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SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twelfth meeting

UNESCO, Paris, 2–6 July 2007

Items 2 and 4.3 of the provisional agenda*

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Improving the scientific, technical and technological debate during SBSTTA meetings

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

1. In accordance with the consolidated *modus operandi* of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA), contained in annex III to decision VIII/10, SBSTTA shall endeavour to constantly improve the quality of its scientific, technical and technological advice by improving scientific, technical and technological input into, debate at, and work of, meetings of the Subsidiary Body.

2. Appendix B of the consolidated *modus operandi* lists strategies for improving the scientific, technical and technological debate during SBSTTA meetings and suggests, *inter alia*, to raise delegates' awareness about, and encourage informal debate on, key issues through the provision of scientific and technical publications, keynote speakers, poster sessions, round-table debates and other side-events during meetings of the Subsidiary Body (decision VIII/10, annex III, appendix B, paragraph 2 (a)).

3. Based on these provisions and drawing on the conclusions of its meeting held in Paris on 26 July 2006 (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/6), the SBSTTA Bureau, at its meeting held in Montreal on 21 March 2007, proposed the following strategy to promote scientific, technical and technological discussions during SBSTTA meetings.

4. The Bureau recommends the representatives of Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations and of indigenous and local communities to organize themselves accordingly.

(a) *Efficient use of time.* To make more time for scientific, technical and technological discussions:

* UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/1.

- (i) There will be no individual statements in the opening of the meeting by Parties, regional and subregional groups, intergovernmental organizations, representatives of indigenous and local communities and non-governmental organizations;
 - (ii) Delegations will also be invited/requested to refrain from thanking or congratulating the Chair(s), host country, host organization and Secretariat, when they are given the floor;
 - (iii) As was done in recent meetings, the Chair will call on a Bureau Member to make a statement of thanks on behalf of all participants under item 2, after the election of officers;
- (b) *Approach to in-depth reviews.* To facilitate scientific, technical and technological discussions:
- (i) For the two items for in-depth review (items 3.1 and 3.2 of the provisional agenda), the Bureau will invite a small number of experts to address key issues identified in the agenda papers prepared by the Executive Secretary (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/2 and 3) with a view to focusing towards more scientific and technical discussion. The proposed approach is outlined in the annex hereto;
 - (ii) Participants are urged to focus their interventions on the key scientific, technical and technological issues under discussion;
 - (iii) Where different views are being put forward, the meeting will not attempt to negotiate an agreed compromise but instead present these divergent views in the form of options for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

PROPOSED PROCESS FOR CONSIDERATION OF IN-DEPTH REVIEWS

Item 3.1 – Application of the ecosystem approach

Documentation

1. A pre-session document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/2) summarizes the main findings of the review process, including, *inter alia* progress regarding the implementation of various paragraphs of decisions of the Conference of the Parties relating to the ecosystem approach by Parties, major partners, initiatives and organizations and in international forums; barriers to the application of the ecosystem approach; relevant findings and lessons learned from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA); the contribution of the ecosystem approach to implementing the Convention and reducing the rate of biodiversity loss; and key issues and opportunities for promoting the further application of the ecosystem approach.
2. In addition to suggesting some recommendations, the document draws a number of conclusions that could be translated into key messages to the Conference of the Parties and the world at large. It also identifies needs and opportunities (that is, it is a framework upon which SBSTTA can consider the item further, including formulating recommendations, if appropriate).

Panel of experts:

3. In accordance with the *modus operandi* of SBSTTA, the Bureau agreed to establish a panel of four experts, selected taking into account gender and geographical balance, for introductory presentations. In addition to providing keynote remarks, the panel would also if requested, assist the Chair in answering technical questions from the floor.

Organization of sessions:

Monday, 2 July 2007, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. (session 1 on the ecosystem approach)

5. The session will be divided into two sections (with no break). Each will be introduced through keynote remarks. The two sets of opening remarks will have different, but related, content.

3 – 3.30 p.m.: Keynote remarks:

Title: “Application of the ecosystem approach to forestry, agriculture and fisheries” by William Settle, FAO; Rome, and “Marketing of the ecosystem approach” by Hillary Masundire, Chair of the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management, Botswana. The questions to be addressed by the speakers will include:

- How much the ecosystem approach is applied to economic sectors such as forestry, agriculture and fisheries;
- What the benefits of, and barriers to, applying the approach in such sectors are;
- What can be learnt from such experiences to promote a wider application of the approach, in particular to other sectors than environment, also bearing in mind the threats from climate change;
- Whether the application of the approach can be simplified whilst maintaining its effectiveness?”.

