



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Sixth meeting

Montreal, 12-16 March 2001

Item 2.2 of the provisional agenda*

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the Executive Secretary

INTRODUCTION

1. Article 25 of the Convention on Biological Diversity establishes a Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), to provide the Conference of the Parties 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 five meetings. The first took place at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), in Paris, from 4 to 8 September 1995. The report of that meeting has been circulated as document UNEP/CBD/COP/2/5. The other four meetings of the Subsidiary Body were all held in Montreal, from 2 to 6 September 1996, from 1 to 5 September 1997 from 21 to 25 June 1999, and from 31 January to 4 February 2000. The reports of those meetings have been circulated as documents UNEP/CBD/COP/3/3, UNEP/CBD/COP/4/2, UNEP/CBD/COP/5/2, and UNEP/CBD/COP/5/3, respectively.
3. The sixth meeting of SBSTTA will also take place in Montreal, at the headquarters of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), from 12 to 16 March 2001. Registration of participants will commence on 11 March 2001 at 10 a.m.

ITEM 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting will be opened at 10 a.m., on Monday 12 March 2001.

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/1.

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ITEM 2. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Item 2.1. Election of officers

5. Pursuant to rule 26, paragraph 3 of its rules of procedure, by which the Conference of the Parties shall elect the chairperson of each subsidiary body, the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, held in Bratislava in May 1998, elected Mr. Cristián Samper (Colombia) as the Chair of SBSTTA. His term of office commenced at the end of the fourth meeting of SBSTTA and will expire at the end of the current meeting.

6. At its fifth meeting, held in Nairobi in May 2000, the Conference of the Parties elected Mr. Jan Plesnik (Czech Republic) as the Chair of SBSTTA for the period commencing at the end of the sixth meeting of SBSTTA until the end of the eighth meeting.

7. In accordance with paragraph 5 of its *modus operandi*, as contained in annex I to decision IV/16 of the Conference of the Parties, SBSTTA at its fifth meeting elected five Bureau members, from the Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Greece, Jordan and Togo to serve for two meetings of the Body. They took office at the end of the fifth meeting of SBSTTA. SBSTTA at its sixth meeting will elect five new members for a two-meeting term to replace the outgoing members from Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, the Russian Federation and Tonga, who were elected at the fourth meeting. The new members will take office at the end of the current meeting.

Item 2.2. Adoption of the agenda

8. The Executive Secretary in consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau prepared draft provisional agendas for the sixth and seventh meetings of SBSTTA covering the issues identified by the Conference of the Parties for consideration by SBSTTA prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Taking into account the items for in-depth consideration by the Conference of the Parties, listed in its programme of work as contained in annex II to decision IV/16, the Bureau of SBSTTA decided that SBSTTA should focus on alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitats and species (hereafter referred to as "invasive alien species") at its sixth meeting and on forest biological diversity at its seventh meeting.

9. The provisional agenda for the sixth meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/1) will be before the Subsidiary Body for adoption. The draft provisional agenda for the seventh meeting will be taken up under item 6.1 (see para. 43 below).

Item 2.3: Organization of work

10. In accordance with its *modus operandi*, SBSTTA may wish to establish two sessional working groups for its sixth meeting. In consultation with the Bureau, the following allocation of tasks between the plenary and the two working groups is proposed:

- (a) The following items would be considered in plenary at the beginning of the meeting:
 1. Opening of the meeting
 2. Organizational matters
 3. Reports:
 - 3.1. Ad hoc technical expert groups;
 - 3.2. Assessment processes;
 - 3.3. Marine and coastal biological diversity;

- 3.4. Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems;
 - (b) Working Group I would consider item 4 (Invasive alien species), the main theme for in-depth discussion at the meeting;
 - (c) Working Group II would consider item 5 (Other substantive issues), including:
 - 5.1. Scientific assessments;
 - 5.2. Global Taxonomy Initiative;
 - 5.3. Biological diversity and climate change, including cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
 - 5.4. Migratory species and cooperation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals;
 - (d) The following items would be taken up in plenary at the end of the meeting:
 6. Preparation for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA:
 - 6.1. Draft provisional agenda;
 - 6.2. Dates and venue.
 7. Other matters.
 8. Adoption of the report.
 9. Closure of the meeting.
11. It is also envisaged that the Secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, will invite keynote speakers to provide plenary with the scientific background on some of the issues before the meeting;
12. A list of documents prepared for the meeting is provided in annex I below.
13. 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 below.

ITEM 3. REPORTS

Item 3.1. Ad hoc technical expert groups

14. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided to establish ad hoc technical expert groups in the fields of marine and coastal protected areas, and mariculture (decision V/3, para. 15); forest biological diversity (decision V/4, para. 4); and the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands (decision V/23, para. 7). A status report is provided in the note by the Executive Secretary prepared under this item (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/2).

