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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL  
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Ninth meeting

Montreal, 10-14 November 2003

Item 3.3 of the provisional agenda\*

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE ON THE INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE BUREAU**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

The Executive Secretary is transmitting herewith for the consideration of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice at its ninth meeting, the report of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on the inter-sessional activities of the Bureau.

**SUGGESTED RECOMMENDATION**

The Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice is invited to take note of the report of the Chair of the Subsidiary Body on the inter-sessional activities of its Bureau.

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\* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/9/1.

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## Annex

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE ON THE INTER-SESSIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE BUREAU**

1. The present report covers the period from 15 March 2003, the day after the end of the eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) up to the end of September 2003.
2. The SBSTTA Bureau met in Montreal on 20 March 2003. New members were introduced and briefed about the role of SBSTTA and its *modus operandi*. The meeting also agreed that methods of communication among Bureau members during the inter-sessional period would include mainly the use of a restricted website particularly for the provision of comments on documents. Considering the important role of the SBSTTA Bureau members in their regions and in promoting the Convention in other forums, the representative of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) confirmed the financial support pledged at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (up to a total of \$40,000 for the biennium 2003-2004). The outgoing Chair presented a brief regarding his meeting with SBSTTA focal points held on the margins of the eighth meeting of the Subsidiary Body.
3. During the inter-sessional period, the Bureau was consulted by the Executive Secretary in the preparation of documents for the ninth meeting of SBSTTA. In addition, members of the Bureau represented SBSTTA in the following meetings organized by the Executive Secretary of the Convention:
  - (a) Fourth Workshop on the Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity, held in Addis Ababa from 6 to 8 May 2003;
  - (b) The meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Climate Change and Biodiversity, held in Helsinki from 13 to 16 May 2003;
  - (c) The meeting on “2010 – The Global Biodiversity Challenge” , held in London from 21 to 23 May 2003;
  - (d) The meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Protected Areas, held in Tjarno, Sweden, from 10 to 14 June 2003;
  - (e) The meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Protected Areas on Mountain Biological Diversity, held in Rome from 1 to 4 July 2003;
  - (f) The liaison group meeting on the outcomes of the World Parks Congress, held in Durban, South Africa, on 18 September 2003.
4. Reports on the above meetings are included in the documentation of SBSTTA.
5. Bureau members participated in the following additional meetings:
  - (a) Regional Workshop for West and Central Africa on “Restoration/Rehabilitation of degraded Forest Landscapes” organised by WWF from 17 to 21 March 2003 at Dodowa, Ghana. The SBSTTA Chair represented the Convention. He highlighted the relevant articles of the Convention, and described the programme of work on forest biological diversity and the ecosystem approach with reference to landscape restoration;

(b) The eleventh meeting of the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP) of the Ramsar Convention, which took place from 8 to 11 April 2003 in Gland, Switzerland. The STRP discussed, amongst other, its three-year work plan, which will subsequently be carried out by six newly established working groups, and aspects of the implementation of the joint work programme between Ramsar and the Convention on Biological Diversity;

(c) The joint liaison group meeting between the secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity, held on 19 May 2003 in Bonn, Germany. The main purpose of the meeting was to identify areas where synergy among the three conventions could be promoted at the level of their secretariats and subsidiary bodies, and at the regional and national levels;

(d) The Strategic Round Table on the Role of Protected Areas and Ecological Networks in Biodiversity Policies, held in The Hague on 5 and 6 June 2003. The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss how ecological networks encouraged by the World Summit on Sustainable Development can contribute to the objectives of the Convention and what needs to be done to ensure wider support of the concept. The Chair of SBSTTA was invited to make a presentation on "Protection and network development in Africa";

(e) Norway/United Nations Conference on Technology Transfer and Capacity Building, held in Trondheim, Norway, from 23 to 27 June 2003. This fourth Trondheim Conference on biodiversity provided an opportunity for demystification and gaining insights into analytical frameworks as well as sharing of experiences and examples on good practices and measures in order to make technology transfer and cooperation, and related capacity-building operational;

(f) The meeting of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Espoo, Finland from 1 to 4 July 2003. The meeting discussed areas around which synergy could be built at the national level while implementing the three Rio conventions;

(g) The Fifth World Parks Congress, held in Durban, South Africa, from 8 to 17 September 2003. The Chair of SBSTTA was invited to take part in the working group that was mandated to collate the Congress recommendations and to present them during the final plenary session.

6. The Bureau has scheduled a teleconference in October 2003 to discuss the organization of the ninth meeting of SBSTTA.

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