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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Seventh meeting

Montreal, 12-16 November 2001

Item 3.1 of the provisional agenda*

REPORTS: AD HOC TECHNICAL EXPERT GROUPS

*Progress report on the status and work of the ad hoc technical expert groups
established by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting and the Subsidiary
Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its sixth meeting*

Note by the Executive Secretary

Executive summary

The present note provides a report on progress in the work of the four ad hoc technical expert groups established by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, namely the expert groups on:

- (a) Marine and coastal protected areas;
- (b) Mariculture;
- (c) Forest biological diversity;
- (d) Dry and sub-humid lands;

and the expert group established by the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) at its sixth meeting, namely the expert group on biological diversity and climate change.

The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on *Marine and Coastal Protected Areas* will be held in October 2001, in Leigh, New Zealand. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Mariculture is tentatively scheduled to meet in July 2002.

The work of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on *Forest Biological Diversity* has been completed. The group held two meetings, one in Montreal in November 2000 and one in Edinburgh,

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/1.

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United Kingdom, in April 2001. The Expert Group finalized its work, the results of which are contained in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/6, in the review of the status and trends of, and threats to, forest biological diversity and in the Expert Group's matrices used in defining options and priority actions for conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity.

The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on *Dry and Sub-humid Lands* is tentatively scheduled to meet in the first half of 2002. The meeting will be funded from voluntary contributions to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Approved Activities (BE Trust Fund). A liaison group meeting was held in Bonn, Germany, from 30 April to 2 May 2001, in preparation for the AHTEG meeting.

The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on *Biological Diversity and Climate Change* is scheduled to meet twice, tentatively in November 2001 in Finland and in the first half of 2002. The meeting will be funded from the BE Trust Fund. Nominations are called for and selection of the group is scheduled for September 2001.

Suggested action

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice may wish to:

- (a) Take note of the progress report of the Executive Secretary on the status and work of the ad hoc technical expert groups.
- (b) Express support for efforts by the Executive Secretary to seek the necessary additional voluntary contributions to allow the works of the groups to be completed.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. 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, paragraph 15); forest biological diversity (decision V/4, paragraph 4); and the biological diversity of dry and sub-humid lands (decision V/23, paragraph 7). The terms of reference for the expert groups on marine and coastal biodiversity are contained in annex II to recommendation V/14 of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) (with the addition of “identification of best practices” for the group on mariculture), while the mandates for the groups on forest biological diversity and dry and sub-humid lands are set out in the annex to decision V/4 and in paragraph 7 of decision V/23, respectively.
2. At its sixth meeting, SBSTTA established, in accordance with its *modus operandi*, an ad hoc technical expert group to carry out a pilot assessment to prepare scientific advice to integrate biodiversity considerations into the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol (recommendation VI/7). The terms of reference of the expert group were attached to the recommendation.
3. The Executive Secretary has prepared the present note to inform the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice about the status of these groups of experts and their activities.

II. PROGRESS REPORTS

A. *Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas*

4. The first meeting of the Expert Group on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas will be held in Leigh, New Zealand, from 22 to 26 October 2001, with financial support from the Governments of New Zealand, the United States of America, and the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).
5. As stated in the terms of reference approved by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting, the expert group will review and discuss the desk study prepared by the Executive Secretary, in line with activity (c) of operational objective 3.1 of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity (decision IV/5, annex); identify pilot research and monitoring projects aimed at assessing the value and the effects of marine and coastal protected areas or similarly managed areas on sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources; identify linkages between marine protected areas and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity; and prepare recommendations on types of research to be carried out to understand the effects of marine and coastal protected or closed areas on population size and dynamics.
6. The desk study synthesizes available information on the value and the effects of marine and coastal protected areas on marine and coastal biological diversity, and discusses criteria for selection of marine and coastal protected areas, taking into account the information previously presented in document UNEP/CBD/COP/5/INF/8 and in light of the indicative list of categories set down in annex I to the Convention. Information sources include various international and regional partner organizations, national reports submitted under the Convention, as well as the current scientific literature.
7. During its first meeting, the expert group will identify key issues requiring further work, as well as gaps in information, and agree on its programme of work for the inter-sessional period, including the development of a substantive report. The inter-sessional work will be undertaken by electronic means. The provisional agenda of the meeting is attached as annex I to the present note. The second meeting will

seek to finalize the work of the group, including the substantive report, and provide guidance for the Convention's future work programme in marine and coastal protected areas. The second meeting of the expert group is expected to take place in March 2002. The United States of America has pledged funding for travel of expert participations from developing countries to the second meeting. Additional funding is being sought.