15. SBSTTA may wish to take note of the progress report on the ad hoc technical expert groups contained in the note by the Executive Secretary.

Item 3.2. Assessment processes

16. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to strengthen cooperation, particularly in the area of scientific and technical assessment of biological diversity (decision V/21, para. 2). The note by the Executive Secretary submitted under this item (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/3) contains a progress report on cooperation with other organizations in the area of assessments, provides a summary report on selected assessment processes, and identifies

opportunities for collaboration with the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to contribute to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

17. SBSTTA may wish to take note of the progress report on ongoing assessment processes contained in the note by the Executive Secretary. It is envisaged that substantive discussions on the subject will take place under item 5.1 of the provisional agenda (Scientific assessments) (see paras. 30-32 below).

Item 3.3. Marine and coastal biological diversity

18. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties reviewed progress on the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity and decided, in paragraph 3 of its decision V/3, to integrate work on coral reefs into programme element 2 of that programme (Marine and coastal living resources). In paragraph 8 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties decided that SBSTTA expand its work from coral bleaching to also address the physical degradation and destruction of coral reefs. It encouraged early completion of implementation of the programme of work, noting that the work element on coral reefs will have a minimum three-year time schedule (para. 1). With regard to marine and coastal living resources in general, the Conference of the Parties suggested, in the same decision, that SBSTTA consider and prioritize a number of issues (para. 13). It also took note of the work of the Executive Secretary on marine and coastal genetic resources, including bioprospecting, and requested SBSTTA to analyse and provide advice on relevant scientific, technical and technological issues related to that issue (para. 12). On the subject of integrated marine and coastal area management, the Conference of the Parties, in paragraph 10 of the same decision, encouraged SBSTTA to continue work on ecosystem evaluation and assessment, *inter alia*, through guidelines on evaluation and indicators (para.10).

19. The Executive Secretary has prepared a progress report on the implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/4), which also includes the proposed new elements on coral reefs, prepared in collaboration with other relevant organizations, to be considered for inclusion in the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity.

20. SBSTTA may wish to take note of the progress report, consider the new programme elements on coral reefs, and recommend the Executive Secretary to promote their implementation. It is envisaged that SBSTTA will address further issues related to marine and coastal biodiversity at a subsequent meeting.

Item 3.4: Biological diversity of inland water ecosystems

21. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties discussed progress on the implementation of the programme of work for the biological diversity of inland water ecosystems, and requested that SBSTTA review the programme prior to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties with a view to providing advice on its refinement and further elaboration (decision V/2, para 1). However, in paragraph 4 of the same decision, SBSTTA was also requested to consider, prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the recommendations arising from the November 2000 report of the World Commission on Dams, and, as appropriate to recommend to Conference of the Parties the introduction of suitable elements into the programme of work (para. 4).

22. The Executive Secretary has prepared a progress report on the implementation of the programme of work for biological diversity of inland water ecosystems (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/5), which also contains draft elements related to dams prepared in collaboration with the secretariat of the World Commission on Dams.

23. SBSTTA may wish to note the progress report, consider the draft elements related to dams, and make appropriate recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

ITEM 4. INVASIVE ALIEN SPECIES

24. Article 8(h) of the Convention of Biological Diversity provides that each Contracting Party shall, as far as possible and as appropriate, prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystem, habitats or species.

25. At its fourth meeting, the Conference of the Parties decided, in paragraph 1 of its decision IV/1 C, that alien species that threaten ecosystem habitats or species was a cross-cutting issue for the implementation of many of the themes of the Convention. It requested SBSTTA to prepare draft guiding principles for the prevention, introduction and mitigation of impacts of alien species, to identify priority work, and to examine the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP) with a view to considering concerted action and developing proposals for further action under the Convention.

26. At its fifth meeting, the Conference of the Parties adopted decision V/8, on invasive alien species, in which it, *inter alia*, urged Parties, Governments and relevant bodies and instruments, as appropriate, to: develop and implement invasive alien species strategies and action plans (para. 7); apply the interim guiding principles annexed to that decision (para. 1); and submit case-studies (para. 3) and comments on the interim guiding principles (para. 5). The Executive Secretary was requested to collaborate with relevant international bodies and instruments with the aim of coordinating work and reporting on potential joint work programmes (para. 11) and of assisting Parties in a number of specific matters (para. 14). GISP was invited to report on phase I of its work to SBSTTA (para. 9). SBSTTA was requested to consider the aforementioned matters, as well as a comprehensive review of existing measures related to invasive alien species, and options for future work for the implementation of Article 8(h), on the basis of a paper to be prepared by the Executive Secretary, and to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties (para. 15).

