA will have before it a note by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/8) that reviews the activities undertaken by the Executive Secretary to promote the programme of work, and presents a progress report on the work programme and elements on the status and trends of forest biological diversity including data from national reports and options for conservation and sustainable use of that biodiversity. SBSTTA may wish to recommend that the Conference of the Parties notes the progress made in the implementation of the programme of work and advises on the kind of assistance it will require to complete, for its sixth meeting, its work on the status and trends, and options for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biodiversity. Forest biological diversity will be considered in depth at the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

## Item 4. Priority issues

### 4.1. Thematic areas

#### 4.1.1. Programme of work for dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah biological diversity

34. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision IV/16, annex II to which, on its programme of work, considers "dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland, and savannah ecosystems" as one of the matters requiring in-depth consideration at its fifth meeting. In its recommendation IV/3, SBSTTA requested the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification, a draft programme of work on dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah ecosystems. Recommendation IV/3 also requested the Executive Secretary to propose a shorter compound name for the title of this work programme that will cover all the types of ecosystems referred to.

35. Bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication of work with other global conventions or processes, the Executive Secretary convened in Montreal from 27 to 29 September, a meeting of a liaison group.

The Executive Secretary used the output of the liaison group meeting to prepare a draft programme of work on biological diversity of dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland, and savannah ecosystems as contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/9. The note by the Executive Secretary endeavours to identify synergies, gaps and overlaps within the current programmes of the Convention, in particular on agriculture, forest and inland water biological diversity. It also proposes options for a shorter compound name for the title of the work programme. SBSTTA may wish to recommend the programme of work to the Conference of the Parties for adoption.

#### 4.1.2. Agricultural biological diversity: assessment of ongoing activities and priorities for a programme of work

36. At its third meeting, the Conference of Parties, adopted decision III/11, on conservation and sustainable use of agricultural biological diversity, which, *inter alia*, established a multi-year programme of work of activities on agricultural biological diversity, and requested the Secretariat, and, through the Executive Secretary, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, in close collaboration with other relevant organizations, to identify and assess, relevant ongoing activities and instruments and report the results through SBSTTA. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of Parties, adopted decision IV/16, which, *inter alia*, requested that SBSTTA develop and provide to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, advice and recommendation for the development of the programme of work.

37. Under this item, SBSTTA will have before it a document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/10) entitled "Agricultural biological diversity: assessment of ongoing activities and priorities for a programme of work" has been prepared jointly by FAO and the Executive Secretary with the assistance of a liaison group that met at FAO, Rome, from 20 to 22 September 1999. The information document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/10 summarizes the assessment of relevant ongoing activities and instruments, on which the priorities of the programme of work were based. SBSTTA may wish to recommend to the Conference of the Parties to note the assessment of ongoing activities and instruments in the field of agrobiodiversity and adopt the programme of work based on the assessment.

### 4.2. Cross-cutting issues

#### 4.2.1. Ecosystem approach: further conceptual elaboration

38. At its first meeting, SBSTTA recommended that ecosystem approach be the primary framework for the implementation of the Convention. Thereon, the Conference of the Parties adopted the approach and recommended it in the elaboration and implementation of its work under the various thematic areas and cross cutting issues. A number of workshops were organized to discuss ecosystem approach. In its decision IV/1, the Conference of the Parties, requested SBSTTA to develop principles and other guidance on the ecosystem approach, taking into consideration, *inter alia*, the results of the Malawi workshop that had been held in January 1998 (UNEP/CBD/COP/4/Inf.9), and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting.

39. Acknowledging the need for a workable description and further elaboration of the ecosystem approach, the Executive Secretary convened from 15 to 17 September, at UNESCO, Paris, a liaison group meeting which assisted him in drafting a note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/11) containing a proposal for ecosystem approach principles and relevant guidance taking into account the principles and recommendations from other relevant workshops. The Executive Secretary also posted the draft note on the Convention web page, with a notification, from 23 September 1999 for additional comments from all interested in ecosystem approach. The note took into account the comments received. SBSTTA may wish to adopt the principles and encourage their integration in the thematic work programmes, particularly the programme of work on forest biodiversity that will be reviewed at its sixth and/or seventh meeting.

#### 4.2.2. Development of indicators of biological diversity

40. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties endorsed recommendation III/5 of SBSTTA and requested the Executive Secretary with a liaison group to start developing a preliminary core set of indicators of biological diversity, particularly those related to threats and options for capacity building in

developing country in the applications of indicators. SBSTTA adopted at its third meeting a two-track approach including the draft of an agreed indicator framework based on currently used indicators in the first track and leading to further draft of indicators in the second track based on experience gained through pilot programmes set to develop and test indicators.