3.30 – 4.30 p.m.: Discussion moderated by the Chair with the technical support of the panel members.

4.30 – 5 p.m.: Keynote remarks:

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Title: “Overcoming the Barriers to the Application of the Ecosystem Approach: Capacity_Building ” by Dawn Pierre-Nathaniel, Saint Lucia and “The Ecosystem Approach Sourcebook ” by Diana Mortimer, United Kingdom. The questions to be addressed by the speakers will include:

- Bearing in mind the wide range of barriers to application of the ecosystem approach, what barriers can be addressed through capacity-building?
- What capacity-building needs are specific to the ecosystem approach, taking into account that the needs can be different from one country to another?
- Which needs can be realistically addressed over the medium term (next five years)?
- Which groups should be targeted?
- What needs to be done and by whom?
- What the current and potential future role of the sourcebook is in addressing capacity-building needs?
- What should be done to enhance the usefulness of the sourcebook for marketing the ecosystem approach and for capacity-building?

5–6 p.m.: Discussion moderated by the Chair with the technical support of the panel member(s).

Tuesday, 3 July 2007, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. (session 2 on the ecosystem approach)

6. Prior to the session, the outcomes of session 1 (as above) will have been prepared by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, translated and distributed to the meeting.

3 – 3.15 p.m.: Introduction of the outcomes from session 1 by the Chair.

3.15 – 6 p.m.: Further discussion moderated by the Chair with the technical support of the panel member(s).

7. Session outcomes will be drafted by the Chair and distributed prior to consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Friday, 6 July 2007.

Item 3.2 – Implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

Documentation

8. A pre-session document (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/12/3) summarizes the main findings of the review process based essentially on: (i) information compiled from the third national reports, additional information submitted by Parties and other stakeholders and partners; and (ii) input from meetings.

9. In addition to suggesting some recommendations, the document draws a number of conclusions that could be translated into key messages to the Conference of the Parties and the world at large. It also identifies needs and opportunities upon which SBSTTA can consider the item further, including formulating recommendations, if appropriate.

Panel of experts

10. In accordance with the *modus operandi* of SBSTTA, the Bureau agreed to establish a panel of four experts for introductory presentations. In addition to providing keynote remarks, the panel would also, if requested, assist the Chair in answering technical questions from the floor.

Organization of sessions

Monday, 2 July 2007, 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. (session 1 on the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation)

11. The session will be divided into two sections (with no break). Each will be introduced through keynote remarks. The two sets of opening remarks will have different, but related, content.

10 – 10.30 a.m.: Keynote remarks:

Title: “ Enhancing the national implementation of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation” by Ms Linda Collette, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and “ Do we need new targets relating to emerging issues e.g. climate change and nutrient loading” by Prof Jon Lovett, University of York, United Kingdom. The questions to be addressed by the speakers will include:

- Why only few countries are currently implementing the Strategy?
- Why progress is limited on some targets e.g., targets 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, or 13?
- What opportunities for synergies and collaboration exist at national level to enhance national implementation?
- What institutional arrangements need to be considered and how these link to regional and international processes?
- Whether we need additional targets to address new and emerging issues such as climate change and nutrient loading?

10.30 – 11.30 a.m.: Discussion moderated by the Chair with the technical support of the panel members.

11.30 a.m.- noon: Keynote remarks:

Title “ How to enhance the collection of quantitative data?” by Mr. Neville Ash, UNEP-WCMC., and “Marketing of GSPC” by Mr. Huang Hongwen, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China. The questions to be addressed by the speakers will include:

- Which tools are available and appropriate for the collection of quantitative data;
- What methodologies are best suited for quantifying progress towards the various targets;
- How the toolkit recommended by the Conference of the Parties can be useful for these activities;
- How to link the GSPC to poverty alleviation and sustainable development (MDGs, livelihood security of local and indigenous communities who depend on plant materials for their subsistence and their well-being) at local ,national, regional and international level;.

noon–1 p.m.: Discussion moderated by the Chair with the technical support of the panel member(s).

Wednesday, 4 July 2007, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. (session 2 on the GSPC)

12. Prior to the session, the outcomes of session 1 (as above) will have been prepared by the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, translated and distributed to the meeting.

10 – 10.15 a.m.: Introduction of the outcomes from session 1 by the Chair.

10.15 am – 1 p.m.: Further discussion moderated by the Chair with the technical support of the panel member(s).

13. Session outcomes will be drafted by the Chair and distributed prior to consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Friday, 6 July 2007

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