27. To assist the consideration by SBSTTA of matters referred to it by the Conference of the Parties, the Executive Secretary has prepared the following notes, in collaboration with relevant bodies,:

(a) Progress report on matters identified in paragraphs 5, 11 and 14 of decision V/8, (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/6), including information on:

- (i) Case-studies received from Parties, Governments and relevant bodies;
- (ii) Proposals for the revision of the interim guiding principles;
- (iii) Potential joint programmes of work with other organizations and instruments;
- (iv) Collaboration with other relevant bodies to develop standardized terminology on alien species, risk assessment criteria, assessment processes for socio-economic implications, means to enhance the resistance or recovery capacity of ecosystems, reporting system for new invasions, and priorities for taxonomy work (decision V/8, para. 14).

(b) Comprehensive review on the efficiency and efficacy of existing measures for prevention, early detection, eradication and control of invasive alien species and their impacts (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/7);

(c) Options for future work on invasive alien species under the Convention, including further developing the guiding principles, developing an international instrument, and/or other options (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/8).

28. These documents are supplemented by a number of information documents, including the proposed GISP global strategy for addressing the problem of invasive alien species.

29. SBSTTA is invited to consider these matters and make appropriate recommendations to the Conference of the Parties.

ITEM 5. OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Item 5.1. Scientific assessments

30. In paragraph 29 of its decision V/20, the Conference of the Parties requested SBSTTA:

(a) To identify and, where needed, further develop procedures and methods to undertake or participate in scientific assessments, or make use of existing ones, taking into account considerations of participation, effectiveness and cost;

(b) To undertake a limited number of pilot scientific assessment projects;

(c) To invite, among others the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment to work closely with SBSTTA in this area; and

(d) To review the implementation of its decision II/1, relating to the Global Biodiversity Outlook and provide the results of that review to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting, together with advice on means to enhance implementation and/or any desired amendments to the decision.

31. In paragraph 28 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties referred to SBSTTA the report of the Oslo brainstorming meeting on scientific assessment, held in November 1999. (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/1). Additionally under this item, the Executive Secretary has prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/9) describing options for improving the work of SBSTTA relating to assessments and for undertaking pilot scientific assessment projects, for consideration and recommendation by SBSTTA. The note also presents an update on preparations for the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

32. SBSTTA may wish to

(a) Further develop procedures and methods to undertake or participate in scientific assessments;

(b) Identify a limited number of pilot scientific assessment projects;

(c) Review relevant ongoing scientific assessments related to biological diversity, identify those which contribute to the implementation of the Convention, and invite the relevant bodies to work closely with SBSTTA in this regard;

(d) Review scientific, technical and technological aspects related to the implementation of decision II/1 relating to the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

Item 5.2. Global Taxonomy Initiative

33. In its decision V/9, the Conference of the Parties, *inter alia*: established a coordination mechanism to assist the Executive Secretary to facilitate international cooperation under the Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI); identified priority activities; and requested the Executive Secretary, with the assistance of the coordination mechanism, to draft a work programme for the GTI for consideration by SBSTTA, initiate short-term activities, synthesize the findings of previous meetings of experts and national reports, and use the GTI to promote taxonomy in the implementation of the Convention. The

Conference of the Parties also urged Parties, Governments and relevant organizations to undertake a number of priority activities, to designate focal points, and to participate in the GTI and associated regional networks for information-sharing.

34. Further to that decision, the Executive Secretary has prepared for consideration by SBSTTA at the current meeting a note setting out a draft work programme, a list of pilot projects submitted to the Secretariat, and a report on progress made under the GTI (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/10).

35. SBSTTA is invited to consider the proposals contained in the note by the Executive Secretary and make recommendations as appropriate.

Item 5.3. Biological diversity and climate change, including cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

36. At its fifth meeting the Conference of the Parties made reference to the interactions between climate change and the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in a number of thematic and cross-cutting areas including coral bleaching (decision V/3), forest biodiversity (decision V/4), and incentive measures (decision V/15), and urged strengthened cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (decision V/21).

37. Specifically, SBSTTA was requested to consider the impact of climatic change on forest biological diversity (decision V/4, para. 11) and to prepare scientific advice in order to integrate biodiversity considerations, including biodiversity conservation, in the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol (decision V/4, para. 18). In both cases, the Conference of Parties called for this work to be carried out in collaboration with the appropriate bodies of the UNFCCC and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), where appropriate and feasible.

38. To assist SBSTTA in its task, the Executive Secretary has prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/11), providing a brief review of the relationship between climate change and biological diversity, in particular, the impact of climate change on forest biological diversity, as well as options for the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the UNFCCC.

39. SBSTTA is invited to:

(a) To address the impact of climate change on biological diversity, possible response measures, and question of the integration of biodiversity considerations in the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol;

(b) To decide on further steps for the preparation of scientific advice on the integration of biodiversity considerations in the implementation of the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol; and

(c) Make other recommendations to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate.