41. A proposal on a core set of indicators and on principles developed with the assistance of a liaison group that met in Montreal on 24 and 25 September 1999 is contained document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/12. SBSTTA may wish to revise the core set and recommend that the Conference of the Parties adopt them and invite the Executive Secretary to develop detailed methodologies for the use of the agreed set of indicators.

#### 4.2.3. Sustainable use of the components of biological diversity: identification of sectoral activities that could adopt biodiversity-friendly practices and technologies

42. Recalling that in accordance with its programme of work, the Conference of the Parties would, at its fifth meeting consider "sustainable use, including tourism" as one of the three themes for in-depth discussion, noting that SBSTTA considered at its fourth meeting the development of approaches and practices of tourism that are compatible with sustainable use of biological diversity, and recalling the understanding in SBSTTA recommendation IV/7 that the Executive Secretary will broaden the scope of sustainable use beyond tourism, the Executive Secretary has prepared a note under this item (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/13) to assist SBSTTA in developing the concept of sustainable use of the components of biological diversity and identifying sectoral activities that could adopt biodiversity-friendly practices and technologies. SBSTTA may wish to recommend to the Conference of the Parties the adoption of the description of the concept of sustainable use.

#### 4.3. Mechanisms for implementation

##### 4.3.1. Establishment of guidelines for the second national reports, including indicators and incentive measures

43. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA to provide advice on the intervals and forms of future national reports. It requested that this advice cover the nature of the information needed from Parties in order to assess the state of implementation of the Convention; recommendations on improving the reporting process, through guidelines on format, style, length and treatment with a view to ensuring comparability between reports; and identification of ways and means to further facilitate national implementation of the Convention (decision IV/14, paragraph 3). Elements for the recommendation to be prepared by SBSTTA are contained in the annex to decision IV/14.

44. The Executive Secretary is carrying out a pilot project to develop and test a mechanism for assessment of the state of implementation of the Convention. This project involves the participation on a voluntary basis of a sample group of Parties and is assisted technically by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. The intention is to elucidate key aspects of the matters on which the Conference of the Parties has requested advice and, accordingly, to provide a validated basis upon which SBSTTA can prepare this advice. The conclusions of the pilot project will be before the meeting as document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/7. (Information on the project is available on the Internet at [http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cbd/measures/.](http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cbd/measures/))

45. SBSTTA will also have before it the revised version of the report referred to in decision II/17 (decision IV/14, paragraph 2). This report, contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/6, is a synthesis of information contained in the first national reports received and other relevant information.

46. On the basis of the lessons learned from the analysis of the first national reports and from the pilot project on ways to assess implementation of the Convention, the Executive Secretary has prepared the note entitled "Establishment of guidelines for the second national reports" (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/14). This note summarizes the experience gained through the first round of national reports, analyses the nature of the information needed from Parties in order that the Conference of the Parties may assess the state of implementation of the Convention, and suggests guidelines for the



format of future reports. The note also considers mechanisms to further facilitate national implementation of the Convention. In this regard, it is expected that the assessment of biodiversity enabling activities carried out by the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit of the Global Environment Facility will be available prior to the meeting as document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/9.

4.3.2. Ad hoc technical expert groups: terms of reference, and rosters of experts and proposal on a uniform methodology for their use

47. This agenda item consists of two related topics: (i) a report on the rosters of experts under the Convention, and a proposal on how to effectively use the rosters; and (ii) terms of reference of Ad Hoc Technical Expert Groups.

48. Document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/15 contains a report of the Executive Secretary on his experience with the rosters of experts for each thematic area addressed by the Convention, and a proposal on how these rosters can be unified and used more effectively.

49. With regard to the terms of reference of ad hoc technical experts groups, the Conference of the Parties in its decision IV/16, paragraph 21, requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), to advise the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties on the terms of reference and duration for ad hoc technical expert groups on thematic areas. The fourth meeting of SBSTTA deferred the matter to its fifth meeting. The note by the Executive Secretary proposes some terms of reference for ad hoc technical expert groups based on decision IV/5 for marine and coastal protected areas and for mariculture, as well as a survey of the opinions of Parties and international organizations.

50. SBSTTA may wish to decide on which thematic areas it needs to establish ad hoc technical expert groups and on their terms of reference. It may also wish to recommend to the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties the endorsement of the proposal on the use of the roster of experts and the approval of the terms of reference of the ad hoc technical expert groups.

Item 5. Draft provisional agenda for the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

51. To assist the meeting in its consideration of this agenda item, the Executive Secretary has prepared a draft provisional agenda for the sixth and seventh meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/16) based on the programme of work adopted by SBSTTA at its fourth meeting.

Item 6. Dates and venue of the sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

52. According to the rules of procedure unless the Conference of the Parties decides otherwise or appropriate arrangements are made by the Secretariat in consultation with the Parties, the sixth meeting of SBSTTA will take place at the seat of the Secretariat, in Montreal.