8. The Executive Secretary sent a letter in November 2000 to all national focal points and relevant organizations to seek nominations of experts. Pursuant to the *modus operandi* of SBSTTA (decision IV/16, annex I), the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Bureau of the Subsidiary Body, reviewed the nominations provided by national focal points. Experts from Croatia, Lithuania, Chile, Guyana, St. Lucia, Brazil, Germany, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, USA, Seychelles, South Africa, Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Indonesia, Philippines, and Solomon Islands have been invited to participate in the expert group. At the time of development of this document, the composition of the expert group is still being finalized.

9. A wider group of experts is being identified, and will be invited to contribute through an electronic discussion network, which will provide input and feedback to the work of the technical expert group.

10. In addition, the Executive Secretary invited the following international organizations to take part in the meeting as observers: United Nations Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (UNESCO) Man and the Biosphere Programme, the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), the IUCN-World Conservation Union World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), and selected UNEP Regional Seas Programmes.

B. Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Mariculture

11. The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Mariculture is tentatively scheduled to take place in Rome from 1 to 5 July 2002. The meeting will be organized in collaboration with FAO. Funding for this meeting is being sought.

12. The Executive Secretary is preparing a background note for the meeting, in line with the operational objective of programme element 4 (mariculture) of the programme of work on marine and coastal biological diversity. The note will provide a review of information, data, literature and bibliography relevant to the operational objective and best practices of successful sustainable mariculture, including the use of local species where appropriate. The background note will also include an evaluation of the current state of scientific and technological knowledge on the effects of mariculture on marine and coastal biological diversity.

13. The Executive Secretary will initiate the process of expert selection in the latter part of 2001. A progress report on the work of the group will be presented to the Subsidiary Body at its eighth meeting, as part of the review of the marine and coastal programme of work.

C. Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biological Diversity

The first meeting

14. The first meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Forest Biological Diversity was held in Montreal on the premises of the Secretariat from 27 November to 1 December 2000, with financial

support from the Government of Canada. The report of that meeting was presented to the Subsidiary Body at its sixth meeting in document UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/6/2.

15. During its inter-sessional period, the Expert Group collected additional information for its background document, in particular on the status of forest ecosystems and their functioning, as well as the values of forest goods and services. The Secretariat of the Convention requested a number of experts to take part in the peer review of the background document, posted the document on the Convention's website and invited comments from the scientific community at large. The list of experts invited for peer review is available at <http://www.biodiv.org/doc/notifications/ntf-2001-04-05-for-en.asp>. The peer review process was completed at the end of May 2001.

16. During its inter-sessional period (December 2000 to April 2001), the Group also continued discussions on options for the conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, as part of its preparation for the second meeting.

The second meeting

17. The second meeting of the Expert Group was held in Edinburgh, United Kingdom, from 23 to 27 April 2001, with financial support from the Government of the United Kingdom. Experts from the following countries participated in the meeting: Brazil, Canada, Cuba, Chile, Estonia, Ghana, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Mozambique, Poland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom. An expert from the European Commission also participated. In addition, observers representing the following intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations attended the meeting: FAO, UNEP, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR); IUCN-World Conservation Union, the World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Greenpeace, indigenous networks (Organization of Indigenous Peoples in Suriname). The meeting was also attended by Mr. Jan Plesnik, Chair of SBSTTA, a facilitator funded by the Government of the United Kingdom, a representative of the Overseas Development Institute of the United Kingdom and a representative of the Government of the Netherlands.

18. During the meeting, the Group addressed two main substantive issues: (a) assessment of status and trends of, and major threats to, forest biological diversity; and (b) options for conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity. One day was devoted to item (a) and three days to item (b). A one-day field visit was organized by the host Government to present to the members of the Group sites that were representative of the new forestry approaches in the United Kingdom, as well as areas of natural forests.

19. With regard to "assessment of status and trends of, and major threats to, forest biological diversity", the Group considered the background document, consisting of five chapters, that had been prepared at its first meeting and amended during the inter-sessional period. The Group identified gaps in information and decided on ways to finalize the background document, including the integration of comments received from reviewers.

20. With regard to "options for conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity", the Group considered the issue in three working groups: assessment and monitoring; conservation and sustainable use; and institutional and socio-economic enabling environment. During the discussion of the options, the Group took into account the proposed multi-year programme of work of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and its proposed plan for action, as well as the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (IPF)/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IFF) proposals for action.

21. As a result of its work, three documents were produced:

(a) The Report of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/7/6) which contains a summary of the review of the status and trends of, and threats to, forest biological diversity; a set of priority activities to address forest biological diversity loss, identification of state-of-art technologies and know how relating to assessment, planning, valuation, conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity; and advice on ways and means of promoting the development and transfer of such technologies;

(b) The status and trends of, and major threats to, forest biological diversity which addresses the following issues: status of forest biological diversity; forest ecosystems functioning and related goods and services; major threats to forest biological diversity; and trends of forest biological diversity;

(c) The set of matrices used in defining options and priority actions for conservation and sustainable use of forest biological diversity, which includes an array of activities in the area of assessment and monitoring, conservation and sustainable use; and institutional enabling environment. The matrices contain a set of goals, objectives and activities to address these three areas.