Item 5.4. Migratory species and cooperation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals

40. In paragraph 7 of its decision V/21, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), to develop a proposal on how migratory species could be integrated into the programme of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and on the role of the CMS in the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity. In paragraph 8 of the same decision, the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to submit this proposal for review by SBSTTA prior to the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and requested SBSTTA to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting.

41. In response, the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species, has prepared a note (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/12) outlining options for the further integration of work on migratory species into the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

42. SBSTTA is invited to consider the proposals contained in the note by the Executive Secretary and make recommendations as appropriate.

ITEM 6. PREPARATION FOR THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Item 6.1. Draft provisional agenda

43. To assist the meeting in its consideration of this agenda item, the Executive Secretary has prepared a draft provisional agenda for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/13) based on the programme of work adopted by SBSTTA at its fifth meeting. As noted in paragraph 8 above, the Bureau of SBSTTA has decided that, at its seventh meeting, SBSTTA should focus on the issue of forest biological diversity.

Item 6.2. Dates and venue

44. 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 seventh meeting of SBSTTA will take place at the seat of the Secretariat, in Montreal.

ITEM 7. OTHER MATTERS

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

ITEM 8. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

46. At the end of the meeting, the Subsidiary Body will be invited to adopt its report, which will be presented to the Conference of the Parties at its sixth meeting for consideration. In accordance with established practice, the Subsidiary Body is invited to authorize the Rapporteur to complete the final report after the meeting, with the guidance of the Chair and the assistance of the Secretariat.

ITEM 9. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

47. The sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice will be closed on Friday, 16 March 2001, at 6 p.m.

*Annex I***PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE
SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

<i>Symbol</i>	<i>Title</i>
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/1/Add.1	Annotations to the provisional agenda
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/2	Progress report on ad hoc technical expert groups
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/3	Progress report on ongoing assessment processes
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/4	Marine and coastal biological diversity: progress report on the implementation of the programme
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/5	Biological diversity of inland waters: progress report on the implementation of the programme of work
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/6	Invasive alien species: progress report on matters identified in decision V/5, paragraphs 5, 11 and 14
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/7	Invasive alien species: comprehensive review of existing measures and instruments
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/8	Invasive alien species: options for future work
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/9	Scientific assessments: development of methodologies and identification of pilot studies
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/10	Global Taxonomy Initiative: draft work programme, and progress report
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/11	Biological diversity and climate change, including cooperation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/12	Migratory species, including cooperation with the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/13	Draft provisional agenda for the seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

Annex II

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

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Working Group I</i>	<i>Working Group II</i>
<i>Monday</i> <i>12 March 2001</i> 10 a.m to 1 p.m.	Item 1. Opening of the meeting Item 2. Organizational matters <i>Keynote presentation.</i>		
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Item 3. Reports: 3.1 Ad hoc technical expert groups 3.2 Assessment processes 3.3 Marine and coastal biodiversity 3.4 Inland water biological diversity		
<i>Tuesday</i> <i>13 March 2001</i> 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.		Item 4. Invasive alien species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations from GISP and others; • Progress report on case-studies; • Progress report on matters addressed in paragraph 14 of decision V/8 	Item 5: Other substantive matters 5.1. Scientific assessments
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.		Item 4 (<i>continued</i>): Status and trends of invasive alien species	Item 5 (<i>continued</i>): 5.2. Global Taxonomy Initiative
<i>Wednesday</i> <i>14 March 2001</i> 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.		Item 4 (<i>continued</i>): Comprehensive review of existing measures and instruments, and identification of gaps and needs: (i) prevention and early detection; (ii) eradication, containment and control	Item 5 (<i>continued</i>): 5.3. Biodiversity and climate change including cooperation with UNFCCC
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.		Item 4 (<i>continued</i>): Options for future work, including further elaboration of guiding principles, consideration of need for a legal instrument and development of joint work programmes	Item 5 (<i>continued</i>): 5.4. Migratory species and cooperation with CMS

	<i>Plenary</i>	<i>Working Group I</i>	<i>Working Group II</i>
<i>Thursday</i> <i>15 March 2001</i> 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.		Outstanding matters from item 4, "Invasive alien species"	Outstanding matters from item 5, "Other substantive matters"
3 p.m. to 6p.m.		Finalization of work	Finalization of work
<i>Friday</i> <i>16 March 2001</i> 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.	Item 6. Preparation for the seventh meeting of SBSTTA 6.1. Draft provisional agenda 6.2. Dates and venue Item 7. Other matters Item 8. Adoption of the report		
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.	Item 8 (<i>continued</i>) Item 9. Closure of the meeting		