53. At a meeting held in Montreal on 14 and 15 October 1999, the Bureau proposed that the sixth meeting of SBSTTA should take place in February 2001 to allow enough time for the consideration and implementation of decisions of the Conference of the Parties and for the preparation of pre-session documents, after the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties.

Item 7. Other matters

54. The meeting will consider any other items proposed and accepted for discussion.

Item 8. Adoption of the report

55. The meeting will consider and adopt its report, which will be presented by Mr. Cristian Samper (Colombia), Chair of SBSTTA, to the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting for consideration under the relevant agenda items.

Item 9. Closure of the meeting

56. The fifth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will be closed on Friday, 4 February 2000, at 6 p.m.

Annex I

PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE  
SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

<u>Symbol</u>	<u>Title</u>
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/1/Add.1	Annotated provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/2	Cooperation with other bodies
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/3	Pilot phase of the clearing-house mechanism
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/4	Review of the Global Taxonomy Initiative
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/5	Alien Species: guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/6	Inland waters biological diversity: ways and means to implement the work programme
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/7	Marine and coastal biological diversity: consideration of implementation tools for the programme of work, and analysis of coral bleaching
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/8	Forest biological diversity: status and trends and identification of options for conservation and sustainable use
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/9	Programme of work for dryland, Mediterranean, arid, semi-arid, grassland and savannah biological diversity
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/10	Agricultural biological diversity: assessment of ongoing activities and priorities for a programme of work
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/11	Ecosystem approach: further conceptual elaboration
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/12	Development of indicators of biological diversity

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UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/13	Sustainable use of the components of biological diversity: identification of sectoral activities that could adopt biodiversity-friendly practices and technologies
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/14	Establishment of guidelines for the second national reports, including indicators and incentive measures
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/15	Ad hoc technical expert groups: terms of reference, and rosters of experts and proposal on a uniform methodology for their use
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/16	Draft provisional agenda for the sixth and seventh meetings of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/1*	Report of the independent review of the pilot phase of the clearing-house mechanism
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/2	Clearing-house mechanism's strategic plan
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/3	Clearing-house mechanism's longer-term programme of work
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/4	List of national focal points to the clearing-house mechanism
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/5	List of information documents received from Parties, countries and relevant organizations
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/6	Synthesis of information contained in the first national reports and status of reports submitted
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/7	Assessing the state of implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity: report of a project to develop and test a mechanism for preliminary assessment
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/8	Feasibility Study for a Harmonized Information Management Infrastructure for Biodiversity-related Treaties
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/9	An Interim Assessment of Biodiversity Enabling Activities: National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans. A Study for the Global Environment Facility

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\* At its meeting held in Montreal on 14 and 15 October 1999, the Bureau of SBSTTA decided that only information documents prepared or endorsed by the Executive Secretary will be listed as information documents. Other papers provided by Parties, other Governments and organizations to share information would be listed in an Information paper to be prepared by the Executive Secretary. Both these categories of documents will be distributed by the Secretariat to ensure that each Party/country/organization accredited to the meeting receive a copy.

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/10

Agricultural biological diversity: assessment of on-going activities and instruments

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/5/INF/11

Report of the Expert Consultation on Coral-Reef Bleaching

Annex II

PROVISIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE FIFTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

	<u>Plenary</u>	<u>Working Group I</u>	<u>Working Group II</u>
<u>Monday</u> <u>31 January 2000</u> 10 a.m to 1 p.m.	Agenda items: 1. Opening of the meeting 2. Organizational matters 3. Reports 3.1. Cooperation; 3.3. Global Taxonomy Initiative 3.5.1. Inland waters biological diversity 3.5.3. Forest biological diversity		
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Agenda items: 3.2. Clearing-house mechanism 4.3.1 Guidelines for the second national reports 4.3.2 Ad hoc technical expert groups and roster of experts		
<u>Tuesday</u> <u>1 February 2000</u> 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Keynote speeches		

	<u>Plenary</u>	<u>Working Group I</u>	<u>Working Group II</u>
11 a.m. to 1 p.m.		4.1.1 Programme of work for drylands	4.2.1 Ecosystem approach: further conceptual elaboration
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.		4.1.2 Agricultural biological diversity	4.2.2 Development of indicators of biological diversity
<u>Wednesday</u> <u>2 February 2000</u> 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.		3.4 Alien species 3.5.2 Marine and coastal biological diversity and analysis of coral bleaching	4.2.3 Sustainable use of the components of biological diversity
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Keynote speech Adoption of recommendations		
<u>Thursday</u> <u>3 February 2000</u> 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.		Continuation of work	Continuation of work
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.		Continuation of work	Continuation of work
<u>Friday</u> <u>4 February 2000</u> 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	5. Draft provisional agenda for the sixth meeting 6. Dates and venue of the sixth meeting 7. Other matters 8. Adoption of the report		
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	8. Adoption of the report 9. Closure of the meeting		