22. The documents referred to in paragraphs 21 (b) and (c) above will be made available as information papers for the seventh meeting of the SBSTTA.

D. Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Dry and Sub-humid Lands

23. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Dry and Sub-humid Lands is tentatively scheduled to meet in the first half of 2002 with financial support from voluntary contributions to the Special Voluntary Trust Fund for Additional Approved Activities (BE Trust Fund). The Secretariats of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (UNCCD) and of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with GEF, organized a liaison group meeting in preparation for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Dry and Sub-humid Lands. The liaison group meeting was held in Bonn, Germany, from 31 April to 2 May 2001, with financial support from the Government of Norway to the UNCCD Secretariat. The meeting identified priority areas and related possible projects where the Convention on Biological Diversity and UNCCD provisions can be implemented in an integrated manner and finalized a joint programme of work between the Secretariats of the two Conventions, taking into account the identified priorities.

E. Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Climate Change and Biodiversity

24. The Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group will hold its first meeting in Helsinki, Finland, which is tentatively scheduled for 26 to 30 November 2001 with financial support from the BE Trust Fund, and its second meeting in the first half of 2002. This timing will allow the Group to build upon, *inter alia*, previous relevant work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The group's report is due to be completed by the time of the eighth meeting of SBSTTA. The draft provisional agenda of the meeting is attached as annex III to the present note. Further information is available on the Convention's web site at www.biodiv.org/cross-cutting/climate.

25. National focal points have been invited to nominate experts to participate in the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Biological Diversity and Climate Change. By arrangement with the respective secretariats, copies of the notification have also been sent to the focal points of the IPCC and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). In September 2001, the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the SBSTTA Bureau, will select fifteen experts, with due consideration given to geographical balance as well as to ensuring that the range of expertise on biological diversity and

its interlinkages with climate change is covered. In line with the wishes of the Conference of the Parties and SBSTTA, efforts will be made to include within the Group experts who have been involved in the UNFCCC and/or IPCC processes. Additionally, relevant international organizations will be invited to provide experts as observers.

26. A background document is being prepared by the Executive Secretary to assist the Expert Group in its work. Additionally, in response to the invitation of SBSTTA, a technical paper on biological diversity and climate change is being prepared by the IPCC, as agreed at its Seventeenth Plenary Meeting, held in Nairobi from 4 to 6 April 2001.

Annex I

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL
EXPERT GROUP ON MARINE AND COASTAL PROTECTED AREAS**

Leigh, New Zealand, 22 - 26 October 2001

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Election of officers;
 - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda;
 - 2.3. Organization of work
3. Substantive issues:
 - 3.1 Review of status of marine and coastal protected areas;
 - 3.2 Review and discussion of:
 - (a) The value and effects of marine and coastal protected areas on marine and coastal biological diversity; and
 - (b) Criteria for selection of marine and coastal protected areas;
 - 3.3 Identification of linkages between marine protected areas and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity;
 - 3.4 Identifying the knowledge gaps, particularly understanding the value and effects of marine and coastal protected areas on sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources, and on population size and dynamics, and identifying the existing efforts to fill those gaps;
 - 3.5 Identification of potential pilot research and monitoring projects, to supplement and reinforce the existing efforts.
4. Preparation for the second meeting of the expert group:
 - 4.1. Draft provisional agenda;
 - 4.2. Date and venue;
 - 4.3 Organization of inter-sessional work.
5. Other matters
6. Adoption of the report
7. Closure of the meeting.

Annex II

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE AD HOC TECHNICAL
EXPERT GROUP ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

Helsinki, Finland, 26-30 November 2001

1. Opening of the meeting:
 - 1.1. Welcome address by a representative of the host country;
 - 1.2. Opening address by a representative of the Executive Secretary;
 - 1.3. Background presentations by the Secretariat and a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for the technical paper on the interlinkages between biological diversity and climate change.
2. Organizational matters:
 - 2.1. Election of the Chair and the Rapporteur;
 - 2.2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Review of existing information on the inter-linkages between biological diversity and climate change and identification of gaps.
4. Review of existing approaches and tools such as criteria and indicators, to facilitate application of scientific advice for the integration of biodiversity considerations into the implementation of measures to mitigate or adapt to climate change that might be taken under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol.
5. Scoping of inter-sessional work and preparation for the second meeting:
 - 5.1. Consideration of the scope of work required to address the gaps identified under agenda items 3 and 4.
 - 5.2. Consideration of modalities to undertake such work in the inter-sessional period and preparations for the second meeting of the Group
6. Other matters
7. Adoption of the report and closure of the meeting
 - 7.1. Consideration of a brief procedural report
 - 7.2. Closure of the meeting
