



CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Distr.
GENERAL

UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/1/Add.2
26 February 2001

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL ADVICE

Sixth meeting

Montreal, 12-16 March 2001

Item 2.3 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Organization of work for Working Group I

Note by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice

INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of the Parties has requested the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) to improve the scientific and technical advice it provides (e.g. in its decisions IV/16 and V/20). The Conference of the Parties has also decided that there will be a main thematic issue considered at each SBSTTA meeting and that alien species would be the theme for the sixth meeting. The provisional programme of work for the meeting (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/1/Add.1, annex II) therefore allocates three full days to the consideration of the issue of alien species.
2. Given this significant allocation of time, and the need to provide improved scientific and technical products from the session, I have explored with the Bureau possible ways to manage the work of Working Group I, should SBSTTA decide to establish a working group to consider agenda item 4. As part of these consultations a teleconference was held on Wednesday, 21 February 2001 with the Secretariat. The present note sets out the approach agreed at that teleconference. We sought to develop a work programme that would allow delegates to fully explore scientific and technical issues, as well as to prepare a comprehensive response to the requests from the Conference of the Parties.
3. We envisage two very important outputs from the session: clear scientific and technical advice to the Conference of the Parties on the matters in decision V/8 (particularly the options for future work), and also scientific and technical advice that will be of direct value to Parties as they implement Article 8(h).
4. Although the organizational approach for the session may appear somewhat different to that set out in the provisional programme of work, and to the requirements of decision V/8 of the Conference of

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the Parties, the differences actually only involve the manner in which the material is arranged and some of the labels used. I have carefully reviewed the programme, and am satisfied that the products from the Working Group will allow SBSTTA to report to the Conference of the Parties on all the items referred to in decision V/8. Section II below indicates the relation of work programme items to the documentation prepared for the meeting, the relevant decisions of the conference of the parties, and the provisional work programme contained in annex II to the annotations to the provisional agenda (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/1/Add.1).

5. The present note is being issued to allow delegations to consider the approach that will be taken in the Working Group as they prepare for the sixth meeting of SBSTTA. I trust that delegates will appreciate and use the opportunity to fully explore the scientific and technical issues relating to the implementation of Article 8(h). I look forward to a highly productive session.

I. GENERAL FORMAT OF THE PROGRAMME

6. The general format of the programme broadly follows the structure in the guiding principles, and comprises the following main elements:

- (a) Status and trends;
- (b) An overall approach to the issue;
- (c) Prevention;
- (d) Eradication;
- (e) Mitigation;
- (f) Priorities for future work.

7. Within each of the four main technical sections ((b)-(e)), the programme incorporates three broad elements:

- (a) Presentation of a general overview of the issue, drawing from the information papers and other sources;
- (b) Presentations which elaborate key aspects of the overview, or provide case studies;
- (c) A discussion to develop technical advice on the issue, and identify priorities for future work.

8. The sessions will be supported by meeting room papers which will set out the key points that will be covered in the overview sessions.

9. The proposed programme is presented in detail in the annex to the present note.

Side events

10. Many side events with relevance to the alien species work have been proposed by various participants. It is intended to make a more conscious effort to bring the relevant considerations from those events into the discussions in the alien species session.

11. In addition, we have decided to use a range of other means to facilitate the sharing of scientific and technical expertise and experience. These include:

- (a) The poster session to be launched in the evening of Monday, 12 March;

(b) The establishment of gatherings of experts on key issues to share experiences and needs. These will occur in the evenings, using time normally devoted to contact group sessions. The issues identified are:

- (i) Quarantine and border control activities;
- (ii) Marine biosecurity;
- (iii) Management of alien species to mitigate their effects on protected areas and endangered species;
- (iv) Management of alien species to mitigate their effects on ecosystem services and development;

(c) Provide a mechanism to enhance the access of delegates to experts during the meeting, particularly to make full use of the presence of a wide range of experts from GISP and other non-governmental or international bodies.

12. Further details on the latter two processes will be provided at registration.

II. RELATION OF WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS TO THE DOCUMENTATION PREPARED FOR THE MEETING, THE RELEVANT DECISIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES, AND THE PROVISIONAL WORK PROGRAMME CONTAINED IN ANNEX II TO THE ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/1/Add.1)

Status, trends and effects of invasive alien species

Documentation: UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/7, annex; UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/11

Programme: Plenary address by Hal Mooney, section B on the nature and importance of the issue.

Findings from thematic reports and review of case-studies

Documentation: UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/6, sections II and III, recommendation (b); UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/2, UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/5.

Programme: The information provided in national reports, case-studies and posters will be used as background information in all the relevant sessions.

Review of progress in collaborative work

Decision of the Conference of the Parties: V/8, paragraph 14

Documentation: UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/6, section V; UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/10, annex

Programme: The material in the papers will be background information for the relevant sessions. The GTI work programme is being handled by WGII, and session G2 will allow that work to be integrated with the consideration of priorities by WGI. Some collaborative work included in the progress report would be relevant for item G6.

Comprehensive review of the efficiency and efficacy of existing measures for the prevention and early detection of invasive alien species

Decision of the Conference of the Parties: V/8, paragraph 15

Documentation: UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/7, Section II, recommendations (a) - (c);
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/3; UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/5; UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/6.

Programme: Section C will address issues relating to the place of prevention and early detection in an overall response to Article 8(h). Section C4 addresses international legal instruments. Section D will cover scientific and technical aspects specific to prevention and early detection.

Comprehensive review of the efficiency and efficacy of existing measures for the eradication and control of invasive alien species, and for mitigation of their impacts

Decision of the Conference of the Parties: V/8, paragraph 15

Documentation: SBSTTA/6/7, Section III, recommendations (a) - (c); SBSTTA/6/INF/3;
SBSTTA/6/INF/5; SBSTTA/6/INF/6.

Programme: Section C will address issues relating to the place of eradication, control and mitigation in an overall response to Article 8(h). Section C4 addresses international legal instruments. Section D will cover scientific and technical aspects specific to the eradication of newly arrived alien species. Section E will cover eradication of established species. Section F will cover control and mitigation work for those populations for which eradication is not a practical option.

Comments on interim guiding principles

Decisions of the Conference of the Parties: V/8, paragraphs 5, 14 and 15.

Documentation: UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/6, section IV, recommendation (a); UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/8, section II/A, recommendations 1 and 2; UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/2.

Programme: In his introduction (item A), the Chair will invite further comments, to be provided by the end of Tuesday. Item G3 will allow substantive discussion of the principles.

Development of an international instrument

Decision of the Conference of the Parties: V/8 paragraph 16

Documentation: UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/8, section II B, recommendations 3-6;
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/5

Programme: Items C4 and C5 will consider the role of international instruments in the overall context of a response to Article 8(h). Item G5 will include consideration of options for future work in relation to international instruments.

Other options for future work

Decision of the Conference of the Parties: V/8, paragraph 16

Documentation: UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/8, section II C, recommendations 7-16;
UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/INF/7

Programme: Each of the discussion sessions in sections C-F will include identification of priority needs and options for future work to fill those needs. Items G5 and G6 will bring the results of those sessions together to develop comprehensive advice.

Annex

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF ITEM 4 OF THE
PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SIXTH MEETING OF SBSTTA**

Monday 12 March	
	<p>Key note presentation: Alien species: status and trends <i>Hal Mooney, Professor and former Chair of GISP</i></p>
	<p>Report on GISP Phase I: Report on the work undertaken under Phase I of GISP and its relation to the work of the CBD <i>Jeff Waage, Chair of GISP</i></p>
Tuesday morning	
A	Chair's introduction
B	Nature and importance of the issue
C	<p>Responding to Article 8(h): an integrated approach</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview. 2. International cooperation 3. Information management 4. International instruments. 5. Discussion
Tuesday afternoon	
D	<p>Prevention, early detection and incursion response</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview 2. Case studies and input from side events 3. Input from side events 4. Role of other conventions 5. Discussion
Wednesday morning	
E	<p>Eradication</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview 2. Eradication on islands 3. Input from side events <p>Discussion</p>
F	<p>Mitigation of effects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overview <p>Case studies</p>
Wednesday afternoon	
	<p>Mitigation of effects (continued)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Input from side events 3. Discussion
G	<p>Final session</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review of the discussions 2. Report on relevant material from Working Group II 3. Discussion on the guiding principles 4. Presentation of the global strategy proposed by GISP
Thursday morning	
	<p>Final session (continued)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Priorities for future work
Thursday afternoon	
	<p>Final session (continued)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Identification of potential partners for undertaking the priority work areas 7. Confirmation of report 8. Implications for the operations of the convention